Secretary’s report 2017-18

This has again been a busy and competitive year for the League.

In the team competitions we congratulate Coaver A, Okehampton B and West Exe F (who also won the Bridle Cup).

Finals Night this year was rightly described by our Chairman as a fantastic event and showcase for our League, in which a number of new players came to the fore. We were particularly pleased by the strong Ladies’ entry. Thanks to Mike Kavanagh (with much appreciated help from Jackie Whitehorn) for sterling work in organizing our Championships and other competitions.

On the administrative side, there has been perhaps a greater number of meetings this year (certainly for the Secretary) as we wrestle with how to make our processes and competitions as suitable as they can be for the needs of our local table-tennis community in 2018 and beyond. We have engaged with the BeTT (better table-tennis) programme of Table Tennis England through Chris Brown and will continue to survey members’ opinions through online survey facility.

As noted already in this meeting, we held an SGM which approved a change to match format.

We have also stated as a committee our intention to introduce a Promotion/Relegation system subject to consultation which we will start as soon as practicable. The key issues now would seem to be the support for the principle of Promotion/Relegation, and if so the number of teams promoted and relegated.

Successes of members of our League elsewhere are noted on the County website tabletennis365.com/Devonshire, in particular with strong contributions from our Veterans and some of our juniors (especially Mari).

Coaching and junior work led by Penny has again been extremely active. We are increasingly proud of our young people, their talent, enthusiasm and general attitude. Those who have helped out with competitions and coaching have more than once remarked on this as a positive experience. We are pleased that we were able to run both a one-off coaching event with Paul Whiting (and other local coaches) and then a very successful series of six at Ottery. The latter helped to confirm our ability to deploy local coaching resources, especially towards the Eastern side of our district, in addition to the professional coaches active at Plymouth and Okehampton.

All of the work of the League obviously depends on people to do things. We have at least one post needing a new incumbent, as Mike Maguire is standing down as Div3 Secretary so we would particularly invite interest in that role, which is described as a manageable job.

On behalf of the committee, may I wish you an enjoyable season 2018-19.