

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(registered charity in Scotland no. SC045977)

2020 AGM

NOTICE

As advised on 18 March 2020, in view of the exceptional circumstances created by the Covid-19 crisis, there will be no 'physical' 2020 annual general meeting of the Association. All necessary business is instead being conducted remotely by email.

NECESSARY CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS

New arrangements approved by the management committee during 2019 meant that it was always intended that business decisions required by our constitution (such as the election of trustees/committee members, setting of affiliation fees etc.) would be voted on in advance, with the results announced on the evening of the AGM. Voting has now taken place and this year the 'agenda' papers record the outcomes. All proposals were passed without opposition.

OFFICE BEARERS' REPORTS

The 'agenda' and office bearers' reports follow. Questions on any of these papers should be sent in the first instance to treasurer@ddtta.co.uk not later than 30 April. Responses will be coordinated from the relevant office-bearers and a list of questions and answers circulated as soon as possible.

2020 AGM - 'AGENDA'

1 Minutes of the 2019 AGM – download or view at ddtta.co.uk>News>Minutes and Accounts. These have been available since shortly after last year's meeting with no feedback received. Anyone who considers that these require amendment should inform treasurer@ddtta.co.uk not later than 30 April 2020. Otherwise they will be deemed to be approved. **[Update 30.4.20 - no amendments suggested]**

2 Reports by:

- Chairperson (Appendix 1)
- Match secretary (Appendix 2)
- Treasurer (Appendix 3)
- Coaching Convener (Appendix 4).

Questions on any of these reports should be submitted, in the first instance, to treasurer@ddtta.co.uk again not later than 30 April. Responses will be sought from the report authors and a record of the questions and answers will be circulated as soon as possible. **[Update 30.4.20 – no questions received]**

3 Affiliation fees – result of prior voting on proposal to retain all affiliation fees at 2019/20 levels **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**

4 Office-bearers' honoraria – result of prior voting on proposal to pay office bearers an honorarium of £120 **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**

5 Elections

(a) Hon Presidents and Vice-Presidents – any member aware of any amendments that should be made to the names listed in the handbook should notify treasurer@ddtta.co.uk not later than 30 April. **[Update 30.4.20 – no suggested amendments received]**

(b) Results of prior voting on proposals to elect the following Trustees/office-bearers:

- Chair (Arthur Pritchard) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Vice Chair (David Sim) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Hon Secretary (Elaine Forbes) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Treasurer (David Beveridge) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Match Secretary (Andrew Hughes) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**

- Stuart Halliday (Trophy Convener) **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Callum Riddoch **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Emma Bissett **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**
- Juliet Johnston **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**

(c) Result of prior voting on proposal to re-elect Owen Smith as independent examiner. **[FOR 28; AGAINST 0]**

No nominations were received for coaching convener or for the other vacancies on the committee. The Management Committee may seek to fill these positions under its powers to co-opt.

6 Covid-19 - resuming play - a sub-committee comprising the five office-bearers will discuss the implications of the coronavirus restrictions for the completion of season 2019/20 and our plans for season 2020/21 after 8 May, when the UK government is due again to review the current lockdown restrictions. This will include considering the options for deciding on final 2019/20 league positions if it is decided that the outstanding league fixtures cannot be played. The sub-committee will thereafter seek the approval of the full MC for its proposals and inform the membership further.

7 Date of 2021 AGM - provisionally, 22 April 2021.

Report from the Chair – March 2020

Writing this report under current strange circumstances, it inevitably takes a different shape from the notes jotted down at the start of the month. There have been many good aspects of the incomplete season 2019/20 to look back on; some great team battles throughout the three divisions and cups, alongside sportingly competitive individual performances at our three 'Closed' tournaments. Outside the district, there have also been successes to cheer; team performances in the National League and individual tournament results, highlighted by international recognition for John Hannah and Scottish Schools international qualification achieved by our three leading dedicated juniors. Callum Riddoch's potential as a leading coach was also recognised by TTS.

Social table tennis, particularly for the over 50s, continues its upward surge. Satellite sessions in village and church halls are sprouting up around the core groups at Forthill, St Andrews and WRG.

Over the year, DDTTA has enjoyed financial support from TTS, SportDundee and CJ Lang's 'SPAR Centenary Giveaway.' We received excellent publicity in both the Courier and Evening Telegraph and our major suppliers, Thorntons Table Tennis, Tayprint and Trident Trophies, have provided exceptional service.

In the autumn, we were deeply saddened by the death of Sandy Elrick to whom every player in Dundee owes so much. Still coming to terms with Sandy's passing, we were sent reeling by the news of Dave Axton's death. With a well-attended commemorative event in December, hopefully we sent out the message to Sandy's and Dave's families and friends that they will always be remembered in table tennis circles.

This is my last Report from the Chair. It has been an honour to hold the custodianship of this role for four seasons and to work with an amazing team of MC members and 'outwith committee' volunteers. Our aim has been to ensure the best possible experience for all players in the area; not always an easy task given the range of ages, standards and expectations, but we have always given everything our best shot.

I thank everyone in this team for their outstanding input and support but, in particular, must make mention of the endless work which Dave Beveridge does behind the scenes. These are mostly the thankless tasks which must be done to ensure that DDTTA complies with the rigorous standards set by the Charities Regulator for Scotland and with the requirements of being an association affiliated to a national governing body. We are lucky to have Dave's professional expertise coupled with his enthusiasm.

The great spirit which exists throughout table tennis in Dundee and District will be invaluable when we regroup as we come out of the current crisis. I look forward to seeing you all when we emerge.

Elaine Forbes
Chair.

DDTTA - Match Secretary's report – 2019/2020

1 Introduction

This is my fourth report as Match Secretary. Thanks to everyone, especially my fellow committee members, for their help and support throughout the season. Extended information on leagues/averages etc. is available at <http://www.ddtta.co.uk> .

2 League and Cup Competitions

All competitions were suspended on 19th March 2020 due to Covid-19 coronavirus guidelines issued by TTS on that date. The information below is based on standings etc. at the time of the TTS suspension.

2.1 Division 1

The Division 1 title race was very exciting and close. Knights were on top with 129 points from 17 fixtures played; Viscounts were second with 127 points from 15 fixtures played and Aces were third with 126 points from 16 fixtures played. All the sides had played each other and the remaining fixtures for all three teams were against sides that they had heavily defeated in the first half of the season. So the likelihood is that Viscounts will finish top with Aces second if and when the season is resumed.

The relegation spots are already decided with Prefects and Defenders now unable to catch the teams above them. John Hannah of Viscounts is still undefeated this season and, having no more matches to play against the top players, it is likely that John would have remained unbeaten.

2.2 Division 2

The Division 2 title race was even closer than the first Division in respect that, at the time of the suspension of play, more than half the Division could arithmetically still win the title. Barons were on top with 94 points from 14 fixtures played and fixtures at home to sixth placed Swots and away to third placed Lundin Lasers left to play. Telstars are in second place on 90 points but only have one fixture left away to seventh placed New Kids. Third place Lundin Lasers have 85 points from 14 fixtures and still have fixtures away to fifth placed Truants and at home to leaders Barons. Comets are in fourth place with 77 points from 14 fixtures and still have to visit Truants and eighth placed Tigers. Truants have the lowest points total of 73 but still have three fixtures left at home to Lundin Lasers and Comets and away to bottom side Tass. Barons will be strong favorites to take the title if play is resumed with Telstars in a strong position with points on the board and a winnable last fixture. It is likely that Lundin, Truants and Comets will all take points off of each other, but only time will tell what the final positions are.

At the bottom Tass will finish in one of the relegation spots as they cannot now catch third bottom New Kids. Swots have 65 points with only a fixture left at Barons to play; New Kids have 62 points with a home fixture against Telstars to come and Tigers are on 55 points but have fixtures at home to Tass and away to Comets still to come. Swots and to a lesser

extent New Kids have points on the board, but Tigers still have the chance to catch one or both of their rivals, again only time will tell the outcome. Justus Ludwig is the clear leader of the Division two averages on 96% and it is likely he would remain top.

2.3 Division 3

The Division 3 title race was dominated by Sputniks for the majority of the season. Sputniks were on 118 points with a single fixture against Duffers still to be played. Buccaneers were on 107 points with fixtures against sixth placed Lairds and fifth placed Duffers left. Kingsway were in third place on 90 points and have fixtures left against Lairds and seventh placed Squires to play. The most likely outcome is that Sputniks would take the title with Buccaneers comfortably finishing in second place, but again this not definite by any means. The two leading players in the division three averages are Aaron Robertson of Buccaneers on 94.9% and Euan Steel of Sputniks on 94.4%. Being this close either player could finish with the highest average.

2.4 Cup Competitions

I think the cup competitions were again well supported this season. Viscounts were the dominant force, winning both the Excelsior Cup and the Chairman's Challenge Trophy against Aces, and they were favorites to add the Stanley Doubles Cup in the final against either Knights or Up4it. The handicap cup final is still outstanding but both of the finalists, Duffers and Knights, have had dominant victories throughout the competition on their way to the final. Barons won the secondary Shield against Telstars, and Tass overcame Sputniks to win the consolation cup. There were no Claim-A situations in the cups this season and only three Claim-B concessions; two in the Stanley Doubles and one in the Handicap Cup. All three concessions were by away teams with significant travel involved to fulfill the tie.

3 Other Issues

3.1 Submission of scorecards

E-Scorecards were mostly submitted on time (i.e. within 24 hours) during the season. Thanks to all for doing this timely as it helps a lot. However, throughout the season I have had to chase up one or more cards that were still not input beyond the 24 hour limit that is written into our rules. Several times the issue seemed to be that the team secretary was not involved in the fixture and the card was taken by someone who does not usually take the card. Can I please ask all team secretaries to make all persons taking cards to be input aware of the rules regarding card input. If for some reason a team is not able to input a card within the limit set in our rules I am happy to be sent a scan or photo of the card and then input the card myself. Previously I have helped players over the phone who were having difficulty entering a scorecard.

3.2 Postponements (league only)

There were 27 postponements (27 last year and 44 the year before), although two of the postponements were due to clashes with cup matches which took precedence. Seven postponements were in Division one, eleven in two and nine in three. This is a similar situation to last season; however, teams should always try to play their fixtures as scheduled as it is better for the leagues if all fixtures are played on time. There were fourteen different

teams who postponed matches this season so it is still an issue across the board, although I do not think it is a problem that requires attention as no-one seems to be abusing the rule.

3.3 Claim A Occurrences (no shows)

There were zero Claim A situations in the leagues this season (zero last year, two the year before). Any 'no show' is deemed very bad by the committee and it was very good to remain at the 'zero Claim A' status.

3.4 Claim B Occurrences (concessions)

There were three Claim B situations in the leagues this season (one last year and nine the year before). There was one from each Division and these concessions were unlikely to have any great effect on promotion and relegation places. The low number is welcome as it is better that all fixtures are played.

3.5 Player Shortages

There were 11 league fixtures that took place where one of the teams had only two players (18 last season and 29 the season before). This is another significant reduction and is very welcome. Clubs/teams should still be encouraged to try to get three players available for all fixtures in future seasons as in an ideal world this number should be down at zero.

4 Conclusion

I think on the whole it was a good season with the leagues and cup competitions being very competitive and interesting throughout. It was a shame that play was suspended with several outcomes on the verge of being decided, but the circumstances of the suspension were unprecedented and could not have been foreseen.

Well done to everyone for their dedication to our leagues and I hope that we can all get back to playing again soon.

Andy Hughes

Match secretary

Report by treasurer – year ended 31 December 2019

Overview

The examined report and accounts for 2019 is available on the website at News>Minutes and Accounts. These are presented for information. They have been given a clean report by our independent examiner, Owen Smith, who I thank for his services. The accounts and our annual charity return were submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on 18 March 2020. Please send any questions on the accounts or this report to treasurer@ddtta.co.uk not later than 30 April 2020.

Outturn and financial position

We made a cash surplus of £1,191 in 2019 and had £21,590 in cash and bank balances at the year end. Our reserves exceed our formal policy. The MC has considered our balances but feels that it would be imprudent to **plan** to defray reserves. Assuming the nominated trustees are re-appointed our aim, in due course, is to pass on a healthy financial position to the next leadership.

Whether by design or good fortune, we are in a position where our finances are both sound and stable, without relying heavily on grants. This is due mainly to the healthy numbers turning out at the community 'active and healthy' TT sessions held on Wednesday and Friday mornings. These sessions generate considerable income and are inexpensive to run, due to the significant involvement of a number of volunteers, to whom we are very grateful.

While it is clear that the net surplus budgeted for WRG sessions in 2020 will be adversely affected by the Covid-19 shutdown, the final impact will be readily met from our reserves.

Affiliation fees/WRG session charges/tournament fees

The MC proposes no change in affiliation fees for 2020/21. The current levels have been maintained since 2013/14. There is also no intention to increase door charges at WRG. We will review whether we can abolish entry fees for the 2020/21 closed championships once we are back playing table tennis.

Conclusion

I was elected Treasurer in 2016. The MC regularly reviews our financial position and ensures that the charity is fit for purpose in other respects, given our legal responsibilities.

I will be pleased to hold office for another year, if re-elected.

David Beveridge
Treasurer

Coaching Convener's Report 2019-20

This has been an 'interesting' year for the Dundee & District coaching programme. Last summer our District Coach, Paul McCabe, moved on as his family responsibilities and a new job at HMRC left insufficient time to continue his extensive efforts to promote and advance TT in the area. Paul has done a sterling job over the last few years, and I must admit that I hadn't realised quite how much he did until it ended. Many thanks, Paul.

Callum Riddoch stepped up to take over as our main coach, backed up by John Hannah and Grant Williams. Callum introduced a new format for Thursday night coaching with time slots concentrating on each of beginner, intermediate and advanced level players. Callum also opened up Thursdays for league players for extra practice and coaching tips. After a slow start, numbers built up to regular attendances in double figures – until the virus messed everything up. Callum's contributions as a coach have been recognised by TTS, who selected him to attend the ITTF/ETTU Annual Coaching Conference in London in October – a great honour.

Forthill have maintained their core of upcoming juniors, being brought on by Grant Williams.

There are also a number of school clubs across the region, providing opportunities for local kids to try TT. There are regular extra-curricular clubs at Dundee HS and Arbroath HS, and David Hay has taken on the club at Monifieth High. However, we had to close the Baldragon HS lunchtime TT club as no-one was available to run the sessions.

If we are to continue attracting new players once life returns to normal, the best source continues to be the schools. For this, we need enthusiastic TT players who are available during the day – usually at lunchtime or after School. Formal qualifications may not be essential, although PVG certification is required. Many schools are happy to provide facilities if they have volunteer manpower. So if you have the spare time, please think about it.

Looking forward, we don't know what Callum or John's availability will be next year, and the virus situation means that we may not know for a while yet. Right now, it's a matter of wait and hope.

Many thanks to Callum, John, Grant, Emma Bissett and all the other volunteers who give their time and energy to help others improve their game.

Juliet Johnston

Coach Convener

coaching@ddtta.co.uk

April 2020