

Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Association
Annual General Meeting
23rd June 2015
at
Basingstoke Rugby Club

Present:

Gill Larking – President

Committee Members:-

Mike Wood, Terri Allison, Charlie Smith, Dave McDonald, Peter Martin, Ron Powell, John McClarty and Bill Bavister.

In addition to the committee, twenty two members from the following clubs attended:

Aldworth, AWE, Hannington, KG, Minitec, Oakley, Pegasus, Portals, Queens and St Peter's,

1 Apologies

Sarah Whithorn, Terry White, George Hellens, George White, Patrick Garlick, Keith Russell and Prashanth Devarajappa

2 Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 5th June 2014 were unanimously approved.

3 Chairman's Address

(1) Mike started the meeting by welcoming all members, thanked the committee for all their support in his first year and gave a few notices of births marriages and deaths.

As is tradition deaths are always announced first. Mike spoke of the sad news we had received last October that John Shirvell had died. He had been an honorary life member, a player, coach and League Chairman and President. He and Lew Hughes had set up table tennis at Hannington and he was a regular player in the exchange trips with our German friends in Stotzheim He will be very much missed.

(2) Moving on to happier news, Fallon Thompson had given birth to her second child and to the best of our knowledge managed to fit this in without missing a match. Well done Fallon!

Mike became a grandfather recently and Sue Tompsett married in May of this year and is now Mrs Gower. The meeting gave a congratulatory round of applause to them all.

(3) Mike confirmed that in accordance with TTE rules, celluloid balls are still approved until December 2015, the committee had no option but to comply with this and advise clubs that they still have the choice of which balls, now including the new plastic ball, they wish to use in matches.

(4) Mike went on to say that in the recent TTE elections the Basingstoke league had voted to retain the existing team of Sandra Deaton Chair, Susie Hughes Vice-Chair and Keith Thomas Treasurer.

(5) Mike then gave credit and thanks to George Hellens who had proactively gone out into the community and literally knocked on doors to try to find new table tennis clubs. He has visited community centres and village halls across the Borough and so far found 2 centres that have expressed an interest in setting up a formal table tennis environment and possibly in joining the Association.

(6) Mike spoke of the 'Fun Day' held by Aldworth College where he, Bill Bavister and Celia encouraged visitors to 'have a go' and gave out information about the league etc.

(7) On a more serious note Mike reminded the members that Terry White, our coach, is not able to continue on a regular basis with his Saturday morning's tuition due to family matters. If we are unable to train up more coaches who are willing to continue this he could foresee coaching ceasing altogether. We need a level 2 coach to run the sessions supported by level 1 coaches. The Association is happy to pay for the course fees for anyone who wishes to train as a coach. Remember – you don't need to be a highly skilled player, just able to communicate the techniques and tactics to others. So please consider becoming a coach, it is a very worthwhile thing to do. Mike added that he had been coaching with Terry for about 6 years and had found it to be a very rewarding experience and highly recommended it.

(8) Mike then spoke of the Closed Championships. He said that for many it was the highlight of the table tennis year but sadly we are finding it increasingly hard to find volunteers to organise the event. Patrick Garlick came to the rescue this year and dealt with all the pre- event paperwork which enabled the championships to take place. He remained on hand all day to help with the running.

Peter Martin, Sue Gower and Dave MacDonald kindly ran the control table updating scores and arranging matches. The event finished ahead of schedule for the first time that anyone could recall.

He gave thanks to all involved especially those that arrived early to set up all the tables and special thanks to Bill Bavister for transporting a table to the Rugby Cub for finals night.

Mike said that he felt the main difficulty in securing volunteers to run this event seems to be fear of the unknown, so Patrick and he had started to produce a guide to running a competition which should make it easier. It has been suggested that in future, clubs should take it in turns to run the event each year (possibly smaller clubs could team up to share the load) so he was looking for a club to volunteer for the 2016 event.

(9) In summing up Mike paid tribute to Charlie Smith who, after over 20 years of sterling service to the Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Association, has decided that it was time to retire from the post of treasurer at the end of this season. Charlie's ability, thoughtfulness and wit will be sorely missed by his fellow committee members.

4 Honorary Treasurer's Report

(1) Charlie distributed copies of the balance sheet to the meeting. (Copy attached) He highlighted that the league had received a grant of £1,020 from Hampshire Table Tennis Association to assist in development of the sport locally; in particular the juniors.

(2) Subscriptions from coaching had been collected by Peter Coppins each week. Charlie explained that the success of this is better measured over a two year cycle as subs are often received after the accounting period has been completed.

(3) Charlie added that as the league had sufficient funds it was decided to leave the registration fee at £7.

(4) He confirmed that the monies owing to the council for the rent of Essex Road, Match Room of £12,183 should be deducted from the total reducing the effective balance to £7,471 09.

(5) Sue Gower asked if we would have to pay interest on this debt. Charlie confirmed that yes we would. The council have threatened court action but it has never come about. The money is in our bank to be paid when the dispute over the rates is resolved.

(6) Dave Kimberley queried if the rates for the common areas such as the toilets, stairs and corridors varied adding to the bill. Charlie advised that the service bill covered this and had been paid in the past.

(7) Bill said there was a light left on almost continuously in a spare room and he was concerned about the electricity bill. Charlie explained that each meter had a number and tenants were only responsible for their own room. Individual bills would be cross referenced with their meter and room hire. He added that meter readings for the match room are taken regularly.

(8) Pete Martin asked if we could save any monies on trophies.

Charlie replied that this was again something that would be better reflected on a two year accounting cycle as engraving costs varied.

(9) Sean asked what the current rate for hire of the match room is. Charlie confirmed it as £15 per night.

5 Honorary Secretary's Report

(1) Terri reported that there had been 6 committee meetings since the last AGM with an average attendance of 7.7 members present. The average would have been higher but it is difficult to always find a date to suit everyone.

(2) She thanked the committee for making her very welcome and in particular Mike who has on many occasions had to sort the margins, correct upside down attachments etc on the minutes as her computer skills are limited. She also thanked Tony for his help in publishing the minutes on the web-site.

(3) She added that she hoped the introduction of the minutes on the web-page would be useful and informative. She added that any constructive comments or ideas would always be welcome.

(4) Terri stated that there had been no Child Protection issues reported during the season.

6 Honorary Registration Secretary's report

(1) Ron reported that 4 matches had been conceded during the season, 1 from Division 1 and 3 from Division 3.

(2) A total of 157 players were registered to play during the season which was 7 less than last year.

(3) There were 13 clubs with 32 teams playing. This was two down on last season. Ron added that there have been new players from other areas joining the league which has strengthened the standard of the first division.

7 Honorary Press Officer's Report

Dave explained that he had been on secondment with his company for the past 6 months and had been unable to liaise with the local papers regarding match reports. As he was now home he hoped to be able to contact the Observer again and see if they would publish table tennis news locally.

8 Honorary HTTA Representative's Report

Unfortunately the AGM clashed with Sarah's holiday and there was no report.

9 Honorary Development Officer's Report

(1) Bill reported that unfortunately he was standing down from this post but added that George Helens had helped enormously in projecting table tennis across the area. He had not had the opportunity to assist him due to his own commitments but was grateful for his efforts.

(2) No other development issues were running.

10 Honorary Inter-Town Secretary's Report

(1) Peter reported that the inter Town matches had not been run this year, which was a great shame as we had done quite well last year.

(2) Mike added that the Junior Cadets had also fizzled out as most juniors now enter tournaments where they can gain ranking points.

11 Honorary Trophy Secretary's Report

(1) Dave started with a quip that St Peter's 'A' would soon be in need of a new shelf for their trophies as they had won the first Division yet again.

(2) He reported that engraving had cost £13 on the trophies with the addition of £3.50 per name plate.

12 Web-Master's Report

(1) Tony reported that there had been 29,000 'hits' on the web-site since the start of the season, which a lot more than expected.

(2) Around mid-season the server had been downgraded without notification which impacted on the performance of the site. It has now been 're-graded' and working well again however there is still no twitter feed.

(3) He said that the updating of score cards this season had proved very successful and he was currently working on a request from Terry White to add a field for a fourth player (should one play) to include their name.

Action: - Tony

(4) Additionally he was working on improving the notification of Saturday coaching dates by including those dates when it was cancelled.

Action: - Tony

(5) He gave out the following statistics:-

Most frequent logins:-

Melvyn Lovegrove 60, Terry White 53 with Terri Allison having the least -1

Players with the most straight wins:-

Steve Redstall 46, Trevor Lay 40

Players with the most 5 set wins:-

Alan Lipscombe 13, Celia Hooker 12, Pete Howell 12

Players with the most 5 set losses:-

Mike Wooding 13, Glen Phur 11, Phil Ware 11

14 Rule Changes

The members had been sent the proposed rule changes a few weeks ago via their club secretaries.

They were:-

Proposed Rule changes by the committee:-

All of the fees are stated in the handbook except for the individual registration fee so we thought it best to rectify this anomaly- the proposed fee is unchanged from the 2014-15 season.

Rule 40

‘Individuals may register as non-playing members of the Association on payment of an Annual Registration Fee which shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.’

Delete “which shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.”

It will then read:-

Rule 40

Individuals may register as non-playing members on payment of an Annual Registration Fee.

Rule 41

The Annual Registration Fee for players and non-playing members shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. Registration with the Association will confer voting rights at the Annual General meeting or any Special General Meeting and, in the case of playing members, will entitle the member to participate in league and cup competitions organised by the Association.

Delete “shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.”

Insert “shall be £7.”

It will then read

Rule 41

The Annual Registration Fee for players and non-playing members shall be £7. Registration with the Association will confer voting rights at the Annual General meeting or any Special General Meeting and, in the case of playing members, will entitle the member to participate in league and cup competitions organised by the Association.

They were both unanimously accepted by the meeting.

15 Elections of Officers

Mike invited our league president Gill to run the election of officers.

Gill started by giving a vote of thanks to all the committee for their continued hard work and reminded the members that without their time and efforts there would be no table tennis league in Basingstoke.

She singled out praise to Mike Wood for taking on the Chair and doing very well especially having had a hard act to follow in George White. Charlie Smith was also warmly thanked for all his years as our treasurer. He had been a great asset to the committee and table tennis over lots of years. The membership applauded them both.

Gill read out the positions and they were elected as follows:-

Chair: Mike Wood

Vice Chair: Tony Amies (this followed a majority vote by the attendees between Tony and Bill Bavister who both volunteered for this post).

Hon. Secretary: Terri Allison

Hon Treasurer: Keith Russell

Hon Registration Secretary: Ron Powell

Hon. Press Officer: Dave Partridge

Competition Secretary Basingstoke Closed: Vacant (it was hoped that this might be a team effort in future).

Hon Development Officer: Vacant

Hon. Inter-Town Secretaries: Bill Bavister (Senior) Mike Wood (Junior)

Web-Master: Tony Amies

Hon Trophy Secretary: Dave MacDonald

The Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer: Terry White

HTTA Representative: Sarah Whithorn

Additional Members: George Hellens, John McClarty, Gill Larking

16 Election of Auditor

Mike confirmed that Les Bone will continue to audit our finances and was duly elected.

Mike informed the meeting that Les had completed 50 years as our auditor and the committee felt it right to mark this achievement by presenting him with his favourite whisky. Charlie will get this to Les as he wasn't at the meeting.

Action: - Charlie

Secretary's note: Charlie has taken the whisky to Les who was delighted and thanked all members.

17 Any Other Business

1. (1) Mike spoke of George White who had been our chairman for many years having previously held other offices on the committee. He acknowledged all his hard work and dedication to his role in serving the league and advised the meeting that the committee had asked George if he would accept a life membership to show our appreciation. George had responded saying that he was honoured and grateful for this award and added that he had enjoyed all his roles and time serving the league.

(2) Mike went on to say that the committee had extended the same invitation to Charlie in grateful appreciation for all his many years as the league treasurer. Charlie had always quietly got on with the role of balancing the books and was a cheerful, approachable, and good humoured member of the committee and will be greatly missed.

(3) Charlie responded by gratefully accepting life membership and spoke of all his years as a player and later treasurer. He recalled that he had started his involvement in table tennis as a player in 1971 and joined the committee as vice chair in 1973; a total of more than 40 years.

He added that when he took over as treasurer from Phil Ware in 1993 his computer at that time was an Acorn Electron; a very basic machine but capable of simple word processing and creating spread sheets.

Charlie thanked Mike for his kind words and the meeting for their recognition. He said he would miss doing the books but knew it was time to hand over.

2. (1) Sue Gower asked if there were any more keys for the match room as one of the teams didn't have one allocated to them.

Mike advised her that George White held several more keys which were due to be handed over to The Essex Road Officer. Her team should apply to Terry White for an additional key. All keys are recorded on the Assets

Register and should be taken care of as they are master keys for the outer door and match room and cost a lot to replace.

3. (1) Celia Hooker raised the anomaly of teams being able to use either a plastic or celluloid ball next season.

Mike reminded the meeting again that TTE had approved the use of both balls until the end of December. Without an amendment to our rules the committee were not at liberty to deny any team the right to use a TTE approved ball. He stressed that it was unfortunate but until we hear back from TTE the rule stands.

(2) John Upham added that plastic balls are still in their infancy and many are breaking during the course of a match.

Mike responded that it is hoped that the standard of durability will increase before use of the ball becomes mandatory.

4. (1) Sean asked that the meeting acknowledge the Open Tournament that Patrick Garlick runs at Basingstoke during the season. It was gathering momentum with many players from other leagues entering, it was helping to raise the profile of table tennis in our area.

The members agreed and Patrick was given a vote of thanks.

(2) Sean added that it would be a great help to all players if the date for the Closed Championships could be set at the beginning of the season.

Mike agreed and the committee will take this on board at their next meeting.

Action: Committee

(3) Sean asked if the notice boards in the Match Room could be used as a Memorial Board to commemorate past players and officials.

Mike said he would speak to Terry White about this and members agreed it was a good idea.

Action: Mike

(4) Dave Kimberley suggested that another board could be used as a 'Roll of Honour' showing champions past and present.

Dave MacDonald holds a comprehensive list of winners dating back some years and could supply the names. Mike agreed that this would be discussed at committee.

Action: - Committee

18 Presentations of Trophies

Our League President Gill Larking presented trophies to the following winners and runners up:-

BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TROPHIES WINNERS 2014-15 SEASON

RAY PARTRIDGE CUP	Runner – up	AWE
(Team Handicap Plate)	Winner	HANNINGTON

TONY IACONA TROPHY	Runner-up	QUEEN'S 'F'
(Team Handicap)	Winner	ST PETER'S 'A'

ALF CANN TROPHY Winner DAVID JOYCE
(Most Improved Senior Player)

BARRETT CUP Winner DAN RIVETT

QUEEN'S CUP Winner STEVE REDSTALL

DIVISION 3 Runner-up PORTALS

Winners BHS TABLE TENNIS

DIVISION 2 Runner-up QUEEN'S 'F'

Winners MINITEC

DIVISION 1 Runner-up WINKLEBURY

Winners ST PETER'S 'A'

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The meeting closed at 8.55pm

This is a true account of the meeting

Signed:
Secretary

Signed:
Chairman

Date: 23rd June 2015

