

**LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2015**

Present: Chairman, Neil Le Milliere; Secretary, Bob Clark; Asst Secretary and Treasurer, Barry Pollentine; Committee member Geoff Banthorpe; Div Sec Colin Walkinshaw; Auditor Phil Wroe and Representatives from all member Clubs except BTB, Nordwest; and Old Sedcopians who are subject to a £3 fine. Natwest and PRO also could not attend because they were playing a cup match and are excused the fine.

1. Chairman's opening remarks

1.1. Neil welcomed everybody to the 22nd AGM of the League. Initially team entries were again down but due to some late entrants the season ended with much the same numbers as last season. He was dismayed that there were once again no nominations for Committee posts, especially as all clubs were aware that this would be Bob's last season as Secretary. This lack of response made him feel like resigning himself. He told the meeting that if no nominations, especially for the Secretary post, were received from the floor of the meeting by the time agenda item 7, Nominations, was reached he would adjourn the meeting for 3 weeks. If no nominations were received by the reconvened date then he would wind up the League.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1. There were apologies from BTB and PRO and Natwest who were playing a match in the late stages of a cup competition. Reps hoped to attend later for the social event.

3. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

3.1. The minutes had been circulated prior to the Meeting. They were adopted nem con.

4. Matters arising

4.1. Minutes Item 5.1 The loss of playing venues continues to cause concern. This has worsened recently with the threatened loss of Stepney Green. Although there was still hope that this might change. 5 teams played there this season and if the venue does go then they would need to find other playing premises

4.2. Minutes item 5.2. We had one new team enter the League, but nothing came of the possible 2 new playing venues...

4.3. Minutes item 5.3 Stepney Green did enter a second team..

4.4. Minutes item 7.3. Barry Pollentine carried out the role of Treasurer this season

4.5.. Minutes item 9.4. The new arrangement whereby results were to be copied to Gerry Martin seemed to work well. However Colin Walkinshaw reported that some teams were sending their results to Gerry but not to him. Clubs are asked to note that results should be sent to both the Div Sec and to Gerry for the website.

4.6 Minutes item 9.6. The social after the Meeting was the usual success.

5. Secretary's Report.

5.1. The Secretary's Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting. In presenting the mainly factual Report Bob said that he had enjoyed most of the time as Secretary but with age rapidly advancing he felt that the time had come for someone else to take on the task. He thanked all of his colleagues on the Committee and all of the Club and team Secretaries for their support over the years and wished his successor the very best for the future..

5.2. Neil said that the League owe Bob, together with Barry Pollentine a debt of gratitude for all their sterling efforts over the years in both this League and their respective previous League . The Chairman post is mainly a figurehead and the work is carried out in the main by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary. He felt that since he had taken on the Chairman post the lack of any prospect of new blood was disappointing and dispiriting. A round of applause for Bob ensued and Neil then presented him with an engraved mantelpiece item as a token of the League's appreciation of his services.

5.4. The Report was adopted nem con.

6. Treasurer's Report

6.1. Barry presented the Report. The Accounts for the year had been audited and were circulated at the meeting. The figures showed that the League had a healthy balance, and again there would be no need to increase registration fees. However 2 Clubs, PRO and RMT Credit has still not paid their League entry fees despite many reminders from the Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman and this was just not good enough. The expenditure on trophies was down as no bill had been received. The biggest spend by the League is now on the Social Evening after the AGM

6.3 The Report was adopted nem con.

7. Election of Officers

7.1 Again no nominations had been received. The Committee had been canvassed and none, with the exception of Bob and David Ryder, had said that they would not be willing to continue next season. David Ryder had now moved out of the area and had not indicated that he would be willing to continue so it was expected that he would leave the Committee. Neil was prepared to continue for the coming season but unless there was new blood he would have to seriously reconsider his position next year. Colin Walkinshaw said he was prepared to continue as Div Sec but with the proviso that teams send their match results to him as well as sending them to Gerry Richard Campbell would be continuing and Barry was ready to continue as Treasurer. But a replacement Secretary was still needed.

7.2. Eric Callow nominated Gerry Martin as Secretary with his agreement and he was elected unopposed. Eric also said that he would be willing to join the Committee as a member and he was duly so appointed. [Secretary's note; at the Social later Ralph Salter of Insurance Offices said that if further members were needed he would be willing to join the Committee].

8. Motions for discussion.

8.1 No motions had been received..

9. Any other Business.

9.1 Eric asked for clarification on the use of plastic instead of celluloid balls. Neil said that from the 1st July celluloid balls were no longer considered by the ITTF to be suitable and they recommended the use of plastic balls. There were 2 types, seamed and seamless and both were deemed legal. However TTE were not insisting that plastic balls should be used and were leaving it up to Leagues to decide which to use. There was some discussion which seemed to indicate that the plastic balls were less reliable and more inclined to break quite quickly. Bob then proposed that the League should continue to use the celluloid balls until such time as the use of plastic balls becomes compulsory. A vote was held and the motion was carried by 11 votes to 5. Celluloid balls will therefore continue to be used by all Clubs in the League

9.2 Gerry said that the website used by the League, TT565, had been produced by an independent company which was not funded in any way by TTE. It had been produced simply for love of the game. The company make their money from adverts so he asked that clubs, when using the website, click on the adverts from time to time. .

.9.3 Ralph Salter asked if there was any objection to teams playing TT on badminton courts. He was told no..

9.4. Neil said that Thursday evenings at the Abbey Centre was open for practice sessions from 1800 to 2100. The cost was £3 for CSSC members and £5 for others.

9.5. Neil said that there was some concern at the disparity of standards between the top of the division and the lower ends. It was something that the incoming Committee would need to take a look at, which might result in a change of divisional structure.

9.6. Neil advised that there would be the usual Social Event after the Meeting - those attending should pay their £5 to Barry after the meeting if they had not already done so..

10. Presentation of Trophies.

10.1. The trophies and awards were presented by Neil.

R C Clark
Retiring Secretary
June 2015