

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held in Forthill SC at 7:00 pm on 3 January 2019

Present: Trustees: Elaine Forbes, Chair; David Sim (David), Vice Chair;
Dave Beveridge (Dave), Treasurer; Juliet Johnston, Coaching Convener; Miriam Rennet, CPO;
Arthur Pritchard; Sandy Elrick; Callum Riddoch.

1 Welcome and apologies

Elaine welcomed those present and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Apologies were received from Stuart Halliday, Andy Hughes, Mark Lundberg and Paul McCabe.

2 Minutes of MC of 3/9/18 and Sub-Committee of 7/11/18.

Having previously been circulated for comment, these were approved. Any matters arising are covered below.

3 Treasurer's report

Dave had circulated the report attached at Appendix 1 prior to the meeting. The contents were welcomed and the recommendations about an equipment grant scheme and affiliation fee increase for season 2019/20 were approved.

<p>Action points: Dave to progress the equipment grant scheme immediately and to present the 2018 final accounts and trustees report to the next meeting.</p>
--

4 Match secretary's report

(1) Andy Hughes was absent but had circulated a report prior to the meeting. In the main, the league and cups have run smoothly so far this season with a lot of tight contests and outcomes. Most of the negative outcomes (such as claims, postponements and player shortages) are better than last season although team secretaries are still poor at keeping Andy up to date about postponements.

Andy had, however, noted in his report that Villa, who declined promotion to Division 1, were dominating Division 2 again this season and had already won the Secondary Shield, albeit in a very closely fought competition. Dave, in particular was concerned that the Villa players might also dominate the lower division closed championships and felt, overall, that the issue of declining promotion needed to be looked at carefully as it can be unfair on the other players in the lower divisions. It was accepted that the committee had approved Villa to play in Division 2 and that these circumstances can never be entirely foreseen. After much debate, and a review of the registration challenges that we faced at the start of the season, it was agreed that:

- we should seek a rule change at the AGM to require team and player registrations to be submitted at the same time by a revised date of **15 August**. This is a month later for team registrations but means that clubs will need to register players 2 weeks sooner than before
- we should review the current Rules to make it clear that **teams** (not players) must be ranked in order of their overall strength and consider how to prevent teams from regularly declining promotion, perhaps by clarifying that the MC has the final say in regard to any debate over team rankings and the Division in which a team will play

- if necessary, we should consider if a promoted a team or players who decline to play in Division 1 should be excluded from the lower division closed championships or the Secondary Shield.

Action point: All MC members to consider before the next meeting how best to amend the current Rules to achieve these aims.

(2) David explained that Missiles had lost a player and were struggling to field teams. It was agreed that Jim Fleming should be transferred to Missiles for the rest of the season.

(3) Derek Mitchell had applied to be demoted to Buccaneers due to ongoing injury problems. This was also approved.

Action point: Elaine to ask Andy to action these transfers.

(4) Aces and Knights to be asked to play their outstanding league fixture by end of January in fairness to the other teams in contention for the Division 1 title.

Action point: Elaine to contact Grant and Stuart.

(5) Elaine briefly mentioned that several behavioural issues had had to be dealt with prior to the end of the calendar year. The MC hopes that the reminder about appropriate conduct and rule clarifications that was issued by circular email a few weeks ago will resolve this. Elaine also asked committee members to try and resolve these with a 'quiet word' at the time of any such issue in the hope of extinguishing the problem before it results in a more formal complaint.

5 Development Sub-committee report

Arthur reported that the group were minded to look at a three year plan with 2 priorities being identified for each year. In year 1 (19/20), for example, seek to establish another community TT session and provide free attendance for youngsters at both community TT sessions during school holidays. Year 2 might focus on a review of the school clubs structure and year 3 might involve establishing a day-time league.

Action point: Arthur to report further on the year 1 developments at the next meeting.

Elaine mentioned that she had been approached by Martin Hayman (for TTS) about a 'Girls into TT' initiative. While we supported the aims of the project it was agreed that the timescales for being involved were too tight.

Action point: Elaine to contact Martin with our position.

6 Coaching convener's update

Juliet reported orally about the latest coaching rota and the recent second 'Gertsen' day. After some discussion about repeating the 'Gertsen' exercise again it was agreed that **for youngsters**, and aside from the yearly Gertsen Day subsidised by TTS, it was probably more cost effective to use our own coaches

Baldragon School Club remains a work in progress in terms of improving attendances. We now have permission from the Dundee Partnership to use remaining grant funds for a lunch-time club in hand with Active Schools. Some equipment (bats) is in need of repair.

Action point: Elaine to ask Andy to effect repairs to the bats at Baldragon.

There was discussion about whether to subsidise our top three youngsters to attend a Grand Prix event.

Action point: Juliet to look into the costs and practicalities of this and establish what funding might be provided, respectively, by parents and DDTTA.

It was noted that the attendances at the Monifieth Club were still low and that this venture was an ongoing drain on our finances. It was agreed at the last meeting that the club would be closed if numbers had not improved by mid-February. Elaine mentioned that she was looking at applying for a grant from Tesco for this club but this would depend on numbers showing improvement.

It was noted that the Scottish Schools finals event is coming up on 10 February. It was agreed that Callum (for <16s) and Paul (for <14s) would be NPCs for the day and that payment, on this occasion only, would be £35.

Action point: Juliet to ensure that qualifiers are aware of the dates of the event and confirm their participation.

Juliet to also discuss the coaching provision for the Scottish Junior closed championships with Paul and Callum.

6 Forthcoming tournaments and inter-league

Action points: Elaine to circulate the membership with a reminder about the forthcoming closed championships on 26 January and 16/17 February.

Elaine to ask Up4it and Aces to agree a Friday date at WRG for their Chairman's Challenge final.

Elaine mentioned that TTS had still not decided on whether we could enter a third senior team in the inter-league (23/24 March), if other entry numbers permitted this. It was agreed that those participating would be asked to pay £7.50/day towards the entry fees (juniors excepted).

Action point: Elaine to seek the interest of the wider membership for the Senior and Vets teams. If these are oversubscribed, selection will be discussed at the next MC meeting.

8 AGM

It was agreed to stick with the venue and format of last year's AGM and presentation night.

Action point: David to look into the availability of a suitable room at Forthill for 25 April.

9 AOB

Callum mentioned that most, if not all, of the other regional leagues operate on a 2pts (win), 1pt (draw) and 0pt (defeat) basis and that his experience is that it leads to a more exciting and closer competition. It was noted that this had been discussed a few years ago when claims were having a material impact on the league outcomes but that, overall, it was feared that reverting to 2/1/0 would lead to more occasions where the stronger teams in particular played with only 2 players. Callum was advised to take the matter up via Mylnfield if he wanted to pursue this further and seek a rule change.

10 Next meeting

8 February at 7pm at WRG.

DDTTA - Treasurer's report for MC on 3.1.19

Introduction

At the time of preparing this report, I did not have the WRG attendance sheets for the last week of 2018 so some figures in this paper have been rounded or may be **slightly** over or understated.

2018 outturn

We ended 2018 with an overall **surplus** of around £1,900 (last year £1,547). However, this includes restricted grant receipts of £2,250 and a discount of more than £800 on the final quarter's lets for WRG. Without these items the outturn would have been a **deficit** of around £1,150.

The balance on our two bank accounts at 31 December 2018 is around £20,400, of which £19,300 represents unrestricted funds. This compares with our reserves policy of holding around £17,000 or one year's unrestricted expenditure (which was about £16,000 in 2018). Our financial position is currently therefore more favourable than our reserves policy.

Ward Road sessions

There is no change in the performance of the various sessions at Ward Road as reported to previous meetings. In 2018, door takings amounted to over £10,000 of which the coaching income element amounted to about £900.

The 'profit' from WRG door charges was around £3,000 with coaching running at a loss of about £1,800. The overall profit was around £1,200.

Wednesday 'Active and Healthy' sessions ran at a profit of £1,500, with Friday nights generating a surplus of £500. The other nights (all coached sessions) each ran at an (acceptable) small loss.

In my view there is no need to alter the level of charges at WRG.

2019 budget, activity and affiliation fees

My best estimate, currently, of our budgeted outturn in 2019 is a small deficit of a few hundred pounds. However, as we frequently add to or amend our planned activities during the year this is highly likely to change. We do not know what grants we will attract in 2019 (none assumed) or indeed what our coaching costs and income will be, depending on the outcome of the Development Sub-Committee's deliberations around the operation of school clubs in particular.

While it seems clear, nevertheless, that there is no financial necessity to increase affiliation fees in 2019 these have not been reviewed for more than five years. The Finance Sub-Committee, after much deliberation, decided in November to recommend to the MC that affiliation fees for senior players (only) be increased in 2019 from £40 to £45. The increase is no more than required to bring the fee, in real terms, to the level it was in 2014 (or thereabouts) and will help us avoid having to make a more significant increase at a future date. In the interests of treating one year's membership no more favourably than another it is also important to avoid significant changes in fees from one year to another. This increase (likely to generate about £500) is included in my earlier estimate of our 2019 outturn. The increase will, in any event, have to be approved by the members at the AGM.

However, in view of our financial health, and an expectation that the WRG discount will be received again in Q1 of 2019, the Finance sub-committee also recommends that we provide some assistance to member clubs at the start of 2019 in the form of an equipment grant. A separate paper has already been circulated setting out how I would propose to apply this grant scheme. The overall cost of the scheme as proposed would be up to £750, assuming clubs take full advantage of it.

Conclusion

Our financial position remains healthy overall. I will present the final accounts and the trustee's report for 2018 for formal approval at our next meeting. They will then be passed to Stewart Clark for independent examination and the certified version submitted to OSCR and, in due course, the AGM.

DB 3/1/19