

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

Minutes of the Management Committee (MC) meeting held at 7:00pm in Ward Road Gym, Dundee on 17 March 2017

Present: Trustees: Elaine Forbes (Chair), David Sim (Vice Chair), Dave Beveridge (Treasurer), Stuart Halliday (Trophy Convenor), Paul McCabe (Coaching Convenor), Arthur Pritchard, Sandy Elrick.

1 Welcome and apologies

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were submitted by Kenny Stewart, Miriam Rennet, Andy Hughes and Chris Riddoch.

2 Management Committee 5.1.17

The minutes of 5.1.17 were approved. Elaine had circulated a short update on some of the matters discussed at that meeting.

Matters arising

Our national league team is currently 5th in the table. Two more fixtures are due to be played on 1 April.

The Special Needs group session has been suspended due to lack of numbers. We may re-visit this later in the year.

We have been able to register nine teams for the inter-league. Shirts have been acquired and printed and player contributions have all been collected.

The SGM held in February resulted in the constitution being tidied up in terms of wording and definitions but the first proposal to introduce a one member/one vote system was heavily defeated.

Another SportDundee 'come and try' date has yet to be set. The next SportDundee meeting is on 26th April. John Thain was shortlisted for the 'volunteer of the year' but did not win.

3 Tournament report

The three recent tournament days (lower division closed, all division closed and juniors) were a huge success. Numbers were more than double last year and the competition across all events was keen.

Stuart reported that the Division 1 title trophy was in a state of disrepair. In the first instance it was agreed that we should enquire about the possibility and cost of a repair.

Action point: Stuart to investigate cost of repair to trophy.

4 Treasurer's report

Dave reported that OSCR had rejected the 2016 examined accounts, mainly because they considered that the opening balances should have been presented as income, donations. The accounts have been re-drafted and re-examined by Stewart Clark. These were approved by the meeting.

Action point: Dave to re-submit the accounts and annual return to OSCR.

The bank balance on 8.3.17 was £15,203, down from £16,925 on 1.1.17. Dave explained that this was to be expected at this time of year when we have expenses for inter-league and Ward Road Gym lets, but no affiliation income.

The John Skelly Memorial Fund has been set up with the £500 donation from John's funeral collection. This is a restricted donation to be used to help disadvantaged youngsters participate in table tennis. The committee ratified the purchase of a DDTA shirt for one of the minors and the use of the fund to pay for her attendance at the development squad evenings.

Paul had requested further discussion about the charity's reserves policy. He felt that we were holding too much in reserve and that running the balance down could provide funds, for example, for 'one to one' coaching for the most promising youngsters. Dave reminded Paul to declare a personal interest in this. Following discussion it was agreed that the policy was sufficiently flexible to accommodate this sort of project, if desired and approved. It was also noted that the 2017 budget anticipates a £1520 deficit as it already stands.

5 Coaching report

Paul provide an oral report on the attendance numbers and progress with all the coached and practice sessions. Specific points to note included:

- Monifieth HS have finally agreed that we can charge £2/session after the Easter break. The school is also planning on acquiring some new equipment
- Baldragon numbers are over 20/session on occasions but bad behaviour is an issue. Paul was grateful for the assistance of Ken Head and Andy Hughes
- Ward Road sessions are getting busy which is impacting on adult practice. It was agreed to carry forward a discussion about potentially extending Thursday evenings by another hour
- Wednesday's active and healthy session remains highly popular. It was agreed to canvass attendees about a possible short break

- an individual competition is planned for those who only play in the junior league and a handicapped event for juniors may be organised in May. These will take place on evenings for which lets have already been taken.

A discussion about an outdoor promotional event in the City Square was deferred to AOB.

Action point: Arthur/David to report back on the possibility of a break for the active and healthy session attendees.

6 Match secretary's report

In Andy's absence there was a short discussion about a few of the issues that had arisen since the last meeting including the use of an unregistered player, a request to 'unravel' a fifth play up which had taken place inadvertently and one or two very late player and fixture call offs. Overall though, it was felt that matters were under control and Andy's efforts as match secretary were commended.

7 Proposal for league reconstruction

David Monteith (Telecoms TTC) had submitted a detailed proposal for league reconstruction involving a mid season split of the leagues and the second half being played with the first half's points carried forward. As current and former match secretaries, Dave and Andy had expressed significant reservations about our capacity to introduce such a system, both in terms of software development and the time that would require to be spent on it over the festive break.

There were doubts about whether the wider membership would support the changes anyway, but it gives the committee a dilemma over how to take this forward. The question that was put was whether it made sense to present this as a concrete proposal to be voted on if the committee was incapable of implementing it.

Action point: It was agreed that Elaine should write in the first instance to DM setting out the practical difficulties.

8 Presentation evening

A number of options were discussed about where and what to hold for our 2017 presentation of prizes. Subject to David enquiring about the availability of Forthill it was provisionally agreed to hold the presentation of prizes on the same night as the AGM (27 April 2017). The intention would be to do the presentation from 7pm to be followed by the AGM. The bar would be open but it was not proposed to provide catering. This decision was based partly on the volume of work that the committee is currently coping with and it was felt that organising yet another event on another evening was beyond us at the current time.

Action point: David to enquire about Forthill for the presentation of prizes.

9 AOB

TTS

There was a short discussion about Richard Yule's (COO, TTS) helpful presentation recently delivered to some of the committee members on a Wednesday afternoon at Ward Road. It was agreed that we should consider encouraging clubs to affiliate to TTS as this can have an impact on the funds made available by government agencies. Elaine reported that since the meeting TTS had secured the necessary funds to secure the job(s) of the key staff based in Caledonia House.

Awards

Decisions were made about this year's Murray Cormack and Sponsor's awards. [Names withheld until presentation].

Forthcoming competitions

The various cup competitions that are due to be held over the next few weeks were identified.

Action point: Dave to issue invitations immediately for the Gillis and Handicap Cups using TT365 webmail.

City Square promotional event

Paul reported that he had recently contacted Dundee City Council (DCC), about staging an outdoor event in the City Square during the summer. Council officials had reacted positively and clearly gained the impression that a booking would be imminent. Elaine took issue with Paul for going ahead on his own to contact DCC. It was explained that there are many issues around safety, insurance, risk assessments etc. that need to be considered when planning such an event and, as trustees of a charity, we should also be mindful of our potential personal liability.

Elaine also expressed her displeasure and disappointment that Paul had not only breached committee etiquette by going ahead on his own, especially two days before a scheduled MC meeting but, when contacting DCC, he had repeatedly drawn in the DDTTA 'brand' when Elaine had e-mailed him on 5/2/17 to expressly request that he '*not use the DDTTA signature on any e-mails unless these are on pre-approved DDTTA business.*' Paul had agreed to this at a meeting with Elaine on 8th February.

Paul assured the committee that this was a Mylnefield initiative and it had simply been a mistake to refer to DDTTA and to sign it off under the DDTTA 'logo'. He said had used the DDTTA references to make the request 'look better'. He admitted he had acted on impulse. He apologised for making it look like this was a DDTTA event and assured the committee that this would not happen again.

Action point: Elaine to contact DCC to explain that this event is not supported by DDTA.

Paul's position as trustee

Unrelated to the foregoing, there was a discussion about Paul's position as both a trustee and as a paid contractor of coaching services. Paul received over £6,000 in the accounting period to 31 December 2016. A significant amount of what is discussed and voted on in committee concerns Paul personally and it was felt advisable to review his role as a trustee.

It was agreed that Paul should cease to be a trustee from this meeting onwards but that he should remain on the committee as coaching convenor in an advisory, non-voting, capacity. It was accepted that this may not be provided for in the constitution but it was agreed that we cannot re-write the constitution to expressly provide for every individual circumstance that arises. Paul accepted the decision with some reluctance as he wanted to be seen as an equal. However, Paul is the only committee member who receives payment for his services. The rest of the committee and other volunteers provide their services free and it is arguably they, more than Paul, who are not equals.

Forthill SC open day

Out of courtesy, David drew attention to the forthcoming Forthill SC Open Day.

10 Next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on 27 April (7pm, provisionally at Forthill SC).

Action point: Elaine and Dave to organise the papers and notices for the AGM.