HEREFORD TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Sponsored by Winesolution (Wales) UK Ltd

MINUTES OF HEREFORD TTL 70TH AGM: TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2017

Chairman’s Introduction:

Brian Kitchener welcomed members and explained that in Olaf Newcombe's absence he would chair meeting. Minute's silence was observed to remember Dave White.

Agenda items:

1. Apologies for Absence: O Newcombe, N Hodges, J Palmer
2. Note of those present: B Kitchener, R Allsebrook, M Gwilt, R Chatterton, N Foreshew, D Gwilt, H Levy, A Castle, T Price, S Morgan, A Aston, R Owens, J Hunt, C Knowles, H Jutle, M Farr, H Davies, J Edgar, P Oatley, D Hamer, J Bacon, P Weaver, D Hughes, A Knight, L Gaze

R Price, S Brown, C Dolding, P Hart, J Morgan, R Priestley.

1. Minutes from 2016 AGM (circulated to members) Agreed (Proposed by H Jutle, Seconded by J Hunt)
2. Matters Arising from 2016 minutes: None
3. Acting Chairman’s Report:

Because I have not been an active member of the committee this past season, hence the reason for not standing for re-election, I do not have anything to specifically mention other than the following:-

I wish to thank my honorary colleagues of the executive committee for their work throughout the season, maintaining the function of the league, particularly Rose-our honorary general secretary, for her work in getting information out to members along with the updates on the website.

My thanks also go to the other non executive members of the committee for their input at committee meetings.

May I also bring to your attention the achievement of Harry Jutle who, as most of you know, is an international umpire, on obtaining a ‘blue badge’ of which only 5 others hold such high honour in the country, through training, assessments and testing. I congratulate him.

My grateful thanks on behalf of the league to Richard Owens for arranging our league trophies, which will be presented by our sponsor this coming Friday at our presentation evening. At this point may I ask if you would bring along donations for the raffle prizes and assist in arranging the tables and chairs.

It is still my intention not to be available for election to any role on the committee, acting or otherwise, and sincerely hope that nominations are received this evening. Please bear in mind that any officer shall have voting power and only one delegate shall have voting power per team (as per rule 4. General meeting).

Report proposed as record: S Morgan, Seconded H Jutle.

6. Secretary’s Report:

I would like to thank Brian, for having continued as caretaker chairman this year, and also Harry as vice chairman. I think it is no secret that neither of them wanted the job this season, but they and the rest of us on the committee have managed to more or less keep the league functioning! However, as Brian has made clear, we really do need new volunteers to take on jobs with enthusiasm and new ideas, to keep us all positive about the future for the league. It's your chance tonight!

Since the last AGM, there have been 7 committee meetings, 2 to sort out the divisions and other admin before the start of the season, and 5 during the season to consider issues arising from matches, and to plan for the future.

Looking at the League regulations, I am reminded that the declared aims of the league (and therefore this committee) are

1. To foster and promote organised Table Tennis

and 2. To use its influence towards obtaining better facilities for the game.

Relating to the second aim, the year has seen some exciting developments, with the adoption of Point 4 as the new county venue for training sessions and tournaments. I am sure everyone who has played there will agree that the facilities at Point 4 are a huge improvement, and hopefully more league members will be encouraged (and indeed given more opportunities,) to participate in future events held there.

Technically, organising events at Point 4 is a matter for the County committee rather than the League, but the finances of the 2 organisations are closely linked, so perhaps it should be a matter of concern for both organisations to work on together in future, to make sure this venue is a successful asset for all table tennis players in the Hereford area.

The first aim of the League I mentioned, to promote organised table tennis, has been fulfilled this year in the sense that 23 teams and 110 players have played matches across 3 divisions. I will leave it to Martin to report further. Also I would like to thank Martin on behalf of us all, for his invaluable effort organising fixtures and handicaps, and recording match results throughout the season.

One unresolved problem that teams have contacted me about is the late start and in particular late finish of some matches. This has been particularly problematic for clubs with restricted opening times, and for teams on the outer fringes of the region who have to travel for over an hour just to get to each other's venue. There are 2 proposed rule amendments on the agenda tonight relating to this - members present will have to decide whether these proposals are an appropriate solution to the problem of late running matches.

Looking beyond local issues, the league also has to take account of national policies and strategies introduced by TTE. One important one relates to safeguarding issues and requires that all leagues appoint a Welfare Officer. Until recently, Hereford League has not fulfilled this requirement, but I am very pleased that Jon Allen has volunteered to take on the role. Through his work as a manager in the health service, he is well qualified for it, and his support will be of particular value to Green Farm and Goodrich clubs which are currently the only clubs with junior members.

I will end by repeating the obvious, that the league can only fulfil its aim to organise table tennis for the benefit of all its members, if enough of those members are willing to make the effort to help to organise it. I have found being league secretary a somewhat frustrating task at times this season, but I am happy to continue in that role, if invited, provided that other members are willing to volunteer to carry out other roles, in particular that of Chairman.

As a committee we have had some lively meetings debating a range of topics. We need new enthusiastic members to help ensure that unresolved issues are dealt with effectively next season. Then we can look forward to all players being able to enjoy Hereford League table tennis, in a competitive but also friendly sporting atmosphere.

Report proposed as record D Hughes, seconded B Farr.

7. Match Secretary's Report: Firstly, I would like to note I feel we had a successful season, as barring 2 games all matches were played, this came down to difficulties at the end of season with Weobley Wheels, as there was difficulty rearranging games so close to the end of the season. Otherwise, every other game was able  to be played within the changed deadline for this season.

Secondly, for those unaware the promotion challengers were Rockets vs Crackpots A and they lost 6-4.

Thirdly, I felt that the handicap worked out well this year, and barring my mistake with Green Farm Vikings everything else ran well. But I would like to remind players of the fact that I cannot accurately handicap for the games if I don't know who is playing - certain teams haven't kept me up to date on who they plan on fielding for their team.

Lastly, regarding the use of the play up rule, I feel that some teams have made use of it regularly and in particular Green Farm. Other sides have at times seemed not aware of it or been unable to use it when needed, which I feel didn't help in the early retirement of Eagles.

Report proposed by R Owens, seconded S Brown.

8. Treasurer’s Report: Roger explained that after 30 years he will retire from Treasurer role because of poor health, after next committee meeting. He will be available to help/hand over to whoever is appointed as replacement. No urgency to replace signatories on accounts though this will be needed. Banks take a long time to complete signatory transfers.

Accounts circulated (attached) and explained by Roger. 2016-7 season sponsorship has not yet been paid, but still expected.

Brian thanked Roger on behalf of all for his long and valued service to HTTL.

Report proposed as record by D Gwilt, Seconded S Morgan.

1. Election of Officers and Committees:

**Chairman** Alex Aston, Proposed by A Castle, seconded by J Hunt. General applause for Alex volunteering. Committee looks forward to working with him.

**Secretary** Rose Chatterton, Proposed by B Kitchener, Seconded by A Knight.

**Match Secretary** Martin Gwilt, proposed by S Morgan, Seconded by H Davies.

**Treasurer** Provisional as not present to confirm willingness to stand; Lincoln Franklin, Proposed by D Gwilt, Seconded by A Castle.

(It is understood that he is willing to undertake role and arrangements have now been made to discuss further with Roger.)

**Committee members** Andy Castle, (P D Gwilt, S R Owens); Dave Gwilt, (P H Davies, S A Aston); Roger Allsebrook, (P M Gwilt, S R Chatterton); Brian Kitchener, (P S Morgan, S N Foreshew); John Bacon, (P A Castle, S S Morgan); Huan Davies, (P A Knight, S P Weaver); R Owens, (P B Kitchener, S S Morgan); Harry Jutle, (P R Owens, S A Aston).

Also, Jon Allen, newly appointed Welfare Officer, will be invited to join committee if willing. (P A Castle, S S Morgan).

1. 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 by D Gwilt, Seconded by S Morgan.
2. Correspondence: Most TTE correspondence is now sent via email to all registered TTE members and published centrally to appear on all league websites. No other correspondence relating to matters of general concern to this meeting.
3. League fees 2017-18: Andy Castle put the case for increasing league fees by £10 to subsidise 2018 County Championships at Point 4. Venue is more expensive to hire but excellent facility. County has invested heavily in new tables, barriers etc but more will be needed in future. Recent championships have not been well enough supported by players to be self funding. This year relied on generous donation from Brian Kitchener. Fee increase would be small spread over all players in team.

Observations made by members present included: Hereford league fees are very reasonable compared with some others. Difficulties getting some players to pay even existing match fees. League has large reserves in bank which could be used to subsidise county tournament. County needs to consider ways to make tournament more appealing to players eg scheduling event to avoid holidays etc.

After discussion, meeting voted not to impose increase but to retain existing fee of £60 per team. (12 votes in favour of increase, 13 votes against increase).

Any decision to donate funds from league to county, to help subsidise 2018 county tournament, would be a committee decision. However, members present voted by a strong majority in favour of endorsing a committee decision to make a donation (for up to amount that would have been raised by proposal) from existing league funds, if needed.

1. Proposals for Alterations to League Rules

\*Rule 3. Subscriptions (Proposed by Andy Castle)

As meeting voted not to increase league fees, this proposal relating to junior fees was withdrawn.

\*Rule 10. Match Commencement Time (Proposed by Richard Owens):

For matches to start earlier unless the option to play on 2 tables is offered.

Proposed amendment: "Matches normally start at delete ~~7.30pm but may start later if indicated on the website or by mutual agreement.~~ Replace with: 7pm unless the option to play on 2 tables is offered. Matches may start later by mutual agreement.

Observations made by members present indicated strong general opposition to proposal: although late matches can be a problem especially for clubs with early closing times, general view was that most teams had made effort to start earlier this season. Weobley and Ross clubs are unable to open earlier as venues not available. Enough travelling time needs to be allowed for workers to get to venue - some don't even have time for a meal after work with existing 7.30 start time. Late nights can be a problem especially for juniors but even juniors rely on working parents to transport them to matches. League is principally a senior league and shouldn't make rules to benefit only a small minority of players. Proposal was withdrawn.

\*Rule 7. Team Constitution (Proposed by Richard Owens, Seconded by Simon Morgan): To remove the doubles set from league matches.

Proposed amendment: " In all Divisions matches shall consist of 9 singles sets played by 3 singles players, delete ~~and one set of doubles to be played by any two members registered for the team.~~

Comments made: Doubles is the most enjoyable aspect of the game. Need practice in doubles if intending to play tournaments and for county teams etc. Richard noted with satisfaction the good attendance at the meeting.

Proposal defeated. 4 votes counted in favour; 16 votes opposing.

\*Rule 9. Award of Points (Proposed by Richard Owens)

As rule 7 proposal was defeated, no requirement to adjust match scoring so proposal withdrawn.

\*Rule 5. Match Play Regulations (Proposed by Dylan Day, Seconded by Simon Morgan):

Add: "Each player will be allowed a One minute Time-out as defined in ITTF regulation 3.4.4.2 on one occasion during each singles set. The request for a time-out can be made only between rallies in a game."

Simon asked that timeout be allowed despite risk of making matches up to 20 minutes longer. He pointed out that if most people were not interested in allowing it, there would be little takeup except from probably a few younger players. Allowing timeout might help to avoid unsporting behaviour for some players. Majority felt the rule unnecessary at local league level and not in the interests of most players. Proposal defeated by 4 to 15 votes.

\*Rule 14. League Constitution (Proposed by Richard Owens)

To make playoff rule clearer. Proposed by Richard Owens:

"If requested by any of the relevant teams, a playoff must be arranged....add: within 2 weeks of the end of the league season (except in exceptional circumstances agreed by match secretary)...."

Agreed unanimously.

1. Honoraria.

Meeting agreed to maintain honoraria for Secretary, Match Secretary and Treasurer at £300 total. Chairman receives expenses.

1. League Fixtures 2017-18: Matters for Consideration. Some teams have been printing paper copies of scorecards but majority agreed that printed cards are easier to use. Rose will arrange for enough to be printed for next season (approx 10p each). Applications for team entries will be by post with enclosed cheque as last year, to keep process straightforward for secretary and treasurer. Dates etc will be agreed and publicised after next committee meeting.
2. Date of next Committee Meeting: Monday 10th July 2017
3. Any other Business.

Simon Morgan explained about national junior tournament at Point 4 Sunday 18th June. Spectators welcome. Table space is available to run a separate open tournament for Hereford players if enough interest - contact him for details.

Simon Morgan expressed disappointment that issue of illegal serves not resolved and requested that especially div 1 players should make effort to follow all rules.

Meeting applauded Colin Dolding's proposal of vote of thanks to retiring treasurer Roger Allsebrook.

Meeting closed at 21.15

HTTL sponsored by winesolution (wales) uk ltd promoting table tennis in herefordshire