

Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Committee Meeting

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.45pm

Loddon Vale Indoor Bowling Club

# MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for absence

Jarlath Corbett (JCo), Sarah Whithorn (SW), Terry White (TW),

**Present:-** Jon Clarke (JCl), Mark Every (ME), Tony Coombes (TC), Celia Hooker (CH), Chris Parkyn (CP), Jan MacDonald (JM), Martin Gilbey (MG), Bill Bavister (BB)

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Approved

3. Matters Arising

These are recorded under the relevant headings below.

4. Teams and league structure

KG D change of match night has caused an issue with the web site. CP has put a workaround on the website which corrects the dates following a postponement request, but it currently requires a postponement request to initiate an update to the schedule on the website.

**Action: CP to investigate to work required to change all the dates on the server.**

**Action: JCl to send email to opposing teams with note about KG D change of dates.**

Can the process for next season team/individual registration to be streamlined to give CH more time to plan the league structure for the season? Encouraging players to register earlier was discussed. This will allow club secretaries to form and submit the teams sooner to the league.

Planning the match between a club's A and B teams at the start of each round was discussed. This would avoid the potential for a contrived result to impact on the league positions. Other factors such as venue bookings make this a more complex task and further thought is required.

Both these points will be explored further at future meetings.

## **Postponements.**

The system for automated alerts for postponement requests sent to ME, CH and JCl seems to be working well.

JCl proposed that the principles for agreeing a third postponement after the two permitted as a matter of course.

a. agreement of postponement request by opposing captain

b. reasonable notice.(current rules state 48 hours)

Principles for declining

- a. lack of agreement by opposing captain
- b. committee discretion on unsporting tactics

Proposed rule changes for next year – adverse weather is stated in the handbook as an acceptable reason to postpone matches; unavailability of the premises should be added to the this.

- 5. Officers' reports
  - a. Treasurer
  - b. Webmaster

**Actions from previous meeting.**

- 6.a. - registered players for 2024-25 season are online and can be downloaded if required. No specific action taken, though if needed can send over.
- 6.b - email sent, only two people have set up email. Will be reducing addresses when up for renewal to reduce overhead/ cost.
- 6.c - new handbook has been written and uploaded to the web site. Little feedback received so presume correct. Terry verbally mentioned that he wasn't mentioned as coaching and Essex Rd officer, which has been corrected.
- 6.c - Postponement configuration changed, so that both captains receive postponement requests. Approval can now be completed online. There was one issue reported, though this should now have been addressed.

**Others.**

- Handicap matches have been uploaded online, changed format to be more mobile friendly. Have published under the "Events" card on the main page.
- KG D match locations added as separate web page when location is clicked. Match dates updated using postponement requests.
- Mail messages now have some eye-candy with the BDTTA header in the message body
- Postponement process updated online to make it more intuitive, with modal presented instead of filling in sections on the main form.
- Added previous season section dropdown lists to allow easy access to previous season information
- general maintenance - ensuring the latest base libraries/ modules are applied. Carried out security review which didn't highlight any issues. Addressed some minor non-conforming code.
- Change the front page and Notification system to add events, which are posted on the front page - if events are being planned would be good.
- Notifications have been updated to have a single side scrolling bar at the top of the page instead of stacked notifications. Notification "throbber" has been added to display the number of notifications that have been published.
- Tweaks made to allow for web searches to find the bdtta.org web site easier, which has seen more clicks coming through - though this might be just due to the Winter League kicking off :-)

- Base score calculation looks to be working. There are 3x people currently registered with 0 base score, which will be automatically calculated when they play their first match, others were aligned from previous season. No reported issues.

- No reported outages on the web site.

#### **Issues.**

- There was a reported issue where emails at the start of the season weren't being sent out for registration. This was an issue I caused in reconfiguring the architecture, where I'd left the jumpbox/ NAT server offline. Fixed by starting the instance - no further problems reported after starting the instance.

- 1x person reported that there were problems submitting scores, which ended up with multiple submissions going through. This has been corrected and "submit" button disabling has been moved earlier in the process to try and prevent this from happening.

- Couple of people managed to register themselves twice at the start of the season. Seems to be a mixture of using different email addresses/ TT# 's with the same name. Manage to resolve manually correcting the information at the DB level.

#### **Discussions Points.**

- Season registration - this year seemed to be rushed, would be nice next year to have a timetable of events. Would recommend changes online to allow for teams to be created upfront and players assigned so that they can be reviewed in advance of players registering. If someone can provide me all the details that are required to review the teams, then I can have a leisurely look at how this can be implemented for next season.

- Thinking about adding an events calendar web page - do we have a list of all the competitions/ events that are being planned for the next 6-12months? Do people think it would be useful? When is the closed competition scheduled for?

- Repeating ask - would be really helpful to have some new pictures available/ gallery to showcase the events/ players - if anyone has pictures, they can share that would be great - if there is enough, I'll look at putting a gallery page together.

**Action: ALL to capture images from upcoming games, with permission of those involved and sent them to CP.**

- Seen a number of requests coming through on the web site for juniors wanting to play Table Tennis locally. Currently there doesn't seem to be many opportunities available apart from coaching, which seems to be doing well. Should there be some consideration made about how to accommodate juniors and get them playing more actively?

- Common ask - as always keen to have any feedback on the web site and any improvements/ changes that people are hearing about?

- Should the base score calculation for new players be documented in the handbook? Current way it's been implemented is that where a player hasn't played previously their base score will be calculated as an average of all players in the division. Where players register after the first matches have been played, that player's base score will be calculated when they play their first match.

- Can someone confirm what the maximum size of any team should be? I don't see this documented in the handbook, though it is captured at the minimum size. Had a few requests

to increase this for Aldworth and KG as was set to 6, though been increased to 8. Should this be added to the Handbook?

- c. Registration secretary
- d. Coaching / Essex Road

Coaching – last week 35 people being coached. Very encouraging.

**Action: CP to add message to web site to request assistance with coaching.**

Can we set up 'junior league' as a stepping stone for getting more people into the league. Possibly after the coaching session. Further discussion required.

#### 6. This season's competitions

**Closed tournament.** This is an important element of the league programme. There is no tournament secretary so the tasks will need to be spread around the committee. JCI is keen for this to be a popular event to boost the reputation of the league.

Venue/Date

29 March 2025 looks possible at Aldworth – web site shows school available 0800-1800.

**Action: ME to book hall if available and check most effective way of covering costs (e.g. add to existing booking and cross charge BDTTA)**

**Action: CP. Once confirmed, date to be added to web site with registration form**

JCI asked Martin to consider the number of competitions that could be run during the period 0900-1700, allowing an hour for set up and break down of the tournament, then work out the tables and matches that could be scheduled.

**Action: MG to suggest a programme and schedule for the tournament.**

The date and venue of Finals night to be confirmed. Essex Rd is a backup option.

#### 7. Keys for Essex Road

Carried forward to next meeting.

- a. How many keys do we have?
- b. TW to set up register.
- c. ME to request key back from OMI.
- d. ME to check with council on cost of procuring keys.

#### 8. Any other business

- a. Parking message from Basingstoke Council

Basingstoke Council has written to BDTTA with regard to car parking at Essex Road. TT players should not park in residents parking spaces and residents should not park in the building car park. There may be increased traffic enforcement to check this.

They request users should park considerately.

The message has been printed and attached to the notice boards in both rooms at Essex Road.

b. TT table offer.

The following message has been submitted via the BDTTA website by peter.b1keman@hotmail.com

I purchased a decent table tennis table a year or so back, but hardly ever used it, and it has remained gathering dust (inside) ever since. It's a Butterfly Easifold DX22 Indoor Table Tennis Table. It would be great to see it put to good use. I'd ideally like it to be used for training or playing (semi) competitive table tennis. I wondered if you'd be kind enough to enquire around your association / club members to see if any would be interested in buying it (at considerably less than half its new price)? Failing that, I expect it will end up in a local charity or youth club. But I'd hate for it to be used for sitting on or making teas! Thanks for your attention, Peter Hall Basingstoke RG21 07986 313531

The following items are carried forward.

- c. Discuss formation of sub-committee for new premises development
- d. Questions from Jon
  - i. What does success for the League look like?
  - ii. How can we communicate with players better?

9. Date of next meeting

Proposed date ~~Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January~~ Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

**ACTION: ALL to confirm availability.**