

# MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 19 MAY 2015, COMMENCING AT 7:15pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Table Tennis England: Ms S Hughes (Deputy Chair)

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

APOLOGIES: G Aspinall MBE (President) & D Wolstencroft, Local League – Lancaster & Morecambe & Lytham St Annes.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting and they had also been available on the website. They were taken as read and an accurate account of the 2014 AGM.

Proposed by T Rigby, 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: Stefan Drljacs, Tommy Kennedy, James Neal, Chloe Ireland, Dominic Green & Denise McEvoy

Chloe Ireland & Dominic Green received their badges at the meeting.

Trophies were presented to the Junior 1<sup>st</sup> team, winners of 1A, and Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> team, runners-up in 2A. Dominic Green, Jordon Brookes & Chloe Ireland collected their trophies at the meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The report was summarised 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 Brian Jackson for the junior 1 & 2 Star tournaments and Blackpool Junior 4 Star that he had run during the season and the Wigan League for running the Champions Challenge for the sixth year, involving a number of the North West Town's League Champions from their Closed Championships.

The EC also recorded their appreciation to all the people who have organized and run other events during the 2014/15 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.

This season, the County is organising Closed Championships, after a number of years, to be held at Garstang on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> May, and the Executive Committee would like to thank all those involved in organising the event and particular the players for supporting it.

In concluding the report, the Executive Committee expressed 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, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please get them to contact any of the committee members.

Proposed by M Ireland, seconded by T Purcell, that the reports be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

The Treasurer explained that the accounts were currently with the auditor (H Ross) for approval and he had verbally indicated to the Treasurer that there were no issues so far.

A signed copy can be made available to Local League's once audited, if required, from the General Secretary.

The Treasurer reported that the I&E showed a deficit of £1024.88 for the season and the balance sheet showed cash assets just below £6000.

The Chairman stated that the Committee had commissioned a small sub-committee to review the financial situation of the County, which was still under consideration with regards to looking how expenditure could be reduced and/or better controlled. Since player/team fees had remained static over the past number of years, the sub-committee had proposed to the Executive Committee that a small increase in these fees should be put to the AGM for approval.

#### Fees for 2015/16 Season.

Following explanation of the current Financial Review, the Committee proposed that the player fee should increase from £3 to £3.25. This would result in a £13 fee per team of 3 players and £16.25 fee per team of 4 players.

On a vote of hands, the meeting accepted unanimously the proposed increase.

A question from the floor on how much the proposed increase in fees would realise.

It had been estimated that based on the number of teams in all the Lancashire affiliated leagues, it would raise approximately £500, which was around half the deficit during this past season. The sub-committee would be looking at how a similar saving of £500 could be realised from the County expenses.

Proposed by T Purcell, seconded by M Ireland 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

The Cadet & Junior trials were held in September 2014 at Garstang and were well attended. Thanks goes to Jim Bolton for organising and running the trials, along with other committee members who assisted on the weekend.

#### County Championships

There were 7 teams entered into the County Championships for season 2014/2015.

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

Congratulations go to both the Junior teams. The Junior 1<sup>st</sup> team finished to of Division 1A and will be promoted next season, whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> team came runners up in Division 2A.

#### CADETS

The Cadets, in the Premier Division, played over one weekend at Wellingborough in January and was captained by Dave Graham. The team finished mid table winning 3 matches and drawing 4.

#### JUNIORS

Both teams were captained by Dave Graham. The 1<sup>st</sup> team in Division 1A played on two Saturdays, the first in November at Halton and the second in March at Draycott. The team had excellent results in finishing top of the final table winning six matches and drawing one and will gain promotion next season.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior team played in Division 2A, again on two Saturdays. The first at Halton in November and the second at Halifax in March. The team won five matches and drew one to become runners-up in the final league table.

#### SENIORS

The Senior team in Division 1A, captained by Paul Cicchelli, played all their matches on one weekend in March at Draycott, finishing fifth after winning three matches, drawing one and losing three. There were problems in forming a team and a number of Junior players had to be included.

## VETERANS

The Veterans 1<sup>st</sup> team played in the Premier Division over two weekends at Ashford in November and Draycott in February. Keith Williams was captain on both weekends. The team finished seventh in the division, having won one match and lost six.

There was a problem with the second team when they were scheduled to play on the same weekend as the Over 60's in October, as most of the players play for both teams. A weakened team was selected to play for the second team but after contacting twelve players, only one was available to play. In these circumstances there was only one course of action open and that was to regrettably withdraw the team.

## OVER 60's

The Over 60's team finished 3rd 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 2 and lost 2. The first weekend was captained by Ken Kackson and the second by Phil Bowen.

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, particularly those who stepped in at the last minute.

County Badges: see Presentations

Awards: Junior 1A

Robert Barker, James Chappell, Amirul Hussain, Dominic Green, Emily Bolton, Beth Farnworth and Amy Hutchings

Awards: Junior 2A

Tom Miller, Matthew Laird, Jordan Brookes, Tommy Kennedy, Alice Dillon, Megan Dillon and Chloe Ireland

Proposed by T Rigby, seconded by J Bolton that the report be accepted.  
Carried unanimously.

## ELECTIONS:

President: Our current President, Geoff Aspinall MBE had decided to tender his resignation from the position due to the ill-health of his wife and himself. He felt that it was no longer suitable for him to hold the position, when he couldn't fully fulfil the role.

Nomination for a new President is the responsibility of the Executive Committee, which had decided to offer the position to Jim Clegg. Jim had indicated that he was more than willing to fulfil the role, hence the Executive Committee propose him for the approval of the AGM.

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

The Chairman asked Jim, if he would like to say a few words to the meeting, who proceeded to give a brief summary of his career, enthusiasm and love of our sport and that he would be honoured to accept the position.

Vice Presidents: The Chairman asked that all the current Vice Presidents to be elected by the meeting, which was proposed by T Rigby and seconded by J Clegg.

(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:

County Umpire's Secretary (T Purcell) reported that at a recent umpire's seminar and exam in Blackpool, there had been 12 students, from which 10 passed the exam, including 8 new umpires from Lancashire.

Susie Hughes, Table Tennis England Deputy Chair, gave a brief summary of the current situation and progress that had been made since 2013, when Table Tennis had been one of six sports put on special measures by Sport England, as far as funding was concerned.

At that time, there was uncertainty for the future and some difficult decision had to be made as well as changes to how the sport was governed. The current board have only been in place for about a year following the death of the new Chairman, Andy Seward, and the Deputy Chairman, Richard Scruton, taking up an appointment with the European Table Tennis Association.

The board now believe that Table Tennis England is back on track, with guaranteed funding from Sports England up to 2017 and the future is now much more certain. There is still a significant amount of work and planning required and the board know that they do need to work more closely with Local Leagues and Clubs.

There is a 'plan for the future' and details of what the new board have done and its plans for the future can be obtained from Susie Hughes, email: [susiehughes99@googlemail.com](mailto:susiehughes99@googlemail.com).

A question from Bob Mitchell (Manchester League) on how the selection of the various performance centres took place and why was Manchester not considered, since it's the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in England?

Susie Hughes replied that the decision of the centres had been made by Table Tennis England, but only after Clubs had applied to become one. There may be further centres in the future, which similarly would be open for clubs to apply.

Tom Purcell asked if the AGM should decide on how the County votes in the Table Tennis England election for Chair, Deputy Chair & Treasurer.

The County vote sits with the Lancashire National Councillor, Stan Clarke, who replied that this decision was to be decided by the County's Executive Committee, as the elected body of the County, since all the Local Leagues Elected Members had a vote on how their local league would vote.

The Chairman brought the meeting to an end at approx. 8.20pm, thanking all those present for attending, and the Deputy Chair (Susie Hughes) from Table Tennis England.