

Basingstoke and District Table Tennis Association

Annual General Meeting

24th September 2020

On-line at Google Meet

Present:

Committee Members:-

Mike Wood, (Chair). Terri Allison(Secretary) Keith Russell, Gill Larking, Dave McDonald, Celia Hooker, Martin Gilbey, Mark Every and Tony Amies

In addition to the committee, nine members attended from the following clubs: - AWE, KG, Oakley, Hannington, Queens, Aldworth and St Peter's.

OMI and Saints were not represented

1. **Apologies for absence**

Terry White, Dave Partridge, Steve Redstall, Ron Powell and Paul Myers.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 20th June 2019 were approved. Mark Every nominated acceptance and was seconded by Chris Smith.

3. **Chairman's Address**

"Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke Table Tennis Association for 2020.

I'd like to start off by paying tribute to Peter Coppins who passed away earlier this year. Peter was an eccentric – his knowledge of bats and rubbers was incredible, as was his desire to share that knowledge, especially with the bemused mothers of the kids at coaching. He was a dedicated table tennis player, being a member of Queens and assisting with coaching for many years. Peter had been feeling unwell for a while towards the end of 2019, but was then diagnosed with serious and untreatable cancer. His funeral was held just before restrictions were imposed and I was lucky enough to be able to attend his funeral along with quite a number of his team mates.

We also lost another long-standing member of our table tennis community – although in less severe circumstances. I'm talking about Sean Picking of course, has just moved to start the next phase of his life in France. I'm sure we all wish him bon chance.

No rule changes have been requested this year, and as you will have seen, because of the difficulties of voting on line, we have decided that the current committee will stand for another season.

I am aware that for many of you, table tennis is a significant aspect of your life, which is why I am keen that we retain some semblance of normality and maintain our physical and

mental well-being through continuing to play our sport. So, unlike a number of other leagues, here in Basingstoke we have opted to continue league play this season, albeit in a slightly reduced format with no doubles. We clearly have a good deal of support for this approach and hopefully you will be able to enjoy a season of competitive table tennis. This of course is very much dependent upon possible changes to local or national restrictions on movements. We are also relying on all players adhering to the rules that are published on the web site as we can only continue to play if we are able to do so safely.

Like most other sports, the lockdown in March caught us by surprise so we did not quite complete the season. However, there were only a few matches outstanding and, when we looked at the results as they stood when we abandoned the season, the likely winners and runners-up in each division were quite clear so we awarded the results on that basis.

The lockdown also had an impact on coaching. At the moment, Coaching is still stalled due to the additional measures required, but we hope to resume before too much longer. Sam Ricks attained his UKCC Level 1 qualification earlier this year, but we are still in need of more coaches so please let me know if this is something you would like to consider.

It was also a quiet year in terms of development opportunities. Your committee is still determined to find a quality, permanent home for table tennis in Basingstoke that can both attract younger players and can cater for disabled players, neither of which applies to the facilities at Essex Road. Clearly, such opportunities are scarce and funding getting scarcer but we remain optimistic. We have been in discussions with another sports club about potentially sharing their premises, but we are waiting for confirmation from their membership and their landlord on whether this would be acceptable.

Basingstoke Voluntary Action has recently launched a local lottery to support good causes and the Association hopes to join in. The way it works is that members can sign up for one or more tickets weekly tickets of £1 each. Of that £1, 50p would go to the Association, and the rest to prize money, a central fund and running costs. There is a maximum prize of £25000 every week. In order to join, we have to sell just 20 tickets. We will send out more details as soon as they are available.

Lastly, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their efforts this year. We have continued to run the Association by holding meetings online and we are committed to giving you as much opportunity to play table tennis as possible. At this stage, as well as the league competition, the Team Handicap Competition will continue, but it is too early yet to know whether it will be possible to hold a Closed Competition.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

- (1) Keith had prepared the annual accounts which had been circulated on line to members. They are yet to be examined but Keith will get this done in the next few days.
- (2) Keith explained again that it was difficult to give a definitive account to compare with previous years as invoices are received at differing times as are payments.
- (3) The accounts would normally be calculated from May until May of the following year but because we had been given a grant during 'lockdown' from the Government the period has been extended to show this windfall.

- (4) Keith explained that the entry in the previous draft for TT365 was an error and should have read Inter Town fees.
- (5) The £70 shown as an overpayment was in fact a late payment from coaching.
- (6) He explained further that the £2,000 loss is not in fact as it seems as if calculated from August 2019 to August 2020 we actually break even.
- (7) Keith is happy that as an Association we are making the books balance with income and expenditure.

Dave Kimberley recommended acceptance of the accounts and Mark Every seconded the motion.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

- (1) Terri reported that despite the 'lockdown' the Committee had met 6 times during the year with an average of 7 attendees.
- (2) Terri and Mike continue to keep in touch with Basingstoke Voluntary Action in the hope of gaining knowledge of grants/ sponsorships or volunteers.
- (3) Terri added that she receives inquiries throughout the year from parents and players looking to join clubs. She has directed them to the coaching to see how they fare as competitors.
- (4) She had received two inquiries from 2 companies, one was for assistance from players for a corporate day. Unfortunately this was in March and because of the virus it didn't happen; they hope to hold it in the future.
- (5) The other company making inquiries re table tennis was from a Leisure Consultant currently working at Dummer Down. The owners are keen to provide all sorts of outdoor sports and the consultant wondered if outdoor table tennis would appeal to us. Terri explained that we are a competitive league and have certain conditions to meet. Outdoor is fun but not something we would be interested in. She did however explain that the league is looking for new indoor premises so if the project extended to indoor sport we would be very interested. He took Terri's details and will advise if this comes about.
- (6) No issues were reported regarding Child Protection, however all clubs are reminded of the need to have qualified coaches, who have been police checked and have been on Safeguarding Courses if they are to work with vulnerable adults and children. They would then be insured to coach/supervise under the conditions of their TTE membership.

6. Honorary Registration Secretary's report:

Celia reported that:

- (1) 28 teams registered last season which was one less than the previous year. Hannington had one less team and Oakley had one more. JPS rejoined St Peter's and Pegasus withdrew altogether.
- (2) The 3 divisions were split into 10, 10 and 8 teams.
- (3) 133 players, 2 less than the previous year, registered on time with both the league and TTE. A couple had problems with on line registering with TTE and had to phone.

- (4) Unfortunately the season was cancelled prior to the completion of all matches owing to the epidemic virus that closed the country; thus condemning all leagues everywhere to have to stop. We were fortunate that the results were clear on league positions and Champions and those relegated were able to be awarded as usual.

7. Honorary Development Officer's Report

In Dave's absence Terri read the report he had sent in.

I presented quite a long report 15 months ago but since that evening in June last year at the Rugby Club as we are all too aware life is now very different and as I write these notes for this year's AGM the future looks somewhat uncertain for sport in general. Our sub-committee still exists and our key aim remains to find a suitable dedicated replacement for Essex Road where we can offer Coaching at flexible times and stage league matches and offering capacity to expand the League. Since my last report our discussions with the Rugby Club have come to an end as they no longer wished to progress with us, disappointing as we had put in a lot of time and effort and felt that this could have been a good scheme for us. So sadly yet another avenue has closed. Before lockdown we were looking at another possibility but then the Country was forced into hibernation and all progress ceased including the early termination of our League campaign. Just recently we have started to re-engage on this lead but at the moment will not give any update on this as we have been here before only to have our hopes dashed after much work has been put in. With the possibility of further lockdown this may be a longer process than we had hoped.

Our focus in the immediate will be to try and return to League playing under the new Covid rules and to maintain the League to be in a position to continue to our development when normality returns but that looks to be some way in the future at the moment. Long term we need to look at sponsorship of aspects of our set up, the League itself, tournament, handicap cup etc. to increase our revenue but this won't be easy with more organisations like us looking for ever decreasing funds. I had tried prior to the last AGM to get an article in the Gazette regarding our quest to secure new facilities but without success. A new editorial team is now at the local paper so this may be something we can re-visit if our current path reaches another dead end. The next 12 months and probably longer is going to be extremely challenging for all sport and is going to require extra resilience to get through this and come out the other side.

8. Honorary HTTA Representative's Report

- (1) Sarah reported that Hampshire Table Tennis had sadly lost both its Chairman and President within a short time of each other.
- (2) Derek Seager acting secretary, who takes on a huge amount of the County's workload has written to all leagues asking for help to continue to give a service to all players who enjoy County Table Tennis. To date he has had promises that 3 additional league members will attend meetings.
- (3) No-one has offered to take on the roles lost.

- (4) HTTA will likely cancel the affiliation fee from all leagues this year owing to the lack of foreseeable competitions until the virus has well and truly been beaten.

9. Honorary Trophy Secretary's Report

- (1) Dave had been ill for many months and although the Association is delighted he is well and happy to carry on he has nothing he can report at this time.
- (2) Mike said that emails have gone out to all past winners who hold a BDTTA trophy for its return.
- (3) The Men's doubles trophy seems lost as all avenues of contact with its holder have dried up.
- (4) Terri is pursuing a new contact to do the engraving and will report back on pricing etc.
- (5) Keith and Tony have very generously offered to donate cups for the new Premiership division and a replacement for the current First division.

10. BTT Centre and Coaching Officer's report

In Terry's absence Terri read the report he had submitted.

- (1) From early in March the Match Room was closed because of the Coronavirus and remained closed until 25th July 2020 when Table Tennis was allowed to resume. A register book has been placed in the match room which must be signed by everyone who enters the room even if they have signed the Queen's Book because it is important for us to know who has been in the room even if they just walked in and did not play.
- (2) Everyone must take all their rubbish with them when they leave because the virus can stay on an object for upto 72 hours e.g. empty drinks cans, broken table tennis balls etc.
- (3) Booking Procedure. In order to play in the match room from now on you must book a date and time with Mike Wood, you are allowed to play for one hour per booking. You must follow all the rules as laid down by Table Tennis England. Each player must clean their half of the table before they leave making sure to take paper towels used to clean the table with them when they leave.
- (4) Friday night Coaching session Report – Our last Friday Night Coaching session was on the 6th March 2020 just before the Coronavirus lockdown. As yet I don't have a date for restarting the Coaching sessions but under the present guidelines we would have to disinfect every Table and Net we get out and then disinfect the Tables and Nets when we put them away. The balls could be put away without cleaning because they would be locked away till the following Friday which is more than 72 hours.

11. Web-Master's Report

- (1) Tony reported that there had been almost 25,000 hits on the web-site last season.
- (2) No operational issues with the site throughout the year.
- (3) Our hosting company charges £65 per year which Tony considers great value for money. They were also very good at support when needed.
- (4) Because of the halting of the league matches Tony had to manually add the final results of the winners etc into the web-site.

- (5) He is now undertaking updates to the site for the forthcoming season. He is removing doubles from the score cards.
- (6) Tony added that after 6 years of being our Web-Master and in view of his plans to move away he would like to see the position filled by his successor fairly soon so he can hand over and maybe still help with any issues.

12. Press Officer's report

Paul was unable to attend the meeting and had no report other than to ask all captains to put the results of matches onto the web-site as soon as possible, hopefully the next day, in order for him to compile a weekly report for publication.

13. Election of Officers

In the absence of a vote all positions on the Association Committee remain the same.

President: Mrs Avril Waters

The Committee for 2020-21

Chair: Mike Wood

Vice Chair: Tony Amies

Hon. Secretary: Terri Allison

Hon Treasurer: Keith Russell

Hon Registration Secretary: Celia Hooker

Hon Development Officer: Dave Partridge

Hon. Inter-Town Secretaries: Vacant

Web-Master: Tony Amies

Hon Trophy Secretary: Dave MacDonald

The Basingstoke Table Tennis Centre and Coaching Officer: Terry White

HTTA Representative: Sarah Whithorn

Press and Media Relations Officer: Paul Myers

Additional Members: Gill Larking, Mark Every and Martin Gilbey.

Auditor: Les Bone

14. Nomination of Club to run 2019 Closed Competition

OMI had offered to run the Closed Championships for 2019/20 but Avril asked if another one team club could help as there was quite a lot to do.

Terri asked if AWE would consider helping out.

John McClarty will ask his club members if they will take their turn in running the competition with OMI.

This would leave the following clubs: Saints, Aldworth, and St Peter's to take a turn.

When each club has taken a turn it will revert to the first club again to run in the order as first started.

15. Any Other Business

- (1) Dave Kimberley voiced his concerns regarding the dimensions of the Match Room and in particular access to the toilets at Essex Road. With the virus not yet under control and an increase of incidents should we ask all players to wear masks when not playing?

There followed lots of discussion regarding this issue.

- (2) Tony reminded everyone that players choose if they want to play in October, some have decided to wait until after Christmas.
- (3) All teams/players should carry antiseptic wipes etc so any visits to the loo can be cleaned each time on use.
- (4) All players should wear a mask to go to any other part of the building they are in. e.g. to the toilets.
- (5) Mike advised that all venues must meet TTE requirement of 55 sq. metres. The match room is in excess of this. He suggested that Terri contact all clubs to get confirmation on the playing areas of each venue.

Action: Terri

- (6) As Oakley is planning to use only the one table again this year they will be okay for space. However a two table set up in most village halls may not.
- (7) Mark suggested that most teams being happy to be back playing would most likely be very accommodating regarding time etc. Recent TTE guidance had been received that venues must be vacated by 10pm so this will mean matches **starting** by 7pm and earlier if possible.

[Post meeting note: TTE subsequently advised that this deadline only applied to premises where food and drink are sold]

- (8) There are no doubles so overall match times should be shorter.
- (9) All the regulations are clearly shown on the web-site and maybe copies should be displayed at venues. All of the issues raised are covered in these regulations.
- (10) Discussion on the wearing of masks until a person plays must remain an individual choice. TTE have not stipulated this as a rule therefore it would be very difficult for BDTTA to insist on such a practice.

- (11) AWE in particular is having difficulties with permission to use their match room. Joe Jenkins said they were pursuing this with the management as squash is being played and they could see no difference.
- (12) Celia advised AWE members that Tuesdays were available in the Match Room for use. The hire cost is still £21 for the evening.
- (13) Steve NG asked if it would be acceptable for a player having played his 3 matches to leave the room and go home to reduce the 'bubble' of 6. There was no objection to this.
- (14) Mark added as a reminder to all that Basingstoke still twins with Alencon at table tennis and as Sean has now left to live in France he and a few others will continue to run this exchange and wanted everyone to tell players of this very enjoyable town twinning event in the hope that more players will take part in playing and hosting.
- (15) Celia asked if Tom Speed was aware that no doubles will be played in the handicap competition this year. Martin offered to contact Tom and assist in any way with adjusting the handicaps to reflect this format.

Action Martin

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

This is a true account of the meeting

Signed:

Secretary

Signed:

Chairman

Date: