HEREFORD TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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MINUTES OF HTTL 71st AGM: THURSDAY 24TH MAY 2018 7.15pm.

Chairman’s Introduction. President - Olaf Newcombe welcomed all

Agenda items:

1. Apologies for Absence: B Kitchener, D Hughes, J Edgar
2. Note of members present ( \* team voting rights; # exec committee vote)

\*O Andersson, \*J Allen, B Allen, #\*A Aston, #R Allsebrook, T Andrews, \*J Bacon, #\*A Castle, J Castle, #\*R Chatterton, J Conod, M Conod,\*D Day, K Day, \*C Dolding, \* M Farr, H Davies, \*N Foreshew, \*D Gwilt, #M Gwilt, \*L Gaze, \*I Godding, \*P Hart, \*D Hamer, \*I Hussey,\*J Hunt, J Jones, \*H Jutle, A Knight, \*J Morgan, S Morgan, \*A Neads, R Owens, \*J O'Nions, \*J Price, \*P Weaver, Z Weaver.

1. Minutes from 2017 AGM (circulated to members): Agreed as an accurate record (Proposed H Jutle, Seconded P Weaver)
2. Matters Arising from 2017 minutes: None

5. Chairman’s Report: After  17 years away from the Hereford league I returned in Spring of last year to be welcomed back and informed we were in desperate need of new committee members to enable the league to continue.  I agreed to step into the chairman's role which had previously been done well by Brian Kitchener.

When I first played in the league about 27 years ago there were 6 divisions and last season that had halved to 3 divisions. I believe we must take steps to prevent the size of the league decreasing even further which is why I enquired about the possibility of a junior league but was told there would not be enough interest. Although the size of the league has decreased, the overall standard has increased considerably, especially in division one.  One of the most difficult meetings is the league formation meeting when we decide which divisions to put teams in.  Bicton Badgers were difficult to judge as a new team and a slightly unknown quantity. However they were happy to play in division three but have proved to be far too strong, winning every match with two players finishing on 100% and I expect them to do well in division two next season.

I have played in division one which has been strong and competitive with a mixture of long standing veterans that have dominated the league for over 20 years, an influx of European players, most of whom seem to be very good players and rapidly improving youngsters such as Zak, Ben, Kyle and Jake and I suspect it may improve again next season. It would also be good to see some of these players in Senior British League.

I also captained the county veterans second team and we were not overly successful being second to bottom in the bottom division, however I was surprised to see our first team also in the bottom division. They duly won it easily but we do need more females in the league at every age.

I have decided to step down as Chairman but have offered to take the role of Treasurer instead. I would like to thank Roger Allsebrook who has done the job for as long as I can remember but is no longer able to continue for health reasons. I would also like to thank all of the other committee members for their support, especially our honorary general secretary Rose who does a lot of work getting information out to members.  I would also like to thank Simon Morgan for organising the Hereford tournaments as it's good to have these so often and on our doorstep. The tournaments are enjoyable too with lots of matches for everyone.

I hope the league continues to run successfully and hope I can still help to achieve this.

(Proposed D Gwilt, Seconded J Hunt.)

6. Secretary’s Report

Firstly I would like to thank Alex Aston for stepping in to the Chairman's post this season. Hopefully he will be elected for another job in the committee that he is more comfortable with, as his enthusiasm and willingness to help is greatly valued.

It was good to see a new experienced team join from Bicton, and also some new players joining teams, attracted to what is now a very competitive league especially in division one. Hereford Club have also changed their venue and invested in new tables so they look well prepared for next season.

Inevitably in an organisation of over 120 people, there are different expectations as to what the main purpose of the league should be. Some players have indicated that they want matches to be enjoyable and social exercise where winning is a bonus, while others expect a seriously competitive atmosphere in pursuit of their main aim, to constantly improve their standard of play and ranking. It should be possible for both these aims to be delivered at league matches, but in some cases there has been ill feeling and conflict especially involving interpretation of rules and umpiring decisions. It is disappointing that the committee has had to respond to complaints of antisocial and unsporting behaviour at matches.

I don't know the solution to this but I do hope that the committee will not have to spend so much time responding to similar problems next season, and ask players on both sides of the great service divide to make the effort to modify their approach in Hereford League matches, instead of just staying entrenched in their view that the fault is all on the other side.

Another task this season relates to the new Data Protection Laws that come into force tomorrow. Most of you have replied to my data protection email, but if you haven't done so you need to let me know tonight if you want to receive emails about registering for next season. When you renew your TTE membership for next season you will also need to select your own privacy settings for them and TT365. Every player must agree to at least Basic access to allow for their results to be listed, and each team must have at least the captain willing for their data to be shared otherwise it will make rearranging matches etc impossible. Captains' contact details have been removed on all websites by TT365 and won't be restored until next season.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has made the effort to attend this evening, as it reassures me that all the information I send out isn't entirely ignored! (Proposed O Andersson, Seconded J Bacon.)

7. Match Secretary's Report

First off, I would like to congratulate the winners of the Handicap competitions, Green Farm Dodgers and Bicton Badgers, who were both winners of their respective divisions as well.

While both challenge matches for promotion went ahead neither team was successful in trying for promotion. I feel that the results are a good indicator of the consistent gap between divisions currently, and overall how the strength of all divisions has improved. So unless there is a shift in the number of teams, the current format of 3 divisions of 8 is what I recommend to stick with.

I would like to mention that even though there were a record number of cancellations this season since I have taken over as Match Secretary, the main cause was the 2 periods of very poor weather. Only 3 games from near the start of the season had to adjudicated on, which is a reflection on how well all the teams managed to successfully rearrange all the postponed fixtures in a timely fashion.

Finally, I would like to thank Simon and Rosemary for all their help in submitting match-cards.

(Proposed J Hunt, Seconded A Neads)

8. Treasurer’s Report

Roger explained the record of receipts and payment distributed to members present. Thanks to Roger for preparing these under pressure of time due to earlier AGM date. They have been duly certified and do not need to be audited. (Proposed H Jutle, Seconded J Bacon.)

9. Election of Officers and Committees

Chairman: Brian Kitchener elected. Proposed by R Chatterton, Seconded by P Weaver.

Secretary: Rose Chatterton elected. Proposed by O Newcombe, Seconded by P Hart.

Match Secretary: Martin Gwilt elected, Proposed by A Castle, Seconded by D Hamer.

Treasurer: A Aston elected, Proposed by O Newcombe, Seconded by D Gwilt.

All committee members (A Castle, J Bacon, H Davies, R Owens, H Jutle, D Gwilt, J Allen, were willing to stand again and were re elected on block with Roger Allsebrook continuing as non exec committee member and additional (returning!) member Simon Morgan. (Proposed by O Newcombe, Seconded by O Andersson.)

Other appointments (Vice Chairman and Handicap Committee) are made by new committee at next meeting. Mark Farr expressed interest in joining handicap committee again.

10. Election of Presidents and Vice Presidents:

President, Olaf Newcombe and all existing Vice Presidents, Richard Owens, Roger Allsebrook, Nimmie Hodges, Ashley Brown, Margaret Newcombe, Harry Jutle, John Clarke and Ted Andrews, re-elected on block. (Proposed A Neads, seconded J Price)

11. Correspondence:

From P Hart and I Hussey relating to availability of surplus equipment from Aylestone. If interested in possible purchase of barriers and score tables, contact him. Meanwhile they will be stored by I Hussey/R Owens.

From D Hamer and J Jones requesting 2 divisions instead of 3. See item 15.

12. League fees 2018-19

Fees to be same as last season. £60 senior teams £30 juniors teams. (Proposed R Chatterton, Seconded O Andersson)

13. Proposals for Alterations to League Rules – see additional Sheet

\*Rule 4. **General Meeting.** Agreed with no objections

\*Rule 19 **Rule amendments** Agreed with no objections

\*Rule 21 **Trophies and Awards** Agreed with no objections

\*Rule 15. **Inter-availability of players** Both alternatives rejected by clear majority so rule is unchanged.

14. Honoraria : Maintain same as last season at £300 total with £50 Chairman's expenses.

15. League Fixtures 2018-19: Matters for Consideration

Preferred number of divisions if enough teams: John Bacon and Dave Hamer both gave reasons for preferring 2 divisions - much higher standard of div 1 makes it daunting for promoted teams, and playing fewer teams 3 times each is less interesting. Clear majority expressed preference for 3 divisions if enough teams entered. Colin Dolding expressed interest in Crackpots A staying in Div 1 if Magpies do not want to be promoted. Final decisions will be made by committee when next season's entries are known.

16. Date of next Committee Meeting: matter postponed until after meeting (13th August)

17. Any other Business: Dave Hamer complained about the committee's decision to refuse to allow one Weobley player to continue to play up for Magpies after he had been transferred down to Ospreys. R Chatterton explained the full circumstances to the meeting and reminded Dave that he had accepted the arrangement at the time.

Olaf thanked everyone for attending and invited all to stay for refreshments, **Annual Presentation of Awards and Trophies for 2017-18** season and killer skittles organised by Ian Hussey and Huan Davies.

**Awards presented by Olaf Newcombe**

Handicap Plate Winners: GF Dodgers Runners Up: GF Clippers

Wenderlish Cup Winners: Bicton Badgers Runners Up: HTTC Tigers

Div Winners - 1: GF Dodgers 2: W Magpies 3: Bicton Badgers

Individual players -1: Mark Owen 2: Dave Hamer 3.Mark Conod

Junior Merit Award: Jack O'Nions

Junior Progress Award: Zak Weaver

Sponsor's Special Award: Roger Allsebrook

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