**Kendal and District Table Tennis League**

**Minutes of Pre Season Council Meeting – 7.30 pm Thurs 19 Sept 2024, Burton Memorial Hall**

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| ***Present –***  Peter Leahy (PL) (Chairman), Mick Taylor (MT) (Secretary), Tony March (TM) (Treasurer), Bob Gale (BG), Keith Mallinson (KM).***Apologies*** Bryan Rhodes (BR), Norman Philbey (NP), Chris Knowles (CK), Seamus Hanna (SH), Phil Swift (PS), Martin Wakelin (MW), Mike Sunderland (MS).1. ***Minutes of Previous Meeting 14 Sept 2023***
	1. Agreed as a true record.
2. ***Matters Arising***

2.1 Rule change to prohibit “ringers” was passed at the AGM.2.2 MT has recommended by email that all players/parents do the on line Safeguarding course.2.3 MT will advise all League players/parents at beginning of each season about the League’s Safeguarding Policy, where to find it and who is Welfare Officer.1. ***Chairman’s Report (Peter Leahy)***

3.1 The Lower Holker project successfully raised the target money necessary, and KDTTL players were very generous in their individual support. Also thanks to the League for its contribution of £1000.3.2 With these funds, among other things 4 new tables have been bought for Lower Holker and new lighting installed.3.3 Gilkes have contributed £2000 to the Lower Holker project.3.4 PL has visited Kirkby Stephen, to assess the facilities there and their suitability for one or two star tournaments. He has sent a plan to Martin Ireland (TTE) for his comments. The facilities are good and KS are keen to host such events.1. ***Secretary and Welfare Officer Report (Mick Taylor)***

4.1 Nothing to report.1. ***Treasurer’s Report (Tony March)***

5.1 The £1000 grant to the Lower Holker project means in round terms our assets are £3000 rather than £4000. However the situation is still healthy and our budget for this coming season is showing only a small deficit of £100. Even this deficit may reduce due to the increased number of teams entering the League. 1. ***Match Secretary’s Report (Martin Wakelin)***

6.1 MW was not present.1. ***Junior Coordinator’s Report (Seamus Hanna)***

7.1 SH was not present, but see attached written report. 1. ***Veterans Officer’s Report (Phil Swift )***

8.1 PS was not present, but MT reported that we have entered one team in the Lancashire and Cheshire Veterans League. Six veterans from KDTTL have registered to play. KM may like to play also and he should contact PS. 1. ***ESTTA Report (Matt O’Flynn)***

9.1 MO was not present.1. ***Website Report (Chris Knowles)***

10.1 Nothing to report 1. ***Makeup of League, 2024-25***

11.1 18 teams have entered (two more than last year), with preferences for division expressed as follows: **Div 1 (9 teams)** Burton A, B Natland A, B, C, D Crook A, B Dalton CC  **Div 2 (9 teams)** Burton C, D Natland E, F, G Crook C, D Kirkby Stephen Grayrigg 11.2 Natland have only 2 places in Div 1 by right (bearing in mind promotion and relegation last season). However, all present thought it better to have Nat C and D in Div 1, to minimise large discrepancies of ability in Div 2. Similarly Burton and Grayrigg have the right to put more teams in Div 1, but prefer to be in Div 2, due to ability levels this year in those teams. It was agreed it would be in nobody’s best interest for those teams to be outclassed every week. Consequently, it was agreed the divisions should be as above, ie as teams’ expressed preferences. This works well with equal numbers in each division and each team playing each other twice.11.3 MW can hopefully now produce the fixture list. MT to advise MW accordingly.1. ***Dates for 2023-24***

12.1 MT has produced a draft calendar of dates which has been circulated. MT will update this to reflect the above League structure. (This latest revision V4 is attached.)12.2 MT to promote the date of the Annual Tournament (Sun 9 March 2025), to maximise entries.12.3 Fixtures start 30 September 2024.1. ***AOB***

13.1 Crook have done their best to field a fourth team, but this leaves them at full stretch, with potential difficulties in C and D teams if players are unavailable. They have asked for flexibility in the application of the playing up or down rules. Whilst sympathising with Crook, the meeting agreed that the rules must be observed in full, otherwise a dangerous precedent is set. However it was noted that there is no requirement in the rules to register the stronger players in the higher team, so there may be scope for Crook to rethink which team the stronger players are registered in. MT to advise Crook accordingly.13.2 TM suggested we consider changing the playing up and playing down rules to the following: *A player can play up or down as often as he/she wishes, provided he/she is replacing a player of similar or stronger ability (as defined by the League Handicaps). It is not permitted to play up or down to replace a weaker player.* This can be discussed at future meetings.The meeting closed at 20.50 ***Distribution*** All League members by email  365 Website. | ***Action******MT******PL******MT******MT******MT*** |
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***Junior Coordinator’s written report (Seamus Hanna), 14 Sept 2024***

**Summer Junior Coaching**

Organised again with a series of three hour sessions held at Natland and Lower Holker, with players from all of our South Lakes clubs attending at least one session. This was delivered by three elite coaches, Dan and Beth O'Connell and Adam Dennison and supported by Peter Leahy and Seamus Hanna. All sessions were well attended and apart from being fun, interactive and engaging, it gave the opportunity for juniors to develop key parts of their games, especially consistency through varied practice routines and match play. Thanks are due to the KDTTL for subsidised support for this initiative, enabling us to charge only £8 per session thus making it affordable and accessible for all and great value for money.

We are currently investigating and planning how we can deliver a specific training programme for our very best juniors to help them develop their game even further and try to close the gap on the best North West juniors from the larger, more established clubs when they compete against them. This will be delivered initially to a cohort of eight juniors through structured sessions and individual training plans concentrating on their specific game needs. Allocated funding in the 2024/25 budget from the KDTTL will be utilised to help make this affordable and support this important development pathway and will again involve our elite and club coaches.

Another Coaching for Coaches session (this time more practical) is also being discussed, as is sharing our club coaches training delivery and session plans to help each other in developing our juniors to the very best of their ability.

***Junior Winter League***

The 2024 winter league will again have two Divisions: Division 1 comprises our older intermediate and more advanced juniors; Division 2 for our younger juniors and beginners, with the same format of two juniors in each team playing each team twice. Medals will again be awarded to the winners and runners-up in each division and both leagues are expected to start in October 2024 and be completed by Christmas. A spring league will then follow starting in February 2025.

***National Cadet (U15) and National Junior League (U19) and Junior Tournaments***

Peter Leahy is again coordinating the above, whereby teams will compete in the North West National Cadet League Division 3 - introductory level and the North West National Junior League, with a 4 or 5 person squad for each category. He is also promoting junior starred tournaments to highlight opportunities for our juniors to participate in higher level competitions.

***KDTTL Adult League: Junior Participation***

Natland is fielding six juniors in Division 2 of the league 2024/25 season (up two on last season) and will be looking for opportunities where the best of these can play-up in Division 1 to help develop their game even further.