

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

Minutes of the Management Committee (MC) meeting held at 6:30pm in Forthill Sport Club on 5 January 2017

Present: Trustees: Elaine Forbes (Chair), David Sim (Vice Chair), Dave Beveridge (Treasurer), Andy Hughes (Match Sec), Stuart Halliday (Trophy Convenor), Paul McCabe (Coaching Convenor), Miriam Rennet (CPO).

1 Welcome and apologies

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were submitted by Arthur Pritchard and Sandy Elrick.

Elaine drew attention to Jack Cockin's sad passing and to the fitting obituary that Knut Radmer had provided for the website.

She also thanked everyone who had been involved in organising the highly successful exhibition event at Ward Road on 28 December.

2 Management Committee 4.11.16

The minutes of 4.11.16 were approved.

Matters arising

Derek Johnston is making good progress with transferring our website to a new domain and host server.

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

The memory stick containing the handbook files has been recovered.

£250 has been awarded by SportDundee for the Special Needs group session. This restarts on 11 January for a further three trial weeks.

Shirts have been bought and printed for the development squad at a cost of c£20/shirt. Most have now been collected and payment of £10/shirt collected. The youngsters have been told that good sporting behaviour is expected.

Elaine sent Lairds a message about their no-show v Truants and an apology was received. They are alert to preventing this in future.

ClubDundee accreditation was finally obtained on 30 November 2016. Dave B has asked Derek Johnston to add the logo to our home page.

The full names of participants at practice sessions etc are now being recorded on attendance sheets (for membership/insurance purposes).

The use of the TT365 email database to send reminders etc. seemed to help the cup semis and finals on 10.12.16 get played with a full complement of teams/players, even if two players 'doubled up' for the day. We will continue to make use of this resource.

3 Finance report

Dave B presented the draft annual report and accounts for 10.9.15 to 31.12.16. We made a surplus of £834 and cash and bank balances at the year end were £16,955. Gregor Murray is not now able to be involved in the independent examination but Stewart Clark has kindly agreed to do the job alone. These key figures will not change but Dave was given approval to make presentational changes and to update debtor/creditor amounts if he felt this was advisable before submitting the accounts for examination.

Action point: Dave B to arrange the independent examination of the accounts around the start of February.

A budget for 2017 was also presented and approved. This shows a likely deficit of £1520 which is acceptable in the light of the balances held. Our reserves policy remains at 12 months expenditure for now, although Dave B, Paul and Miriam feel this is too high. This will be kept under review.

4 Match secretary's report

Andy reported that the league fixtures and cup competitions were running very well for the most part. There have been no claims since the last meeting, few player shortages and the handicaps for R1 of the handicap cup have been mostly well received. Postponements are also under control.

Late scorecards remain an issue in a small number of cases. Telsports are improving but Star have been very late with two scorecards, both on occasions when Iain Martin has not been on the team and requiring huge effort to chase up. It was agreed that some action should be taken if this happens again this season.

After some debate it was agreed that when a player has been promoted/locked up to a higher ranked team (on fifth play up) the results of those play up matches should be included in the subsequent calculation of the player's average for the higher ranked team.

5 Coaching

Paul's coaching report was relatively brief since there has not been much activity over the last month or so. Paul has still to resolve with Monifieth HS whether they will permit us to charge participants. The Community TT sessions on Wednesday mornings continue to attract good attendances with 17 turning up this week for the first session of 2017. Paul explained when the various other sessions would re-start.

Action point: Paul to resolve the charging issue at Monifieth asap.

Coach's remuneration

Paul McCabe declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion or approval.

The finance sub-committee's recommendations of 4.1.17 about Paul's remuneration review were explained and approved.

Action point: Dave B to write to Paul with amendments to his session rates.

At this stage, the minutes, other decisions and recommendations of the sub committee of 4.1.17 were approved/ratified, as appropriate.

6 Interleague

This is due to be held on 25/26 March in Perth. A circular email will be sent in the first instance to seek interest in playing in one of the interleague teams. Paul envisaged 10 teams in total although this remains to be finalised, depending on interest. The circular will explain that DDTTA will meet the costs of entry fees (£50/team) and provide one team shirt per player. Players will be asked to make a £25 contribution (last year £50) and to meet the cost of any additional shirt, if they want more than one. It was felt that shirts could easily be laundered overnight. It will be explained that interleague players will be expected to support the closed championships and that £25 contributions must be paid in advance of the event and receipt of team shirts.

It was also agreed that:

- the same circular be used to seek interest in undertaking a UKCC Level 1 coaching qualification to provide support for Paul
- we should review the date of the 2017/18 closed championships, if possible, so that these can be used as a selection event for the interleague teams.

Action point: Elaine and Dave B will liaise over the issue of the aforementioned circular.

7 Tournaments and trophies

Stuart confirmed that arrangements were in hand to recover trophies for forthcoming tournaments. An email has already been circulated to the Excelsior semi-finalists drawing attention to the dates of the semis and final.

An email circular will be issued nearer the time about the lower division closed event which is coming up on 25 February.

8 Constitution

Miriam and Dave B have produced three variations on changes to the constitution, although it was agreed that this be shortlisted further to just two:

- (A) the status quo (team voting structure) but revised to rectify the anomalies highlighted by Graeme Wood at the last AGM
- (B) a version aimed at re-visiting scope for a 'one member, one vote' system, again written so that it is constitutionally correct, and permitting voting by post and proxy. It was also agreed that this version should remove votes for honorary members.

Both revised versions also take the opportunity to re-define our membership categories and notice periods, where appropriate.

An SGM will be convened for 10 February at Ward Road so that these alternatives can be voted on (under the current voting system). After much debate it was felt that the best approach would be to propose option (B) first. If (B) does not achieve the necessary 2/3 of votes, option (A) will be voted on. If neither option is approved we will have to continue to operate with the current constitution, whatever its faults. However, it was agreed that it would be beyond logic for the members not to vote in favour of one of these, given the state of the current constitution.

Action points: Dave B to organise obtaining the necessary 15 signatures to call an SGM and to initially issue notice of the meeting around 16 January.

Miriam and Dave to finalise the two options for distribution to members around 22 January.

9 AOB

- Elaine said that Awards for All had approved that SportDundee's residual grant funds could be used for another 'come and try' event to be held before 13 June.
- Elaine proposed to nominate John Thain and David Sim for the forthcoming SportDundee awards ceremony. There was unanimous support for this. David is to confirm if he would be willing to be nominated.
- The next SportDundee meeting is on 1 February.
- Forthill seems the most likely venue for the 2017 AGM.
- There was a brief discussion about considering our options for the 2016/17 presentation night. To be continued...

10 Next meeting

7pm Friday 17 March at Ward Road.