

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting – 16 November 2022

Present: Bernard Cooney (Chair), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer), Andrew Armstrong, Lesley Blanchard, Jenny Givens and Keith Hardman.

1. The meeting commenced at 7pm with the Chair welcoming all members. An agenda had been circulated in advance.
2. Apologies received from Dave Noden and Keith Williams.
3. Points arising from the previous Minutes. Following up on previous action points, JG reported that currently Marine AFC is on a fixed electricity contract so at present we have not experienced significant increase in costs. Also, the current TTKids programme was fully subscribed for ahead of its start.
4. Updates
 - a. LDTTL – GRT reported on the start of the 2022/23 LDTTL season. All teams are functioning well with captains taking responsibility for their squads. The two teams in Div 1 had been affected by player injuries but the club has been fortunate to sign a new former division 1 player who is currently helping to fill the gaps caused by the injuries. The club has 3 teams through to semi-finals of divisional cup competitions and will also be entering 6 teams in the first round of the Veterans Handicap Cup which starts in December.
 - b. Building, Maintenance & Security – KH reported on the various repairs and maintenance that had been done over the past few months. Plug sockets had been boxed in to protect them from accidental damage during play, one wall repainted following damage and some lighting upgraded. KH also put forward a plan to upgrade some more of the light panels to try and ensure an even white light over the whole of the playing area. The plan was approved. KH also reported that the CCTV is working well and has helped identify where occasional lapses had occurred so that people can be reminded of the need to be vigilant especially about the security of the building. KH reported that the condensation problems appear to have been eliminated and the heating and dehumidifiers are now set on a time control. All members are asked not to interfere in any way with the switches and controls for the heating or de-humidifiers. Any problems or issues should be reported to KH, and authorised personnel will adjust, as necessary. KH reported that some of our barriers and surrounds needed attention. When he visited recently, Alan Lane of TTE indicated that TTE may have some nets and barriers that could come to the club. It was agreed GRT would send a prompt email to Alan to see if such equipment is in fact available. It was also agreed that we should look into the possibility of acquiring our own barrier covers carrying the club name.
 - c. Booking and Bookings system – most members are not using the online booking system. Some find it difficult to use. BC & KH say that they cannot see who has made a booking when they look at it. The diary is still available, and KH/BC try to write in bookings given verbally. The problem is that if one books by one means and another uses the online system, someone could think the hall is available when it is not! The wall board at the hall gives a broad picture of use for those coming into the hall. There is no single answer. Members are encouraged to use the online system for one-off personal bookings. No booking is needed for open sessions, like the morning social session. GRT asked to feedback to TTE concerns with the online system. GRT said that the system did seem to work well for him, and the recent upgrades meant there was now greater functionality under the ‘Manage’ access, which both KH & BC should have.
 - d. Membership - IB & JG reported that adult membership had now topped 100, currently standing at 104. Junior membership is at 46, but there are a couple in the pipeline so it might be 48! This is a remarkable achievement for the club, brought about largely by word of mouth and the enhanced profile of the club since moving into the new premises.

- e. Club Tournament - GRT reported on the club tournament held in September at Anfield. Although the participation was down slightly it was a good day with plenty of play and the event was able to be completed in the single day. It was also good to be able to hold a junior event for the first time, and it was hoped that in the future a full day junior tournament might be possible. There is a possibility of a new trophy for this sponsored by the family of the late Club President, Billy Clayton, in his memory. GRT was slightly concerned about the cost of the day, but in general members felt it worthwhile and so provisionally it was suggested the 2023 tournament should again be at Anfield.
- f. Social Agenda – KH reported that the Christmas Extravaganza is on Friday 9 December at Marine. Tickets for this are now sold out and were capped at 70. There is also a Christmas lunch at the Royal Hotel on the 14th December. Numbers are limited and again it is believed the event is sold out. Mary Sefton is organising the lunch.
- g. Finance – IB reported that a separate account had now been opened for the property sinking fund. A fund required by Sport England as part of the terms for the grant that funded the new building. The balance on this stood at £13,000. This is now an interest-bearing account so the balance will be increased by interest. The new account was opened in September. There had been some issues with HSBC over the opening of the new account, and as a result they had paid the club a compensation payment of £150. From July this year the rental for the land on which the club building stood had increased, and now stood at £458 per month. On the general reserve account, the balance is now just over £36,000. Whilst a healthy reserve is essential, as protection against rising costs, it is not the intention to continue growing this. It was agreed that the time to look at this balance is when proposing fees for the next year.
- h. Sponsorship & social media – BC reported that there had been good reaction from Care Trust over pictures of members wearing the new Care Trust sponsored shirts. BC is now looking at another shirt sponsorship from Care Trust of a different type material shirt. He is working with Forever Jack to see what is available, the cost, and how the logo's can be incorporated.
- i. Welfare & Safeguarding – BC reported that he had participated in a recent safeguarding online seminar organised by TTE. It was agreed that the club should have on display the name, and means of contact, for its welfare officer. BC reported that he had now been accepted by TTE as the Club's Welfare Officer. A number of matters had arisen from the online seminar, including the TTE recommendation that all people working with children should hold a current valid DBS. The position of all working with juniors within the club needs to be checked and position updated, as necessary. GRT to follow up. DBS applications can be made online or through a designated agency. GRT believed that TTE may have its own agency for this purpose. It was agreed by all that welfare and safeguarding both of juniors and vulnerable adults was of utmost importance and the club should be seen to be observing the highest standards in this respect.

5. TT Kids & Junior TT Growth & Coaching

JG reported on the latest TTKids programme, which is now approaching its final week. The programme was fully sold out, but a few it seems have not seen the whole programme through. Those who have seem to have thoroughly enjoyed it and appear keen to continue with the sport. The plan is to try and point those who want to continue towards one of the existing junior coaching sessions.

There was a discussion about capacity for junior numbers, and whether the issue is size of the building or the number of coaches. The table space is only suitable for small groups, no more than 12. And there are times when this capacity is being reached. To take on more juniors might therefore need a further session, but we do not have the coach resources available for that. There is a need for additional coaches, and in general principle it was agreed that we might even need to look at buying in coaching services and raising a charge for juniors attending a coached session. This is a conversation to be developed, and in the first instance GRT will undertake some informal conversations to look at what might be possible.

6. Club Structure and Constitution

GRT reported on the discussions with the Club Solicitor in August. The matter of the lease is ongoing, and at present no end is in sight. GRT is following up with the Solicitor.

Following the last AGM, it was also agreed that the club needed to look again at the current wording in its constitution about what constitutes a quorum for the purposes of a management meeting, and for an AGM or SGM. GRT handed out a draft of suggested wording for a possible revised Rule 10 of the constitution, and asked members to take this away and consider, as there are various possible alternatives. The draft is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

7. Diversity & Inclusivity, Women & Girls

These are current themes from TTE whose drive is that of the diversity and inclusivity of table tennis and their aim to try and ensure that every aspect of the sport reflects these qualities. There is also much current emphasis of the position of women & girls in table tennis. It is believed that the club is inclusive and already has a diverse membership. In age our members run from young juniors right through to seniors of 80+, and around 40% of our total membership is women and girls. It is incumbent on all members to work to make the club fully diverse and inclusive, and to promote the club as an appropriate and safe place for women and girls, old and young. This topic will continue to be considered at future meetings.

8. TTE Strategy Plan (Table Tennis United)

GRT had circulated a copy of the new TTE strategy plan, and it was agreed that a fuller discussion of this and its impacts for the club would be included in a future agenda.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:15pm and GRT will look to organise the next meeting for January 2023.

Graham Turner,
Secretary, 16 July 2022