

# MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT LONSDALE SPORTS CLUB ON 20 JUNE 2018, COMMENCING AT 7:30pm.

**PRESENT:** Committee members: J Clegg (President), H Rawcliffe (Chairman), D Goulden & T Purcell.

**Vice President:** S Clarke

**Local Leagues:** Blackpool, Bolton, East Lancs, Lancaster & Morecambe, Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, Southport & Warrington.

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs J Rushton, G Rushton, M Ireland & J Bolton

The General Secretary informed the meeting of the reasons for the apologies from Committee members not present.

**ABSENT:** Local Leagues – Blackburn, Bury, Lytham St Annes, Oldham & Wigan.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Jim Clegg for arranging the venue and the committee for their work during the season.

Last night, the Table Tennis Roadshow was held at Hyndburn Sports Centre to discuss the Interim Report regarding the Governance of Table Tennis.

For the purpose of this meeting of the County Association, two main elements (among many others) stood out to me.

1. It was stated that almost a third of those people who responded, about a third were not aware of the role and the work done by the County Association. As the current Chairman of the Association, I can assure all League representatives and volunteers that a lot of work does go on which includes
  - i) Administration / meetings etc
  - ii) Match scheduling and arrangements
  - iii) Organisation of the Lancashire Closed and County Trials

To me, it is apparent that information is not getting out. The County Association needs to be more transparent in the way it operates, although we all know that effective communication is a two way process, so Local Leagues also need to consider similar issues.

Over the past few seasons, following a meeting, we have relayed results of the various County matches that are held, to start the process of better informing Leagues.

I was reminded that perhaps the inclusion of Minutes from the Executive meeting should also be shared.

I would also welcome more representatives on the Executive Committee to facilitate this transparency. We ask this every year and we are trying to be more proactive in this endeavour. The Membership module in TT365 asks for a County Representative to be appointed, so anyone wishing to attend up to 3 or 4 meetings during the year could do so by becoming their League's County Representative. It is important that the Leagues need to see what they are paying for to the County Association.

2. In the new structure, I noted that in the formation of the Members Advisory Group, Leagues were not included as participants, it was only via the County Associations. I personally feel that Leagues provide the necessary experience and development that players of all standards can flourish. Leagues should and need to be directly involved in this process towards better governance.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting. They were taken as read and an accurate account of the 2016 AGM.

Proposed by T Purcell, seconded by R Neal that they be signed as a true record.

Carried unanimously.

## **MATTERS ARISING:**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

County badges have been awarded to: Toby Ellis, Ryan Choong, Daniel Watkinson, Matthew Westworth, Ben Strapps, Rashad Al Dahari, Bethany Ellis, Sandy Choong, Genevieve Holchaks & Pawel Orzechowski. The number had already been posted out to the players. Matthew Westworth was presented with his at the meeting and the following were collected on behalf of Toby Ellis, Bethany Ellis, Daniel Watkinson & Rashad Al Dahari.

Trophies for the Cadets 1<sup>st</sup> team, Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> team and the Over 60s team, who all won their respective Divisions, were award to Matthew Westworth (C) and Brian Clements (O60s) and collected on behalf of Rhys Davies (C) Toby Ellis (C & J), Daniel Watkinson (C & J), Daisy Boulton (C), Chloe Ireland (J), K.Williams (O60s), F Bainbridge (O60s) & B Buoe (O60s).

Trophies to be sent: Ryan & Sandy Choong (C & J), Daisy Boulton (C & J), B McDonald (C), A Tripathi (C) and P Bowen (O60s).

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** A report had been previously circulated to Local League Secretaries. The details below:

*Your Executive Committee has met on three occasions during the season.*

*A number of committee members have not been available for all the meetings due to illness, business and other table tennis commitments.*

*The report of the County Match Secretary will be circulated as a separate document. The Treasurer's I&E & Balance Sheet has been circulated to the Local Leagues Secretaries, although there are a few available for you to pass round if necessary. The Treasurer will give a verbal report to the meeting.*

*We record our appreciation to both the Blackpool and Liverpool Leagues in staging Senior/Veterans Tournaments, Brian Jackson for the Junior 1 & 2 Star tournaments & the Junior 4 Star tournament, he's organized and run during the year and the Wigan League for organizing the Champions Challenge, involving a number of the North West Town's League Champions from their Closed Championships.*

*We also record our appreciation to all the people who have organized and run other events during the 2017/18 season, including the significant effort that all the Junior Table Tennis clubs in Lancashire region are doing in the coaching of some promising junior players and in particular to Dave Graham, for running the Lancashire County Championships Junior and Cadets teams.*

*More information will be available in the County Match Secretary's report.*

*This season, the County Closed Championships will again be held at Garstang in May 2018, and the Executive Committee would like to thank all those involved in organising the event and particular to the players for supporting it. It would be good to see more entries and support from the Local Leagues, particularly in advertising the tournament within their league and websites. Thanks to all the Local Leagues which did support it.*

*In concluding this report, the Executive Committee would like to express its thanks to all the Local League officials and Premier Club officials for their efforts throughout the season. Their input is critical in maintaining table tennis in the Lancashire region. Finally, the Executive Committee does need new members and new ideas, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please get them to contact any of the committee members.*

Acceptance of the Executive Committee's report was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Copies of the I&E and Balance sheet were available at the AGM.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the General Secretary gave a brief summary.

The I&E showed a surplus of just over £850 for the season and the balance sheet showed cash assets just over £6400 with sundry debtors of just over £450.

Affiliation Fees had decreased by just over £200. County Team expenses had shown a further decreased by just under £800, although the General Secretary is not sure whether this is a true reflection of County

Team Expenses, which he will follow up with the Treasurer and get a new I&E and Balance Sheet issued, if necessary.

No increase in fees for 2017/18 Season had been proposed, but it was not presented to the meeting at this point due to the absence of the Treasurer, although it was stated later in the meeting.

### **COUNTY MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

In the absence of the Match Secretary, the General Secretary read out the Match Secretary's report, which is detailed below:

Season 2017/18 saw an increase in the number of teams Lancashire entered into the county championships. Due to an increased number of Cadets playing in the trials it was decided to have an extra Cadet team, therefore 2 Cadet, 2 Junior, 1 Senior, 1 Veteran and 1 O'60s team were entered. Lancashire had a very successful season and congratulations should be given to Cadet 1B, Junior 2A and O'60s 1A who came top of their respective divisions to gain promotion next season.

There was a good entry for the Cadet and Junior trials which were held on 9/10 Sept at Garstang and I would like to thank Jim Bolton and Dave Goulden for organising the event.

The Cadet first team had been relegated from the Premier division to Division 1B this season and played on one Saturday in October at Rugby captained by Dave Graham and one Saturday in December again at Rugby, captained by Dave Goulden. The team finished top of the final table playing 7 matches and winning all 7 and will be promoted next season. This was despite some players being required to play in the Junior team as Cadet 1B, Cadet 2B and the Junior Premier teams were all scheduled to play on the same date in December.

The second Cadet team in Division 2B played in November and December at Draycott and were captained in November by Dave Graham and in December by Stan Clarke. The team finished third from bottom avoiding relegation having played 6 matches, winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 3.

The first Junior team played all their matches in the Premier division over one weekend in December at Wellingborough with Dave Graham as captain. Of the 6 matches played, the team won 2, drew 1 and lost 3 to finish mid table.

The second Junior team in Division 2A played on two Saturdays in October and March both at Draycott with Dave Graham as captain. The team came top of the division, playing 7 matches, winning 6 and losing 1.

Senior Division 1A had a few problems in forming a team for their matches in October at Leicester and Wellingborough in December. Joel Webb was captain and the team finished third in the final tables having played 7 matches, winning 3, drawing 2 and losing 2.

Both the Veterans and O'60s teams played on the same date and venue in March, which presented problems as the same players were required for both teams.

The Veteran team in Division 1A was captained by Paul Cicchelli and played in October at Nottingham and March at Halifax. Of the 6 matches played the team won 1 and lost 5 to come third from bottom.

The O'60s team in Division 1A played over one weekend at Nottingham in November, one day at Halton in December and one day at Halifax in March and were captained by Phil Bowen in November and March and Keith Williams in December. They played 8 matches, winning 7 and drawing 1 to finish winners of the division.

I would like to thank all players for their efforts during the season with particular thanks to all players who stepped in to play at the last minute and also thanks to all team captains and parents for their support of the Cadets and Juniors and their help with travel.

County Badges: see Presentations above

S Clarke proposed that the success of the Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> team, Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> team and Over 60s team should be recognised through a formal response to all the players involved.

Acceptance of the Match Secretary's report was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting.

### **PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS:**

The proposed rule amendments (shown below) had been previously circulated and were read out by the Chairman to the meeting.

Explanation of the reasons for various amendments were discussed.

There was a question about the proposed new rule 7.2, of whether this would be allowing anyone to represent Lancashire from anywhere in the Country. The General Secretary explained that there are

specific eligibility rules that apply in the County Championships Regulation, which would not allow this to take place.

The purpose behind Rules 9.1 & 9.2 amendments were to allow a League's County Representative to attend Executive Committee meetings and provide input from and feedback to Local Leagues.

The meeting was asked if any individual amendment needed to be taken separately, but the meeting decided that they would be voted on all together.

**All of the proposed amendments were accepted unanimously by the meeting.**

Proposed amendments with changes shown in 'red'

2.1 The Association shall be affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association, **trading as Table Tennis England.**

In 2.2.1; 4.1.6; 5.1.2; 6.1; 20.7;

Replace: The National Council with **The Board**

6.4 Every Local League and Directly Affiliated Club shall send to the Hon. General Secretary of the Association not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October each season a copy of its current Rules, **unless they are available on their website.**

New Rule

**7.2 Individuals playing for County teams in the County Championships but are NOT members of an affiliated Local League or Directly affiliated Club shall pay an individual affiliation fee, as agreed at the AGM.**

If approved at the AGM, renumber Rules 7.2 & 7.3 to Rules 7.3 & 7.4 respectively.

9.1 The control of the affairs of the Association, **subject to the control of the Annual General Meeting** shall be vested in a Council **management committee, which shall be called the Executive Committee.** ~~consisting of the President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. County Match Secretary, and in addition one representative appointed by each affiliated League and directly Affiliated Club.~~ A meeting of the Council **Executive Committee** shall be convened by the Hon. General Secretary ~~whenever the Executive Committee so decide~~ or within fourteen days of receipt by the Hon. General Secretary of a requisition supported by at least five affiliated Leagues.

9.2 Executive Committee: Subject to Rule 9.1. the affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. General Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. County Match Secretary, and **up to** seven other members elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, together with the Umpires Secretary and other Officials appointed by the Executive Committee, **and in addition one representative appointed by each affiliated League and directly Affiliated Club.** Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be authorised by the Chairman and shall be held at least ~~four~~ **three** times per financial year. The Hon. General Secretary shall convene all meetings of the Executive Committee and shall give seven clear days' notice of each meeting.

10.6 Fine for non-attendance: Any Local League not represented at the A.G.M. shall be fined the sum of **up to** £20.00.

16.1 For a breach of this Association's Rules or Regulations the Association shall have the power to suspend any Local League, club, player or official within its jurisdiction, under the power created by the ETTA ~~Rules~~ **Articles of the Association** and subject to the right of appeal provided by such Rules.

16.2 The ETTA ~~General Secretary~~ **Operations Manager** shall be notified of any suspension under this rule.

18.2 Any appeal under Rule 18.1. shall be made in writing to the ~~General Secretary~~

**Operations Manager** of the ETTA within 21 days of notification of the decision or action appealed against and shall accompanied by a fee of an amount prescribed by the ETTA, which shall be returned if the adjudicating body consider the making of an appeal to have been justified (whatever the result).

21.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Affiliated Club or Affiliated League to submit a copy of their Handbook and League Rules to the Hon. General Secretary of the Association, before 31<sup>st</sup> October in each year, **unless this information is available on the Affiliated Club or Affiliated League website.**

21.3 Affiliated Leagues who fail to supply a copy of their current Handbook and current League Rules to the Hon. General Secretary of the Association before 31<sup>st</sup> October in each season shall be liable to a fine of £5.00, **unless it is available on their website.**

### **ELECTIONS:**

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the General Secretary, the meeting voted unanimously for Jim Clegg to continue as our President.

**Vice Presidents:** All the current Vice Presidents were re-elected by the meeting.

The current Vice Presidents being Mrs D Yates, D Plowes, P Callaghan, G Stokes, N Deakin, Mrs J Rushton, K Williams, EA Pentland, G Rushton, D Graham, S Clarke

There had been no new nominations for the Executive Committee positions, hence the current Committee members, who were all willing to re-stand, were re-elected unopposed.

**Life Member:** The General Secretary proposed that Stan Clarke, who retired as Chairman at last years AGM should be granted as a Life Member of the County Association. Stan had been a member of the Executive Committee since the 1970s and he had served in a number of positions on the Committee over the years.

The meeting voted unanimously to award Life Member of the County Association to him.

Following the vote, Stan gave a brief speech of thanks for the award.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The following comments were made Tom Purcell (Board Member of TTE & Umpires Secretary for the County)

#### **1. IRP ROADSHOW**

As County Committee member and Board member I was disappointed with the number of league representatives who attended the IRP Roadshow in Hyndburn the previous evening. Only four leagues were represented and it was an opportunity for leagues to hear how TTE was changing and how it would impact on Counties, League and Clubs. The Roadshow also had a presentation from Martin Ireland on the BeTT a programme that would help Leagues and Clubs develop their own coaching, membership and volunteers.

#### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

With reduced funding from Sport England it was important that TTE increase its own income from sponsorship and membership and it was very important that all players who take part in competitive TT must be members of TTE and pay their membership fees. There were some leagues where this wasn't happening. Last year ESTTA merged with TTE and a 12 months hold was put on members of ESTTA having to join TTE as Affiliated members however this did not apply to schoolchildren who played in local leagues. If Cadet and Junior children played in local leagues then they also had to be full junior members of TTE.

#### **3. UMPIRING**

As the County Umpire Secretary, it is my role to try and increase the number of qualified umpires in the County. Lancashire has always had a good reputation for recruiting umpires but more are needed. Ideally every League and club should have at least one qualified umpire who could help in running competitions. TTE has a new programme for recruiting umpires and this can be found on the Officials page on the TTE website. An umpires course is taking place at Halton on 1/7/18 and anyone interested needs to log onto

the site, do some reading and attend the course at Halton. I am more than willing to visit local leagues to talk about umpiring and help to recruit new officials.

#### Lancashire Closed:

Although not discussed at the AGM, Jim Bolton, tournament organiser, had prepared a report of the Lancashire Closed, which is shown below:

Week ending May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 2018

1. 46 entries were received for the two-day event at Garstang Community Academy. This was 22% down up on the same time last year.
2. 13 Junior entries – boys, with no entries were received for the Junior Girls event which was subsequently scratched from the programme, 16 Cadet entries – boys and girls and 11 under 13 entries boys and girls.
3. The Junior, Cadet and under 13 events took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the open, doubles, plate and veterans events on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
4. The total numbers attending were lower than the previous year's entries leading to a financial loss on the weekend. The programme was planned so that all entrants to the events played through initial group stages leading to the knockout phases during the day.

#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Junior, Cadet & under 13 events.**

- |                    |        |                   |            |                 |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Cadet Open:     | winner | Rhys Davies.      | Runner Up: | Toby Ellis      |
| 2. Cadet Girls:    | winner | Rebecca Rigg.     | Runner Up: | Bethany Ellis   |
| 3. Junior Open:    | winner | Yameen Al-Dahiri. | Runner Up: | Rhys Davies     |
| 4. Under 13 Open:  | winner | Toby Ellis.       | Runner Up: | Joseph Dennison |
| 5. Under 13 Girls: | winner | Katie Watkinson.  | Runner Up: | Bethany Ellis   |

#### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Open Singles, Doubles and Veterans events**

- |                           |         |                                      |             |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6. Open Singles:          | winner  | Stephen Scowcroft.                   | Runner Up:  | Yaroslav Zubets                       |
| 7. Open Doubles:          | winners | Stephen Scowcroft<br>& Paul Ciccelli | Runners Up: | Jacob Reilly-Cooper<br>& Winston Duff |
| 8. Veterans over 40 :     | winner  | Stephen Scowcroft.                   | Runner Up:  | Paul Ciccelli                         |
| 9. Veterans over 55 :     | winner  | Winston Duff.                        | Runner Up:  | Tony Vaughan                          |
| 10. Singles Banded event: | winner  | Daniel Watkinson.                    | Runner Up:  | Winston Duff                          |

The lack of entries into the ladies meant that we scratched this event from the programme.

Prize money was given to the singles winner and runner up, the doubles winners and runners up, the vets over 40's and over 55's winners only., totalling £145.

No prize money given on day one.

Costs associated with the weekend were as follows:

	<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Income</b>
1. Hall hire for two days	£360	Entry Fees	£533.50
2. Trophies from Rosebank Sports	£192		
3. Prize money	£145		
Total	<u>£697.00</u>		Loss of ( <u>£163.50</u> )

The venue once again was excellent and well supported by the Garstang team ably led by Graham Coupe. Refreshments were provided throughout the days and overall behaviour by the players was excellent.

My sincere thanks to chairman Harry Rawcliffe for his sterling support throughout the whole weekend as I would have struggled alone to coordinate all the activities and to Graham Coupe and his team for a splendid venue. These programmes cannot run by one individual alone, it is a team effort.

Jim Bolton  
Lancashire Committee Member