

MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 22 MAY 2012, COMMENCING AT 7:25pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A 1 minute silence was requested by the Chairman following the death of Vice President, Gordon Campbell, during the season.

PRESENT: Committee members: S Clarke (Chairman), J Rushton, D Wolstencroft, D Goulden, EA Pentland, G Rushton.

Local Leagues: Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, East Lancs, Lancaster & Morecambe, Liverpool, Manchester, Manchester Banks & Ins, Preston, Southport, Warrington & Wigan.

APOLOGIES: G Aspinall MBE (President), who was unable to attend due to his wife illness, T Purcell, M Ireland, A Garnett. The General Secretary read out a letter sent in by our President to the meeting.

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated in advanced of the meeting and they had also been available on the website. They were taken as read and an accurate account of the 2011 AGM.

Proposed by A Knowlson, seconded by D Wolstencroft that they be signed as a true record.

Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATIONS:

County badges were presented on the night to the following players: Jack Dempsey, Amy Hutchings & Jess Whittingham. County badges were also awarded to: Tom Miller, Craig Lowe, Joe Mullin, Alex Storey, Tom Hunes, Andrew Tarpey & Danielle Eden

Trophies were presented on the night to:

Cadet 1A winners: Jordan Brookes, James Chappell, Beth Farnworth, Amy Hutchings, Jess Whittingham & Team Captain Dave Graham and collected on behalf of: Robert Barker, Tom Miller & Craig Lowe.

Junior 2A runners up: Beth Farnworth & Team Captain Dave Graham and collected on behalf of Callum Tollady, Robert Barker, Joe Mullin, Andrew Tarpey, Tom Hynes, Alex Storey & Danielle Eden.

Over 60's 1A winners: Brian Clements & Ron Bennett and collected on behalf of Ken Jackson, Barry Crooke & Alwyn Burrough.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The report was read out on the night by the General Secretary, who, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked local leagues Liverpool and Blackpool for organising and running senior tournaments during the season, as well as Tony Meredith and Brian Jackson for the junior tournaments that they had run during the season as well and the Wigan League for running the Champions Challenge, involving 6 of the North West Town's League Champions from their Closed Championships.

The EC's appreciation to all the people that have organised and run events during the 2011/12 season and particularly to the Preston Table Tennis League for organising the Lancashire Senior and Junior Closed Tournaments to be held on 7th/8th July 2012, as part of the Preston Guild celebrations and the GB International match against Australia at the Preston Guild Hall on Monday, 23rd July 2012.

Congratulations also to the following Lancashire umpires, Tom Purcell, who has been selected to officiate at the Olympic Games and Bob Williamson, Stan Clarke and Dave Goulden, who have been selected to officiate at the Paralympics Games.

In concluding the report, the EC would like to express it's thanks to all the Local League and Premier Club officials for their efforts throughout the season. Without their inputs, table tennis in Lancashire would be much poorer.

The General Secretary also read out a brief report from the County's Umpires Secretary, Tom Purcell, in his absence, about the state of umpires in Lancashire. During the past 12 months or so, 11 additional umpires have qualified as County Umpires, in addition to the 8 established and active umpires. A further 2 umpires have also passed the Local Umpires examination and another 8 persons are in the process of taking the CU examination.

There were no questions about the reports.

Proposed by D Graham, seconded by R Neil, that the reports be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Income & Expenditure account and balance sheet had been circulated previously as well as on the night. The Treasurer informed the meeting that there were two small mistakes in the figures; the 2011 honorarium should read £635 and not £634 and the 2012 Skipton Building Society value should be £8149.39 and not £8149.31.

The Treasurer gave a brief explanation of the I&E account and reported that there was a surplus of £541 on the year. There were two main contributory factors to the decrease in expenditure, an increase of £660 in affiliation fees and a reduction of £1150 in the County Teams expenditure.

As a result, the Committee is recommending that affiliation fees for next season remain at £3.00.

The Blackburn representative again asked whether the increase last year at been necessary and whether a reduction in affiliation fees should have been considered. He also asked that it be minuted that he raised the issue over affiliation fees to the meeting, including the points raised at last year's AGM over the surplus fund increasing by over £3000 since 2005, even with last years loss. He asked why was it necessary to hold approximately £8000 in the surplus fund and although he agreed that it should NOT be reduced to zero, no other figure was recommended at the meeting.

The General Secretary stated that from his experience, not just in table tennis, that it was prudent for a sports body to hold something in the region of 1½ to 2 times their yearly expenditure. Based on this years figures, the LCTTA ratio is 1.3

(Separate note: although this was NOT discussed at the AGM, if the affiliation fees had not been increased last year, then the £541 surplus for this year would have resulted in approximately a £300 deficit for this year, hence with hindsight a 30p rather than 40p rise would have resulted in a break-even position.)

Affiliation fees for 2012/13 season will be £3.00 per player based on number of players in a team plus one, i.e. £12.00 for a 3-person team & £15.00 for a 4-person team.

The accounts had been audited by Harry Ross.

Proposed by D Wolstencroft, seconded by D Graham that the report be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

COUNTY MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: This was circulated on the night and read out by Mrs J Rushton.

County Trials

Trials were held on 10th/11th September for Cadets and Juniors at Preston.

There were just two categories for the County Trials, Under 18's & Under 15's.

There was a good entry and thanks must be recorded to both Stan Clarke and Dave Goulden for organising and running the trials, as well as the Preston Table Tennis League.

County Championships

There were 7 teams entered into the County Championships for season 2011/2012.

One Cadet, Two Junior, One Senior, Two Veterans and One Over 60's team.

Each division was played over 2 weekends or 2 Saturdays on dates decided by the County Championships Committee with the exception of the Cadets and Seniors who played all their matches on one Saturday for the Cadets and one weekend for the Seniors.

The Cadets played in Division 1A and played all their matches on one Saturday in December at Burton on Trent and was captained by Dave Graham. The team played extremely well winning all 5 matches to finish top of the table and will gain promotion to the Premier Division next season.

The Junior 1st team were in Division 2A and played in November at Draycott and January at Halton. They played 6 matches, winning 4 and losing 2 to finish runners up in the final table.

The Junior 2nd team also played in Division 2A, on the same dates and venues as the 1st team. Out of the 6 matches played, they won 3 and lost 3 and finished 5th. The captain for both Junior teams was Dave Graham.

The Senior team in Division 1A, captained by Stan Clarke, once again played all their matches on one weekend in October at Draycott. Unfortunately, Lancashire was unable to field its strongest team and we had to play without any Lady players. Due to all the matches being played on one weekend so early in the season, we were unable to have a second chance to pick up points later in the season and of the 7 matches played, Lancashire lost all 7, resulting in bottom of the table and relegation for next season.

The Veterans 1st team played in the Premier Division at Keithley in October and Ashford in February. The captain for the first weekend was Paul Hutchings and Keith Williams for the second weekend. Of the 7 matches played, Lancashire won 2 and lost 5, coming 3rd from the bottom of the final table.

The Veterans 2nd team played in Division 3A finished mid table having played on 2 weekends at Halifax in November and Draycott in March. They played 6 matches, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2 and the captain was Barry Crooke.

The Over 60's team, who had been relegated last season, played in Division 1A and had a good season, playing at Halifax in November and Draycott in March. The team was captained by Ron Bennett and won 4, drew 1 of the 5 matches played, finishing top of the table and will be promoted back to the Premier Division next season.

Congratulations to the Cadets and Over 60's teams for winning their respective divisions and the Juniors for coming runners up, as well as all the players who have been awarded their county badges.

Thanks should also be given to all those who captained the teams throughout the season, for all parents who helped with transport for the Cadets and Juniors and to each and every player for their efforts throughout the season.

Proposed by H Ross, seconded by D Wolstencroft that the report be accepted.
Carried unanimously.

The Chairman, Stan Clarke, also commented on the situation with the Senior Team and in particular how disappointing it had been that no lady players had been available for the matches, even though the matches had been right at the start of last season.

ELECTIONS:

President: Even with the President's current situation, due to his wife's illness, the Chairman proposed, seconded by Harry Ross, that our current President be re-elected.
Carried unanimously.

Vice Presidents: The Chairman proposed that all the current remaining Vice Presidents be elected by the meeting, which was seconded by Jim Clegg.

(The current Vice Presidents being Mrs D Yates, D Plowes, P Callaghan, G Stokes, N Deakin, Mrs J Rushton, K Williams)

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed the following persons for Vice Presidents, giving a brief résumé of each person, who were then voted on individually:

Eric Pentland, Treasurer of the County for well over 20 years

Geoff Rushton, Coaching/Development, currently in his 2nd period on the Committee

Dave Graham, Lancashire Cadet & Junior Team Captain

Jim Clegg, Preston Table Tennis League

After the Chairman's proposal being seconded by a member of the AGM, all four were elected as new Vice Presidents.

There had been one new nomination for the Executive Committee, Jim Bolton (Warrington & Wigan TTL), hence along with the current Committee members, who were all willing to re-stand, they were re-elected un-opposed.

The Chairman stated that there were still vacancies on the Committee and if anyone would like to be co-opted, they should contact a committee member.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

Note: Changes to existing rules are highlighted in red.

9.3 The Chairman or in his absence the Vice Chairman, or in the absence of both, a member elected for that meeting, shall take control, and his decisions on all points of order shall be final. The quorum shall be ~~5~~ 4 members.

With brief discussion on the proposal and the difficulty in guaranteeing 5 members from such a small number of committee members, the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the rule change.

Rule 28 County Trials

Junior & Cadet County trials will be organised and **mainly** funded each season by the County Association. There **may be a minimum** entry fee chargeable, **to be determined by the Executive Committee**. Failure of a nominated player to appear will result in a **£10** fine per player against the nominating league/**club**. This fine will be waived if written notification is received by the County Match Secretary **or Organiser** at least 7 clear days before the date of the relevant trial, advising that a specified nominated player, will not be present.

Following discussion, the meeting voted against changing the current rule, which will remain as follows:

"County trials will be organised and funded each season by the County Association. There will be no entry fee chargeable, but failure of a nominated player to appear will result in a £5 fine per player against the nominating league. This fine will be waived if written notification is received by the County Match Secretary at least 7 clear days before the date of the relevant trial, advising that a specified nominated player, will not be present."

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Ian Mason, Blackburn, requested for next AGM, whether a breakdown of the profit/loss over the period he discussed under Treasurer's business, could be provided.

General Secretary reported to the AGM that there would be a proposal at the ETTA AGM in July for Individual Membership fees to be increased from £6 to £10. This had been agreed at a recent National Council meeting (in April), which he had attended, as Lancashire's Deputy National Councillor. Local League secretaries should have recently received a list of ETTA Company Members with their voting rights, but as yet, no rule changes or other proposals for the ETTA AGM have been sent to them.

The County's voting rights at the ETTA AGM is the addition of the voting rights of all the Local Leagues in Lancashire, hence the Lancashire National Councillor, Stan Clarke, usually asks our AGM to decide on how he should cast the Lancashire vote.

Both the Chairman and General Secretary, stated that many Local Leagues do NOT bother to cast their own vote, but as always, the Chairman will act as a proxy for any of the Lancashire Local Leagues who will not be attending the ETTA AGM. A proxy can only cast a vote in accordance with the instructions given by a local league.

The Chairman also commented that out of the £4.5 million ETTA yearly budget, only £190K is raised through Individual Membership fees and Player Licences, the bulk of the money comes in the form of grants from Sport England and other sporting bodies.

Following discussion, the meeting decided that the Chairman should cast the Lancashire vote at the ETTA AGM against the proposed increase in the Individual Membership fees.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.50pm, thanking all those present for attending.