

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting – 30 June 2022

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

1. The meeting commenced just after 7.45pm with the Chair welcoming members to the first meeting of the new year of the new Management Committee. He noted that the minutes of the AGM were published on the club website and no matters arose from them.
2. Apologies received from Keith Williams, who had to make an unexpected change of plan.
3. Members Roles

It was agreed that returning members should keep existing roles:

Chairman – overall club responsibility and Welfare Officer. It was agreed that a notice should be posted in the club saying that we have a Welfare office and how they can be contacted.

Secretary – All club admin, membership records, media, and league participation

Treasurer – all finance matters.

Lesley Blanchard – housekeeping

Jenny Givens – assisting treasurer

Keith Hardman – property manager and social secretary

Dave Noden – club tournament

Keith Williams – adult coaching

As a new member to the Man Com, Andrew Armstrong was asked to assist the Secretary with the League programme as well as continuing his support for junior & teen table tennis.

There was discussion over communication and media a role previously assigned to Ray O’Leary, who had not been able to stand for re-election due to personal reasons. Ray had however not really taken that role up fully. It was agreed that there was a need for an almost full-time role to look after all aspects of media and communication. For example, the club Twitter and Instagram accounts are not really being used and keeping both the Facebook account and website up to date and moving is also a challenge. Some names were discussed, and conversations will be developed. For the time being the Secretary will continue to look after the website and Facebook accounts. Chairman has the Twitter account and Jenny the Instagram account.

4. Building & Maintenance
 - a. KH reported on the extra storage that had been installed.
 - b. An issue had been identified with some of the lamps concerning the starter motors. These had all now been replaced.
 - c. Marine are installing some external CCTV to the property, and this will cover the front of our building, adding to the internal CCTV that already exists.
 - d. Jenny reported on concerns over rising electricity prices, drawing attention to our average daily costs currently for summertime and wintertime. Experimentally it was agreed that we would try to cut back on the use of heaters and de-humidifiers over the winter.
 - e. There was discussion on the condensation and water leak issue. The leak is believed to have been solved, and it is hoped that by judicious use of heating and de-humidifiers the condensation issue is manageable. There has been no progress in finding a firm to undertake an efficiency survey of the building and provide best advice. Various firms had offered suggestions about items to buy, but so far none have been to see the building and thus put themselves in a position to be able to advise on need. Ian & Jenny will continue to take this forward.
 - f. There has been no change on charges for water. The club is still not being charged.

5. Use of premises & Bookings

Two main issues were discussed.

- a. It was noted that few members are using the bookings system. It was felt that this was because the new system was not user friendly, and for managers it is difficult to see who has booked and when and to make block reservations. The new system has fallen significantly short of expectations and what was there before. It was agreed it should however remain, as it does at least provide the opportunity to book out session times for specific activities. Members also are continuing to record their attendance in the booking's diary.
- b. The booking system does however highlight that there are considerable periods where the premises are under used. Which raises a second issue of use and whether more needs to be done to promote greater use. There was discussion over hire. Broadly it was agreed that we should not be advertising for hire. However, if people came along looking for a one-off use consideration would be given to the request, having regard to the expected use, timing, and fee. It was further agreed that we should not have a fixed hire fee, any charge being tailored to the type of use and specific circumstances of use. Any charge rate will continue to be decided by the finance team.
- c. It was further agreed that to promote availability and use the club would hold another open day or open weekend. Secretary will look for a suitable date over the summer period. There is particular concern about the lack of use at weekends.

6. Club Structure & Constitution

- a. An issue had arisen over the meaning of the term 'quorum' in the current constitution. It was agreed that the Secretary should look at the drafting and bring forward proposals for a revision to make the situation clear.
- b. The Secretary reported on the most recent exchange with Breen's, the club's solicitor, over the request to make a change in the lease for the Marine land to introduce a new corporate identity for the club to provide better continuity and protection of individual members. It seemed at present as if Marine are unwilling to make a change despite informal comment suggesting that they have no problem with the change. After a full discussion of the issues and possible options it was agreed that as a first step, we should now seek a discussion with Breen to better understand the Marine response and look at the ways forward.

7. Finance

- a. IB reported on current balances and the fact that there had been a further recent increase in membership. Everything is stable on the finance front.
- b. BC reported that there had been a few issues over the sponsorship arrangement with Care Trust, due to individuals' personal circumstances. These were now being resolved and it was expected that the sponsorship funds for new shirts would be released shortly.
- c. There was a short discussion of whether we needed to do more to utilise other fees short of membership so that people could just play occasionally. But as it was thought not possible to extend current programme of open days and evenings at present, so it was considered no further action needed.

8. Setting Agenda for coming year

- a. Liverpool League: GRT reported that the Liverpool League AGM was finally held on 22nd June. As yet the League has given no date for entries to be made for the new season. As soon as a date is known a captains meeting will be convened to decide on the number of team entries for the next season. It is expected that the number of club teams will rise, so no guarantee can currently be given to the Anfield/Greenbank team that they will be able to use

the club again next season. That team has been invited to consider becoming club members so that their playing place can be assured. GRT also aware of possible new players from the social element for next season.

- b. TT Kids – IB & JG have put the club forward for the next round of TTKidz sessions starting in October. We are proposing a Wednesday afternoon session. There was some discussion about how to best advertise the new session this time. In particular the need to engage with the Sports Development Officer for Sefton Borough Council about the TT opportunities at Marine. GRT to contact Helen Birrell.
- c. Community, engagement, diversity, and inclusivity. The club already has considerable community engagement, enhanced through its participation with Marine in the Community. Another open weekend will be a further example. The club continues to be open to all even if the current membership is not fully reflective of the diverse population of the UK. In terms of inclusivity, we have seen recent examples of individuals with special needs being able to find a place within our table tennis family and thriving through that participation. The club will continue to promote itself as open, inclusive, and accessible.
- d. Social agenda – KH reported that the expected next major social event would be a Christmas function. The Marine facilities are currently experiencing very high use and take up since the refurbishments there, so it is essential that we make a booking quickly.
- e. Club Development Plan – GRT raised the issue of whether it might be a useful tool for the club to work on a development plan which could then form the focus of future meetings so that we can measure progress against it. He explained that help was available from TTE, and a template and guidance booklet is also available. The Chairman doubted the value of a written plan and thus whether this step was worthwhile. No further action recommended for the time being.

9. Club Tournament

DN outlined the difficulties, summarising that the issues were, do we want a tournament, if so where do we wish to hold it, and when. There are only 2 possible venues, Crosby High & Anfield. CH is not available for Saturday's, but we may be able to secure a Sunday. Anfield is available for a Saturday but would be more expensive. On balance the outcome was, yes for a tournament, and see if Anfield can offer a Saturday around the beginning of September. GRT will approach Anfield and see what the cost would be and what date might be available. DN and GRT will then work together to bring on a tournament with the finals being held at Marine.

10. Membership Update

IB reported that currently we have 90 adult members and 35 juniors. Some new membership application forms were passed to the Secretary.

GRT said it appeared a number of social members were not signing up for a TTE player licence. The current Club Player licence is free, but benefits all because of the inclusion of public liability insurance. GRT suggested that the welcome leaflet for new members needed updating, and all existing social members need to be reminded that they should take up a TTE licence. The membership application form also makes it clear that a TTE licence should be acquired by all who regularly play table tennis, of any sort, at the club. This should be pointed out to new members when they complete the application form.

11. Any Other Business

- a. The Chairman reminded everyone of the CCTV operations of the building and the addition being planned by Marine which will cover the outside of the building.
- b. The Chairman brought out an encouraging story of a new member, who has particular needs, for whom table tennis has enabled him to develop, start to come out of himself, and blossom.

- c. JG asked if possible, could the date for future AGM's be a little later. GRT understood the issues but explained that normally the club tried to hold its own AGM ahead of the Liverpool League AGM so that instructions could, if necessary, be taken about how to act at that meeting.
- d. DN asked if it would be OK to arrange a friendly match at the club as a pre-season event, involving another club. In principle this was agreed, a date to be agreed with the Secretary so it can be booked into the booking system.

There was no other business.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 10:00pm.

Graham Turner,
Secretary, 30 June 2022