

## **Dundee and District Table Tennis Association**

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

### **Minutes of the AGM held at 7:30pm in Forthill Sports Club on 28 April 2016**

**Present: Trustees:** Graeme Elrick, Chair; David Sim, Vice Chair; Krzystof Opila, Treasurer; Dave Beveridge, Match Secretary; Paul McCabe, Coaching Convenor; Miriam Rennet, Child Protection Officer; Kenny Stewart; Sandy Elrick; Andy Hughes.

**Other members:** Stewart Clark, Auditor; Winnie Stein; Graham Wood; Arthur Pritchard; Knut Radmer; Howard Lee; Neil Lea; Kenny McLaren, David Monteith.

#### **1 Welcome and apologies**

Graeme Elrick welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out several apologies for absence, including from Elaine Forbes and the members of Lundin Sports Club.

#### **2 Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held in WRG on 30 April 2015 were approved.

#### **3 Matters arising from 2015 minutes**

Stewart Clark remarked that the 2015 minutes had not been issued promptly after the meeting, a matter that he has raised on previous occasions. Graeme assured the meeting that the 2016 minutes would be prepared and issued promptly.

#### **4 Reports**

The Chairman, Match Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and the Coaching Convenor all presented their annual reports, which were generally well received. The most significant issues from the reports were as follows:

- Graeme Elrick indicated that he had summarised his report in an email issued prior to the meeting. Among other things, he had explained that the transition to registered charity had been completed on 10 September 2015. He indicated that he intended to step down as Chairman due to work and other commitments.
- Dave Beveridge highlighted that claims were still a scourge on the integrity of the league competition and he urged the meeting to support a rule change to penalise teams that cause claims. Otherwise, the league had ran smoothly. Saturdays had proved unpopular for holding cup ties.
- Krzystof Opila submitted the signed accounts for the period from 1.1.15 to 9.9.15, when the Association was registered as a charity. A deficit of £3,806.52 had been incurred but most of the 2015 affiliation fees had still to be received. The bank balance (including the 50:50 account) was £16,081 as at 9.9.15. Krzystof indicated some of the financial benefits of becoming a charity and said that there was no requirement to review the level of affiliation fees. While our finances were healthy, he had concerns about the receipt of handbook advertising income and contributions from inter-league

participants. Krzystof also indicated that he would also prefer to stand down as Treasurer for work and personal reasons.

- Stewart Clark (auditor) commended Krzystof for presenting a good set of financial records and for his work as Treasurer. The auditors' report confirmed that handbook advertising income was not being received timeously and also that the subscribers to the 50:50 venture had fallen to a level that did not support the current amount being distributed as a monthly prize. These matters (and the issue of inter-league contributions) will need to be addressed by the new Treasurer.
- Paul McCabe reported on a healthy coaching situation with youngsters turning up in good numbers for most sessions. He drew comparisons with the level of activity in other areas and felt that DDTTA should be taking steps to emulate some of this. In the first instance he would like to see an expansion in the school clubs run by the Association. There was also a discussion about the possibility of introducing an adult week-day session (not necessarily coached) focusing on the health benefits for the community. These potential developments will need to be considered by the new management committee. Paul declared his personal interest, as the paid coach for the Association, in the development of new coaching sessions.

There was a discussion about the behaviour of teams and the younger players during the season and it was agreed that all clubs should do more to educate youngsters and newcomers about sportsmanship and etiquette. St Andrews TTC had submitted a letter explaining that it intended to develop its own Code of Conduct which it would expect to be respected by visiting teams.

## **5 Proposed amendments to constitution and rules**

It was explained that our constitution needed to be changed to avoid the requirement or impression that our accounts were subject to a full audit. An audit is also a more extensive and costly process than an independent examination, which is all that is required under charity regulations for our level of spend. It was therefore unanimously agreed that section six of the constitution should be amended to require the appointment of 'an independent examiner' rather than 'two auditors'.

At the same section it was agreed that the following be deleted:

'Each club must have at least one representative present at the A.G.M.. Failure to do so will result in the club being fined and possible rejection of the club's entry for the D&DTTA League.'

The Match Secretary's proposal that the rules should provide for a 10 point penalty for teams that cause a claim to be submitted was defeated 22/5 on a vote.

A new rule (6(10)) banning the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices from inside the court during matches was passed on a vote 22/5.

Defibrillators' proposal for a new method of structuring the league divisions, based on teams' own preferences, was defeated on a vote 26/2.

David Monteith's proposal that ITTF approved orange celluloid balls be permitted for use until ITTF approved orange plastic balls are available was unanimously approved.

## **6 Honoraria/fees for 2016/17**

It was agreed that there would be no changes to affiliation fees for season 2016/17.

After declaring an interest in this item, the office-bearers left the meeting while the remaining members debated the payment of honoraria. On their return, Sandy Elrick advised that it had been agreed that the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Match Secretary and Coaching Convenor should be paid an honorarium of £100 each in respect of the 2015/16 season. Graeme Elrick and David Sim indicated that they would gift-aid their honorarium back to the Association.

## **7 Point of order**

Graham Wood called on the Chairman to rule on a point of order. Graham argued that the Association's voting structure, whereby votes are cast on behalf of each team in the league, was inconsistent with providing 'members' with a vote.

The Chairman disagreed and ruled that the point was out of order. It was suggested that Miriam Rennet, as a qualified solicitor, be requested to advise on the matter at an early meeting of the new Management Committee.

## **8 Elections**

Graeme Elrick reminded the meeting that he and Krzystof Opila had decided not to re-stand for the positions of Chair and Treasurer, respectively. However, a group of members had volunteered to be nominated for the positions of office-bearers. Following a brief discussion the following appointments were unanimously approved:

### **Trustees:**

Chairperson – Elaine Forbes  
Vice Chair – David Sim  
Hon Secretary – Graeme Elrick  
Match Secretary – Andy Hughes  
Treasurer – David Beveridge  
Coaching Convenor – Paul McCabe

### **Other committee members (and trustees):**

Stuart Halliday – Trophy Convenor  
Miriam Rennet – Child Protection Officer  
Sandy Elrick  
Kenny Stewart  
Christopher Riddoch  
Arthur Pritchard

**Hon Presidents and Vice Presidents:**

No changes were required to the names in the 2015 handbook.

**Independent examiner**

Stewart Clark/Gregor Murray (with only one, yet to be decided, to sign the report).

**8 AOCB**

There was no further key business discussed or decisions taken.

**9 Close of meeting**

Graeme Elrick closed the meeting and advised that the 2017 AGM would likely be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Dave Beveridge indicated that Elaine Forbes intended to convene an early meeting of the new Management Committee/Trustees, probably in the week commencing 9 May 2016.