



Swindon Table Tennis League Annual General Meeting
MINUTES (draft)
6th June 2017
NALGO Sports Club, Cricklade Road, Swindon, SN2 7AP
Start: 7:30pm

1 Chairman's Address & Apologies

The Chairman (Andy Hurley) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He encouraged participation on the matters to be discussed as this was valuable to the Committee in making decisions for the coming year.

An attendance sheet was circulated (attendees are recorded at the foot of these minutes). Apologies for absence were tendered by Steve Mollart (Sanford Link), Paul Stoner (Buckland), Andrew Jarvis (Sanford Link) and Norman Jeffrey (Sanford Link).

2 Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Draft minutes had been circulated to Clubs in advance of the meeting. Sandy Steele-Davis proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the previous meeting and this was seconded by Vicki Pepper. This was agreed. There were no matters arising.

3 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Brenda Baldwin) circulated a report (attached to these minutes) setting out the League's income and expenditure for the year to 31st May 2017. This recorded a loss of £40.03 largely due to the fact that last year's Presentations and Social evening had been held in June and the costs of trophies, catering etc therefore appeared in this year's account as well as expenditure for this year's event. That said, she advised that the loss could have been greater if the development fund had been fully utilised. She also advised that WTTA was likely to be increasing its team registration fees by £3.00 (to be discussed at forthcoming WTTA AGM) and the League should therefore consider a proportionate increase in player registration fees. After some discussion it was proposed by Vicki Pepper and seconded by Sandy Steele-Davis that team registration fees should be increased by £5.00 for the coming season and this was unanimously supported.

The Chairman thanked Brenda for her report and asked that she also pass on the League's thanks to the auditor (Colin Thompson) for his contribution.

4 General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary (Trevor Brown) presented a report (copy attached to these minutes) which set out some early thoughts on his first year in office. This included thoughts on player numbers and, with the recent loss of Division 3, the difficulty of introducing new players to competitive table tennis in Division 2.

Discussion took place on the feasibility of forming a Development League or a variant of the former Division 3 – prompted by the thought that there were a number of juniors playing at several clubs (one of which organises its own league competition), the starting up of a new club in Ashton Keynes, a belief that Table Tennis England had recently funded the purchase of new tables at one or two other places and that there were a number of keen players at Nationwide. A variety of ideas were put forward, and discussion took place on whether teams might consist of 2 or 3 players, whether it was feasible for younger players to travel to other clubs for away fixtures, who might organise fixtures etc, whether clubs had sufficient capacity at their venues to host additional matches and whether, as an alternative, a single venue competition might be more feasible (similar to that run in Cirencester).

Several attendees supported a 2 person team, single venue approach but this was by no means unanimous. It was agreed that it was difficult to be clear on a preference without having more information available on the numbers of potential participants and their preferences. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that participants would need to be members of Table Tennis England but also suggested that were finance to be considered a barrier the League should consider subsidising the costs of running any such development league/further division. It was agreed that the General Secretary should canvass existing clubs and any other known potential participants with a view to the Committee discussing the feasibility of establishing a development league/further division.

Discussion also took place on the publicity that could be gained by holding an Open Day to promote table tennis in the Swindon area (it was noted that National Table Tennis Day takes place on 12 July). Also that the League profile could be raised by the holding of a Tournament. The Development Officer advised that Table Tennis England were likely to help with funding to help such events. Although it was agreed that these ideas should be discussed further by the Committee, the general feeling was that it might be too early to try take this on at the same time as exploring the possibility of developing a development league/further division.

The Chairman thanked Trevor for his report and members for the ideas that had been generated on its discussion.

5 Tournament Secretary's Report

The Tournament Secretary (Alan Duke) presented a report (copy attached to these minutes) on the level of participation in the League's various tournaments. This year individual competitions had been run during the course of the season rather than waiting for the end of the league season (as in previous years). It was agreed that the new format should continue for the forthcoming season.

6 Registration Secretary's Report

The Registration Secretary (Alan Duke) presented a report (copy attached to these minutes) on the numbers of participating players, which were slightly up on the previous season. He proposed, and it was agreed, that the League would continue to handle applications for membership of Table Tennis England for all pre-season registrations (if desired). He made available copies of the League Registration Forms for the forthcoming season but asked that any forms sent in prior to 8th July (the date of the Table Tennis England AGM) did not include the TTE fee, as this was likely to be increased at the AGM. The deadline for League registration this year is to be 21st August.

7 Results Secretary's Report

The Results Secretary (Alan Duke) presented a report (copy attached to these minutes) on the running of the League season. Although only one match had remained un-played, as in previous seasons there were a large number of matches still outstanding at the end of the scheduled season. He felt there was a tendency for postponed matches to be left as something to be sorted out at the end of the season rather than Club's looking for opportunities to fulfill the fixture during the season itself and this could be improved.

The Chairman thanked Alan for his three reports and for the hard work that has resulted in the successful running of the League and various tournaments this year. This was unanimously endorsed by all present with a round of spontaneous applause.

8 Development Officer's Report

The Development Officer (Lee Bowen) presented a report (copy attached to these minutes) on initiatives that had taken place during the season to help promote and develop the game, including school games held at Swindon Academy and a Development Training Day in November 2016 attended by juniors from five clubs. He also reported on several initiatives for the forthcoming season. There was particular support for holding a Cadet/Junior tournament during the course of the year and discussion took place on whether or not this should be an 'Open' or 'Closed' competition, limited to TTE members, limited to invited guests and whether there was a need for separate insurance arrangements. Sandy Steele-Davis suggested that the organisational issues were best left to the Committee and the Development Officer, and this was agreed. Vicki Pepper said she would like to donate a suitable trophy if the event were to be arranged.

The Chairman thanked Lee for his report and for the valuable contributions made by all to the idea of holding of a Cadet/Junior tournament.

9 Election of Officers

The Chairman reported that there had been no nominations from Clubs for the post of President and that Dave Evans was prepared to continue as President for the forthcoming season. This was unanimously agreed. He then handed over the meeting to Dave Evans for election of the League Chairman.

The President proposed that Andy Hurley continue as League Chairman and this was seconded by Mark Hobbs. It was unanimously agreed that Andy Hurley continue as League Chairman for the forthcoming season.

The Chairman then reported that all existing post holders to Committee positions were prepared to continue for the forthcoming season. He reported that the post of Welfare Officer needed to be added to the Committee (a consequence of a national initiative) and that there was a vacancy for a Junior Secretary and for a further Committee member. Vicki Pepper (St Saviours) and Rosemary Leckie (Ferndale) expressed an interest in joining the Committee as Welfare Officer and Committee Member respectively.

Sandy Steele-Davis proposed that positions to the Committee be accepted as set out in the agenda with the addition of Vicki Pepper as Welfare Officer and Rosemary Leckie as Committee Member. This was seconded by Pete Martin and unanimously agreed.

10 Election of Lifetime Members

The President reported that during the course of the year the Committee had discussed making two additions to the list of Lifetime Members and that this had concluded with the awarding of Lifetime Member Certificates to Roy Ferris and Jim Cook at the Presentations and Social evening on 24th May. Both players had been members of the NALGO club until the previous season. Roy had first competed in the Swindon League in 1949 and played in every season until his retirement. Jim had first played in 1951, missing only two years due to National Service. This was a quite outstanding achievement and the Committee felt the awarding of Lifetime Membership to both Roy and Jim for their contribution to table tennis in Swindon over such a long period fully merited. This was unanimously endorsed by all present.

11 2017/18 Season

- (i) The Chairman invited Alan Duke to explain proposals for changes to Rules 2 and 12 and Val Clack (Ferndale) to explain a proposal to change Rule 10. All three proposed changes were set out on the reverse of the meeting agenda and are also attached to these minutes. A show of hands was requested by way of support for each of the proposed changes. There was unanimous support for the proposed changes to Rules 2 and 12. The proposed change to Rule 10 was also agreed (with one abstention).
- (ii) It was agreed that fees for team registration would now increase to £23.50 and that individual subscriptions would be maintained at £4.00. The Registration Secretary advised again that the deadline for submitting completed applications was 21st August.

12 Perpetual Trophies

The Chairman drew attention to the content of the General Secretary's report on this subject and asked for comment on whether, if it transpires that some or all of the Perpetual Trophies have been permanently lost, they should be replaced. These include the Men's Singles Cup, the Ladies Singles Cup and the Handicap Doubles

Cup. One comment raised the difficulty of not replacing the Ladies Singles Cup if the Men's Singles Cup was recovered. There was some support for the view that once the history of the trophy was lost there seemed little point in replacing it, but it was not clear if this was widely shared. The Treasurer pointed out that Bill Bailey had helped the former General Secretary compile a list of the various trophies with a strategy for their recovery. The Chairman thanked members for their views and said these would be discussed further by the Committee. He confirmed that efforts would continue to be made to try to find the missing trophies, including through contact with the former General Secretary.

13 Any Other Business

The President reported that a member of his team (Norman Jeffery) had suggested that the process for re-arranging postponed fixtures could be made easier if the Hand Book included confirmation of each team's captain and provided an email address for him/her. It was agreed this was a good suggestion. In a further brief discussion on the Hand Book it was agreed that it should continue to provide a phone number for each team member.

Mark Hobbs drew attention to an annual development budget that had been identified by the Committee and to which application could be made for assistance towards initiatives that would help develop the game of table tennis for the benefit of the League. This could include, for example, assistance towards the cost of seeking a coaching qualification or relevant training. Any application should be put to the Committee and Mark was available for discussion on the type of information that may need to be submitted.

The meeting ended at 09.50 pm

List of Attendees:

Andy Hurley, Dave Evans, Alan Duke, Mark Hobbs, Lee Bowen, Pete Martin, Dino Ciorra, Brenda Baldwin, Rosemary Leckie, Val Clack, Tom Watmore, Sandy Steele-Davis, Vicky Pepper, Dave Kimber, Trevor Brown.

Agenda Item 4

Treasurer's Report

Treasurers report Swindon Table Tennis League 2016-2017

Accounts for the season have been audited by Colin Thompson and found to be correct. I have a signed copy but due to infrequent access to a photocopier I am unable to provide copies.

We have made a loss of £40.03

This is due to the presentation evening this year being before the AGM and it has resulted in us paying for two sets of trophies and two evenings in the one accounting year.

The loss would have been greater if the development funding would have been utilised this season.

Income was boosted by the running of the tournaments however an accurate figure cannot be given as tournament trophies are included with the end of season trophies and costs are not broken down.

Thanks go to Trevor for obtaining the handbook advertisers. This is a valuable source of extra income and if anyone knows of some new advertisers please let the committee know.

Also thanks to Alan for handing all collected monies over in an orderly fashion.

Going forward I believe that the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association are proposing to increase their team fees to us by £3 per team. Whilst in the past we have absorbed some increases I feel that this is slightly too much so would like to propose that we increase our team fees by £3 per team for the coming season. Remember that equates to £1 per team player for the season.

Colin has agreed to perform the role of auditor once again next season and if no one else wants the job I am willing to stand again as treasurer.

Agenda Item 5

General Secretary's Report

1. This has been my first year as General Secretary and I have learned much about the workings of the League and that of the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association – a body I had never previously heard of. I now know something of what people are talking about when referring to the John Ford Memorial Trophy (competed for by representatives of the four Table Tennis Leagues in Wiltshire) and the Kathleen Waters Memorial Trophy (awarded annually for services to table tennis in Wiltshire). Nominations for this latter trophy can be made by clubs and individuals and I will send out reminders to Club Secretaries nearer the time: no one was nominated from Swindon this year.
2. Becoming General Secretary has allowed me to get to know people on the Committee that I have only previously had the privilege of playing when drawn against them in a handicap competition, and I've found the conduct at Committee meetings very positive and business-like. It's been a pleasure to have been involved. If anyone doubted the work Alan Duke gets through organizing the League and Competitions – don't!
3. If there has been a disappointment, it has been the fact that a number of trophies, traditionally awarded in addition to individual medals, have over recent years gone missing. Although this seems unthinkable, I can quite see how easily this can happen. Only one club (NALGO) has something approaching a permanent facility, and the rest of us hire halls that we share with others. The so called Perpetual Trophies are therefore rarely displayed in a permanent home, are taken home and sometimes shared between team members, some of whom leave or move to pastures new. Although I apologized to those receiving trophies this year for making you sign for them, I hope this is a start to stopping the rot as far as the retention of the four trophies we were able to present this year is concerned. Can I therefore also take this opportunity to say I may contact some of the people who have won things in recent years and where we know a trophy had been previously awarded to try to establish whether it can be found. Please do not shoot the messenger should he come knocking! I will only be undertaking informal enquiries: no charges are being contemplated at this point in time!!
4. And finally, following close on the heels of that, a second disappointment for me has been the recent disappearance of Division 3. We at Buckland have been fortunate to acquire several new players with limited previous experience of league table tennis (no I'm not talking about Ade Noke or James Lovelock). But to introduce them to league competition in Division 2 (in our new team Buckland C) has been very difficult and credit to them for putting up with nil points on many occasions when learning the ropes. A quick look at the size of Swindon and the surrounding area suggests to me that we have a relatively small number of clubs compared to other leagues and there must surely be potential to get some more clubs up and running. One such initiative is under way at Ashton Keynes (on the Swindon side of Cirencester) and although they may not want to join a League (at least not yet) within weeks of starting the germ of an idea some 20 players have apparently become involved and with help from TTE a number of tables purchased. In the coming year I hope we might be able to get some sort of information campaign out there to encourage new clubs to become established. Unfortunately in the relatively short period I have been playing I have seen too many clubs disappear and no new ones formed.

5. The good news is that I know Lee has some good things to report on developing youth in those clubs that have youth sections so I'll stop now on a more upbeat note and not risk stealing his thunder.

Trevor Brown
General Secretary

Agenda Items 5, 6 and 7

Tournament Secretary, Registration Secretary and Results Secretary Reports

Tournament Secretary's Report: Alan Duke

After a season with no individual competitions, the committee adopted the suggestions put forward at last year's AGM, i.e. to have 2 weeks set aside during the season for the closed competitions and to continue the Pickett Handicap event over 3 weeks during the season as before. With regard to the latter, once again all matches were arranged and played on time with no problems, with thanks to all concerned. Entries were slightly up, from 9 teams last season to eleven this season. Congratulations to winners Ferndale C, and commiserations to runners-up Ferndale D.

The Division Two Singles proved popular, with 17 entries. It's difficult to judge whether the new format was the reason for the increased entry in the Handicap events, as entries were much higher than the last time these events were run (2014-15), but lower than the preceding season. 24 players entered the Robey Singles, and 16 pairs the Handicap Doubles.

Again, difficult to compare, as the traditional Men's and Ladies' Singles haven't been run for a few years. But they attracted entries from 14 men and 4 ladies. As ever, all events were generally enjoyed by all those who did enter.

Registration Secretary's Report: Alan Duke

The League continued to handle Table Tennis England Membership applications for those who wished us to do so, but as before only for the initial pre-season registrations. In total there were 99 players registered in our League (97 last season), of whom 48 (also 48 last season) joined TTE via the League.

League Registration Forms will be available for collection at the end of the meeting.

Results Secretary's Report: Alan Duke

As with last season, there were quite a number of matches still outstanding at the end of the scheduled fixtures, 16 to be precise, evenly spread over the two divisions. Although one team in particular was involved in playing almost half of their season in the 3 weeks after scheduled matches had finished, it was pleasing to see that all but one of the outstanding matches were eventually completed. But it was still disappointing that that one match didn't manage to get played, especially as it was the top of table clash in Division One, and was a repeat of the situation between the same two teams in 2012-13!

The League will always support efforts to get all matches completed, as that is hopefully why we all play, but it has to be emphasised that the problem is not just with postponements (which should be by mutual agreement between the teams concerned), but with the general tendency to just leave them until the end of the season rather than trying to organise them during the season. Just leaving them until the season end causes the backlog that we experienced this season, with the added problem that player availability then sometimes becomes less guaranteed.

Alan Duke

Development Report 2016/17

- **18 players from Swindon entered the Wiltshire Closed Swindon picking up 10 trophies from 15 finals. Main success came from Swindon Cadets/Juniors having 5 out of 7 in the finals.**
- **2 Cadets teams from Swindon played in the National Cadets league.**
- **School games were staged at Swindon Academy for second year, which attracted schools from Marlborough St John's, Commonweal, Braden Forest, Royal Wootton Bassett, Isambard Swindon Academy, which saw Commonweal and Swindon Academy progressing to finals in July.**
- **Development Training Day took place in November 2016 which brought 23 players together from Buckland, Kennet Vale, Sanfordlink, Swindon Academy and Daunstey's it was played in good spirit and they all thoroughly enjoyed the day.**
- **Wiltshire Coaching Training day took place at Daunstey's on Sunday 21st of May which brought together some of the best upcoming players from Daunstey's, Warminster, Westbury, Devizes, Kennet Vale, Ferndale and Sanfordlink. Further advance training planned for the future.**
- **Players from Sanfordlink and Ferndale represented Wiltshire County at Cippenham, both did well, but was up against tough opposition, but put in a good performance.**

Future Plans

- **Continue on with more schools getting involved with the sport, promoting the butterfly skill programme.**
- **Plans to have a Inter school league by 2018 which is being testing at Swindon Academy.**
- **Recommend for a Swindon Cadet/Junior tournament once a year to be played separately from current events.**
- **Recommend newly qualified coaches to support other clubs on ad hoc basic.**

Finally I can say there are signs that the game is growing in schools and clubs and the long term development looks good, but we are all looking for injection of funds to sustain future growth in Swindon, any suggestion would be welcomed.

Agenda Item 11(i)

Proposed Rule Changes

Rule 2 (addition)

The management will be entrusted to the Committee, which will consist of the President, Chairman, League Secretary, Treasurer, Results Secretary/ies, Junior Secretary, Tournaments Secretary, Development Officer, **Registration Secretary**, **Welfare Officer** and up to three other Committee members. All Committee Members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will have the power to co-opt if necessary.

Rule 10 (addition)

Teams will consist of three players, **with the exception that other players registered for a team may play in the doubles for that team.** The playing order will be as printed on the scorecard unless agreed otherwise by both teams.

Rule 12 (alteration)

Players can only be registered for one team. Late registrations to be notified in writing to the **Registration Secretary** [~~League Secretary~~] by the last day of January, or thereafter at the discretion of the Committee. All late registrations to be approved by the Committee prior to playing.

Key to colour highlighting

Wording highlighted in **yellow** is wording to be added

Wording highlighted in **red** is wording to be deleted