

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

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

### **Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held at 6:30pm in Ward Road Gym on 1 September 2016**

**Present: Trustees:** Elaine Forbes (Chair), David Sim (Vice Chair), Dave Beveridge (Treasurer), Andy Hughes (Match Sec), Sandy Elrick, Stuart Halliday (Trophy Convenor), Kenny Stewart, Paul McCabe (Coaching Convenor) (from item 4) and Arthur Pritchard (from item 3).

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

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Miriam Rennet had sent her apologies and Arthur Pritchard had indicated that he would be late.

#### **2 Matters arising from previous meeting**

The MC minutes of 21 July 2016 had previously been circulated and agreed as a satisfactory record of the meeting.

Elaine reported that the recent events at the Overgate (STV Childrens' appeal) and DISC (Olympic Come and Try) had been generally successful and thanked everyone who had helped out. Many flyers had been issued, some folk had expressed an interest in coming along to Ward Road or clubs, and £95 was raised for the Overgate appeal.

Elaine also reported that arrangements were now largely in place for the start of the Community TT, Active and Healthy sessions on Wednesday mornings. It would be helpful if John Thain and/or Paul could induct Andy and David S on the arrangements for recording attendees and handling cash. An article had appeared in the Courier the previous Tuesday about the start of the venture and Kenny had kindly distributed flyers to various venues in Dundee.

Arrangements have been made for Stuart H, Calum Ross, Callum Riddoch and Ade Fabola to represent DDTTA in the National League. The Association will meet the entry fee of £110. It was agreed to give this more profile on the website and on our Facebook page.

Elaine had contacted a number of community centres about TT involvement. As a result she had been able to put the Rio Centre in Newport in contact with 'Active Fife' about getting assistance to acquire a new table.

Miriam has made good progress with PVG applications for about a dozen members although it was hoped that Cynthia Robinson's current absence at TTS would not put things on hold again.

### **3 League and cups season 2016/17**

Arthur joined the meeting around this point.

As Graeme Elrick was preparing the handbook, Elaine left the meeting to speak on the phone with him. On her return, the following points were discussed/agreed:

- Earls' late withdrawal from Division 1 (although in practice the team name to be dropped will be Barons)
- Duffers' late entry into Division 3. Duffers will be given Barons' draw in the Doubles and Handicap cups. Squires' league fixtures had also been amended to accommodate Duffers
- the cup semis and finals that had previously been scheduled for 3 December will now be played on 26 November (due to WRG availability issues)
- a tentative late application from St Andrews University should be turned down. There were too many unknowns around the team's playing standard (for Division 1), their ability to fulfill fixtures and their ability to acquire a venue
- all player registrations had been lodged timeously. Dave B requested that any late registrations be submitted as soon as possible to permit him to finalise TTS affiliation fees
- clubs are to be advised prior to the season starting that there may be no relegation, or only one team relegated, from Division 1 in season 2016/17, as all other efforts to increase team numbers in Division 1 have proved fruitless
- the handbook will not be available until the first week of the new season at the earliest. Graeme will circulate the draft handbook over the next 24 hours and requested feedback over the weekend. However, Dave B and Andy will meet to finalise the fixtures, cup draws etc on the website on Monday 5 September. Andy will send a message to clubs next week drawing attention to the fixtures on the website. Graeme had also said that he will put the first fixtures in an email to clubs prior to the start date.

### **4 Coaching report**

Paul joined the meeting around this point and declared an interest in the schools clubs discussion. Accordingly, he did not take part in the decisions reached.

Dave B reported that he and Paul had met earlier in the week with Dundee Active Schools. Their position on the schools clubs was that they would not support DDTTA making any charges on pupils and that ideally they preferred to run these clubs with teacher/pupil volunteers. Paul Jackson had given 16 pupils introductory training and they were available to help. Sandy was disappointed that Paul J hadn't liaised with DDTTA about this. Arthur also suggested that we establish who and how this 'policy' had been set. Elaine and/or Dave B will follow up these points, so far as appropriate.

Notwithstanding, it was agreed that we would not proceed with the clubs at Harris and Grove if we could not recover any of our costs and since Active Schools (or the schools) preferred to run these themselves.

It was agreed that we should continue with the club at Baldragon in view of its impact to date and the investment that we have already made.

Dave B will convey the Association's decisions to James Fenna in Dundee Active Schools.

Dave B also reported that grant applications have been, or will shortly be, submitted to the Aldi Sports Fund and TTS which may provide about £900 towards a school club and the Thursday minors/cadets coaching sessions. There was a short discussion about our monetary reserves which will be carried forward to the next meeting.

It was also agreed to continue the club at Monifieth (which is in the Angus Council area). The school and parents are very keen on the club and Paul believed they may yet permit us to make charges or at least seek donations to help fund our costs. Paul agreed to follow this up and keep the committee informed on the outcome.

Paul concluded this item with a short oral report on other coaching activity and forthcoming competitions and junior league dates for the youngsters.

## **5 AOB**

Elaine explained that she had sanctioned the application of the 'first-time' affiliation fee for anyone who had not played in the league for over 10 years (e.g. Brechin). The committee agreed that this was a reasonable approach and that we would now apply this going forward.

There was a discussion about trophies and medals. It had been suggested that runners up medals could be dispensed with for adults' competitions to save money. Stuart Halliday was asked to liaise with Trident Trophies to see what difference this would make. There were differing views about whether it was necessary to spend money on runners up medals.

Sandy said that the defibrillator acquired by WRG would very soon be mounted in a cabinet on the wall in the downstairs area.

Sandy also mentioned that former members, Davie Johnston and Bill Brougham had recently passed away. An obituary is already on the website in tribute to Davie. Dave B said he would add Bill's notice if someone gave him the details.

Finally, Sandy reminded everyone about the disabled TT sessions that take place at WRG under Jim Houghton's leadership and the forthcoming Discovery Games. Jim may be looking for volunteer umpires and Dave B said he would contact him about putting an appeal on the website.

## **18 Next meeting**

Provisionally agreed for 7pm on Friday 4 November 2016 at WRG.