** Gwent Table Tennis Club**

*(Incorporating Eastern Valley & Newport Table Tennis*

*Leagues & Cwmbran & Newport Table Tennis Clubs)*

**Minutes Annual General Meeting 31 August 2021**

**Bowden Centre, Trevethin, Pontypool**

1. **Welcome and introductions.**

There were 24 members attending, Mike Watts, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from John Thomas and Haydn Skinner.

1. **Remembering past members.**

Andrew Ryder reported the sad loss of former members and players of Eastern Valley TT League of many years.

**Ken Jones** a former Chair of Eastern Valley League from 1965 to 1982 who continued to play until 1997.Ken passed away this year at age 90.

**Alan Howse** represented many clubs across the Cwmbran area and Eastern Valley TT League until the 2017/18 season. Alan passed away in December 2020 age 80.

**Ian Jeanes** played mainly from the Cardiff area but many members will remember him. Ian passed away in August 2021.

**Lyn Bowen** a former Eastern Valley member of many years. Lyn passed away in August 2021.

The meeting observed a few moments silence in remembrance.

1. **Minutes from the Inaugural Meeting 18 November 2020.**

Members had been notified that the Minutes had been published on the Website together with the notice of the AGM. The meeting was asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes.

As there were no matters arising the minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

1. **Chairperson’s Annual Report.**

Mike Watts reminded the meeting of what Eastern Valley and Newport Leagues were attempting to achieve when getting together.

Out initial targets were met by the mergers being agreed and the Website and Social media platforms developed. Since restarting play in May 2021 we had hoped to return to Cwmbran Stadium but it will remain a vaccination centre until March 2022.

The Management Committee had spent a great deal of time finding a premises returning to play at the Bowden Centre and the Velodrome but the Velodrome had proved to be expensive and provided less than acceptable playing conditions.

With help from Torfaen Council we will be moving to the Fairwater Community Centre for League and training sessions starting in October 2021 and wish to put on record our thanks to Torfaen Council and the staff at the Bowden Centre for their help and hosting us since May.

MW thanked the Committee members and volunteers who had put in significant amounts of time and effort to make the return possible however he wished to record his and our thanks in particular to Andrew Ryder for his dedication and tireless enthusiasm being responsible to restarting the League in October. Andrew has led the mission and was instrumental in –

* Finding alternative premises
* Successfully applying for a major grant for new equipment
* Keeping the social media platforms updated
* Moving equipment including being the Club van driver
* Occasionally having to bully people along
* And even finding some time to play some table tennis
* The meeting recognised Andrew’s efforts with a round of applause

Our future target is to establish an outreach centre to attract new players and will be able to report progress soon. Any members wishing to assist with some coaching, their help will be welcomed.

Finally as we are about to restart the new season MW hoped members will enjoy the forthcoming season, he asked members spread the word that Gwent TT Club is open for business and will welcome anyone who wished to play our wonderful game.

1. **Secretary’s Annual Report.**
2. **Review of Constitution**

AR advised the meeting that a review of the Constitution revealed a need to propose amendments as follows –

**Rule 5. Management Committee**. To include the role of General Secretary. The meeting was advised that it has become clear this role is required.

**Rule 6. Finance**. To insert a new rule 6 (f) to retain a minimum reserve of £5000 following the end of each year in order to ensure sufficient funds are retained to start the following year and playing season.

**Rule 7. (h).** To change the minimum support to adopt a Special Resolution from 75% to 2/3rd as 2/3rd this is the usual requirement for an unincorporated organisation as we are.

**Rule 14. Arrangements for Playing Format of** Leagues ....Delete 1st line with reference to Annex 1 and Annex 2.

The meeting agreed each amendment unanimously.

1. **Venue Update for the following season.**

AR reported that since restarting play in May 2021 the Management Committee had hoped to move back into Cwmbran Stadium from the end of September but this was not possible due to its remaining Covid Vaccination Centre until at least end of March 2022.

We have since been able to secure bookings at the Fairwater Leisure Centre (Fairwater school, Cwmbran) from Tuesdays 5th October 2021 and Thursdays 7th October 2021.

Unfortunately the time slots are only available from 6.00pm – 9.00pm Tuesdays and 7.00pm – 9.00pm on Thursdays, meaning that the format of play for the forthcoming season will need to reflect the earlier finish time.

1. **Treasurer’s Annual Report.**

Reg Smith had distributed copy of the financial statement. He apologised that the statement was dated to 30 June 2021 whereas the financial year in the constitution is to 31 May.

RS outlined the main elements of the statement including the transferred funds from the former constituent Leagues and Clubs, the grants received and the income from members’ weekly payments since restarting play in May 2021.

After highlighting the expenditure items and the credit with Torfaen Leisure arising from the closure of Cwmbran Stadium due to the Covid lockdown in March 2020 he was pleased to report cash balances of £14160 at the year end together with equipment purchases of £9198 which we await delivery of upon Cwmbran Stadium being reopened.

RS invited questions about the finances and as there were none RS moved adoption of the Finances. The meeting agreed the financial statement unanimously.

1. **Election of Officers.**

The meeting was informed that the Constitution required ½ of the Management Committee to stand down and the rest of the Management Committee would stand down at the next AGM.

Officers standing down were (Vice Chair) Will Smith-Haddon, (Treasurer) Reg Smith and (Fixture Secretary) Andrew Ryder.

The meeting was advised that each member standing down has indicated their agreement to seek re-election and members were asked for any other nominations. There was one nomination for the vacancy of Fixture Secretary, Mark Farrow and one nomination for the Division 2 representative, Haydn Skinner.

The members agreed the re-election of –

Vice Chairperson Will Smith-Haddon

General Secretary Andrew Ryder

Treasurer Reg Smith and

The election of Mark Farrow as Fixture Secretary.

The election of Haydn Skinner as the Division 2 Representative.

1. **Relationship Challenges with Table Tennis Wales.**
2. **Options for Members.** Mike Watts reported that Leagues and Clubs throughout Wales have been in discussion about disagreements with Table Tennis Wales (TTW) and after a full discussion regarding the relationship with TTW the following resolution was debated and adopted unanimously by the meeting.

***“****In view of the current disagreement between Welsh Clubs and Leagues with Table Tennis Wales (National Governing Body) the AGM authorises the Management Committee to take all necessary steps in conjunction with other Welsh Clubs and Leagues to achieve a resolution that the Management Committee believes to be in the best interests of grassroots table tennis in Wales.  Such steps may include but are not limited to withholding affiliation fees and/or not affiliating the Club with TTW.*

*This resolution does not affect the ability of Club members to affiliate individually to TTW or any other Home Nation governing body and the Management Committee will report to members the outcome of the disagreement not later than the AGM in 2022.”*

1. **TTW Team Championships**. Mark Farrow reported that TTW has scheduled a Team Championship of Wales competition and are seeking team entries. Mark asked that members speak to him about their thoughts for entries.
2. **General Business**
3. **Team Entries**. Andrew Ryder reported that due to time constraints at Fairwater the Management Committee considers the best format for the forthcoming season is for teams of 3 playing the former Welsh League format i.e. best of 5 sets, each team members playing 2 singles and one doubles from each team.

The numbers of members returning to play indicates 20 / 21 teams with 10 teams in Division 1 and 10 / 11 in Division 2. This format is intended for the forthcoming season as a temporary measure in the expectation of returning to Cwmbran Stadium for the season 2022/23.

1. **Membership Fees 2021/22 Season**. The Management Committee’s recommendation for the fees to be applied were as follows –

**Full Membership (League & Social)** Senior £15.00. Junior £10.00. Annual Fees

League nights Senior £4.00. Junior £3.00 (per night)

**[[1]](#endnote-1)Social Membership (Non League)** Senior £10.00. Junior £5.00. Annual Fees

Social nights Senior £4.00. Junior £3.00 (per night)

Non Members Senior £5.00. Junior £4.00 (per night)

The meeting agreed unanimously to the proposed Membership and Playing Fees as outlined.

1. **Any Other Business**. There was no other business.
2. **Questions from Members**. There were no questions.
3. **The members were thanked for attending and the meeting was closed.**

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1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)