

MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 26 MAY 2009, COMMENCING AT 7:30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the meeting that three new members, Keith Warrington, David Buckley & Geoff Rushton had been co-opted onto the Committee at the start of the 2008/09 season.

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

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

APOLOGIES: D Wolstencroft, M Ireland, H Ross

ABSENT: Local Leagues – Blackburn, Lytham St Annes, Manchester Banks and Insurance & St Helens.

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 2008 AGM.

Proposed by A Knowlson, seconded by T Rigby that they be signed as a true record.
Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

PRESENTATIONS: County badges were presented to the following players:

Cadets – Danielle Eden*, Weronika Szleszynska*, Craig Scarisbrick, Jonny Cummins, Danny Woods & Rebecca McGrath.

Juniors – Alex Tyson & Luke McCall

Seniors – Yeng Kho

O'60s – Bill Ingram*

* Present at AGM;

apologies had been received from the cadets & juniors unable to attend.

Runners up awards were presented to Keith Williams on behalf of the Veterans team of Keith Williams, Chris Ford, Barry Elliott and Brenda Buoe.

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 and veteran tournaments that they had run during the season as well. Thanks was also given to the Preston League, and in particular, Jim Clegg, for staging the County Trials and for the recent England v India international match. Stan Clarke commented that he had been told that of the 3 International matches held against India, Preston had been by far the best event.

There were no questions about the report.

Proposed by T Purcell, seconded by T Rigby, that the report be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

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

The Treasurer apologies for sending out invoices for affiliation fees late at the start of the season, but commented that the main reason was due to some Leagues not providing the information requested on number of teams for the season. He requested that the information should be returned by early to mid September, whenever possible, in future.

The Treasurer summarised the accounts to the meeting, highlighting the differences to the previous year. Income was up £500 on the previous year, of which £200 was due to an increase in affiliation fees, whilst £300 had been received in anonymous donations. Overall, expenditure was down by approx. £300, due to mainly the costs in running county teams. Overall, the accounts showed a surplus of £828 for the year, although £300 accounted for the donations.

The Treasurer proposed to the meeting an increase of 10p in affiliation fees to £2.60 per player. This raised some discussion over whether the LCTTA was holding too much money in reserve and whether the Committee should consider whether some should be returned to leagues by reducing fees in the future.

The Treasurer stated that one reason for the money, would be to promote coaching and development in the county. Geoff Rushton, who had taken on the coaching and development role for the County, said he would be making proposal for next season, which would start to use money put aside for this purpose. The Chairman also stated that local leagues could also put forward proposals for the Committee to consider. K Eden asked whether it could also be used through the Regional Coaching Officer, Katy Parker.

It was also stated by the General Secretary that holding approx. 1 to 2 years of expenditure money per annum in reserve was not an excessive amount and from his experiences, most sporting organisations would be doing something similar.

The meeting voted on the Treasurer's proposal, which was passed on a show of hands. The accounts had been audited by Harry Ross.

Proposed by T Rigby, 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.

Cadet & Junior trials had been held at Preston Table Tennis Centre in September 2008. The under 18's on 6th and under 11's, 13's & 15's categories on 7th September, along with thanks to Stan Clarke for organising the trials and to others who had helped out on the two days.

The Regional Trials were held at Halton Table Tennis Centre on 29th/30th November 2008. In addition to the 5 nominations from each county in the Region, the trials were opened up to Local Leagues & Premier Clubs players, under the title of "Talent Identification". This effectively meant that nominations from Counties was unnecessary, as the Regional Trials just became a talent identification tournament open to anyone.

7 teams had been entered in the County Championships, 1 Cadet, 2 Junior, 1 Senior, 2 Veterans & 1 Over 60's. The 2nd Veterans team and the Over 60's team were run and organised by Barry Crook & Ron Bennett respectively.

The Cadets finished 4th in division 1A, the Junior 1st team finished 4th in Division 2A and the Junior 2nd team finished bottom in the same Division and will be relegated next season.

The Senior team, in Division 1A finished in 3rd place.

The Veterans 1st team finished runners up in Division 1A, whilst the 2nd team, organised by Barry Crook, finished 5th in Division 3A.

The Over 60's team, organised by Ron Bennett, finished in 6th place in their division.

The Match Secretary thanked all team captains for their work during the season, Dave Graham with the Cadets & Juniors, Chris Ford and Barry Crook for the Veterans, Stan Clarke for the Senior team and Ron Bennett for the Over 60's.

The award of County Badges is cover in the earlier item - Presentations

Proposed by G Rushton, seconded by D Buckley that the report be accepted.
Carried unanimously.

ELECTIONS:

President: The Chairman proposed, seconded by G Rushton, that our current President, Geoff Aspinall, be re-elected. Carried unanimously.

Vice Presidents: The Chairman proposed that all current Vice Presidents be elected by the meeting, which was seconded by T Rigby. Carried unanimously.

New Vice President: The Chairman proposed that Keith Williams be elected as a new Vice President, after giving a brief summary of Keith's playing service to the County for well over 25/30 years. Seconded by the Committee and 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 unopposed.

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

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

There were no proposed rule changes for the meeting to consider.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Individual Registration

The Chairman told the meeting that a rule change covering individual registration would be put to the ETTA AGM at the end of June. He explained why the rule change was being proposed before opening the topic to the meeting. He also explained, as Lancashire's National Councillor, he had a vote at the AGM on the proposal and wanted to get the meeting's approval on how Lancashire's vote should be cast. A number of people spoke for and against individual registration, with the main concerns of those speaking against it would be that it complicated fees collection for local leagues, create more work for Treasurers and one person believed that the ETTA would be getting a significant increase in affiliation fees from individual registration.

The General Secretary stated that as a General Secretary of one of the local leagues, he believed that it would simplify his job by not have to deal with the current individual registration forms, plus he understood that individuals would be able to register directly with the ETTA and just provide a ID number to their local league. One person thought that an individual could provide a false ID number, but of course the list of players provided by local leagues to the ETTA would be checked against this potential situation. Also, his local league already charged teams both ETTA & LTTA fees has levied each year, so there would be no complication in fees collection.

Following the discussion, the majority of the meeting were in favour of the Chairman voting for the rule amendment on individual registration.

The Chairman also stated that if any local league were unable to attend the AGM and would like to vote at it on any of the proposals, he would act as their proxy. He would only be able to vote in accordance with their wishes.

Potential Funding

The General Secretary provided information on potential funding opportunities that are available from Sport England and Other Useful Funds.

Sport England Funds include:

1. Small Grants Scheme (it has replaced the Awards for All Scheme)
2. Sportsmatch
3. Sustainable Facilities
4. Rural Communities

All are available to apply for on-line at the Sport England website,

www.sportengland.org/funding_programmes/

Other Useful Funds are:

Mars Refuel & Grassroots Grants Scheme, similarly applications can be made on-line at:

www.marsrefuel.com & www.cdf.org.uk

Other sources include County Sports Partnership and local Community Foundation.

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