**Kendal and District Table Tennis League**

**Minutes of AGM – 7.30 pm 3 May 2023, Burton Memorial Hall**

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| ***Present –*** Peter Leahy (PL) (Chair), Mick Taylor (MT) (Sec), Norman Philbey (NP), Phil Swift (PS), Martin Wakelin (MW), Andrew Hudson (AH), Bob Gale (BG), Paul Hines (PH), Chris Knowles (CK), Bryan Rhodes (BR), Seamus Hanna (SH).***Apologies* –** Tony March (TM), Keith Mallinson (KM), Matt Neal (MN), John Wood (JW), Jeff Pimblett (JP)..1. ***Minutes of Previous AGM, 26 May 2022***
* Taken as read.
* NP pointed out that in Item 9, Elliott Riley should be deleted and Sam Cook inserted. Otherwise the minutes were accepted as a true record.
1. ***Matters arising***
* Item 13: All junior trophies now re-engraved. Thanks Norman.
* Item 15: Whether to charge league fees per team or per player? This still not resolved and we need TM’s input to make a decision. Leave it for now and discuss at a future Management Team meeting with Tony present, then at 2024 AGM.
1. ***Not Used***
2. ***Chairman’s Report (Peter Leahy)***
* See attached report.
1. ***Treasurer’s Report (Tony March)***
* TM was not present but had submitted a written report and accounts (see attached).
* PL stated that we may be asking for some money from the League for the planned Junior Doubles Tournament in May 2023 and possibly further junior events over the summer.
* BR thanked TM for his excellent report and also for his £100 sponsorship of the KO Cup, which TM is happy to repeat next season.
1. ***Secretary’s Report (Mick Taylor)***
* This season we had 9 teams in Div 1 (playing each other twice), 7 teams in Div 2 (playing each other 3 times). This was the same as the 2021-22 season. We had 64 registered League players (61 last year).
* 4 teams entered the Div 1 Divisional Shield (5 last year), played at Burton again. Unfortunately only one team entered the Div 2 Divisional Shield (5 last year), so the event was cancelled.
* MT said he wished to retire as League Secretary at the end of next season. He would try and find a replacement and work with them during any hand over period.
1. ***Welfare Officer’s report (Mick Taylor)***
* MT is the League Welfare Officer and can help on Welfare matters. He is the person to contact if anyone (parent or child) has any Safeguarding concerns. He also keeps a register of coaches and Club Welfare Officers and will contact clubs once a year to update those records and offer advice on training etc.
* He stressed that it is essential for all coaches to have a DBS check every 3 years and likewise Safeguarding training updates every 3 years.
* MT reminded clubs that if they have juniors or vulnerable adults, then they are strongly advised to have a suitably trained Welfare Officer appointed.
* Happily, there have been no safeguarding issues this year.
1. ***Match and Membership Secretary’s Report (Martin Wakelin)***
* The league programme was successfully completed, except for one match. Time ran out for this match, but it had no bearing on promotion or relegation.
* Postponement rules have not been always followed, causing difficulties for some teams and extra costs for home team venue hire. It was agreed that the rules should be more rigorously enforced and teams should if necessary play with 2 players. Also it is important that any match postponed in the first half of the season should be played before the end of January. (Rule 14.1.4). These points to be emphasized at the start of next season to all teams.
1. ***Junior Report (Norman Philbey and Seamus Hanna)***
* Mike Sunderland was not present, so NP and SH reported as follows.
* The Junior League South was a success, with good atmosphere and sportsmanship. The kids enjoyed it and there was good parental help. Slyne had contributed several teams, which really helped.
* The involvement of juniors in League Finals Night was discussed. It would improve attendance, but may be too late for many. Junior trophies would need to be presented early. No decision was taken.
* Chris Knowles was thanked for his generous £250 sponsorship of junior coaching and development.
1. ***ESTTA Report (Norman Philbey)***
* Matt O’Flynn was not present but is still involved with ESTTA. The local team event took place in Kirkby Stephen (November) and there were over 90 kids playing. The local individual event was also held at Kirkby Stephen (January) and George Mason and Matt Batstone progressed to the National Schools Finals in Aldersley.

 1. ***Lancs and Cheshire Veterans League***
* John Wood was not present but submitted his report by email as follows:
* Kendal entered one team this season, did well and finished second in the League, so are hoping for promotion and an expanded League next season.
* Thanks to all those who took part, namely Chris Knowles, Phil Swift, Mike Taylor and Peter Leahy. Medals are expected soon.
* John is willing to continue as trophy officer next season.
1. ***Tournament Report (Phil Swift and Norman Philbey)***
* 20 League players entered this year (27 last year) and 19 non league juniors (13 last year).
* MT and PS made the draw for the seniors and approx 6 people helped to set up on the Saturday.
* PS acted as Seniors Tournament Organiser on the day, as he was unable to play due to injury. The event went well, 5 tables were used, and it finished at 5.00 pm. PS said he thought the standard of play was exceptionally high. It was also good to have the juniors and their parents present as part of the event.
* NP and SH organised the junior event in the afternoon, using 6 tables. There were occasional delays due to some juniors entered in more than one age category. The kids enjoyed it and it finished at 6.00 pm. NP expressed his thanks to SH and to Anna Parkinson, who also helped.
1. ***Future format for Divisional Shield and Tournament***
* This season, the 1st Div Divisional Shield had only 4 teams enter and the 2nd Div Shield had to be cancelled because of lack of entries. The number of entries into the Annual Tournament was also down again.
* After discussion, it was agreed to try playing the Divisional Shield competition in the evenings at normal home venues, as the KO Cup, probably before Christmas.
* Some felt the Tournament is too late in the season, so agreed to bring forward to either January or March (February has Crook Veterans Tournament). However, leave the general format unchanged. Agreed that it’s important to include the non league juniors.
1. ***Possible Change to Playing up Rule***
* Concern has been expressed about some strong players being registered below weaker players, thus allowing them to play in both lower and higher ranked teams. Tony March has proposed the following rule change to help address this. It would bring the playing up rule into line with the playing down rule (same principle).
* *Rule 15.3 (ii) – amend so that it reads – A player may on 4 occasions play for a team above the one for which he or she has been registered, provided that he or she is ranked (according to the League Handicaps) equal to or below the player in the higher team being temporarily replaced. On the next occasion the player plays for a higher team, he or she must, for the rest of the season, only play for the highest team for which he or she has played.*
* Views were expressed both for and against the change. The argument for was that very strong players are appearing in second division teams and thus dispiriting the less strong players, who are being heavily defeated. The argument against is that in view of present difficulties raising teams, we need maximum flexibility. Without this flexibility, it is likely that one or two teams would not have been able to enter the League.
* The latter argument was generally supported by most present, and as there was no seconder for the motion there was no need for a vote. Rule 15.3 (ii) remains unchanged.
1. ***Election of Officers***
* It was agreed to create a new post, namely South League Junior Development Co-ordinator and Seamus Hanna was duly elected to this post.

 Other officers were re-elected unopposed as below: * President: Bob Gale. Vice Presidents: Charles Usher and Jeff Pimblett.
* Chairman: Peter Leahy
* Treasurer: Tony March
* General Secretary: Mick Taylor
* Welfare Officer: Mick Taylor
* Match and Membership Secretary: Martin Wakelin
* Junior Development Coordinator: Mike Sunderland.
* Press Officer: Bryan Rhodes
* ESTTA Officer: Matt O’Flynn
* Tournament Officer : Team effort, lead by Phil Swift
* Divisional Shield Organiser: Vacant
* Webmaster: Chris Knowles
* Trophy Officer: John Wood
1. ***Fees for next season***
* Agreed to leave unchanged, as TM’s recommendation.

.1. ***Dates for Next season***
* Mick will issue a provisional calendar asap.

 The meeting ended at 21.50. ***Attachments:*** Chairman’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, 2022-23 Accounts.***Distribution***All League Members, by email, 27/05/23 | ***Action******MT******MT******All coaches******All clubs******MT******MT******MT*** |

**Kendal and District League**

**Annual General Meeting**

**3rd May 2023**

**Chairman’s Report**

1. We successfully completed a full season of matches for two divisions and completed our KO CUP and Divisional shield competitions and held our Annual Tournament at Dallam School. The Crook Veterans tournament was very well supported once again. The Kendal Leisure Centre group, led by Louise Braithwaite has been playing regularly on Monday evenings.Mike Sunderland and Seamus Hanna organised some friendly evenings at Kirkby Stephen and Natland.I would like to thank our member Clubs and particularly the Club secretaries, officers and team captains for their work.
2. Our senior league faced the familiar challenge again this year of lack of players. We managed to field 9 teams in division 1 and 7 teams in Division 2. This was a struggle and it was no surprise that a number of teams were only able to field two players on some match nights.
3. In my report last year I flagged the challenge of getting a junior league running this season. I am pleased to report that this was achieved. We ran a single division in the Autumn and two divisions in the Spring with a total of 24 junior players involved. This has been a great success due in the main to the efforts of Seamus Hanna, Norman Philbey and Martin Wakelin. Overall, our junior activity has continued to increase. We had a series of coached sessions with Dan O Connell last Summer, have run coaching/tournament days at Burton and Kirkby Stephen and offer ongoing junior coaching at Burton, Dallam, Kirkby Stephen and Natland. The increased activity has been helped by having more volunteers assisting at coaching evenings, with running the junior League and filling in gaps when regular coaches are not available-thanks to:Gary Deakin, Dave Hewitt, Paul Hines, Chris Knowles, Tony March and Phil Swift amongst others.
4. Our junior activity cannot stand still. We need to offer progression pathways as our junior players get older and get better. One approach will not be right for all and so we are exploring a number of pathways including junior involvement in the senior division 2, a more proactive approach to England schools competitions, junior player parent participation, junior team non playing captains, entering the National Cadet League as well as continuation of our existing two division junior League.
5. I would like to highlight the work of Norman Philbey. Norman runs 3 and sometimes 4 sessions a week for Milnthorpe Primary School children and he additionally runs a weekly session for fellow residents where he lives. Of the 24 players in the Junior League 40% are or were coached by Norman. 10 years ago Norman won the SLDC shield for his outstanding work. 10 years on at the age of 86 he has sustained his commitment and enthusiasm when most of us would be winding down. An exceptional contribution to table tennis in our District.
6. Dan O’Connell, the professional table tennis coach at UCLAN, has been coaching regularly at Natland on Saturdays throughout the season. His wife Beth is also coaching and the League has offered a subsidy for female players of all ages for their first one to one coaching session with Beth. So far this has been taken up by 7 players both senior and junior. We are also running a coaching day for coaches on the 2nd July.
7. I mentioned earlier that our junior activity cannot stand still. The same applies to our senior activity. My personal vision includes
	1. the hosting of an approved one star tournament in or near our District,
	2. I am trying to get hold of a qualified umpire to deliver and evening session about topical matters relating to umpiring and
	3. I hope that as a League we will provide support for anyone attending TTE courses on both umpiring and organising tournaments so we can build our expertise in these areas. I am going the tournament organiser route and attending a course on that in June
8. Finally a big thank you to the Management Committee for their work and in particular to Mick Taylor who bears the brunt of keeping us on track as our General Secretary.

Peter Leahy

3.5.23

**KDTTL – Treasurer’s Report – May 2nd, 2023**

* I am sorry I can’t be with you, but I’ve been struck down by Covid 19!
* The financial outcome for the year was much better than expected. We generated a surplus of £218.67 compared with the budgeted deficit of £400. There are a number of reasons for this:
	+ Due to Chris Knowles generous contribution of £250 towards the cost of junior coaching, we were able to agree a budget of £750 (£500 net) for Junior Development. In the end, we only invested £489.20 out of the £750. Furthermore, due to the success of the Junior League (24 participants in round 2) and the charging of a sensible fee, the fees raised paid for 78% of the cost of junior development initiatives. This seems like a good model for the future.
	+ We received £120 from TTE for TT Kidz.
	+ 64 players competed in the Senior League, up from 61, and in consequence, fees were up by 7%.
	+ Expenditure on balls and the engraving of junior trophies were higher than expected but this was comfortably offset by the factors detailed above.
* As a result, we start the new year with net assets of £3896.54, as at the end of April. Given that the previous accounting period was of an unusual length due to the pandemic and therefore of no value as a comparative, I have taken the opportunity to bring the accounting year end in line with the end of the competitive season ie end April. This simplifies the accounting.
* Looking forward to next year:
	+ Given the strength of our financial position, I see no need to change the fees, especially in light of the cost of living crisis.
	+ I can’t see any reason why the junior development budget shouldn’t be similar to this season, or slightly higher, as long as we are confident about the sustainability of the Junior League.
	+ I am happy to continue with my £100 sponsorship of the KO Cup for another season.

Tony March – 2.5.23