

FOR PUBLICATION

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB General Management Committee Meeting - Held 20 February 2019

Present: Ian McElwee (Chairman), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer), Lesley Blanchard, Mary Delamere, Keith Hardman, and Des Logan.

1. Introduction

The meeting commenced at 7:10pm immediately following a meeting with Marine AFC about property development.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Bernard Cooney and Doreen Smith.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

Item 3 – It was reported that member Herve Gillet was making amazing progress in his health and had recently been able to visit the club briefly. Get well wishes had been sent.

Item 4a - fees. IB & GRT had now reviewed this and appropriate cases had been followed up. IB brought attention to some more full members currently not in the Marine lottery. These will be followed up and urged to commence direct SO payments to BSMTTC.

Item 4b & c – Health & safety. KH reported that all is now up to date and no new incidents.

Item 5 – GDPR. GRT reported that some members of Man Com had still not completed their privacy declaration, once these all received remaining members will be asked for a declaration.

4. Preparation for AGM – Fees 2019/20

- a. GRT explained that because of the changes with Marine, the current arrangements will come to an end on or by 30 April. It is therefore necessary to give members advice about changing the method by which they pay fees. By 30 April the club have to leave the present club room. After that date it is recommended that Members cancel payments to Marine, as these will be ineffective for membership fees thereafter. Fees however can only be set by AGM so the issue is to consider what level of fee to recommend to the AGM, and whether this is to be paid monthly like the Marine SO.
- b. IB explained that on the current membership level he thought fees could be kept at around the same level as now. He estimated that at £150 per year it would give income of just over £10k which, it was hoped, ought to be enough to cover the expected annual running costs. He therefore recommended annual fees at £150, no change for juniors, and guest fees at £5 as now, including guest league players.
- c. The Chairman expressed concern about the position of those current members only playing league table tennis and had in mind that we ought to have an alternative fee structure for league players who made no other use of the facilities. For these he felt a match fee of £3.50 might be appropriate. That could be achieved by either changing the Constitution again to introduce more than one class of member or treating them as ‘guest’ players with no other membership rights. His concern was that the club could lose its better players by pricing them out of the market, but a number of these players are already paying full membership fees.
- d. There was a considerable discussion of the options. It was identified that the suggested change might only affect about 11 current members but of these around 5 were currently not contributing the full fees, as they are not in the Marine lottery. The club wants to retain all its members and players and it was agreed that within the current structure there is room for flexibility towards any who do not want the benefits of full club membership. The outcome of the discussion was that it would be put to the AGM that fees should be in line with the Treasurers recommendation, with continuing flexibility for those opting for ‘guest’ status.

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5. Property Project Update

GRT reported that:-

- a. Planning consent for new build has been obtained and application made under building regulations.
- b. Negotiations are underway for a formal lease relating to the proposed site of the new building with Breens Solicitors acting on behalf of the club.
- c. Estimates of costs had been obtained for the building, as discussed previously. There had been a small change to the Eagle estimate reflecting the time lapse since the original figures. We are now in place to place an order with the preferred contractors. It was agreed that Eagle Containers remain the preferred contractor and GRT was requested to place the order.
- d. Estimates had been obtained for the necessary external works, which included electricity, water and sewage and associated groundworks. Main problem here was electrical connection which required input from Marine AFC. None of the current estimates are under £10k.
- e. IMcE, IB & GRT had met with Marine AFC committee this evening for a property update and had agreed to ongoing fortnightly progress meetings as Marine are also launching their own property development plan, using the same building providers, Eagle Containers. However, they have significantly more groundworks to undertake. They are still in discussions about contractor for this. It has been suggested to Marine that there could be benefits for all in selecting 1 contractor to carry out all the groundworks for both groups. This is ongoing.
- f. The small property project group had met, and an action plan developed. A copy will be circulated.
- g. The club will need to leave its current home by 30 April 2019. Last league matches of the season are on Friday 26 April, so preparation for the exit will need to be made that weekend to be complete by Monday 29th. At present aim is to move quickly to new home within a few days, hopefully on or by 1 May. Should there be any slippage in timescale then it may be necessary to make some contingency plans for alternative temporary accommodation.
- h. At present the estimated overall project cost is £80k. Current available funding is £67k grants plus £5k of club funds. BAC is continuing to work with DB to secure the additional funding through Integer Group. This funding is not yet certain so contingency plans may be needed. The Club could use an additional £3k of its own resources to fund part of the deficit but would then have no funds to cover the transition period. IB is looking at a new crowd funding idea that has come from SBC.
- i. GRT is progressing the paperwork needed for Sport England.

7. Any Other Business

- a. A question was raised about keys to the new building. It will be a cost to the club to provide them, and the Committee will need to decide nearer the time how many sets are prepared and who will have them.
- b. MD reported that they had been looking at the club's community involvement and were hoping to take forward invitations to vulnerable adults in the community, inviting them to a social afternoon and possible introduction to the idea of 'Bat & Chat'. They are also working with Marine AFC on this. Also exploring the possibility of providing an afternoon of table tennis to a community disabled group, with SBC.
- c. Details of attendance at a crowd funding event by MD, LB & DS hosted by Sefton Borough Council (SBC) had been passed to the Treasurer and will be explored further.
- d. The next social night will be on Friday 29 March at Marine, with tickets priced at £5. The end of season dinner and dance will be on Friday 26th June at Marine, with tickets priced at £12.
- e. TTE have advertised their National Conference for the weekend 30/31 March. The cost for more than 1 delegate is £50 per head. It would be very good if members from Marine could attend. GRT will circulate the advert. Liverpool League has been nominated for an award it would be good for a local club to support that.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 9pm.
Graham Turner (Secretary), 20 February 2019