

Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 13th June 2024

at

Howard Park, Bowling Club

Basingstoke

1. Present

Committee Members:

Mike Wood, (Chair). Terri Allison (Secretary), Celia Hooker, Chris Parkyn, Martin Gilbey, Mark Every and Terry White

In addition to the committee, 24 members attended.

Hannington and OMI clubs failed to send a representative.

2. Apologies for absence

Lorraine Wood, Jan MacDonald, Paul Rattue, Steve Rollason, Jon Hopson and Pete Matthews

3. Chair's Address

Welcome again to the Annual General Meeting for season 2023-24.

The worst aspect of this job is reading out the obituaries for departed players. This year is even worse than usual as there were 3.

As you will know, I will be standing down as chair as of tonight so this is the last time I have to do this.

In August we said goodbye to Brian Wilde. Brian played in the Basingstoke League for many years being a stalwart of the S.E.B. club and also playing regularly in the Basingstoke Closed Championships with some success. He was a canny player giving very few points away, every point against him having to be chiselled out. He will be very fondly remembered by anyone who played with or against him and in particular those who were involved with the Basingstoke Stotzheim twinning. Brian was one of the original organisers of the twinning in the 1970s and was a participant up to 2019. He moved to Warminster in the early 2000s and continued to play table tennis and make a considerable contribution there.

Then in November we saw the passing of Mick Buley, a long-standing member of the Basingstoke Table Tennis Association. Mick came to Basingstoke over 50 years ago, and spent many of those years working at Cannons. It was here that he met another stalwart of the Basingstoke table tennis scene, George Hellens, with whom he formed a team as well as a lasting friendship. When Mick wasn't playing table tennis he could usually be found playing the keyboard or dancing with his wife Carole. Mick's competitive spirit and good humour will be sorely missed. Mick was 88 and had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Lastly, in February we lost John Golding at the age of 78. John was an all round sportsman who had played football, table tennis and cricket all to a good standard. When he became too old to be competitive in these sports, John became a cricket umpire and took up bowls. But at his peak, John was consistently in the top 10 in the Basingstoke table tennis league. He will be remembered as a player who defended brilliantly and disheartened his opponents by returning all their best shots. The number of people at his funeral was testament to his easy-going nature and his ability to form friendships wherever he went.

I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their efforts again this year. Its not an exaggeration to say that we literally we would not be able to operate without them. Special thanks go of course to Terri Allison who has gone far beyond what should be expected of a secretary; she has been the glue that has held everything together. Also I'd like to thank Lorraine who stepped in as interim treasurer this season. The other unsung heroes behind the scenes are Celia, who has the difficult task of keeping tabs on the membership and the league matches; Jan who manages the trophies and gets them all engraved in time for the presentations, and Chris who makes sure we have a presence on the Internet and makes all the league information accessible to us. Lastly of course Terry White, Mark and Martin can always be relied on for their sage advice.

Also a big thankyou to Phil Snelson who has continued as head coach this season, supported by Terry, Kasun and myself of course, with occasional guest appearances from Steve Ng.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 17th July 2023 were approved. Chris Smith nominated acceptance and was seconded by Jon Clarke.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

As Lorraine was unable to attend Mike read out her report.

Our savings are now held in 2 deposit accounts, one of which is a fixed term high interest account. We have been able to avoid dipping into savings this year, so both our 2 current accounts, Treasurers and Coaching, have been self funding.

Collecting the Essex Road hire fees halfway through the season, in January, and at the end of the season, in April, has helped the cash-flow.

The fees taken at Friday night coaching sessions covered the Hire of Aldworth Hall plus sundry coaching costs e.g. balls, shirts for the coaches and Cadet League fees

There haven't been any unusual payments made but there were 2 lots of tournament costs

This is because one was held in June 2023 and then some paid in advance for the one held in April 2024

It was noticed that not all players had paid their registration fee for last season; those identified have been contacted.

Essex Road

The charges from BDBC for Essex Road have increased by 6% for 2024/2025

The SSE energy tariff also increased from April 2024.

A smart meter has recently been fitted which should result in more accurate billing and less admin, and we are awaiting our first invoice since then.

Accounts

Copies of the accounts had been published prior to the meeting and circulated to all attendees at the meeting.

In the absence of an account examiner, Chris Parkyn examined the books and passed them as accurate.

The meeting was asked to approve the accounts this was proposed by Chris Smith and seconded by Jon Clarke

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

Terri reported that the Committee had met on four occasions during the year. Most members had attended. She added that many minor matters are able to be resolved via emails etc.

All minutes of these meetings are published on our web page.

Apart from arranging and recording the minutes, Terri has had several emails from the council regarding the upkeep of our match room. Our lease dictates that we are responsible for the floors, walls, ceiling and not only the glass in the windows but the wooden frames as well. Currently there is a pane of glass that is cracked and must be replaced or made secure.

We have also had to employ an electrician to carry out an inspection of the electrics and provide the council with a EICR certificate of safety. This is also down to BDTTA as agreed in the only lease that we have. It should be noted that it is many years out of date and despite constant requests to the council for a renewal, they have yet to respond.

Safeguarding Officer

As Safeguarding Officer, thankfully no issues had been raised to Terri.

7. Honorary Registration Secretary's report:

Celia reported that:

111 players registered over 22 teams, which was 3 less players and 3 less teams than last year. The format for the season had been 7 in the Premiership, 8 in Division 1 and 7 in Division 2.

Two players played their first games without being registered with TTE. This has happened for several seasons now and as always any points won have to be deducted in accordance with the membership's rules.

If players set up a Direct Debit it is not automatically registered as it takes time to process the application. All captains and club secretaries are reminded that they should not allow an unregistered player to play in the league. They are not insured as well as ineligible.

The closing date for all teams is again the 31st July 2024.

8. Honorary Development Officer's Report

Mark reported that very little progress has been made regarding finding premises to have a permanent table tennis centre. He asked that all members keep an eye and ear out for any likely room/building that may be within our reach to rent.

9. Honorary HTTA Representative's Report

Sarah reported that the Hampshire Closed Tournament was successfully held regardless of the fact that its organiser was taken ill shortly before. John French from Andover stepped in and ran the event with help from others.

HTTA has decided to keep the affiliation fees the same as last year.

There was no Inter Town held last season but it is hoped that this will be run in early September, Sarah added that Basingstoke is usually very well represented with 6 teams and last year James Wright won as overall Champion.

HTTA is as always in need of volunteers to help run all these events. Very few areas in Hampshire are represented on the committee.

10. Honorary Trophy Secretary's Report

In Jan's absence Terri Allison read out her report:

I was pleased this year to hear a comment from a player who had not won a trophy before, he said he felt very happy to think that his name would be there engraved on the trophy for some years to come.

I hope other winners feel the same, when I look at the history on most of the trophies it is quite awesome, players' names in recent years I recognise, but on some of the older trophies the winners go back many years. It is always a pleasure to handle and care for these trophies.

Engraving names on the trophies costs £12.50 (plus VAT) and for the trophies that require shields, these cost £3.33 (plus VAT) each. Most years at least 13 tournament trophies and 8 league trophies are awarded.

The individual medals for players to keep currently cost the Association £7.15 each (plus VAT), with the tournament winners and season winners the total for medals is nearly £350 (plus VAT), so I hope these are appreciated by players too.

Unfortunately, our engravers are retiring this year, so awards and costs may vary next year, we will have to see what options are available then for purchasing mementos and engraving the trophies locally.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up this year. Most of the trophies only require normal household multi-surface polish to remove fingerprints and dust, enthusiastic cleaning with metal polish can wear away the plating, so recipients will be glad to know they don't need to carry out any arduous polishing!

11. Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer's report

Terry reported that on most occasions when there are school holidays etc. coaching is unable to go ahead, however this year we have been able to continue by using the Gym. It is smaller than the main sports hall but 9 tables are able to be put up for play. Sadly a lot of them are getting damaged over the years. Steve Armstrong has mended a few where the wheels are bent but unfortunately there are a few more needing attention.

Terry thanked Phil Snelson for stepping in to take over the coaching when Terry was ill.

Phil added that we had entered a team of 5 cadets into the National Cadet League. They did well in two matches but were relegated in another.

Terry reminded everyone that tee-shirts are still available to buy for coaching.

Terry reiterated some of the details that Terri had reported earlier regarding the lease and responsibility of BDTTA in the repair and upkeep of the Match Room.

12. Web-Master's Report

Chris reported that all was going well with the web-site and stressed that if he isn't told of any problems, he naturally is unable to fix them. Please all users let Chris know if you see any issues or suspect something is wrong. Just email and ask him.

Chris has now published all the details for the forthcoming Summer League.

13. Proposed Rule Changes

a. Change 1- Rule 4

Current text: "The Officers of the Association shall consist of: Chairman, Vice Chairman..." etc

Proposed text: replace Chairman with Chair, Vice Chairman with Vice Chair and Web Master with Website Administrator

Reason: to be gender agnostic

b. Change 2- Rule 4

Current text: "The Officers of the Association shall consist of: Chairman, Vice Chairman..." etc

Proposed text: add "Safeguarding Officer" to the list of roles

Reason: role has been in place for some time but not listed here

c. Change 3 – Rule 32

Current text: "The position in the League will be decided by the number of league points won and, in the event of a tie, by the number of matches won and, in the event of trophies are concerned the teams will play off on a neutral table. Points will be awarded as in the League except there will be no doubles **game** played. The teams will equally share any expenses in the play off."

Proposed text: replace "game" with "set"

Reason: Consistency with use of game, set and match elsewhere in the rules.

d. Change 4- Rule 35

Current text: "A match shall start at 7.30pm unless otherwise agreed by the team captains. A player arriving later than 45 minutes of the agreed start time shall not be permitted to play without the consent of the opposing captain. Where any player(s) in a team arrives later than the time stipulated above, the **game** or **games** missed by the said player(s) may be claimed by the opposing captain."

Proposed text: "A match shall start at 7.30pm unless otherwise agreed by the team captains. A player arriving later than 45 minutes of the agreed start time shall not be permitted to play **the sets for which they were late** without the consent of the opposing captain. Where any player(s) in a team arrives later than the time stipulated above, the **set** or **sets** missed by the said player(s) may be claimed by the opposing captain."

Reason: To clarify that a late arriving player may play sets that are still to be played following the usual schedule; and for consistency with use of game, set and match elsewhere in the rules.

All the rule changes were voted on and accepted individually by the meeting.

14. Election of Auditor

Chris Parkyn offered to take on this role and was duly elected by the meeting.

15. Election of Officers

Our President, Peter Martin, conducted the election of committee officers.

He started by thanking Mike and Terri for their 10 years of service to the Association. He also thanked the rest of the committee who are continuing to stand for re-election.

With Mike our chair of 10 years who has been outstanding standing down and Terri our Secretary, also Lorraine our Treasurer the meeting had three nominees for these posts who offered their names up for election.

Jon Clarke for Chair

Tony Coombes for Hon. Secretary

Jarlath Corbett for Hon. Treasurer

In addition, Sarah Whithorn offered to take on the role of Hon. Inter Town Secretary, Celia offered to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer and Bill Bavister offered to stand for election as an additional committee member.

The proposed candidates and current Committee members who had offered to continue in their roles were elected en-bloc unanimously

The Committee was therefore confirmed as:

Chair: Jon Clarke

Vice Chair: Mark Every

Hon. Secretary: Tony Coombes

Hon. Treasurer: Jarlath Corbett

Hon. Registration Secretary: Celia Hooker

Hon. Development Officer: Mark Every

Hon. Inter-Town Secretaries: Sarah Whithorn

Web-Master: Chris Parkyn

Hon. Trophy Secretary: Jan MacDonald

The Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer: Terry White

HTTA Representative: Sarah Whithorn

Press and Media Relations Officer: Vacant (though Caitlin Wood updates our Facebook).

Additional Members: Martin Gilbey and Bill Bavister

16. Any Other Business

Rule 41

Mike advised that Rule 41 requires us to set the annual registration fees for players and non-playing members at the AGM. For the several years now, the annual fee for players has been £10. Last year, Keith suggested that we should increase this to £11, but the meeting decided to hold this figure at £10 and to review it this year. Lorraine has advised that we have just about broken even this year, but should now revise the membership fee to £11 to reflect continued inflationary pressure. This would bring in around £100 extra.

This was voted on and carried

Summer League

Mark advised the meeting that the Summer League registration is now open. The hall can cope with 24 teams of 2 players per team. To date they have 13 teams.

Chris will add information regarding this on the web-site to hopefully get more teams to enter.

Handbook

Celia asked if we need to compile and print a Handbook next season.

It is planned to continue to publish its content on the web-site again so all information will still be readily available to all players. If some captains prefer, they can always print out the details of teams and their fixtures for ease of reference.

It was agreed that this year we would not go to the added expense of printing the Handbook as our previous sponsorship with Teesport had lapsed. Any major issues as a result of this could be reviewed next year.

Savings

Jon Clarke asked if we were getting the best interest on our savings. Mike replied that the treasurer was on top of this and accounts are moved accordingly.

17. Trophies

Peter Martin and Mike Wood presented the following trophies for the 2023/2024 season:

Closed Competition 2024

Cadet singles: winner Ollie Case runner up Aly Jarman

Junior singles: winner Bryan Vaz runner up Joe Parkyn

Veteran singles: winner Phil Snelson runner up Paul Rattue

Super Veteran singles: winner Martin Gilbey runner up Barry Dobson

Division 2: singles winner Claudia Nchotu runner up Neil Abbott

Division 1: singles winner Jose M Gonzalez runner up Bryan Vaz

Premiership: singles winner Kasun Wijesekara runner up Paul Rattue

Handicap singles winner: Jose M Gonzalez runner up Sarah Whithorn

Men's doubles winners: Phil Snelson/Kasun Wijesekara runners up Jamie Black/Tony Palaczy

Ladies doubles winners: Fallon Rust/Sarah Whithorn runners up Celia Hooker/Claudia Nchotu

Mixed doubles winners: Sarah Whithorn/Phil Snelson runners up Claudia Nchotu/Kasun Wijesekara

Ladies singles winner: Fallon Rust runner up Claudia Nchotu

Men's singles winner: Phil Snelson runner up Kasun Wijesekara

League/Handicap 2023-24

Handicap Cup: winners KG C runners up Queens A

Ray Partridge Plate: winners Aldworth A runners up OMI

Premiership: winners Queens A runners up Aldworth A

Division 1: winners KG B runners up Hannington

Division 2: winners Aldworth E runners up OMI

Season Awards

Queen’s cup for most games won: Wayne Frankham

Barrett Cup for most improved junior: Bryan Vaz

Alf Cann Shield for most improved senior: Neil Abbott

18. Close

There being no other business, Mike closed by saying that it has been an honour to lead the organisation over the last decade. When I took over the chair from George White, I had planned on staying for maybe 5 years. So last year, when I realised I had been in the post for 9 years, I felt that it was time to hand over the reins to someone else. And Terri Allison also decided that the time had come for her to resign. Finding replacements for these roles and that of treasurer hasn’t been easy, but I am confident that we have found the right candidates and we are able to leave the committee in a good position to take the association forward.

Mike then declared the meeting closed and thanked the members for attending.

This is a true account of the meeting

Signed:

Honorary Secretary

Signed:

Chair

Date: 2025