

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held in WRG at 7pm on Friday 15 November 2019

Present: Trustees: Elaine Forbes, Chair; Dave Beveridge, Treasurer; Andy Hughes, Match Secretary; Juliet Johnston, Coaching Convener; Arthur Pritchard, Safeguarding Officer; Stuart Halliday, Trophy Convener; Callum Riddoch; Emma Bissett.

1 Welcome and apologies

Elaine welcomed those present. Apologies were received from David Sim and Mark Lundberg. Elaine reflected that in the period since the last meeting both Sandy Elrick and, more suddenly, David Axton had passed away.

2 Minutes of MC on 19/8/19 and matters arising

The minutes were approved.

Jim Houghton was recently presented with his TTS life membership at Ward Road by Stewart McGowan.

Elaine is currently planning the 'lunchtime workers' TT project which will be held on Wednesdays after the community TT session and she is arranging to submit a grant application to SportDundee to cover the costs of the extended let.

SNL player contributions were set at £3/fixture played, which will cover 50% of the entry fees.

2 Treasurer's update

Dave had circulated a copy of a receipts and payments account for the period 1.1.19 to 31.10.19, annotated with explanations for the main variances from 2018 figures. There were no questions. In the year to date we have generated a small cash surplus of £472 which is expected to increase between now and the end of the year. There was a short discussion about 20/21 affiliation fee levels but a decision was deferred at least until the first meeting in the new year.

Action point: Dave to present the final 2019 accounts and a budget for 2020 at the next meeting.

Dave requested and was given approval to transfer up to £4,000 to our Virgin interest bearing deposit account.

There was a discussion and much debate about Guthrie Park's retrospective request for similar funding to the Dundee teams for their independent entry in the SNL. It was agreed that we would pay this but any such funding assistance will only be provided in future for teams selected by the MC and playing as a DDTA team.

Action point: Elaine to inform Guthrie Park TTC about the decision in appropriate terms. Dave to arrange payment.
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3 Match secretary's update

Andy reported that he was generally pleased with how the cups and leagues are progressing. There have been no concessions in the cups and all are on schedule.

There have quite a number of postponements in the league but the quiet period up to the end of the year is an opportunity for teams to catch up and the situation is under control. There have been no claims and very few team shortages.

Division 1 has three teams likely to be in contention for the title but Division 2 is the most competitive with 5 teams already having been in the top spot and little to choose between most of the teams in the division.

4 Coaching

Juliet circulated a written update summarising the current coaching provision at Ward Road. Thursday is now the only regular coaching night and covers beginners, intermediate and advanced players. It was agreed that a family of three attending on a Thursday night would only pay for two.

With Paul having taken up full-time employment, Callum is now the regular coach.

Baldragon school club has been discontinued and Monifieth is now being run by David Hay.

The Arbroath school club continues to be led by Arthur.

Arthur passed on information about a new project with Plebeians providing daytime coaching for Forthill Primary pupils.

Juliet was warmly thanked for donating a large supply of 3* balls to be used exclusively for multi-ball training.

Our three leading juniors did extremely well recently at the Preston Grand Prix. Juliet also highlighted recent DDTTA development sessions and those coming up in the near future, as well as Callum's attendance at the ITTF coaches conference in London.

5 Trophies

Stuart has it in hand to acquire the medals for 'Cup Super-Saturday' and other upcoming cup competitions. He agreed to prompt Trident about payment of their 2019/20 handbook advert.

6 Memorial for Sandy Elrick and David Axton

A one-off 'Halliday style' tournament is to be held on Monday 16th December at WRG. This will be open to all members at no charge and it was agreed to meet the cost of food and refreshments to be served upstairs after the event.

Thoughts on how to preserve the memory of Sandy and David in the longer term were deferred until we can establish what friends and families may have planned. Emma offered to establish what David's BT work community intended to contribute as this was not entirely clear from their communication. In general, it was felt that we already have a full calendar and that permanent memorials may need to involve adding these members' names to existing competitions.

7 DCI and development plan

Arthur summarised his thoughts on the merits of proceeding with the intended DCI bid and possible alternatives. In short, the workload involved in applying for and managing a DCI bid was simply considered too onerous. There were also risks at various stages of the process, including the project roll out, that could readily jeopardise the project's success.

Arthur highlighted that, outwith DDTTA's immediate direction, youth TT is currently promoted at Arbroath HS, Forthill PS and Monifieth HS. Arthur is also preparing to be involved in promoting TT on Friday nights in Carnoustie.

For the time being, therefore, it was agreed that DDTA should suspend the DCI bid and instead provide more support to these four venues with the aim of increasing TT participation and encouraging players to develop their TT skills and involvement at Ward Road.

The committee thanked Arthur for his efforts and concluded that, despite the final outcome, we have learned much from going through this exercise.

Action point: Arthur to advise TTS of the committee's decision about DCI.

8 AOB

Juliet suggested (and it was agreed) that the community TT model of providing refreshments mid-session be trialed on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Action point: Juliet to organise. Elaine will ensure more supplies are purchased to service these extra sessions.

It was agreed that Derek Johnston should offer 34SP.COM (our free website hosts) a free advert in the 2020/21 handbook.

A number of issues around the current website were noted by Juliet for update or correction.

Dave highlighted that all trustees, including office-bearers, would soon need to decide if they intended to stand for re-election next year as there will be more involved in organising nominations and elections following the approval of our new procedures. There are also three committee vacancies that could be filled.

Action point: All current trustees to firm up on their intentions by the next MC meeting.

9 Next meeting

7pm in WRG on 10 January 2020.