

**Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Committee Meeting**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**at**  
**94 Roman Road RG 23 8HD**

**Present:**

Mike Wood, Terri Allison, Tony Amies, Ron Powell, Terry White.

**1 Apologies**

Charlie Smith, John McClarty, Gill Larking, George Hellens, Pete Martin, Sarah Whithorn, Dave Partridge, Sue Tompsett, Dave McDonald and Bill Bavister.

**2 Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**3 Matters Arising**

6.7 The handbook is now complete and has been distributed to clubs.

7.7 The suggestion of adding a QR code has been postponed as the handbooks are now printed.

7.8 Mike has liaised with George White re the Data Protection Policy and a copy will be distributed on the web-site with these minutes.

**Action: Mike**

7.9 With reference to the Development plan, Mike again spoke with George and as such; no plan exists. There are however, a lot of suggestions on the internet and a plan will be drawn up at a later date.

**Action: Closed.**

5. All players have been advised that the introduction of plastic balls in the league and competitions will take place next season.

6.1 Terri and Mike have jointly signed the finance papers to become signatories of the league cheque book.

6.4 To date we have not had any news re the Basingstoke Observer publishing table tennis results.

**Action: Dave**

Tony awaits information re the Gazette reports in order to put a 'link' on the web-site.

**Action: Dave and Tony**

7.1 Mike spoke with George White asking if he would accept life membership in recognition of his many years of service on the committee and support to the league.

George said that he would be honoured and has accepted. This will be raised at the AGM.

7.2 Tony reported that advertising for help from all players at coaching on a Saturday morning at Aldworth College has been highlighted on the web-site for some weeks. To date no one has come forward to help out.

7.3 The minutes of committee meetings have been put onto the web-site.

7.4 To date no-one has come forward to run the annual Closed Championships. Mike will liaise with Pete Martin as it was thought that Queens club had expressed an interest in doing this.

**Action: Mike**

7.5 Terri has spoken with Jared regarding any spare players for Oakley. None were available.

#### **4 Coaching**

Mike reported that there was a real risk that coaching for juniors could cease at Aldworth on a Saturday morning. Terry White has family commitments and cannot continue to be the lynch pin in providing coaching every Saturday as he has done for numerous years.

Mike felt there were really only two options:

A) We pull the plug on coaching,

B) Train more players to coach who will take turns in running the sessions.

Clearly option B would be our preference but the lack of response so far indicates that this will be difficult to achieve.

It was recognized that Saturday morning is perhaps not the ideal time for most adults to help out so it was agreed that we should investigate a third option – namely the possibility of holding coaching sessions on a weekday evening.

Mike will contact Aldworth to discuss a change of time and day.

**Action: Mike**

It was suggested that we would meet our costs better if we re-introduced termly payments for coaching and do away with pay and play arrangements. This method was successful years ago and meant we had the money 'up front' for at least a school term.

Terri thought that Bishop Challoner School had an interest in table tennis and offered to contact them to see if they would consider allowing coaching at their sports hall.

**Action: Terri**

#### **5 Development Plans**

Mike said that he understood that there were lots of ideas to be tapped on the Internet regarding developing table tennis and suggested the previously mooted sub-committee be put together to research and produce a plan.

**Action: Mike**

#### **6 Officers' Reports**

##### **Web-master's report:**

Tony reported that the introduction of individual scores on cards being input on the web-site had gone smoothly with only one complication of a 'walk over' needing to be adjusted. He is still adding player registrations as clubs have until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to register new players.

The Twitter service was offline pending acquisition of a new certificate.

**Action: Tony.**

There were some cases of new captains having to be authorised to input score cards.

Tony added that the Service Provider is changing but he didn't foresee any problems with this.

**Essex Road Officer:**

Terry had been asked for extra keys for Essex Road but pointed out that the council had to be contacted for each key and they were in fact very expensive to cut as they were 'mastered' for the main outside door, the door to the clubroom and the toilet.

There are numerous keys that have been distributed to all Essex Road club teams and they should be tracked down and made available before any more can be cut at great cost.

**Registration Secretary:**

Ron commented on the excellence of the web-site saying that all matches are now much more easily checked.

He reported that 144 players have now been registered. He is still receiving forms from clubs and reminded all that it is the responsibility of each player to register themselves with TTE. Registrations to Basingstoke are invalid without this. Evidence of having done this could be asked for by committee members at any time.

To date only 4 matches have had to be postponed.

Ron sought committee advice on a request from a player who has registered this season but now wanted to change clubs.

It was agreed that this was acceptable in principle but checks would need to be made if he had already played for his current side as his registration name would need to be amended in order that it doesn't appear twice.

**Action: Ron and Tony**

**7 Any Other Business**

7.1 Terry said he had been given a choice of action from Tees Sports regarding their provision of balls to the league.

We could either;

a) Take 144 celluloid balls which would shortly be discontinued as a match ball but could continue to be used as a coaching ball.

b) Accept a sum of money which would equate to about half of the worth of the balls.

c) Wait until early next year when 'teething' problems with the production of the new plastic ball should be sorted and receive a supply then.

After discussion it was decided to wait and have the new ball supplied.

Tees Sports to be advised.

**Action: Terry**

7.2 Terry had recently attended his coaching updating courses on Child Protection and First Aid. He asked to whom the bill for this should be sent, the league or the council?

Mike will pursue.

**Action: Mike**

7.3 Mike informed the committee that Sue Tompsett had generously offered to continue on the committee if needed. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Sue as a committee member for this season.

7.4 Terri advised that with permission, Sue had completed forms for the Table Tennis England Renewal of Affiliation for Basingstoke and District. Sue had taken this over from the secretary last year.

The committee expressed gratitude to Sue for doing this.

7.5 Ron had been asked if there was anything in the rules to say that a new ball had to be used at the beginning of every match.

After consulting the rules nothing could be found to support this but it was generally agreed that both captains should agree on the state of a ball before starting the match.

It should always of course be a legal ball approved by TTE. Complaints afterwards couldn't really be considered.

7.6 Mike reported that at the recent AGM of the Sports Council it was stated that bursaries for level one coaching courses are readily available as take up has been low.

It was also reported that junior schools have funds to pay for coaching (at least Level 2) but that senior schools do not have this funding.

7.7 Mike added that he had completed a Basingstoke Sports Council questionnaire re sports facilities in the area. This is part of a local initiative to ensure that appropriate funding is secured to deliver the sports accommodation that is required across Basingstoke.

7.8 Ron reminded the committee that there are companies that will give donations to sports projects if we apply and in particular it was thought that Eli-Lily may consider an approach from table tennis. Additional funds may well help with our development plans and he suggested we consider a project that we should put together in order to apply for funding.

**Action: Committee.**

7.9 It was reported that John Shirvell, a long standing player and ex-chairman had sadly died this week. Our condolences go to all his family. Players, past and present plan to attend his funeral on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> at the Crematorium.

## **8 Date of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held at Gill's home, 10 Tyfield, Sherborne St John, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm and thanks were expressed to Mike and Lorraine for refreshments and allowing us to meet at his home.