

**BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB**  
**Minutes of AGM Held 23 May 2017**

Present: Fred Bainbridge (Chair), Liz Adams, Barbara Allcock, Mary Barrett, Tom Bell, Lesley Blanchard, Ricky Brown, Ian Brownrigg, Billy Clayton, Elaine Core, Brian Crolley, Barry Davis, Mary Delamere, Keith Dudley, Keith Hardman, Des Logan, Ian McElwee, Colin Mitchell, Miguel Monteiro, Margaret Morris, Dave Noden, Albert Parker, Dave Roberts, and Graham Turner.

**1. Introduction**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:36pm welcoming all present and thanking them for their regular attendance. He hoped that a number would be able to stay after the meeting to share in refreshments which would be served in the club room.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Received:- Andrew Armstrong, Bernard Cooney, Val Delamere, Ann Fletcher, Mary Sefton, Doreen Smith, and Dave Stoddern.

**3. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

A copy of the Minutes of the last AGM were provided to all present, approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising From Minutes**

None.

**5. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported as follows:

Where to start! Overall 2016/17 has been quite a good year for the Club.

First, we have been delighted to welcome new members and new league players to the Club. We have also said goodbye, in January to Julia Cornish who is now enjoying life in Worthing, and very soon we will be losing Miguel Monteiro who is returning home to Portugal in July. Miguel has been the solid rock of our team in Division 4 of L&DTTL this season and we shall be very sorry to see him go.

But so often as one door closes another open's. When we lost Julia, we were very pleased to welcome Jan Mort as a part time player. And more recently we have welcomed the young and talented David Lovelady who we are hoping if health permits will be able to take up a full time playing place next season.

We have also seen considerable expansion on the social front and it is encouraging to see so much daytime use of our playing room. Pity we only have two tables! And only one for serious play or practice. The contrast here is to look at the other clubs in our vicinity, like Waterloo and Crosby High, both of whom can offer multi table facilities, albeit not with the same amount of 'open' time that we have, and thereby effectively compete for the attention of 'players'.

The 2016/17 year started with the 2015/16 end of season social here at Marine with great food and Ricky Gleeson and his band. It will end in a similar way with another great social night on Friday 9

June (see Colin Mitchell or Mary Delamere for ticket information). Indeed, social occasions continue to feature prominently in the day by day life of the club. In the last year, we have celebrated two 85<sup>th</sup> birthdays, Don Gibson, and our President Billy Clayton. Both still regularly playing table tennis, albeit a little slower than hitherto! And there have also been other parties for 'significant' ages of members. How my recent 65<sup>th</sup> birthday was missed I really don't know! And of course, a great Christmas party, although I was a little disappointed that Santa didn't appear last year. More recently we have seen the introduction of a new 'coffee morning' helping to raise funds towards the renewal of the club premises (more about that separately on the agenda).

Much of the organisation on the social side is undertaken by Mary Delamere and Colin Mitchell who have both contributed to this report. Mary says "the social side of the table tennis section has become like a very big happy family. When we enter the club, straight away we are made welcome and nobody sits alone. We all have laughs and fun and someone to talk to."

Our social members often create a great atmosphere at league matches by attending and supporting a fact that has been commented on by several visiting teams.

Mary continues; "Keith Williams is coaching the social members and there has been great improvement over the weeks. Hopefully quite a few of the social members will be in the teams next year."

"The club is used increasingly by the members for practice and there is a suspicion that some members are actually living at the club, they are there so often. All in all, the social side is doing great."

On the league playing front the Club was able to enter 8 teams into the L&DTTL, one fewer than last season. We also combined with Crosby High TTC to enter a team of juniors in the L&DTTL Junior Development Division. Full reports on each team will appear in the Club Annual Newsletter which will be published on the club website at the end of May.

Talking of the Club website 20 News Stories have been published over the last year, and I am grateful to all who provide pictures or information to enable that to happen. I do hope you keep an eye on the website, there have been more than 1100 visitors to it this season? We have also introduced a 'blog' as part of the website, publishing shorter, themed, articles; 23 articles were posted this year – and we could do with a new writer to take that forward....

Courtesy of my friend Miguel we have also joined the Facebook phenomenon, and now have our own FB page. One of our posts reached over 417 people and I think there have been about 63 posts this year. Any member of the club can provide information or ideas for posting to our FB page. If you are on FB do let us know and become a regular follower of BSMTTC. A few well-chosen comments on the posts would also be good!

Back to the league playing front. We had teams in every division this year. The A Team (Captain Ricky Brown) won Division 2, the return of Ken Jackson to active play having a big impact on that. The E Team (Captain Keith Dudley) won Division 4 and secured the double by lifting the Div 4 Divisional Cup. In fact, Keith has become perhaps the most successful club captain (certainly in the last 10 years) as his team, also made up of players from the Div 4 E Team, went on to win the Frank Murphy Veterans Handicap Cup. A brilliant achievement. All our league teams played in the respective Divisional Cup competitions and we also had 6 teams in the Veterans Handicap Cup. We also once again had the ignominy of the team holding up the whole of the league, our G Team in Div 5 really struggled, but throughout showed the best spirit of table tennis and was able to give

some match play time to some of our juniors, who at times proved more successful than their much more senior mentors!

Talking of juniors, I would like to make special mention of our junior team. Euan & Finn Mason and Hugh Frediani-Bellis. They played in the U13 division of the L&DTTL JDD and won their division. They also went on to win the Junior Handicap Cup which featured teams from both the U13 & O13 divisions of the JDD. Euan Mason was also runner-up in the U13 singles at the JDD Tournament held at the end of March. It has been a very good performance by our juniors this year, and we continue to hold a weekly training meet for them at Marine on Monday afternoons.

On the league front, therefore we have ended the season with 6 league trophies, more than any other club in the league this season. A tremendous achievement and maybe one that it will be difficult to follow.....

The Club Management Committee has met as and when needed and sometimes I even remember to publish the notes on the Notice Board! We have also enjoyed having new BSM kit for league players, and it has been encouraging to see most teams regularly making use of it.

The only other major issue of the year concerns our property and that will be covered separately on the agenda.

All that remains is for me to thank Team Captains for their management, Colin & Mary for the way in which they have managed the social side of the club and the Club Management Committee for its support, and particularly Dave Noden for his assistance with fixtures and cup competitions.

Overall it has been a good year, with expanding numbers. The Club continues however to face challenges and urgently needs an injection of new life into its management to take the club forward. Standing still is not an option.

Thank you all for your support and very best wishes for the future challenges.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented a copy of the audited accounts for the period ended 30 April 2017 showing an overall profit for the year of £567.58, and balances to carry forward of £2,627.29. A copy of the audited accounts is attached to and forms part of these Minutes.

The Treasurer went through the various items within the accounts explaining that the increased membership had generated additional income so that even with the major purchase of new club kit for league playing members the overall position was a very healthy one. The club had also purchased a new robot in the year which was at the club room and available for use by all members. With the prospective change to the club premises it has been decided this year to set aside part of the overall balance as a new property fund so that the club is able to show its efforts to put itself in a position to contribute to any redevelopment.

Barry Davis confirmed that he had carried out an audit of the accounts, but this had not extended to verifying that all members had paid the correct amount of fees. Colin Mitchell explained that the absence this year of proceeds from the Christmas draw was because a decision had been taken to not charge for the Christmas party, this being paid for out of the funds collected from the draw,

The meeting unanimously approved the accounts and the reports of the Secretary & Treasurer.

## 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.
- b. Chairman – The Chairman explained that he had decided not to seek re-election for a further year. He had enjoyed his time as Chairman and appreciated the loyal support of members, however because of health and personal issues he had decided to take a break but would be remaining as a social member of the club. The Secretary paid tribute to Fred's leadership over the last 6 years, saying that whilst he may have described Fred at one time as a 'rough diamond', nevertheless under his leadership the club had thrived and grown and the whole atmosphere within the club had developed making the club a warm and welcoming environment. On behalf of members the Secretary presented Fred with a small gift and the meeting unanimously endorsed its appreciation of Fred's leadership.

The Secretary said he would also like to suggest for possible succession and put forward Treasurer Ian McElwee to step up to take on the Chair of the Club. Ian confirmed his willingness to step into the roll. There were no further nominations and Ian was duly appointed Chairman. It was however agreed that Fred should continue to Chair the AGM and that Ian would then take over following the AGM.

- c. Secretary – Graham Turner was nominated and unanimously approved.
- d. Treasurer - Ian McElwee said that whilst he would be prepared to continue in the role of Treasurer he would equally be content to support any new candidate. It was felt by the meeting that it would be preferable to have separate individuals for the roles of Chairman and Treasurer. Ian Brownrigg was nominated and unanimously approved to become the new 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, Ken Jackson, Des Logan and Dave Noden.

Outgoing committee members Liz Adams and Ricky Brown were thanked for their past service to and support for the club.

It was agreed that Dave Noden would continue to act as Assistant Secretary in relation to League Fixtures and Mary to act as Welfare/Social Secretary, in which role she had excelled.

## 8. Property Update

Secretary reported that plans are now in progress to demolish the existing building of which the club room is part and to replace it with a new modular construction unit which would have 3 parts to it, new facilities for the football club, a classroom for Progress Schools who provide education for young people who for whatever reason might otherwise be outside of the main school framework, and a new club room for the table tennis club. Marine FC are leading on the project as the property is theirs however they have made clear that they wish to work in partnership with the other two organisations. Work is progressing with Sefton Borough Council to create a single funding bid which will be supported by all 3 parties and SBC are helping to identify how best to take forward such a bid. Currently Marine FC are trying to obtain a ball park figure for the likely cost of redevelopment so that it can be used as a basis to prepare a funding bid. Nothing is settled or guaranteed at this stage. But the

expectation is that the current premises will be demolished in the summer of 2018 and the new build immediately put in its place so that all is complete and ready for the start of the 2018/19 football season. That would also be ideal for the table tennis club. Secretary pointed out that there is a need for strong involvement of the club management committee to ensure our interests are protected and that we obtain what we need in the new construction. It was also explained that unlike at present where the club has no security of tenure. Under the redevelopment plan the intention is that the club will be given a formal lease of the new table tennis room, but the precise terms of this are not yet known.

Secretary said that the current needs for the club were: to be actively engaged with Marine in the redevelopment plans; to start building reserves and fund raising towards the project as that would help support a funding bid; and to develop evidence that a community table tennis room available 365 days a year is needed and desired by the community of Crosby. These were matters that all members could help with.

In the discussion, it was suggested that attempts should be made to further engage local press in relation to what is happening at Marine TTC and to develop a possible contingency plan for the start of the 2018/19 table tennis season should the redevelopment overrun on time such that the room is not ready for play by September.

## 9. Subscriptions 2017/18

Ian said that in view of the financial health of the club there was little need to increase subscriptions. However, there was a perception that for associate or social members the present deal was a little too good, so a slight increase was proposed. He therefore proposed that fees for 2017/18 should be:-

- a. Adult league playing member - £144. This can either be paid as to £104 to Marine AFC as subscription to the Marine Lottery and £40 to the Club or wholly to the Club.
- b. Adult social member - £124. This can either be paid as to £104 to Marine AFC as subscription to the Marine Lottery and £20 to the Club or wholly to the Club.
- c. Junior member (any) - under 18 - £5 (Junior members are not asked to subscribe to the Marine Lottery)

In addition:-

- d. Visitors are asked to pay a fee of £2 per visit.
- e. Guest players – a match fee of £3. The intention is that this is applied to occasional players only playing 8 matches or less in line with current rules of the club. Anyone playing more than this would be expected to become a member.

There was considerable discussion about levels of membership, and individuals playing for the club but not joining the Marine lottery or paying a full membership fee. The intention is that individuals playing league table tennis full time for the club should pay the full fees. Secretary pointed out that some players might consider themselves at a significant disadvantage if all they wish to do is play league table tennis in Liverpool, in effect social and non-league playing members could then be said to be getting table tennis on the cheap or league players not playing at the club at other times could consider they are paying disproportionately more. This could put some players off joining the club. This raised a discussion about what kind of club we wished to be. If the club wished to attract good quality players and have a dynamic social side then it might be appropriate to remain flexible about charging or to create different levels of membership depending on what individuals wanted from the club.

Following the discussion, the meeting unanimously approved the fees proposed.

## 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 a selection committee. The main purpose would be to consider and decide on the Club's entry to the L&DTTL for the forthcoming 2017/18 season.

## 11. League Matters

The League AGM is on Thursday 25 May and this will include presentation of league trophies. It is hoped that representatives of the A & E Teams will attend.

Two possible League Rule changes might be of interest to members:

- i. Clubs eligible to join L&DTTL are to be restricted to those on the Liverpool side of the Mersey and within 12 miles of the City Town Hall. The reason for this change is not known.
- ii. A proposal that all teams in the league should be 3-a-side or alternatively 3-a-side for Div 4. Members forming part of the club's teams in Div 5 indicated a preference for 4-a-side format.

## 12. Any Other Business

- a. Colin Mitchell recommend a vote of thanks to those who provided coaching for the club's juniors and suggested that in recognition they should be given free club membership (excluding lottery fee) for a year. Members present supported by this and Ian and Graham thanked them for the thought which would be noted.
- b. Barbara Allcock raised the matter of the toilets, both the cleanliness and the noise from the pipework when flushed. Although it is unlikely there will be any significant improvement now because of the planned demolition, perhaps it would be possible to address cleanliness and the pipework during the summer.
- c. Mary Delamere raised the health and safety issue of the door out from the snooker room being locked when the bar is closed. In the week, the bar is often closed in the evening so there is no alternative way out of the building. It was agreed this should be taken up with Marine again.
- d. Barbara Allcock drew attention to the death in the last year of Beryl Matchett a long-standing member. Secretary pointed out that a tribute had been posted at the time on the club website.
- e. The matter of access to the defibrillator was raised again. The club does have access to the Marine defib but this is only when the bar is open and appropriate staff are on hand. Barry Davis said that trained staff were not essential to the use of a defib; but it was agreed that it was unlikely that the Club could afford a defib of its own at present.
- f. Secretary drew attention to the fact that Wednesday 12 July is National Table Tennis Day, this might be an occasion when we could promote the club and its involvement in the community.
- g. Finally, there are no plans yet for the 2017 Club Tournament. The last event was in May 2016 at the end of the 2015/16 season and was a whole day event. This will be taken forward by the new committee with an event possibly immediately before the start of the next season.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:19 and followed by a light buffet.

***These Minutes approved at AGM May 2018 ..... (I McElwee – Chairman)***