

MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 24 MAY 2011, COMMENCING AT 7:30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A 1 minute silence was requested by the Chairman following the deaths of Peter Rumjahn (Liverpool TT & ex-England TT International) and Les Dagger (Preston TT & ex-Professional Footballer for Preston from the Tom Finney period) during the past season.

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

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

APOLOGIES: G Aspinall MBE (President), who was unable to attend due to his wife illness.

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

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 2010 AGM.

Proposed by A Knowlson, seconded by H Ross that they be signed as a true record.

Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATIONS:

Trophies for Veterans 3A Division runner-ups:

B Clements, G Coupe, D Buckley, Sylvia Graham, who all collected their trophies, plus Barry Crook

County badges were presented to the following players:

Callum Tollady, Graham Coupe & Robert Barker, all present, and to the following players:

Danny Johnson, Amy Wells, Beth Farnworth, Khamal Hussain & Xue Bai

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The report had been circulated on the night. The Secretary thanked local leagues Liverpool and Blackpool for organising and running both junior and 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. Thanks was also given to the Preston League and Jim Clegg for staging the England Mens & Ladies international matches in December 2010.

There were no questions about the report.

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

Carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Income & Expenditure account and balance sheet had been circulated on the night.

The Treasurer gave a brief explanation of the I&E account and reported that there was a deficit of £1295 on the year. There were several contributory factors to the increase in expenditure, including the funding of the Over 60's team, increases in travel and that the two junior teams, playing on the same days, but at different venues, compared to the previous season.

As a result, the Committee is recommending an increase in affiliation fees for next season from £2.60 to £3.00.

The Blackburn representative asked whether the increase was necessary, since on checking the I&E accounts from 2005 to 2010, the summary balance had increased by approx. £3000.

Since costs had increased significantly during the past 12 months and that it had been 3 years since the last increase, the committee thought it prudent to request an increase for this coming year.

The meeting approved the increase by a vote of 9 for, with 1 against.

The Blackburn representative (Ian Mason) asked that it be minuted that he voted against the increase.

The Chairman commented that the Committee would be keeping the same procedure for calculating County affiliation fees as in previous years and would not be moving to individual player affiliation fees as the ETTA.

Affiliation fees for 2011/12 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 G Coupe, seconded by T Purcell 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 4th/5th September for Cadets and Juniors at Preston.

It had been decided to revert to the two categories for the County Trials as this would give a truer picture when selecting cadets and juniors for the County teams,

County Championships

There were 7 teams entered into the County Championships for season 2010/2011.

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

There had been a request for funding from for the Over 60's team, which had been previously self funding, apart from the initial registration, which had been agreed.

The Cadets played in Division 1A and played all their matches on one Saturday in November at Halifax, finishing 5th in the final league table, with a win over Cheshire, a draw with South Yorkshire and 3 losses to Cleveland, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

The Junior 1st team had been promoted to Division 1A and had played over two Saturdays at Draycott & Long Eaton and Grantham. They had a disappointing season, drawing with Derbyshire and losing to Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, to finish bottom of the division and will be relegated next season.

The Junior 2nd team played in Division 2A, on the same dates as the 1st team, at Halifax and Halton. They also had an unsuccessful season, drawing with Leicestershire but losing to Cheshire 2, Lincolnshire 2, Shropshire, South Yorkshire and Yorkshire 2, to finish bottom of the division and they will also be relegated.

The Senior team in Division 1A, once again played all their matches over one weekend as last season. The matches were played at Draycott & Long Eaton, originally scheduled for December, but postponed until April, due to the bad weather during December.

They were narrowly beaten to the second place in the division by Lincolnshire, finishing third in the league table, winning against Bedfordshire, Essex 2, Leicestershire, Northumberland and South Yorkshire, drawing with Nottinghamshire and losing only to Lincolnshire.

The Veterans 1st team played in the Premier Division at Halifax in November and Ashford in February. They had a successful first weekend but were less fortunate in the second round of matches. They had wins over Essex, Surrey and Sussex, drawing with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire and losing to Kent and Yorkshire, to finish fifth in the final league table.

The Veterans 2nd team played in Division 3A, on the same dates as the 1st team, at Draycott & Long Eaton and Halifax and are to be congratulated on finishing runners up in the division, winning against Cambridgeshire 2, Cheshire 3, Clwyd, Warwickshire, Worcestershire 2 and Yorkshire 4, losing only to South Yorkshire.

The Over 60's team played in the newly formed Premier Division in October at Ashford and April at Keighley. They had one win over Cambridge, drew with Kent, but lost to Berkshire, Essex, Sussex and Yorkshire, coming next to last in the final league table.

I would also like to thank all those who captained the teams and parents for help with transport for the Cadets and Juniors.

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

ELECTIONS:

President: The President had offered to stand down due to the illness of his wife, which made it difficult for him to attend committee meetings, but the Chairman had asked him to continue to which he had agreed.

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Harry Ross, that our current President, Geoff Aspinall MBE, be re-elected.

Carried unanimously.

Vice Presidents: The Chairman informed the meeting that at a recent Committee meeting, a Vice Presidency was withdrawn for P Aspin, without going into details.

The Chairman proposed that all the current remaining Vice Presidents be elected by the meeting, which was seconded by Graham Coupe.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Rule 10 Annual General Meeting

Rule 10.1 Date: Each season the Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting during the months of May or June when the annual report of the Committee and the financial statement shall be presented.

Following some brief discussion to the reasons why the month of June should be added, mainly to give some flexibility in the arranging of the AGM, the meeting voted 30-5 in favour of the rule change on a card vote.

Rule 12 Finance

Rule 12.4 ~~Auditors:~~ The Accounts of the Association shall be ~~audited~~ **examined** and approved each season by ~~2-Auditors~~ **a competent person(s)** elected by the AGM. ~~Each Auditor will serve for 2 years one being elected each year on the nomination of the Executive Committee.~~

Following discussion over the term 'Auditor', in that it legally can only apply to a qualified person, the association had not been able to comply with this rule for a number of years and would not be without paying a qualified person. Hence, the committee thought it sensible to change the wording. There was also some discussion over whether the person needs to be elected at the AGM or just

nominated by the Executive Committee, the definition of a “competent” person and whether the ETTA required accounts to be audited.

The meeting voted 31-4 in favour of the rule change on a card vote.

Rule 22 Change of Address

Any change of address of a League Secretary shall be notified to the Hon. General Secretary of the Association within **3 14** days of the change taking place. **Failure to notify the Hon. General Secretary may result in a fine, to be determined by the Executive Committee.**

The General Secretary stated that 3 days was a rather short time and 14 days would be more sensible. He also stated that there was no point in having this rule if no penalty was stated if Leagues did not abide by the rule.

With no discussion on the proposal, the meeting voted unanimously in favour of the rule change.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Chairman informed the meeting of the ETTA AGM in July, where as National Councillor for Lancashire he would be voting on behalf of the County. He asked the meeting for its view on the proposed ETTA rule change, where anybody involved in the trade of table tennis, would NOT be allowed to stand for office in the ETTA Management Committee. This change had in effect been forced on the ETTA by Sport England, which would result on the potential loss of funding, if a National Governing Body did not follow the recommendation. In light of this information, the view of the meeting was that there would not be any real choice, even though it could mean that certain people would be unavailable for election to the ETTA Management Committee.

2. The Chairman also informed the meeting that the Local League nominated person could cast their vote by proxy if they were unable to attend the AGM. A proxy vote can be given to the Chairman of the AGM or any other person attending the AGM. He also stated that the proxy vote could only be cast in the exact way that the Local League had indicated on the returned proxy form to the ETTA and that the person nominated as proxy could NOT vote in any other way. He would be prepared to act as proxy for any Local League, if required.

3. The General Secretary informed the meeting for information purposes only that at the recent ITTF AGM in Rotterdam during the World Championships, a trial proposal of the service law would be examined during the 2011/12 season, where the player losing the last point serves next. One reason given for this proposal was that a final point of a game could never be won on a person's own serve.

4. Graham Coupe asked about County trials for Juniors & Cadets that he thought the ETTA ranking lists were used for selecting players. The Chairman replied that the ETTA ranking list does apply to both Seniors & Veterans, but the County holds trials for juniors and cadets, so that newly improving players are not overlooked. He also stated that certain players do get exemptions from the trials, such as anyone listed in the National top 25 for Juniors and top 15 for Cadets or participating in other table tennis tournaments on the same day (i.e. UK School Games).

5. Umpires Secretary, Tom Purcell, informed the meeting at the recent Umpires seminar at Halton, 10 new Lancashire County Umpires qualified. It is hoped that some, if not all, of these new umpires will progress through to officiate at both County matches, as well as tournaments. He also reported that a further 3 people were in the process of taking the County Umpires paper.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.35pm, thanking all those present for attending.