

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
Minutes of AGM Held 15 May 2019

Present: Ian McElwee (Chair), Liz Adams, Barbara Alcock, Andrew Armstrong, Fred Bainbridge, Tom Bell, Mark Benson, Lesley Blanchard, Ian Brownrigg, Bernard Cooney, Elaine Core, Brian Crolley, Mary Delamere, John & Grace Donnelly, Billy Dunleavy, Don Gibson, Jan Gilbertson, Jenny Givens, Keith Hardman, John Hodgson, Des Logan, Steve McCormick, Audrey & Steve McGing, Margaret Morris, Dave Noden, Sue O'Connor, Ray O'Leary, Tony Rimmer, Sunil Sapre, Mary Sefton, Angela Simkin, Doreen Smith, and Graham Turner.

1. Introduction

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm. In welcoming all present he explained what a busy and momentous year it has been for the club, especially with all the effort towards a new building. He believed this would be a landmark achievement as very few table tennis clubs own their own building which will be the situation once our new build is complete. He hoped that people would be able to stay after the meeting to share in refreshments and drinks were available at the bar.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received:- Billy Clayton, Barry Davis, Val Delamere, Keith Dudley, Billy O'Hara, Dave Roberts, Dave Stoddern and Sue Young.

3. Minutes of 2018 AGM

A copy of the Minutes of the last AGM had been posted on the website and were provided to those present where requested. Those Minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising From Minutes

None.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported as follows:

"I would like to start this report by saying a very big 'thank you' to all of those members of the Club who have either volunteered their services to the club this year, or in so many ways have been of positive help in what has been a fairly 'full' year! I would like to specifically mention members of the Club Management Committee, and those who have captained the club's teams in the League in the 2018/19 season. Also Jenny Givens, who has provided me with help in relation to the league season, especially as far as cup fixtures are concerned.

This year has been another of growth and consolidation, in which our total membership has topped 100 for the first time ever.

The year has been dominated by our quest for new premises. We are hoping that the new building will be open by 1 June, if outstanding legal issues, on which we are actively working, can be resolved. We believe they will be enabling the new build to be delivered.

The property project itself has been tough and at times complex and difficult. Here I would like to single out the efforts put into this by Billy O'Hara as our architect and Ian Brownrigg as our

Treasurer. I think I have dragged poor Ian to almost every meeting over this past year and not once has he complained!

Throughout the year our playing activities on the table tennis table have been strongly supported by a thriving social face. The year started with the dinner and dance on the 1 June, and there have been several enjoyable social nights since – my wife even won a significant cash prize at such an event, a real bonus – even if I didn't see any of it, as she promptly gave the money away again! The end of season dinner and dance this year will be on Friday 28 June at Marine with tickets priced at £12:50.

What is so encouraging about our social events is that not only have they been very well attended, but they have also enabled us to increase our property fund to £8,000 (£5,000 this time last year). Much needed cash, as we work out how we are going to pay for the new building!

On the playing front, once again we entered 8 teams in the L&DTTL. But were unable to enter the JDD. This was because the JDD match night was changed and ended up being an inconvenient evening for the majority of our juniors. The inability to get into the JDD unfortunately resulted in the loss of 2 talented juniors. Our junior section has however continued, and we have increased to 9 regulars.

In the league, we had 2 teams in Div 1, both survived and the highest placed team finished in 4th spot. We had three teams in Div 3; two narrowly missed out on automatic promotion finishing 3rd and 4th with the other just below mid-table. One team in Div 4 that finished 5th and two teams in Div 5. The F Team in 5 was on course for a 3rd place spot but was severely affected by player injury in the second half of the season resulting in the team slipping back to 4th. And what can I say about the G Team? They are the best supported team in the whole league and provide the best homemade scones in the league. They also improved on the points scored last season! I think it is fair to say that all our teams were a credit to the club and played with great sportsmanship throughout and provided great hospitality to visitors. Full reports on all our teams will appear in the Club Newsletter, to be published online shortly after the AGM.

All our teams also played in the respective Divisional Cups; with our D Team (Ian McElwee) reaching the final of the Div 3 cup. We may also have reached the final of the Div 5 cup if 2 of the team members hadn't decided to go on holiday on the match date, and another fell to injury!

Sadly, this year was a bit of a disaster in the Veterans Handicap Cup, in which we have done so well in recent years. Unable to get some of our best players playing in this event this year, meant we fielded weakened teams, and paid the price!

Over the past year the Club Management Committee has met together 5 times, and Minutes are regularly posted to our website. We have also had a property sub-group that has met regularly and taken on the many tasks arising from our exit from the old club room and planning for the new. We also held a SGM. In addition, there has been a small unofficial 'social' committee looking after the various social and recreational features of our club.

The Club has continued to use the Internet to publicize its presence and to relay news and other stories. I do hope you follow it! And we have maintained our presence in social media using Facebook, including weekly updates and pictures over the league season.

Following the introduction of new UK wide regulations, the Club, following the example of the Liverpool League, has introduced a new data privacy policy and asks all members to provide a data consent. The policy is published on our website. If you haven't already completed a consent form, could you please do so before you leave this evening.

The club continues to have an active Health & Safety policy. We have had a couple of incidents over the last year, fortunately not too serious. These have all been properly dealt with and the facts recorded in our log. Members safety remains of high importance to us.

Our Club tournament was held at Crosby High School last year with the Finals Night at the Club. For the first time both the main event and the consolation singles were won by Juniors. Both only 14 at the time! Nathan Jago had a brilliant win in the Ron Georgeson Handicap Singles and Euan Mason won the Consolation Plate. The Final of the Fun Doubles was a tremendous match with Colin Turner & Mary Sefton winning at deuce in the deciding game in a 3-game set. For this year's tournament we will be back at Anfield on Saturday 7 September. Put it in your diary, it will be a great pre-cursor to the new season.

Overall it has been a busy year, but because of the magnificent team of volunteers that we have tasks have been spread quite widely. The way in which that team has worked together has been a great strength of the year and it is one which has seen us through, and which I believe gives us confidence for a strong future.

The end of season dance and the forthcoming National Table Tennis Day (Thursday 18 July) give us further opportunities to showcase the quality of the product and the facilities that we have on offer. I, for one, sincerely hope that we make the very best of these opportunities to promote table tennis and grow our club.

I would like to thank every member for their support over this past 8 years that I have had the privilege of being your Secretary."

There were no questions from members about the report which was unanimously adopted. Doreen Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary and Officers of the Club, which was unanimously endorsed.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a copy of the accounts for the period ended 30 April 2019 which had been audited by the Club's auditor, Barry Davis. The accounts showed a profit of £2,688 after the first tranche of expenditure £1,164 on the new building. Members present were provided with a copy together with a note to the accounts which set out the current projected figures for the new building. A copy of the audited accounts is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

The Treasurer drew attention to the following points:-

- a. The fact that the club had just 2 primary sources of income, members subscriptions and sums from fundraising activities. The tremendous effort by members in fund raising this year has enabled the property fund to grow from £5,000 to over £9000, before the first tranche of building expenditure was paid out.
- b. He reminded members that as of two weeks ago the old arrangements for payment of fees had stopped. The demolition of club's former home meant there was no longer an obligation to make payments to Marine AFC for the use of premises. From 1 May all fees are payable to the club and every member is encouraged to adopt payment by standing order as the preferred means of making payments to the club. So far 47 members have made the change, and his hope is that by the end of this month the majority of members will have made changes to adopt the new approach.
- c. Adopting the new fee arrangements was essential to the health of the club as for the first time the club will take on all of the responsibilities for costs associated with owning and operating its own premises. The only certain figure in these new costs at present is the rent of the site for the new building which starts off at £375 per month for the first 3 years. The club needs to be able to cover

these costs and all the utility and insurance costs associated with ownership and responsibility.

- d. The ongoing support of all members is essential to the financial health of the club as we make the transition to the new arrangements. Not only do we need to maintain the existing sources of income, but we also need to explore all avenues for potential new sources.

There was a brief discussion of the new arrangements and the need for all members to adopt them, following which the accounts as presented were unanimously adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting.

7. Election of Officers

- a. President – The Chairman explained that the role of President is an honorary one which Billy Clayton had fulfilled over the past year. Members unanimously agreed that Billy should continue in this role even though his health now limits his active involvement in the club.
- b. Chairman – Before standing aside for the purpose of nominations and elections, the Chairman advised the meeting that he would not be seeking re-election for a further term. Changes in personal circumstances dictated that he stood back from heavy involvement in club administration at this time. On behalf of the meeting the Secretary thanked Ian for his many years of service to the Club as Treasurer and then as Chairman. He said the Club wished to acknowledge these years of excellent service and presented Ian with a certificate of recognition and a small gift. In acknowledging this, Ian said he would like to nominate Bernard Cooney to take over as his successor. There being no other nominations, Bernard was unanimously voted in as the new Chairman. Following which it was agreed that Ian should continue to chair the meeting and any transition take place following the meeting.
- c. Secretary – Graham Turner was nominated and unanimously approved. Graham stressed that he did not consider the role of Secretary to be a ‘job for life’ but felt that in these vital days it was important that the posts of Secretary and Treasurer remained unchanged, and therefore nominated Ian Brownrigg for the role of Treasurer. It was agreed that Jenny Givens should be co-opted to continue to assist Graham, especially with League fixtures.
- d. Treasurer - Ian Brownrigg was nominated and unanimously approved as Treasurer.
- e. Auditor – Barry Davis was unanimously elected.
- f. Other Committee Members – The following were nominated and unanimously approved: Lesley Blanchard, Mary Delamere, Keith Hardman, Des Logan, Sue O’Connor and Doreen Smith. The Chairman welcomed Sue onto the management committee.

8. Property Update

Secretary said that there was little more to report. He and the Treasurer are seeing the solicitor this week and hoped this would lead to significant progress at last in relation to the lease for the site for the new building. The building contractors are ready to move forward, and this is now all that is holding up progress. Once the building is ready there may still be a little time before it is usable as the mains services of electricity, water and drainage have to wait for the Marine development work to be done. This is outside the club’s control. All the signs were however good. All that remained was to work out how the total would be paid as the overall price, as shown by the Treasurers report, was a little higher than originally budgeted for. However, if all the hoped-for funding streams came together, then it should enable all the works to be paid for, debt free. Secretary assured members, that there would be a ‘champagne’ moment before the doors of the new building were opened. And that a celebratory official

opening would be arranged in conjunction with Sport England, to which it was hoped a celebrity could be invited to officially open the building. The local press will also be involved in that. Secretary also confirmed that the current parking arrangements on the Marine site would continue with the club having 4 badges to allow free daytime parking.

9. Subscriptions 2019/20

The Treasurer presented the following Resolution to the meeting, copies of which were provided to all:

*“This AGM determines the Annual Membership Fees for 2019/20 (1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020) to be:-
Adults - £150*

Juniors (U18) - £15

These fees to be paid as follows:-

- 1. Juniors – by a single payment to the club by 31 August 2019;*
- 2. Adults – Either*
 - a. £150 payable by equal monthly standing order payments of £12.50. To be paid direct to the Club bank account at HSBC. Or*
 - b. by a single payment of £150 to the club by 31 August 2019.*

Any adult becoming a member of the Club part way through the year may have their fee reduced by such sum as is equivalent to the number of months that have elapsed since the start of the year.

Further, the following fees shall be payable:

- 3. Guests attending any session with a member - £5 per session, payable in full at the time of the session.*
- 4. At the discretion of the Club Management Committee, a Guest League Player may participate in one of the club's teams in the L&DTTL at a fee of £5 per match played. Such fee to be paid to and accounted for by the captain of the team. Such a participant will not be regarded as a 'member' of the club and will not be able to enjoy any other benefits of membership.”*

It was explained that these proposals meant that the fees were almost the same as last year, with just a £6pa increase. There was a slight change of approach at 4. This was intended to address concerns over players who wished to just play league table tennis without becoming full members. The aim though, was to encourage as many as possible to take up full membership. It was also pointed out that the junior fee represented exceptional value for money and enabled juniors to attend junior coaching sessions without any additional charge. Ian stressed the need for all to participate and to adopt the new payment method, he therefore commended the proposals to the meeting.

The resolution was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by Sunil Sapre and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

10. Appointment of Team Selection Committee

It was agreed that a group consisting of the Club Chairman, Secretary and the previous season's league team captains should form an initial selection committee. The main purpose would be to consider and decide on the Club's entry to the L&DTTL for the forthcoming 2019/20 season and then to look at the potential constitution of each team.

11. League Matters

The League AGM is on Wednesday 12 June at Wavertree Labour TTC and will include presentation of league trophies. All members may attend.

12. Any Other Business

- a. Members were advised that on Friday 17 May there would be an informal social evening at Marine, just by way of a get together, as members had been unable to meet up and play following the demolition of the table tennis room.
- b. On the 6 June, club member Ray O'Leary would be leading a local walk as part of a 'Marine in the Community' initiative. The walk would be approximately 3 miles, and anyone interested in taking part should meet in the Marine car park at 10:30am.
- c. Also, on the 6 May, there will be the first in a new community initiative being led by the club. There will be an afternoon tea, starting at 12:30pm. As well as refreshments there will be entertainment from a choir. The aim being to make the new facilities at Marine into a hub where the local community can meet socially and recreationally; and in turn perhaps this will lead to them wanting to try some table tennis as a social and recreational, healthy lifestyle activity.
- d. Mary Delamere and a small group of members are working with CVS who may be able to provide help in identifying potential new sources of funding.
- e. Members were reminded that the funeral service for Betty Corbin, who had died recently, was being held tomorrow, the 16th May at the Thornton Crematorium at 10:40 am. Some members will be attending to represent the club.
- f. Keith Hardman advised members that tickets for the end of season dance were now available, price £12.50. The dance will also include the usual 'square' draw, squares are priced at £1 each and can be bought this evening.
- g. Fred Bainbridge drew attention to the noticeable absence from the meeting of the club's elite players which he felt was disappointing.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:25 and tea, cake and light refreshments were then served.

These Minutes approved at AGM XX May 2020
(B Cooney – Chairman)