

BARNETS & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Minutes of the AGM held at BTTC on Thursday, 17th July 2014.

Chairman: Keith Spaughton
Secretary: Graham Fernback

The meeting opened at 8pm.

1/. Members present

Peter Bayman (Used Rubbers), Bob Ward (Exiles 10), Margaret Sparrow (Exiles 10), Brian Gale (Hadley Wood 3), Chris Anderson (E & B 4), Paul Glyde (Edmonton), Brian Reynolds (BAT 2), Kiran Mistri (Herts Unison), Akash Shah (Exiles 1), Brian Ray (Cobra Cowboys), Peter Radwell (Potter Bar Reds), Dennis Robinson (Hadley Wood 2), John Carpenter (The Good Old Boys), Keith Spaughton, Grahame Fernback (Exiles 8), Keith Roberts, Alan Lipton (Hadley Wood 5), Mario Muzdeka (Exiles 11), Toni Cavich (Exiles 5), Jozsef Nagy (Exiles 11), Hooman Najian (Exiles 2), Andy Kirman (Exiles 9), John Taylor (Hadley Wood 1), Stuart Nickels (E & B 1).

2/. Approval of the minutes of 2013 AGM

There were three items needing follow up from last year's AGM:

- (a) The Chairman advised that the trophy refurbishment had finally started after a long period of delay due to some very unfortunate circumstances. Hopefully within a reasonable period of time, all our trophies would be displayed at BTTC in our trophy cabinet
- (b) The question of the number of team trophies awarded to winning teams (raised by Gordon Carlyle) had been discussed at committee and it had been agreed that in future where a winning team was mandated to register four players such team would be awarded four trophies.
- (c) The question of what the League should do with its excess funds was raised last year by John Carpenter. This matter has been discussed many times at committee and continues to be an open matter. It is a difficult issue and is duplicated throughout the country. The committee will continue to explore areas into which these funds can be injected that will benefit the short and long term interests of the League.

At this stage, the Chairman confirmed that apologies for absence would no longer be published in these minutes.

There being no other comments, the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

4/. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that during the previous season, forty-four teams had competed in four divisions. The forthcoming season would also duplicate these numbers but that the divisions were somewhat unbalanced with 12 teams in the Premier Division, 9 teams in the Division 1, 11 teams in Division 2 and 12 teams in Division 3. The committee was aware that this imbalance could create too many empty legs during the season so would try (where possible and subject to the agreement of effected teams) to better balance the divisions. Unfortunately we had lost Edmonton club and one BAT team but Bob Ward had managed to recruit 2 additional Exiles teams. This meant that there would be 31 teams playing at BTTC and left only one slot free.

The Annual Championships had been held in May but only 2 events had been held against 6 events last year. Thanks to Akash Shah for organising. Only one knockout tournament had been held during the season due to lack of support – Exiles 10 won the Division 3 contest.

The Secretary advised that he had attended 2 meetings of the Herts County Table Tennis Association (on behalf of the League) and that he would report back to committee later in the year regarding their activities.

The Secretary advised all members that the ETTA subscription fees would rise to £10 per member (£5 for Juniors) from September. Chris Anderson commented that he suspected that the ETTA fee would likely rise over the years to £25 due to the need for them to become self-financing. The Secretary commented that Table Tennis England (its new title) was trying to improve the image of table tennis in the UK and had employed a number of professionals to drag the sport into the 21st century. Only time would tell if these new people would be able to grow the sport.

5/. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2014. The League had a surplus of £228 during the past year whilst maintaining a healthy cash position and a fixed deposit of £7500. The surplus was mainly caused by the lack of knockout competitions held during the season. In the absence of any questions the accounts were accepted.

6/. Fees for Season 2013/2014

The Chairman confirmed that team fees for the forthcoming season would be held at £30 per team. The Chairman confirmed that in future the League would not be responsible for payment of ETTA membership fees and that individual members or teams/clubs would have to complete the ETTA membership subscription procedures themselves.

7/. Proposed Rule Changes

Bob Ward proposed a change in the rule 21 (b) concerning the playing up of team players to a higher team. After an interesting discussion and vote, the proposal was not carried.

8/. Election of Officers

The Chairman advised that the Treasurer wished to stand down after many years but would serve a final year. The assembly expressed their appreciation.

The Chairman advised that Raymond Raymond would be standing down as Trophy Secretary. He was pleased to advise that Stuart Nickels had agreed to take on this role with immediate effect. The proposal was made by the Chairman and seconded by Grahame Fernback. and was unanimously accepted. The other existing officers had indicated their willingness to continue in their roles for another year.

9/. Any other Business

The Chairman proposed that due to the lack of entrants in the knockout tournaments in previous years, this forthcoming season there would be a 'compulsory' handicap cup in each division. There would be no entrance fees and the draw for such competitions would be made at the beginning of the season. It would be the responsibility of each team captain to advise their willingness to compete in the competition or not prior to the start of the season. These matches would take place in the traditional 'cup' weeks during the season so not to disrupt normal league matches. After a lengthy discussion, the proposal was accepted.

The Chairman raised the issue of the new ETTA balls. It was agreed after discussion that the new balls would not be used in the forthcoming season although it was pointed out by Dennis Robinson that next season the new ball would be compulsory.

John Carpenter raised the issue of Exiles 3 and their inability to field a full team for league matches. Together with their reluctance to score, it was agreed that Dave Scollan would be advised of this situation and asked for a much better performance next season.

John Carpenter also asked that the League website be completed so that it was not "under construction" as it had been for the last year.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm after which our President, Brian Gale, awarded the trophies from the season's League and Cup Competitions .