

Dundee and District Table Tennis Association

(Registered charity no. SC045977)

Minutes of a Sub-Committee meeting held in DCA at 10:00 am on Tuesday 9 July 2019

Present: Trustees: Elaine Forbes, Chair; David Sim (David), Vice Chair; Dave Beveridge (Dave), Treasurer; Juliet Johnston, Coaching Convener; Arthur Pritchard, Safeguarding Officer.

1 Welcome and apologies

Elaine welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Sandy Elrick.

2 Treasurer's update

We incurred a deficit of £2,500 for the first half of the year. Taking account of affiliation income to come, but the fact that we only paid half the usual cost of WRG in the first quarter of the year, it is unlikely that we will recover this and be able to end the year in surplus. However, the situation is covered by our reserves.

Elaine said that she had managed to speak to Jarvis this week and that they were now promising to rectify our dispute by the end of this month.

Dave also reported that the handbook will be printed at the same cost as last year and that all the advertisers who had got back to him so far had agreed to renew.

There was a discussion about whether it might be feasible to offer free table tennis, in all respects, to under 18s.

Action point: Dave to work out the implications of free TT for <18s and how we might mitigate the cost.

It was agreed to recommend to the full MC that we meet 50% of the costs of entering teams in the SNL (as last year).

Finally, Dave gave a brief outline of the TTS AGM that had been held the previous weekend. TTS have a push on to increase the number of younger qualified umpires. The SVTTA are also looking for umpires for the Six (?) Nations event later in the year, particularly for the final day.

Action point: Elaine to mention umpiring in her next circular email to the membership.

3 Appointment of trustees

At the last sub-committee Dave was asked to prepare a paper on how we might improve our processes for appointing trustees (committee members). There was a constructive discussion over the paper that Dave had submitted and, subject to enhancing a few references to the committee's powers to co-opt members, it was agreed to submit the proposals to the full MC for their approval. The proposals do not require the constitution to be amended.

Action point: Dave to finalise the proposals so that they clarify the issues around co-opted members.

4 Coaching

Juliet reported on her understanding of the availability of our three principal coaches over the coming months and season. The discussion focused mainly on Baldagon (where we have already been granted funding by the Dundee Partnership) and Monifieth HS (where we have a Tesco grant application pending).

There is some ambiguity about Paul's availability, in particular to cover Baldragon.

It was agreed to defer holding another 'Gertsen' coaching event, probably until November.

Action points: (1) Juliet to clarify Paul's situation.

(2) Elaine to contact Stephen Gertsen about a date for the Regional Development Day offered by TTS.

5 Overgate pop-in facility

Since this had last been discussed the relevant unit had 'disappeared from the market' and then become available again. TTS are keen for DDTA to support this but they now want us to be the signatory to the 'licence to occupy' and to provide regular volunteer manning of the unit. Arthur pointed out that this facility was not part of our development plan, nor did it target the specific areas that we intended to prioritise.

It was agreed nevertheless that the proposal was a worthy one but it now has implications which had not been originally agreed to and we have already explained to TTS that we can not provide regular attendance at the unit. There is also concern about trustees' potential personal liability if DDTA were to be the signatory to the licence.

Action point: Elaine to contact TTS with our concerns and, for example, to see if there is a possibility that the unit could still be operated as first agreed.

6 DCI

Following the open meeting with members last month, and further information having been obtained about DCI, it was agreed that we should recommend to the full committee that we proceed to prepare an application.

Action point: Elaine and Arthur to liaise over the preparation of an application and to consult with Dave over the financials at the appropriate time.

7 Open meeting held on 12 June

There was an associated short discussion about the outcomes from the aforementioned open meeting. Those who attended felt it had been a worthwhile exercise. A minute of the meeting has already been posted to the website.

8 AOB

Juliet put forward a proposal for funding the entry costs for our three leading youngsters to play in next season's British National Junior league which will take place in Derby over two weekends. Travel, accommodation and other costs would have to be met by parents. The fees involved total £453 for a four player team and it was proposed that we seek a fourth player from another area to help reduce the costs for DDTA.

Dave said that the costs would likely need to be met from reserves as it is increasingly likely that we will not break-even this year. It was agreed to recommend to the MC that we proceed, but on the understanding that this is a one year gesture, does not represent a precedent, and would be DDTA's sole financial contribution for the season for the three players concerned.