# Stanney Table tennis centre meeting

16 July Groves Club

## In attendance

Russell Benstead, Aaron Beech, Tom Browne (ETTA), Alan Brumby, Andy Eagles, Linda Powell, Neil Powell, Lindsey Powell, Rob Wylie, Pete Cottam, Jo James, Martin Sellars

## Minutes and actions

Apologies: Bryan Fitzpatrick, Martyn Jones, Barrie Russ, Will Sleddon, Karen Tongue, Veronica Nichols, Dave Terry

The current position is: Brio have offered us the use of a 16x16 m space in the sports hall from 7pm to either 9 or 10pm. This would be free for the first seven weeks and then £10 per hour (the junior rate) from then on. This space could accommodate 9 tables, so optimally we would like to have ten tables so one is spare. There may be a phase two of building at Stanney and a strong show of demand for table tennis should help it to get more space and time.

### Centre Name

It was agreed that the new centre would be the Ellesmere Port and Chester Table Tennis Centre, which could be shortened to EPOCH if required

### Relationship between the League and the Centre

It was agreed that the League and the Centre need to work very closely together but should have separate committees and banking facilities. This would protect the league from any liabilities that may be incurred by the Centre, but it could still offer financial and other support to the centre, with the centre being a source of players for the league. This also needs to be discussed by the LMC before a final decision is made.

Forming a committee

it was agreed that this would be debated again at the next meeting, in two weeks time, those willing to stand should put themselves forward.

Getting equipment in the short term

we have four tables offered to the Centre at present. **ACTION:** Those present were asked to use their contacts to find any additional ones for free or second hand at a reasonable price. Tom and Andy thought that Altrincham (Brian Keane) may have some second hand for sale. Tom will chase up and let Russell know.

### Fundraising

**Actions:** Aaron to contact Jane Heatherington to see if she knows if local councillors still have money to support local projects and which ones in the area still have money unspent. Andy has previously applied through Sport England for a "small grant" and got it (but will take at least 12 weeks from submission). He has given Russell a copy and will assist in drafting our submission. Russell will talk to Sport Cheshire about a Sported grant (smaller but more quickly provided than a Sport England grant) and any other funding the might have available. We have already submitted a proposal to Swansway a local car dealership looking to sponsor local clubs.

Other thoughts were bag filling at a local store and asking local businesses (Macarthur Glen etc. for support)

### Charges

It was agreed that the charges for the initial sessions would be adult £3, under 18 £2. This would be for a 1/1/2 hour session. This may have to rise after the initial free use period.

Publicity

The main routes will be fliers to schools and elsewhere (Aaron), website (aaron to discuss with Andy Davis) and to supply info to Simon for the league's website and possibly a facebook presence. Other ideas were organising demonstration sessions in schools or in Ellesmere port Arcade or at Cheshire Oaks. Getting information into the local papers and local radio are also important nearer to the launch date.

### Going for Premier club and Clubmark status

After a brief presentation by Tom over the advantages of Premier Clb status it was agreed that we would apply for it asap. **ACTION:** Russell. This gave considerable advantages to the CLub, particularly insurance (**ACTION** Tom to check that it covered players coming for taster sessions before they become full members of the club). It was agreed that it was a good idea that new players use one weeks subscription to pay their ETTA Associate membership fee.

### Coaching and CRB checks

A preliminary look indicated that the league has several coaches available, Aaron will act as head coach and produce a list. Neil can offer specialist support in coaching disabled players and if we find wheelchair players wanting to play we could also look to Claire and Scott forsupport and inspiration. It was agreed that initially the Centre would concentrate on mass participation rather than elite coaching.

It was confirmed that all coaches, and any other helpers will need a DBS certificates (previously called CRB certificate). These can be obtained on line through the ETTA and cost £12.60 + £6 for the post office to ID verification.