

MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 17 MAY 2016, COMMENCING AT 7:30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Committee members: J Clegg (President) S Clarke (Chairman), Mrs J Rushton, D Goulden, G Rushton, T Purcell, J Bolton, M Ireland & H Rawcliffe.

Local Leagues: Blackpool, Bolton, East Lancs, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Preston, Southport, Warrington & Wigan.

APOLOGIES: D Wolstencroft, Local Leagues – Lancaster & Morecambe & Lytham St Annes.

ABSENT: Local Leagues - Blackburn & Bury.

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 2015 AGM.

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

Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising, which were not covered by the Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

County badges have been awarded to: Daniel Olsberg, Yameen Al Dahiri, Zak Cantor, Rhys Davies, Sophie Newton, Naomi Collins, Dave Griffith, Tony Whelan & Chris Knowles. The majority of these had already been posted out to the players.

Trophies for the Veterans 1st team, runners-up of 1A, and Junior 2nd team, runners-up in 2A, had been already presented or were collected on behalf of the players.

Veterans: Keith Williams, Dave Griffith, Thomas Haddley & Denise McEvoy had been presented their trophies by the Chairman at the recent Liverpool Closed Championships. The Bolton representative collected the trophy for Steven Scowcroft.

Junior 2nd Team: Rhys Davies had similarly received his trophy at the Liverpool Closed Championships. Martin Ireland collected the trophies on behalf of James Neal, Tommy Kennedy, Alice Dillon and Megan Dillon. Stan Clarke collected the trophy on behalf of Yameen Al Dahiri.

The Junior 1st team had received their awards on the final weekend of the Premier Division matches, although the annual trophy was not present at that time. It has been received and engraved, although there was no players present from the team to accept it. The General Secretary stated that it was only the 2nd time that Lancashire had won the Premier Division trophy, the last time being in the 1989/90 season and the trophy itself dates back to the 1949/50 season. Congratulations to the team players and none playing captain, Dave Graham, on their achievement.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: A written report was available on the night. The details below:

"The Executive Committee has met on four 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 General 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 2015/16 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, particularly this past season, when the Lancashire Junior team won the Premier Division in the County Championships for only the 2nd time in its history, the 1st time back in the 1989/90 season, as well as the Cadet team retaining their place in the Cadets Premier Division. More information is available in the County Match Secretary's report.

This season, the County has just held the Closed Championships again at Garstang on 14th & 15th May, and the Executive Committee would like to thank all those involved in organising the event and particular 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."

The General Secretary passed a few further comments on the Lancashire Closed Tournament which had taken place last weekend, stating his disappointment that only 4 or 5 Local Leagues had advertised the event on their websites. A similar request to provide a link on their website to the new Lancashire website on tabletennis365.com had resulted, so far, in only 4 or 5 leagues doing so.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Copies of the I&E and Balance sheet were available at the AGM and had been email to Local League's General Secretaries.

The Treasurer reported that the I&E showed a deficit of £670.48 for the season and the balance sheet showed cash assets just below £5300.

Affiliation Fees had increased by just over £500 following the small increase of these fees agreed at the 2015 AGM. County Team expenses had increased by just over £400. A contributor factor to this increase had been the promotion of the Junior 1st team to the Premier Division, where matches are played over two weekend rather than two single days in the lower junior leagues.

A financial review of expenditure on County Team expenses had been carried and a number of recommendations had been made for implementation during the 2016/17 season, which will hopefully lead to some reductions in the overall expenditure.

Although there was a deficit for the 2015/16 season, no fees increase for 2016/17 Season had been proposed.

A question was raised over the Current Account showing a deficit in the Balance Sheet. It was explained that this was just a snap-shot of the accounts on 31st March 2016. Money is automatically transferred from the deposit account to the current account once the current account goes into deficit, so in actual terms, the current account never ends up with a deficit and there are no bank charges made as a result of this operation.

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

County Trials:

The Cadet & Junior trials were held 13th/14th September 2015 at Garstang and were well attended. Thanks goes to Jim Bolton for organising and running the trials.

County Championships:

There were 7 teams entered into the County Championships for season 2015/2016.

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

The Junior 1st team had gained promotion to the Premier Division, which is played over 2 weekends and would therefore incur more expense than last season as it required overnight stays on both weekends. The Veterans 1st team had been relegated to Division 1A.

CADETS:

The Cadets, in the Premier Division, played over one weekend at Wellingborough in January. They played 7 matches, winning 3 and losing 4 to finish 5th in the Division and retain their position in the Premier Division.

JUNIORS:

The 1st team having gained promotion to the Premier Division played over two weekends, the first in November at Essex and the second in February at Wednesbury. The team had excellent results in finishing top of the final table winning five matches and drawing two. The team were presented with their awards on the final weekend but the perpetual trophy will be presented this evening.

The 2nd Junior team played in Division 2A on two separate Saturdays. The first session was at Halton in November and the second session, was again at Halton, in March. The team won four matches and drew one to become runners-up in the final league table.

SENIORS:

The senior division 1A had problems with finding dates and venues for their matches. Counties were only advised of the dates and venues during the second half of the season. The first round was played on 12th March at Halifax, playing 3 matches, drawing 1 and losing 2. The second round was scheduled for 26th March (Easter Weekend) at Wellingborough but unfortunately we were unable to field a team, so regrettably had to withdraw.

VETERANS:

The Veterans 1st team played in Division 1A played at Wolverhampton in November and Draycott in March. The team finished runners up in the division to Warwickshire, having won five matches and drawing two matches.

The 2nd team in division 2A played at Wellingborough in October and, as we had no lady player, of the 4 matches played, we won 1 and lost 3. The second weekend was scheduled at St Neots in March but as we were unable to field a team, we regrettably had to withdraw the team.

OVER 60's:

The Over 60's team finished 4th in the Premier Division after playing over two weekends in October and March at Milton Keynes. Of the 7 matches played, Lancashire won 3, drew 1 and lost 3.

Congratulations to the Junior 1st in winning the Premier Division and the Junior 2nd teams and the Veterans 1st team for their results in finishing runners up in their divisions.

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 in representing the County.

County Badges: Daniel Olsberg, Yameen Al Dahiri, Zak Cantor, Rhys Davies, Sophie Newton, Naomi Collins, Dave Griffith, Tony Whelan, Chris Knowles

Awards: Veterans 1A

Keith Williams, Steven Scowcroft, Dave Griffith, Thomas Haddley, Denise McEvoy

Awards: Junior 2A

James Neal, Rhys Davies, Yameen Al Dahiri, Tommy Kennedy, Alice Dillon, Megan Dillon

The Executive Committee decided at its last Committee meeting that we would drop the 2nd Veterans team for the 2016/17 season, since the entry form had to be submitted in advance of the AGM. Hence, the number of teams entered will be 6; made up of 1 Cadet, 2 Junior, 1 Senior, 1 Veterans & 1 Over 60s team.

ELECTIONS:

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

Vice Presidents: The Chairman asked that all the current Vice Presidents to be elected by the meeting, which was proposed and seconded 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)

Carried unanimously.

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

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:

There were no proposed rule changes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Tom Purcell raised the question of membership numbers for Lancashire. The new Lancashire website on tabletennis365 includes all the local league players from the membership section of tabletennis365. This gives a total of around 2400 players/associate members in the Lancashire Affiliated Leagues, which was some 500 greater than figures quoted at a recent National Council meeting. Tom would email all the local league secretaries to see where the potential errors may be, as the TTE Board Member with responsibilities for Membership.

Tom also reported that both Liam Pickford & Paul Drinkhall had qualified automatically for the Rio Olympic Games. There is also a possibility that the team will also qualify following their success in finishing 3rd at the recent World Team Championships in Malaysia.

The President, Jim Clegg, informed the meeting that the National Championships for the 10-13 age groups will take place in Preston on 25th/26th June 2016 at the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre.

The Chairman, Stan Clarke, stated that normally at the AGM, he would seek guidance on how to vote at the Table Tennis England AGM on behalf of Lancashire. At this stage, we do not know of any rule amendments planned for the meeting, apart for a proposal to increase the individual player membership fee by £2 to £12 for 2016/17. If the proposal is passed, then for playing members only, there will also be included individual accidental insurance cover, as well as the current third party liability.

The Affiliation Fees from the individual player membership accounts for only approximately 7% of the total expenditure for Table Tennis England and like many other sporting bodies supported by Sport England, they would like to see more money coming in from the membership.

On a show of hands, the meeting decided that the Chairman should cast Lancashire's vote in favour of the increase in the individual membership fees.

If any of the Local Leagues have players interested in becoming an umpire, then it would be possible to arrange a course. Individuals/leagues should let the Lancashire Umpire's Secretary, Tom Purcell, know if they are interested. It is not necessary to attend a course to sit the County Umpire paper and a copy of the paper can be obtained from Tom Purcell.

The Chairman indicated that the 2016/17 season could be his last as both Chairman and Committee member, having been a Committee member since the 1980s. He finally brought the meeting to an end at approx. 8.35pm, thanking all those present for attending.