

## **Dundee and District Table Tennis Association**

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

### **Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held in WRG at 7:15 pm on Friday 8 February 2019**

**Present: Trustees:** Elaine Forbes, Chair; David Sim (David), Vice Chair; Dave Beveridge (Dave), Treasurer; Andy Hughes, Match Secretary; Juliet Johnston, Coaching Convener; Arthur Pritchard; Stuart Halliday (Trophy Convener); Sandy Elrick; Callum Riddoch; Mark Lundberg

#### **1 Welcome and apologies**

Elaine welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Miriam Rennet and Paul McCabe.

#### **2 Minutes of MC of 3/1/19.**

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

#### **3 Treasurer's report**

Dave had circulated the final (unexamined) trustees' report and accounts prior to the meeting. Sandy pointed out one error in the narrative (now corrected) and the document was approved for signing by Elaine and Dave, on behalf of the trustees.

<p><b>Action points:</b> Dave to arrange the independent examination of the accounts with Stewart Clark and thereafter to submit these and our annual return to OSCR.</p>
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Three clubs (Lundin Links, Guthrie Park and Plebeians) applied for the equipment grant approved at the last meeting. The equipment requested was either court surrounds or coaching equipment and orders have been placed on behalf of the clubs.

Dave was warmly thanked for all his efforts over the past year

#### **4 Match secretary's report**

Andy had submitted a comprehensive and very positive report to the last meeting and therefore provided a short oral update. Most notably, there are currently seven postponements waiting to be played although most have been re-scheduled with new dates. So far there have been **no claims (A or B)** in the league to date and, from memory, Andy believed that only one cup tie had been conceded.

Andy was warmly thanked for his efforts as match secretary and for the running repairs he has been making to the bats at Ward Road and the school clubs.

#### **5 Coaching convener's update**

Juliet handed out a short report on coaching issues. The coaching rota is generally working well although Paul's future situation is still uncertain due to the cut-backs at Tesco where he works.

Coaching provision at the SSSC event on 10.2.19, the Scottish National Championships and the interleague were discussed and approved. The idea of funding coaching at an English

grand prix event will be shelved for now due to the absence of a suitable event in the near future.

Attendance at the schools clubs has picked up and these will be continued for now. Juliet also outlined the plans for the WRG Directors' Day on 16 March.

Dave raised the issue of paying Callum for coaching now that he is a trustee and Callum took no part in this discussion. As required by our constitution, the committee agreed that paying Callum the same rates as Paul was reasonable and that this should now be formalised in a 'written agreement' without further delay.

**Action point:** Dave to draft a suitable letter/agreement for Callum and to discuss this with Elaine and Juliet before finalising.

### **6 Development Sub-committee report**

Arthur largely reiterated the thoughts reported to the meeting on 3 January about 2 initiatives per year. Since then steps have been taken to set up the additional Active and Healthy session on Friday mornings at WRG, starting at the end of April for a ten week trial period.

The sub-committee continue to believe that the structure they have in mind for attracting more youngsters through exhibitions at schools, feeding into attendance at suitable WRG sessions remains appropriate. The remaining issue is who will organise and deliver that structure? That will be the main focus of the sub-committee's next meeting.

For the future, there was some discussion about a day-time league but there are concerns that this may simply take players away from the current league competition.

### **7 Tournaments and inter-league**

The lower division closed championships were a huge success again this year and we are currently taking entries for the all divisions closed and junior closed events on 16/17 February. Entries have been slow to materialise with too many players having to be reminded about entry deadlines or leaving their entry to the last minute. The junior event especially has much fewer entries than last year although there is likely to be just enough to avoid postponing the event. Setting a different date next year was discussed.

Interleague teams have been compiled with 7 players available to service the 2 Senior mens' teams. There will also be 2 Vets, a Ladies Vets and Cadet and Junior teams. There are so far insufficient numbers for a Minors team. New shirts have been ordered for the Senior and Vets teams with a £20 contribution being requested towards the shirt and entry fees. John Hannah will be paid for NPC duties on both days.

The Gillis and Halliday Cups will be held on 9 and 16 April, respectively.

Elaine hopes that we can run a Summer league again this year, with a bit more notice to everyone than last year.

**Action point:** Elaine will circulate those who played last summer to ascertain views on format etc. for this year and to see if someone will volunteer to organise.

## 8 AGM and Rule changes

David confirmed that the ballroom at Forthill was available for the AGM and presentation of prizes on 26 April.

At the last MC meeting there was a lengthy debate about the management committee's ability to rule over the ranking of teams, deciding on league and divisional structures, promotion and relegation matters etc. A number of possible changes/clarifications to the Rules were discussed but, in view of the potential for lengthy debate at the AGM and the need for further extensive changes if the league structure is ever altered significantly, it was decided only to seek the addition of a new Rule which will effectively clarify that where an existing rule falls short of providing for a particular eventuality that may arise, the management committee shall decide or be the final arbiter in how the Rule shall be applied or situation resolved.

### Proposal:

**Rule 11** – re-number as Rule 12

### Insert new Rule 11 as follows:

11 *Contingency* If these Rules do not adequately provide for a particular matter that may arise, the Management Committee shall decide how that issue is to be resolved.

<b>Action point:</b> Dave to incorporate this proposal in the forthcoming agenda for the AGM.
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## 9 AOB

(a) Dave explained that TTS were looking at whether to continue with the TT365 software package or whether there is a more cost-effective alternative. It was broadly agreed that DDTA largely value the membership management and webmail features of TT365. While its other features (eg website/league management) have been viewed as something of an insurance policy in the event that we could not maintain our own website or league management software, it was agreed that this was not a good reason to expect TTS to specify these features in any alternative package it might purchase.

<b>Action point:</b> Dave to feed these views back to the TTS steering group.
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(b) There was a discussion about Guthrie Park's proposal to live stream TT fixtures, except for those featuring junior players. The committee had no objections to the proposals but felt that it was a matter for the club itself to ensure that all data protection and consent requirements were met. DDTA is not best placed to provide detailed advice on this. It was agreed that DDTA would not establish any links between its own website or social media page to the Brechin live streaming.

(c) Elaine and Dave, along with Martin Hayman from TTS had met representatives of the Overgate who wish to set up a pop-up TT venue in one of the vacant shopping units. TTS will provide the equipment and be the party that enters into any legal agreement with the centre management or owners. Importantly, the Overgate reps did not envisage the unit being supervised other than by walk-by checks from security staff and they would ensure appropriate insurance cover. The facility would be available to DDTA to use for demos, or even a live fixture, to help promote our sport. Basically, DDTA should be able to draw benefits from the venture without much (or any) attendant risk or input from volunteers. The venture may start in the summer depending on whether the anticipated unit is vacated as expected.

(d) In part because of the underspend on the equipment grant scheme, Elaine suggested that DDTA consider refurbishing or replacing the net and post sets at WRG, some of which are not in good condition. Donic post and net sets are available at significantly less cost than the Butterfly equivalent and it was agreed that an acceptable approach would be to replace all of the WRG post/nets with Donic post/nets and make any old but serviceable Butterfly post/nets available free of charge to clubs. Juliet believed that there were a number of new Butterfly nets (only) in the equipment cupboard.

**Action points:** Elaine/Dave to confirm how many new nets are in the cupboard and decide whether to refurbish the Butterfly net/posts or completely replace these with Donic brand (but not leaving a mixture of the two).

Thereafter, Eddie Dougan to be consulted about the proposed approach before any new equipment is purchased.

Eddie and Derek Johnston should also be reminded that Mylnfield were expected to make a case to DDTA for all WRG replacements to be fully funded by DDTA.

### **10 Next meeting**

It was agreed to hold another meeting prior to the AGM, probably around the start of April. Elaine to propose dates etc. in due course.