

Summary of discussion points raised at Open Meeting of DDTTA affiliates held at Forthill SC on Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 7.00pm

Clubs represented - Dundee Hecklers TTC, Mylnefield TTC, Plebeians TTC, Premier TTC, St Andrews TTC, Telecoms TTC

Apologies - Guthrie Park TTC, Lundin TTC, Star TTC, Tayside Fire and Rescue TTC

The meeting was Chaired by David Sim with substantive discussion led by Arthur Pritchard.

The meeting considered three inter-linked areas in terms of future aims/developments. Groups fed suggestions back to management committee representatives after discussing each area listed below. Items raised will be considered and discussed at future management committee meetings. Many thanks to those who attended and/or contacted the committee to provide suggestions. This input will guide the committee's work over the next twelve months. Given our limitations in terms of personnel, resources and time it is improbable that we can successfully progress every item but will do our best and will prioritise our work. If there are any omissions in terms of priorities discussed please accept our apologies.

Points raised in relation to future Youth involvement /participation /development

- Youth competition below League level to be discussed. Inter-school/after school and use of Ward Road to be considered. For instance, is it possible to run an informal Junior league alongside Development Squad evenings?
- Need to link/communicate with Active Schools to be aware of possibilities/resources etc
- Possible links with Dundee College and Dundee University to be discussed
- Consideration of informal League division 4 for promising young players
- Charges for junior participants to be discussed
- Timing of school clubs felt to be important

- Communication with young players in terms of participation felt to be important. 'One size does not fit all' in terms of expectations and involvement, so good communication is important in terms of ensuring realistic targets/expectations
- All groups felt pursuing Direct Club Investment (DCI) was important to input/providing continuity and promoting youth involvement.

Points raised in relation to current/future community TT provision

- It was recognised that DDTTA, with limited resources, was already doing a lot in this area and could not over extend
- There was agreement that community involvement/participation would not greatly boost league player numbers but could assist and integrate with youth development. The management committee will discuss ways and means of advancing this
- Management committee was asked if it was possible to extend current community sessions to add on lunchtime sessions for city centre workers, on a trial basis. Also asked about the possibility of corporate events being hosted at Ward Road by DDTTA, with potential for revenue generation as well as attracting more interest in TT
- Management committee asked to consider whether it would be possible to integrate community and youth players in an informal league set up. (Thursday evenings at Ward Road mooted for discussion)
- Consideration to be given to extending Chris Halliday Cup entry to interested community participants?
- Could DDTTA resource a 5pm till 7pm Ward Road slot (if available) to see if a 'Work stop off slot' could be run? Manpower and availability would need to be checked
- There was discussion about how best to publicise what we offer community-wise and also how best to maximise possible unused resources (e.g. tables/venues) within our area. Management committee will discuss what is possible in these areas given limitations of time and resources
- As with young players, it was felt communication with community players was key to charting what they felt could be improved

Points raised in relation to possible league restructuring, should team numbers radically decline

This is unlikely to occur for a number of years but, given the long term decline in divisions, team numbers and the age demographic of registered players, the management committee felt discussion on this topic was important. Participants were asked to consider triggers and preferences in terms of reconstruction and the format of the league competition.

- Triggers. Two groups felt that falling below a team entry of 24 would make reconstruction inevitable. One group felt below 27 would mean the current structure would be difficult to retain. However, there was also a view which supported 3 divisions of 8 teams with more defined weeks to advance cup competitions and likely creating more competitive leagues.
- Formats
 - Participants felt that if team numbers did drop over the years then 2 large divisions (play each other once then an SPL type split) should be considered. The current fixture format of 9 singles one doubles) should be retained.
 - The Chairman's Challenge format was seen as useful for consideration in the lowest Division with the assent of the players involved. Other variations of fixture format were also suggested
 - Two man teams were not favoured and this should be considered as a last resort.