**Kendal and District Table Tennis League**

**Minutes of Management Team Meeting – 19.30, 24 Aug 2023, at NP’s House**

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| ***Present –*** Peter Leahy (PL) (Chair), Mick Taylor (MT) (Sec), Tony March (TM) (Treasurer), Martin Wakelin (MW), Jeff Pimblett (JP), Bryan Rhodes (BR), Seamus Hanna (SH), Norman Philbey (NP).***Apologies***  Bob Gale (BG), Mike Sunderland (MS), Phil Swift (PS), Chris Knowles (CK).1. ***Minutes of previous Management Team meeting (1 June 2023) and matters arising***
* The minutes have been distributed and were taken as read.
* Any matters arising are covered under items below.

 1. ***Officer and Club Reports***
* Secretary (MT): Nothing.
* Treasurer (TM): Will report at Council meeting in September.
* Chairman (PL): It’s been an active summer. Thomas Marshall entered two tournaments in Ellesmere Port. Chris Knowles, Peter Leahy, Archie Catnach, Matt Neal and James Neal entered a one star tournament in York.
* JP advised that there were players active in Cowan Bridge (eg Louisa Bevan and Alicia Pimblett). They may be interested in playing in the League. JP will follow up.
* SH reported on successful friendly matches with Kirkby Stephen and he would try to encourage KS to enter a team in the League.
* NP is trying to raise a Dallam team but things are uncertain at present.

. 1. ***Juniors and Junior League***
* Junior coaching has been organised during August on Thursday mornings at Natland. There has also been continued good junior participation at normal Natland Tuesday club evenings throughout the summer.
* The Junior sub committee is meeting tomorrow to discuss the Junior League and will report back asap.
* It is hoped that the Junior League will start in September and will run on a similar basis to last year (teams of 2, matches every other week, rotate around the different venues).
* One junior team has been registered to play in the National Cadet League. The juniors will play in a team of two on four Sundays, playing several matches on each of those days.
* Mike Sunderland has stepped down as Junior Coordinator. He feels that junior activity has reduced at Kirkby Stephen of late and also he needs to concentrate on other matters. All present acknowledged the great work MS has done in this role over the years and thanked him for that. SH has agreed to take on this role and was thanked for this kind offer.
1. ***Main League, League Fees, League Rules***
* We may be one or two teams down this year, but we will wait for the Registration Forms to be returned. They should be issued in the next day or two.
* The League fee structure was discussed. A team only fee had been discussed at a previous meeting (AGM 26 May 2022) but no decision taken. Since then, TM has considered the matter and set out his views to PL and MT by email. (After the meeting Tony sent this email to all members of the Management Team). Briefly, TM feels that the high team only fee (calculated at £63 per team to maintain income) might discourage clubs from entering extra teams. He favours a player only fee instead. To maintain income, that would be £16.70 per player (juniors £8.35), with no team fee. Many of those present thought this a good idea, although MW prefers the single “per team” fee and no player fee. It was agreed not to change for this season, but it could be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting/AGM and a decision made in time for next season.
* Concern was expressed by several present that there was nothing specifically in the League Rules that prevented the use of “ringers” who could be signed up at short notice to influence key relegation or top of the table matches. BR offered to draft a possible new rule to cover this and circulate for discussion.
* Some captains are unaware of certain League Rules, for example those on postponements or playing all first half postponements by 31 Jan. MT will send out a letter to captains explaining key rules.
1. ***Umpiring, Illegal Serves, Match Conduct etc***
* PL has drafted a letter on these matters, with the intention of sending it to all League players. He circulated this to the Management Team a few weeks ago and received feedback. He will finalise the letter and distribute as planned.
* PL has also attended a training course for umpires and will run workshops here to spread the knowledge, hopefully before the season starts. All players will be encouraged to attend. One workshop at Natland and one on Zoom seemed a good plan.
* After the last Management Team meeting, a letter was sent to James McGrath concerning his illegal serves and match conduct. As yet, no reply has been received.
1. ***Running a TTE Designated One Star Tournament in Kendal***
* PL outlined the work that would be needed to organise such an event. It would require a lot of hard work, but would promote table tennis in this area and encourage participation, especially amongst the juniors. If run well, it could even make money. The ultimate aim would be to run further tournaments, say one a year, subject to whether the first was successful or not.
* It would require two key officials, namely a Tournament Organiser and a Tournament Referee. PL offered to do one job, but not both. PL thought the league would need to underwrite the costs, although there are ways that financial risk can be minimised. Grants may be available.
* To obtain TTE registration as a One Star Tournament, which means players can gain ranking points, certain conditions need to be met. For example, all tables must be the same, space and lighting must be adequate and uniform etc. Lighting at local venues may be a problem (eg Dallam or Kendal leisure Centre) and tables would have to be hired in from say Teesport.
* BR suggested a non TTE approved, less onerous, tournament, perhaps billed as the Cumbria Championship Tournament. This might be easier to organise and a good trial run.
* No decision was made, and PL agreed to make further enquiries and speak to other organisers of One Star tournaments, to learn from their experience.
1. ***Equipment Purchase***
* PL proposed that the League purchase 3 new nets and posts sets (cost £120), 1 new pick up net (£22) and a set of mini cones (£10), all for Norman’s Milnthorpe table tennis coaching. This is in recognition that Milnthorpe does not have a table tennis focused supporting club structure, and also that Norman contributes so much to table tennis locally by running 3 or 4 junior coaching sessions a week.
* The purchase was agreed.
1. ***Dates for New Season***
* MT circulated the draft calendar for 2023-24. He highlighted the following issues.
* Since the Divisional Shield is to be played on weekday evenings, like the KO Cup, this takes up three weeks and pushes the season end into May. This was considered undesirable, so it was agreed to start the season a week earlier (on 25 Sept) and play the Div Shield Prelim Round (should one be needed) in a normal fixture week. These changes save two weeks.
* The Tournament is earlier in the season as requested at the AGM and provisionally shown as 10 March 2024. PL noted that this clashed with a TTE event, so 3 March was chosen.
* Holding the Tournament early means we cannot present League trophies at the Finals Night. It was agreed to do this at the KO Cup Final, with that final held at the end of the season.
* Those present thought we should consider providing supper at such events to attract more people. Perhaps the AGM agenda could be made more interesting too, for the same reason.
* Dates for junior events will be discussed at the meeting on 25 Aug 2023.
* MT to amend the calendar as above and reissue.
1. ***AOB***
* MW and TM have recently done the free TTE on line safeguarding course and found it very good. MW recommended that all League players do this course. All agreed and MT will advise players accordingly.

The meeting closed at 22.00. ***Distribution*** All League members (by email). | ***Action******JP******SH******SH******MT******MT******BR******MT******PL******PL******PL******PL******MT******MT******MT*** |