**Kendal and District Table Tennis League**

**Minutes of Management Team Meeting – 10.30 am, 18 April 2019, Norman’s Flat, Kirkby Lonsdale**

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| ***Present –*** Mick Taylor (Sec), Norman Philbey, Martin Wakelin, Phil Swift, Chris Knowles  ***Apologies***  Tony March, Bob Gale, Mike Sunderland   1. ***Chairman***  * Tony March was unable to attend due to illness, so Mick Taylor took the Chair for this meeting.      1. ***Juniors/Development Update***  * Mike Sunderland was unable to attend but his email report was considered. This concerned the TTKidz initiative being promoted by TTE. Since this scheme must be run by a Premier Club (none of our clubs are Premier Clubs), is time consuming for volunteers and is quite expensive, it was felt that it is unlikely to be appropriate for our circumstances. * Norman has contacted Grange Primary School, but there is little enthusiasm from the Head there. Phil has been in contact with Windermere School, which initially seemed promising but has gone quiet now. Phil will email again and suggest they enter a team in the League next season. * Agreed with Mike S (email) that a separate meeting about junior development should be arranged, involving the clubs with juniors (Natland, Kirkby Stephen, Burton, Dallam). MS to action.  1. ***KO Cup and Divisional Shield Competitions***   This discussion was prompted by Tony’s email 5 April 2019, highlighting the declining participation in these competitions and asking for suggestions on how we might improve matters. An email from Dennis Hooley on the subject was read out and considered in detail, along with other suggestions from those present. It was agreed that the following changes could be beneficial, and some or all could be put to the membership at the AGM:   * Use the website and emails more to promote the events and make dates more apparent. Make the draw earlier to help players plan. * Make entry in the competitions automatic when entering the League, with £4 fee per team per competition added to the League Entry Fee (currently £14 per team). * Dennis Hooley has offered to sponsor the KO Cup Competition for one year to the value of £100, which would mean free entry for that year. Similarly, Chris Knowles has made a similar offer for the following year. * Reduce the handicap range slightly, in addition to the small reduction made in Feb 2019. For example the present range of -8 to +7 could be reduced to -7 to +7. This would give more incentive for the better players to enter. * Martin suggested splitting the KO Cup into two separate competitions, one each for the two Divisions. This was not supported by some others present, but would be worth keeping under review. * There was majority agreement that the Divisional Shield should continue to be played on one day. * On a related subject, Phil suggested moving the Annual Tournament and Finals Night to the end of the season, with League trophy presentation on Finals Night. This would mean holding the KO Cup competition to earlier in the season. It was agreed this was a good idea and worth a try. * Suggested by Tony after the meeting: Abandon the sudden death at deuce rule (to help the stronger players); consider making the Divisional Shield a non handicap event. * AGM Motion 1 and item 2 below were written after the meeting by MT to try and summarise the above.  1. ***365 Website***  * KDTTL find the 365 Website extremely useful. However, it is a privately owned and developed website and there has been a breakdown in relations between Table Tennis England (TTE) and 365, such that TTE are no longer prepared to fund 365. It will close at the end of July 2019 unless alternative funding can be found. 365 have proposed that Leagues fund 365 directly. They will be charged £7 per year for each senior league member, £4 for juniors. To be viable, 365 need a minimum number of 15,000 such contributing players, to be signed up before mid May 2019 and committed to 3 years payment. * TTE have assured all Leagues that in partnership with another IT contractor (Rocca Creative) they will produce a suitable replacement league management package in time for the new season. The cost of this will be covered by our present TTE subs, which are held at £16 per person (£8 juniors) for the coming season. * There is a proposition for the TTE AGM in July that TTE fees be reduced by £7 per person and that money used by individual leagues to continue to fund 365 directly. * We are concerned that the new TTE system will not be as good as the 365 system, which has taken 10 years of development to reach the present very sophisticated level. At the same time, we wish to support our governing body and £7 per player is a significant cost to our League and its members. There was a long discussion on these matters and further discussion after the meeting with Tony March. Opinions were divided on whether to continue with the 365 system and whether to support the motion to reduce TTE subs by £7. * At the meeting, Motion 3 below was suggested for the AGM. However the subsequent discussions revealed that this would be supported by 4 people, opposed by 2. Consequently further thought may be required   The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.  ***Motions to be considered for the League AGM, 2 May 2019***   1. To try and increase participation in these competitions, all League teams shall automatically be entered in the Divisional Shield and KO Cup competitions. The fees currently charged separately for competition entry will be added to general League fees. In addition, the League gratefully accepts the offers made by Dennis Hooley (2019-20) and Chris Knowles (2020-21) to sponsor the KO Cup competition to the tune of £100 each, subject to certain conditions required by and to be agreed with the sponsors. This would make entry to the KO Cup free to clubs for those years. 2. Other matters listed above in Item 3 bullet points to be on the agenda for the AGM but formal motions not considered necessary. 3. KDTTL shall enter into a 3 year contract with Table Tennis 365 to continue to use their website, at a cost to the League of £7 per adult member per year (£4 per junior). The cost will be shared approximately 50-50 by individual League members (increased subs) and by KDTTL from reserves and other revenues. During that 3 year period, we will monitor the TTE League Management system and consider transferring to that system.   ***Distribution*** All Team Captains, Club and League Officers | ***Action***  ***PS***  ***MS***  ***MT*** |