

BARNETS & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Minutes of the AGM held at BTTC on Thursday, 29th June 2017.

Chairman: Keith Spaughton

The meeting opened at 8.08pm.

1/. Members present

Bob Ward (Exiles 15), Margaret Sparrow (Exiles 11), Brian Gale (Hadley Wood 3), Kiran Mistri (Herts Unison), Peter Radwell (Potter Bar Reds), Keith Spaughton, Grahame Fernback (Stanmore 3), Hooman Najian (Exiles 2), Stuart Nickels (E & B 1). Graham Waddingham (Kidston 4), Ali Bazaz (Exiles 8), David Calver (Exiles 9), Paul Young (Exiles 8), Brian Ray (Cobra Cowboys), Bambos Nicolaou (Exiles 6), Simon Jameson (Hadley Wood 5), Richard Grethe (The Suburb TTC), Colin Tibbles (Exiles 10), Gordon Carlyle (The Good Old Boys), Les Leech (Exiles 5), David Scollan (Exiles 4), Michael Miller (Hadley Wood 5), Tony Brown (Exiles 10), Jeremy Crocker (E & B 4), Leon Thomson (St. Michaels), Ed Shirman (Exiles 12), Michael Collins (E & B 3), Guy Ben-Aroya (E & B 1)

2/. The Chairman reminded all present that during voting only one vote per team was permitted and yellow cards were handed out to each team representative to signify a team. However the exception would be the vote concerning Table Tennis England (to be debated under AOB) where each member present would have a vote.

3/. The Chairman gave a short overview of the League activities for the past season and concluded that in general the season had run successfully without any major difficulties.

4/. Approval of the minutes of 2016 AGM

There being no actions points from the previous years minutes, the Chairman sought approval of the Minutes. The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

5/. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that during the previous season just completed forty-seven teams had competed in four divisions. A total of 267 players (an increase of 8% against last year) had taken part of which 17 players were female. Demographically the over 50's comprised 63%; under 50's comprised 37%. Of the under 50's, 34 players were under 20 years of age, an increase of 160% over last year.

Four Divisional Handicap competitions were held during the season and the Annual Championships were held in May over 2 Sundays. A record number of members entered and the standard of play was very high.

It has proved very difficult to get the Junior league off the ground. There were a number of factors preventing our launching this endeavour but we shall continue to try as the numbers of youngsters entering the sport is growing rapidly and they are the future of our League.

The Secretary confirmed that this forthcoming season a total of 49 teams had entered the League. The EC believe that this will necessitate a restructuring of the League and was the subject to be discussed under item 7 of the Agenda.

6/. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer went through the accounts for the year ending 31st May 2017. Income had risen due to the increase in players participating in the League. The main costs of the League were explained in detail. The League had a surplus of £ 902 for the year which was mainly explained by the increase in members' fees (due to the changes agreed last year) and the cessation of our sponsorship of the Junior Talent Weekends (which now run independently of the League).

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

7/. Proposed Rule Changes

The Secretary detailed the proposed changes. After much discussion, the following rules changes were approved.

- a). Under rule 18a, the maximum number of senior players allowed per team will remain at eight (8) but an unlimited number of juniors will be allowed.
- b). Under rule 27, the late submission by a team of a match scorecard will incur a penalty deduction of 2 points from that teams overall points total, subject to the discretion of the Divisional Secretary and /or the League EC.
- c). New rule – Any team that includes a junior player must have a responsible adult who will be able to supervise the junior/s at all times. In the event that all team members are junior players a responsible adult must accompany the team and act as captain of the team. The responsible adult shall be accountable for the correct behavior of all the junior players and ensure that the spirit and rules of the league are maintained.
- d). Under rule 18 as an additional clause:
Any individual player entered to play in a team where a player who is, in the opinion of the Divisional Secretary and/or the League EC and based upon statistics available, of a much higher standard than the division the team has entered, will be denied inclusion in that team and will be encouraged to join a team in an appropriate division.

9/. Election of Officers

The existing officers agreed to continue in office. Bambos Nicolaou agreed to take up the vacant position as 1st Division secretary and this new appointment and the existing serving officers were endorsed by the members.

10/. Revised structure of the League 2018/2019

The Treasurer outlined the new structure of the League for the forthcoming season is 2018/2019. Due to the success of our League, it would be necessary to establish five divisions with a likely makeup of 10 teams per division. The method of establishing the new divisions was explained in detail with the numbers of teams moving up and down within each existing division detailed. Once the new season 2018/2019 was established, the traditional method of promotion/relegation would be re-established.

11/. Any other business

A discussion took place regarding player's averages and the effect on those averages where a player was forced to withdraw from a match having actually started the match. After an open vote, it was agreed to maintain the system of calculating averages as had been done in the past.

The Secretary raised the issue of the forthcoming AGM of Table Tennis England (TTE) and the concern of some members that a proposition to be put to the AGM would substantially compromise the democracy of the organisation. The proposition was being put to the AGM because of new rules on governance concerning organisations receiving government funding. Our League had a vote at the AGM (4 votes) so it was necessary to ask our members which way we were to vote. After some discussion on the subject, it was agreed that our vote would be against the proposition. It was also agreed that we would vote against the increase in membership fees from £ 12 to £ 14.

The Competitions Secretary raised the issue of our Annual Championships and asked that some greater effort could be made to encourage Third division players to enter these competitions.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.02pm after which our President, Brian Gale, awarded the trophies from the season's League and Cup Competitions.