

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND**

PRESENTATION EVENING

The Groves Sports & Social Club – Manning Lounge
Thursday 11th June 2015

MINUTES

Present: Keith Bartlett (Vice President), Bryan Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Ivor Jones (Vice Chairman), Veronica Nicholas (General Secretary), Daniel Cooper (Treasurer), Dave Terry (Fixtures/Press Secretary), Rob Wylie (Town Team Secretary), Tony Collard (Division 2 Secretary), Lola Roberts (Division 3 Secretary).

AGENDA ITEM

1. Apologies were received from:

Dave Kay, Keith Roper, Neil Powell, Sue Burgess, Will Sleddon

2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM were proposed by Andy Eagles and seconded by Keith Bartlett as being a correct record.

3. Matters Arising - There were none.

4. President's Welcome

5. Chairman – Bryan Fitzpatrick

As Laurie wasn't present Bryan opened the AGM and welcomed everyone.

- Bryan informed all members present that the new table tennis club is thriving but was always looking to attract new members. He thanked Russell, Aaron, Alan and all those involved for the effort they put into running it and reminded everyone that the club is now held on Monday evenings at the new Ellesmere Port Sports Village (EPSV) which is directly next to the old venue.
- Bryan went on to say that the continued success of our league depends on us retaining the high number of players we have attracted in the past. To this end, he asked all members to make the effort to contact both new and lapsed members to encourage them to swell our player numbers next season.
- Bryan thanked all the committee members for their unstinting efforts this season, most of which go un-noticed, in making both league and tournament matches the success they were.
- He finally thanked all players, both present and absent, without whom there would not be an AGM or award ceremony to attend.

6. Treasurer's Report – Daniel Cooper

6.1. Audited Statement of Accounts 2014/2015

Danny explained the details of the accounts sheets and pointed out the League's financial position which shows a net loss over the year of £116.12.

- Jenny Blain raised a question regarding the accounts. She asked why it was that a number of clubs paid their registration fees as late as November. The response was that although clubs were encouraged to pay their fees earlier there is no hard and fast rule covering this.

7. General Secretary's Report – Veronica Nicholas

7.1. New Balls

Veronica referred to the last committee meeting (1st June 2015) when she produced information from the Table Tennis England website regarding the new plastic balls. She asked members to consider the following:

Should the new balls be used throughout the League next season? I.e. all divisions, bearing in mind that the Premier Division must play with the new balls because those players compete in matches against teams outside our League. In other words, wef July 1st 2015 the use of the plastic ball will become mandatory for all Competitive Table Tennis in England.

For definition: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/our-sport-information/rules-regulations-2>

- Aaron Beech was asked for his opinion and he said that he thought the Donnic, Steiger and Stags balls were to be preferred.
- Discussion followed with people contributing their views.
- Veronica was concerned about the remaining stock of old type balls (£46.08) held by the Treasurer and was told that some are to be purchased by Tony Collard for practice use at County Officers.
- Martyn Jones proposed that the new plastic balls should be played throughout the League. This was seconded by Alf Perry and was carried by the majority present with four voting against and two abstentions.

7.2. Table Tennis England (previously known as ETTA) Subscriptions

- Veronica wished to remind everyone that players are advised to register themselves directly with Table Tennis England. This facility will be available from 12th July either online or by telephone.
- If a player plays for more than one league it is important that they inform Table Tennis England of those leagues.
- A player who fails to register with Table Tennis England before their first match will find their scores will not be accepted by the 365 system.

7.3. New Developments

There was a good response to Dave Terry's wish for people to take on some of the work he has been carrying out for many years namely:

- Aaron Beech will, in future, be responsible for putting on the league tournament, and he has already enlisted a dedicated team for this purpose.
- Andy Eagles will be responsible for producing the fixtures handbook. He has also agreed to take on the task of ensuring that the EPOCH website is refreshed regularly by liaising with Simon Jones who, in turn will be re-vamping the website soon.
- Bryan Fitzpatrick will be responsible for the handicap cup matches.
- Veronica put forward proposals for the above secretaries to have a place on the committee.

Veronica thanked Dave, on behalf of everyone, for all the work he has been doing for the league and hoped that he would now feel less hassled and more comfortable dealing with all his remaining tasks organising the 'top end' of our league.

7a. **365 Administrator's Report – Steve Sung**

- Generally went well, fixtures generated without problems and users found the up to date information on players and team stats very useful.
- Late subscriptions caused some issues – individuals had games defaulted when they played before their membership fee was paid up (to Table Tennis England).
- New features include making the website mobile friendly and the addition of a Gallery feature.
- Next season's subs can be bought online from 12 July – any problems refer to your club secretary or myself.

8. **Fixtures & Press Secretary's Report - Dave Terry**

- Dave started by thanking all the captains and secretaries for assisting in the smooth running of the past season in both cup and league competitions. There were only two small problems, both in the Premier but there were no claims submitted and the matches were played at a later date. Good sportsmanship prevailed. On very few occasions did teams play without a full side, which was much appreciated.
- Dave managed to watch most finals of the cup competitions and made the point that no champions managed to win their own cup competition, the format proving to be unpredictable as required. For the first time, no Premier team reached the Odex Final proving the depth of division one, albeit with handicaps. The Joe Farrington tournament was well supported with the final as competitive and unpredictable as in the past.
- Venues are a problem for the first time and Dave suggested that perhaps the committee might check any available premises during the summer months.
- The loss of four teams at the beginning of last season reminds us that we must not lose any more this coming season. We therefore need to check players not currently involved and try to build new squads.

9. Town Team Secretary's Report – Rob Wylie

- Seniors - The senior leagues are played on two Sundays in November and February.
- Chester & Ellesmere Port 1st team - Premier Division
On the first weekend the team of Tomasz Rzeszotko, Aaron Beech and Shaun Hall started with 6-0 victories over Warrington and Manchester followed by a 5-1 victory over Preston to top the table. The second weekend was less straightforward unfortunately. Tomasz Rzeszotko was unavailable for the weekend which meant we were looking for replacement players. Players like Neil Powell, Florin Barbus, Milan Puchala, Mark Pugh and Joe Killoran were not available which meant that Rob Wylie had to step up from the second team.

What's more the Liverpool League saw fit to arrange their closed championships on the second weekend which meant that both Aaron Beech and Shaun Hall were potentially unavailable. Fortunately for us they both kindly agreed to play the first three of the four matches scheduled for that day after which they quickly had to rush off to play in the Liverpool Closed. We won the first game of the second weekend 4-2 against Wirral to maintain our position at the top of the league. However the next two games ended in draws against Trafford and Oldham.

This meant before the final game of weekend 2 that we were one point clear of Warrington at the top of the league. Unfortunately this was the point at which Aaron and Shaun had to leave and the final match was played by Rob Wylie, Andy Eagles and Connor Climo. The game was lost 6-0 and we finished as runners up to Warrington by one point. This was somewhat ironic as we had started the campaign with a 6-0 whitewash against them.

- Chester & Ellesmere Port 2nd team – Division 1
On the first weekend the team of Rob Wylie, Ray Worthington & Connor Climo (who was making his debut) drew 3-3 with Wirral and lost 4-2 to East Lancashire. There was no third match.

For the second weekend the team was Andy Eagles, Ray Worthington and Connor Climo. The first match was a 5-1 defeat against Manchester 2nd team and was followed by a 6-0 defeat against Oldham B. The league had a reduced number of teams which meant just the four matches in total. This left us with 1 point and sadly we finished in 5th place with Oldham A retired (and therefore with 0 points). Technically we are therefore relegated although we have our fingers crossed that because we usually do well in this division and the division has less teams than the Premier division we may retain our place in Division 1. Time will tell!

- Chester & Ellesmere Port 3rd team – Division 3
The 3rd team (Division 3) played all of their matches on the first weekend. The team was Hannah Winfield, Andy Taylor and Keith Bartlett. They lost 6-0 to Wilmslow and followed this with a 6-0 victory themselves over Blackpool 1st team 6-0. This was followed by a 4-2 victory over Halton A and a draw against Trafford A in the final match. This left them in a very creditable 3rd place.
- Veterans
This season we dropped one of our veteran's teams. The 1st & 2nd teams effectively merged into one team in the Premier Division and what was the 3rd team became the 2nd team in Division 3.
- Chester & Ellesmere Port Veteran's 1st team – Premier Division
Despite the merging of the 1st and 2nd teams we were still not able to consistently put out a strong first team principally due to several of our players having to work when games were on. For one match which was away at Manchester on a Friday night we were only able to muster up a single player and had to concede 10-0. We also had weakened teams for several away games. Despite getting a couple of creditable results when we had a strong team the team finished 7th out of 8 teams in the division with 32 points.

Two of the teams above us finished with 34 points and one had 35 points. This meant that if we had finished with 4 more points we would have finished in 4th place. In fact the team in runners up spot only had 11 more points than the Veterans 1st team. Unfortunately the 10-0 concession against Manchester and the lack of player availability for our away games has cost us our long held position in the Premier League.
- Chester & Ellesmere Port Veteran's 2nd team –Division 3
Generally things ran a lot smoother for the 2nd team. Ray Worthington, Keith Bartlett, Alf Perry, Andy Taylor finished safely in 3rd place in their division and live to fight another day!
- Cups
Finally some good news. The seniors won the Norman Cooke Trophy (handicap) 5-3 against Oldham. It was a tough fought final and congratulations to Milan Puchala, Mark Pugh and Andy Eagles.

Notes:

- At the recent Wirral league AGM the committee decided that they would remove their Men's team from the Lancashire & Cheshire Division 1. Jonathan Taylor has agreed to play for Chester & Ellesmere Port next season if this decision is upheld and Wirral do not have a team next season.
- Andy Eagles recently reached the grand old age of 40 and he will be available to play in our Veteran's team next season giving us more selection options and a stronger squad.

10. Divisional Secretaries' Reports

10.1. Premier - Dave Terry

Dave thanked all the players who committed to playing when available and also the captains for accepting postponements when there was absolutely no other option except to claim the match. As in most leagues in Cheshire, the Premier division last season was a little top heavy in respect of quality with four strong squads plus three very useful sides. However, with every point counting, very good matches were witnessed and this needs to be built on next season. Dave's final comment was that he feels that a small division is acceptable due to so many calls upon the top players, some playing in three or more leagues plus Town and County commitments etc.

10.2. Division 1- Bryan Fitzpatrick

Pulford B lost just one match all season and finished winners by 20 points. The remaining teams in the division, with the exception of Jim Whitaker's Barrow B team who endured a challenging first promotion to the division, were separated by only 19 points, the closest margin of all four divisions. Pulford B not only won the league but won the divisional cup, the Odex handicap trophy competed for by both premier and first divisions. Their Clwyd county player John Chan also won the league merit award; a successful season indeed.

The season ran smoothly although it overran just past its last fixtures date and 14 matches were postponed but all were re-arranged and re-played. Bryan thanked all the team captains for returning their score in reasonable time, either by card or computer, which meant that he could keep the TT365 generated league table pretty well up to date.

10.3. Division 2 - Tony Collard

The Second Division was a two horse race for much of the season with Steve Sung's Groves D out in front at the top of the table, pursued by Roger Dutton's CCO B. It stayed this way until near the end of the season when Dave Ash's Saughall Deva crept up quietly and, in a decisive thrust, mugged CCO B 9-1 to snatch second place.

At the bottom, Laurie Williams' Groves C and Greg Marsh's Electric Sport fought it out for the wooden spoon, finally tying with 46 points each.

In the merits Colin Fergus and Steve Sung tied with 34 wins, a win percentage of 81%, hotly pursued by Mike Moss with 33, but playing one less game for an average of 85%.

There were no problems with score sheets and the Table Tennis 365 computer system provides all the information you could want to keep abreast of the latest tables and results.

10.4. Division 3 - Lola Roberts

The 3rd Division had a good season with all fixtures completed.

The teams eventually sorted themselves out with County Officers `D` in top position followed closely by Saughall Institute in second place just one point behind. County Officers `F` came third.

Glyn Jones narrowly took the merit from Russell Hunt by one point .Glyn with 43 wins, Russell with 42 wins. Well played.

11. Election of Officials for 2015/2016

PRESIDENT

Willing to continue. Proposed by Keith Bartlett. Seconded by Andy Taylor

VICE PRESIDENT

Willing to continue. Proposed by Martyn Jones. Seconded by Andy Taylor

CHAIRMAN

Willing to continue. Proposed by Veronica Nicholas. Seconded by Rob Wylie

VICE CHAIRMAN

Willing to continue. Proposed by Keith Bartlett. Seconded by Russell Benstead

GENERAL SECRETARY

Willing to continue. Proposed by Jenny Blain. Seconded by Martyn Jones

TREASURER

Willing to continue. Proposed by Russell Benstead. Seconded by Keith Bartlett

TT365 ADMINISTRATOR

Willing to continue. Proposed by Keith Bartlett. Seconded by Andy Taylor

FIXTURES & PRESS SECRETARY

Willing to continue. Proposed by Keith Bartlett. Seconded by Andy Taylor

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY - newly co-opted position.

Proposal: For person in this position to automatically become a committee member. Proposer: Veronica Nicholas. Seconded by Rob Wylie

HANDICAP CUPS SECRETARY – newly co-opted position.

Proposal: For person in this position to automatically become a committee member. Proposer: Veronica Nicholas. Seconded by Rob Wylie

FIXTURES HANDBOOK SECRETARY - newly co-opted position.

Proposal: For person in this position to automatically become a committee member. Proposer: Veronica Nicholas. Seconded by Russell Benstead

EPOCH WEBMASTER

Willing to continue. Proposed by Ivor Jones. Seconded by Andy Taylor

TOWN TEAM AND DIVISION SECRETARIES - Were all willing to continue and

were re-elected en block.

12. Any Other Business – There was none

After a short break the AGM was followed by the presentation of the cups & trophies.

Photographs of the presentations will be on the website soon.

Veronica Nicholas: 24.6.2015