HEREFORD TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Sponsored by Winesolution (Wales) UK Ltd

Minutes for HEREFORD TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY 23rd MAY 2019

To start at 7.15pm  prompt.

Chairman’s Introduction. President Olaf Newcombe welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

Agenda items:

1.  Apologies for Absence: Brian Kitchener, Roger Allsebrook, Mark Farr, Dan Hughes, John Edgar, Richard Priestley, Nick Simmonds, Karen Gane, Colin Dolding, Anthea Knight.

2.  Note of team representatives present (with voting rights)

H Jutle, A Castle, O Andersson, D Day, J Price, A Aston, J Allen, S Brown, D Hamer, A Neads, S Lindsay, I GODDING, H Davies, C Knowles, J Bacon, P Weaver, J Hunt, R Laker, R Davies, J Palmer, T Allen, P Hart. Unrepresented teams - HTTC Tigers, Woolhope Foragers.

3.  Minutes from 2018 AGM (circulated to members). Agreed as an accurate record. (Proposed by A Neads, seconded by J Hunt.)

4.  Matters Arising from 2018 Minutes. None.

5.  Chairman’s Report. (In BK’s absence, RC read his report)

Good evening one and all, and apologies for not being being with you this evening. firstly I would like to thank the committee members for their various contributions to the running of the league this season, in particular both Martin and Rosemary in their respective roles.

There have been some great matches throughout the season along with surprising results, for teams as well as individual players. The majority have been really good humoured, especially at Weobley, with the usual friendly banter.

However, right from the off it has not always been a pleasant season, dealing with the high level of ‘emotion’ during a few matches which required the committee to spend considerable time considering the appropriate action to be taken to these events. I do not believe anyone on the committee has had experience in dealing with this sort of behaviour before in a sport, which has certainly in my career (a long one) never been seen. Having to warn and ban players for bad behaviour is not my idea of enjoyment, either playing or being a member of the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Castle in his role as Vice Chairman and in particular for conducting the investigations to assist us in dealing with these matters. The committee members are all volunteers and therefore dealing with these issues is difficult and does not help to progress our sport within the league. The issue of Facebook content was a further distraction and I for one was not impressed. I am not a Facebook user and accept that it is a good way to communicate, but not in the way where it could have serious consequences to members if the committee.

Sadly I have to advise those present that this is the final season that Winesolution (Wales) UK Ltd will be our league sponsor. Their hope was to generate further sales which unfortunately did not materialise. I have given my thanks to them on behalf of the league.

Having taken on the task of obtaining trophies at short notice, I hope that you find them satisfactory and correct. As my colleague pointed out, I ‘got in a bit of a muddle’ but the errors I made have been rectified and the main cups have had a thorough clean by my wife which has seriously cost me lots!

Finally, I am not standing for re-election as Chairman for two reasons; my wife is at last retiring in July and in additions we have taken up a new sport, new to us anyway, quoits. It is played on a Monday night, very enjoyable and socially great fun. I am however willing to stand as a committee member, until new signatories are set up. Some other committee members may not be standing for re-election and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts over the period of their service.

I wish you all a pleasant evening and a good summer and look forward to continuing to play next season.

Report accepted, proposed by A Castle. Seconded by R Owens.

6.  Secretary’s Report.

Reading Brian’s report, I have to say I share his disappointment that the committee has again had to deal with problems arising from unsporting behaviour.

Having said that, it remains true that for the vast majority of members, table tennis, played at whatever level, remains a very satisfying sport. One of the nicer jobs for the committee is to select award winners at the end of the season. This year I believe we have chosen 2 players in particular who play the game in a positive spirit. Piotr Sniezek has been awarded the Senior Merit award; as well as helping to attract other excellent div 1 players to our league, he is proof that it is possible to play extremely well without disrupting the entire sports hall with exaggerated emotion. The Sponsor’s Special Award winner is Martin Bell. For several years, Martin has dealt with serious illness and quietly carried on playing table tennis, never once making excuses if he loses, and always gracious in his encouragement of other players of all standards. It is also good to note that several promising younger players, including the Junior Progress winner Lucas Pinches, are improving fast and have a good attitude that means it is also a pleasure to play them.

Moving on to practical issues.

Last year we had Data Protection Laws to contend with. As a result, I have been unable to contact some members all season, because they did not reset their privacy settings when they renewed their membership last August. We now have to deal with the fallout from the acrimonious divorce proceedings between TTE and TT365. Because of that, next season, communication with members will be further complicated by the fact that we will lose our website this summer when TTE’s contract with TT365 is terminated. It would probably be advisable for next season’s team entry forms to include a complete record of all team members, their contact details and individually signed permissions to allow the new League Secretary to contact them.

Also regarding data, I believe that TTE gave a misleading assurance that data stored on TT365 systems would be easily transferable to their new system. They are now stating that the only way to save match results and individual player stats from TT365 is to separately copy every page as a pdf or screenshot. If anyone would like to do that for the last few years’ archived material I would be delighted to know. Otherwise, if you are interested in keeping some information, I suggest you might like to make copies of your own individual and team results during the next few weeks while you can still access the website.

Based on the extremely minimal feedback I received from my emailed questionnaire, I recommended and the committee decided that Hereford League will move over to the new TTE admin system next season. Nevertheless, I think losing the TT365 system is very disappointing. I, like most administrators who actually use the system, find it very useful and I still have serious doubts that the new TTE system will be as effective next season. Table tennis administrations both locally and nationally are in a vulnerable state and it will be interesting to watch developments over the next few months. However, I personally am pleased at TT365’s announcement yesterday that they have enough support to operate independently next season. It could prove to be a vital safety net if TTE fail to deliver on their promises.

The prospect of setting up a new admin system and website does not appeal to me, especially as my daughter will be off to university and Patrick and I are planning a few holidays, so it seems a sensible time for me to step down from being League Secretary. I am glad that Martin has agreed to carry on as Match Secretary, and we have a hopefully not too reluctant volunteer to be Secretary. The committee clearly needs new members if our league is going to flourish next season. If you have experience with websites for example, you could make a really useful contribution that would reduce the new secretary’s workload. Your league fixtures and notices do not just magically appear just because you pay your fees. They do require volunteer input, and if you want Hereford League to thrive you might like to consider contributing to that input in some practical way.

Over the few years I have been Secretary I have received helpful feedback from a handful of members who routinely reply to my communications. I would like to thank them, while at the same time suggesting that a little more engagement from the majority would make the whole system run more efficiently. I wish good luck to my successor and will offer help if required.

Report accepted, proposed by H Davies, seconded by P Hart.

O Newcombe thanked RC for her efforts.

7.  Match Secretary's Report To follow.

O Newcombe thanked M Gwilt for his efforts and noted his appreciation that match reports appear in local newspaper.

8.  Treasurer’s Report. Attached. A Aston explained 11month accounting period as agreed at last year’s AGM. Uncashed honorarium cheque will be reissued and included in next season’s accounts. RC explained professional email facility purchase to enable continued contact with players following breakdown of her laptop.

Report accepted, proposed by D Gwilt, seconded by H Davies.

O Newcombe thanked A Aston for his efforts.

9.  Proposals for Alterations to League Rules - see additional sheet

RC reminded members that only 22 team representatives attending have voting rights, plus 3 executive committee members present.

Rule 6.1. Fixture fulfilment. Comments from members included concern of S Lindsay that 48 hours notice may be impossible if postponement is because of illness. S Brown - how to determine reasonable delay before rearrangement? M Gwilt clarified that illness could be considered an exceptional circumstance. Votes counted (on recount) in favour of B Kitchener/K Read proposal 8. In favour of A Aston proposal 5. In favour of retaining existing rule 9. Therefore rule 6.1 remains unchanged.

Rule 6.2. Unplayed matches. S Brown asked how blame would be attached if team A cancelled but team B obstructed ongoing attempts to reschedule. M Gwilt explained the committee would have to consider each circumstance to decide which team should be penalised. Amendment passed with 16 votes in favour.

Rule 9. Award of points. J Hunt spoke in favour of amendment, as if a team makes the effort to play with 2 players to avoid cancellation, they deserve full points for a win. Amendment passed by a large majority.

Rule 14. League Constitution. RC explained reason for this, to help avoid unequal numbers of teams in different divisions, as happened this season. D Hamer said the reason for imbalance was because a new team had been allowed to join div 1. RC agreed, but stated that League needs to have flexibility to be able to encourage new strong players to join league at appropriate level, and not oblige teams to play in divisions either too strong or weak for them. Amendment passed with a clear majority.

Rule 15. Inter-availability of players. J Bacon introduced proposal. Passed with a clear majority.

10. Consideration of TTE AGM Proposals (circulated to members) -see additional sheet

RC explained her role as Company Member, and wanting to take account of views of members on key issues. Voting representatives were asked to indicate their preferences on (attached sample) sheets.

Proposition 1. RC explained implications. There may be possibility in future to introduce one member one vote, but this is just one company member one vote, meaning reduced representation for leagues and counties. (Preferences indicated: 16 No. 8 Yes. 1 abstained.)

Proposition 3. HJutle explained role of National Council of which he is a member. New elected group MAG (members advisory group) is likely to fulfil similar role. Not much enthusiasm among existing members of National Council. (Preferences indicated: 14 No. 9 Yes. 2 abstained.)

Proposition 4/5 funding. RC expressed personal view that reducing TTE fee might make disaffected leagues choosing to pay for TT365 next season more likely to still continue to be affiliated to TTE. Likelihood of different factions with disaffiliated leagues at national level which is not desirable. RC also expressed concern that TTE League Manager system may not be fit for purpose in time for next season and TT365 could be considered as emergency fallback. J Palmer stated view that TT365 is not financially credible and should not be supported in any way. S Lindsay said new companies can expect loss in first year. (Preferences indicated: 13 for proposition 5. 10 for Proposition 4. 2 abstained.)

11.Election of Officers and Committees

Chairman. No volunteers so post remains vacant.

Secretary. P Hart elected. Proposed O Andersson, Seconded R Chatterton.

Treasurer. A Aston re-elected. Proposed D Gwilt. Seconded H Davies.

Match Secretary. M Gwilt re-elected. Proposed J Palmer. Seconded A Castle.

Committee members J Bacon, R Chatterton, H Davies, D Gwilt, H Jutle. R Owens. Also B Kitchener and R Allsebrook if they wish to continue. Proposed S Lindsay. Seconded A Neads.

(J Allen to continue as Welfare Officer. - not an elected position.)

12.  Election of Presidents and Vice Presidents. President O Newcombe and all Vice Presidents re-elected. Proposed R Chatterton. Seconded M Gwilt.

13.  League fees 2019-20. To remain at £60 per senior team £30 junior team. All agreed.

14.  Honoraria. To remain at £300 plus £50 Chairman’s expenses. Proposed J Morgan. Seconded R Laker. All agreed.

15. AOB. None.

16. Date of next Committee Meeting: to be agreed at close of this meeting. M Gwilt to email new committee to agree

Trophies and awards 2018-19 season.

Div 1

Winners HTTC Pioneers

Runners up Green Farm Dodgers

Div 2

Winners Ross Ripsnorters

Runners up Ross Wyesiders

Div 3

Winners Weobley Ospreys

Runners up Green Farm Juniors

Handicap

Main Competition

Winners HTTC Neanderthals

Runners up Green Farm Mash

Plate

Winners HTTC Pioneers

Runners up Bromyard Wildcats

Individual Players. Div 1 Mark Owen,

Div 2 Colin Dolding.

Div 3 John Hunt.

Junior Progress Lucas Pinches.

Junior Merit Ben Allen.

Senior Merit Piotr Sniezek.

Special Award Martin Bell.

**HTTL 2019-20 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES (Final).**

(As there are 2 alternative proposals for Rule 6.1, a vote will need to be taken whether to adopt first proposal, or second proposal, or neither proposal.)

Rule 6: Fixture Fulfilment. Proposed by B Kitchener/K Read

6.1 Permitted rearrangement of matches

A team wishing to postpone a match shall be within its right to do so, provided that their opponents receive a clear 2 days' notice. The number of unplaced postponements made by a team is restricted to 3.

The team responsible for postponement must advise the Match Secretary within ~~24 hours (~~replace with) 48 hours of the original fixture date by email and also of the revised date when it is fixed. (Notification is not required when the alteration date means that the match will be played earlier than the original date.)

Postponed matches ~~must be played within~~ **~~42~~** ~~days of the original date~~. (replace with) must be played as soon as is practicable, if necessary either using fixture reversal or alternative venue.

The Executive Committee will adjudicate if unnecessary delay in rearrangement has occurred.

Relaxation of this rule will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

Non availability of a player is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

Rule 6: Fixture Fulfilment. Proposed by A Aston.

6.1 Permitted rearrangement of matches

~~A team wishing to postpone a match shall be within its right to do so, provided that their opponents receive a clear 2 days' notice.  The team responsible for postponement must advise the Match Secretary within 24 hours of the original fixture date~~ **~~by email~~** ~~and also of the revised date when it is fixed.  (Notification is not required when the alteration date means that the match will be played earlier than the original date.)  Postponed matches must be played within~~ **~~42~~** ~~days of the original date~~.  Replace with No postponements will be allowed except in exceptional circumstances eg. venue unavailability or extreme weather.  Non-availability of a player is not considered an exceptional circumstance.

Rule 6: Fixture Fulfilment. Proposed by S Morgan.

6.2 Unplayed Matches.

~~The committee shall award points for matches unplayed. Teams will be informed of the date by which all matches must be played.~~

Replace with Unplayed matches will result in a 10-0 loss to the team who did not fulfil the fixture.

Rule 9. Award of points. Proposed by B Kitchener.

To remove the following element of the rule.

~~For a winning team of 2 players only 7 points will be awarded for 6-4, or 7-3.~~

Rule 14. League Constitution. Proposed by R Owens.

To add the following to the rule.

Normally ...teams will automatically be promoted.....and ......will be automatically relegated

Rule 15. Inter-availability of players. Proposed by J Bacon.

A player may play up as a substitute for a higher ranked player in the same club, whether in the same or a higher division, ~~on 5 occasions~~ (replace with) for a total maximum of 3 occasions each season...........

~~On the 6th occasion~~ (replace with) On the 4th occasion. ...

**TTE AGM RULE PROPOSITIONS,**

**For full details PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED FILE.**

**There are some key proposals that deserve your attention.**

**As Company Member of HTTL, I (R Chatterton) have voting rights at TTE AGM in June.**

**I will be asking voting members at our League AGM on 23rd May to indicate how they would like me to vote on these proposals on the League’s behalf. These views will affect HTTL’s vote at the TTE AGM in June.**

**Proposition 1 is to create voting rights for premier clubs but reduce the voting rights for leagues and counties.**

**Proposition 3 is to request that TTE fully support National Council by provision of 4 meetings per year.**

**Proposition 4/5 concern the TTE membership fee for 2019-20.**

**Proposal 4 is to set next season’s annual TTE membership fee at £9 for Senior members and £4.50 for juniors.**

**Proposal 5 from TTE board is to set fees at £16 for seniors and £8 for juniors (ie same as this year.)**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AT HEREFORD LEAGUE AGM, EACH TEAM SHOULD APPOINT ONE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE, WHO MUST ATTEND THE AGM TO VOTE.**

**ONLY ONE TEAM MEMBER IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. THIS RULE WILL BE ENFORCED.**