

# **GLOSSOP & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Dinting Cricket Club, on Wednesday 24 June 2009, 7.30pm.**

### **1. Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman, Mike Flynn, opened the meeting at 7.40pm following the distribution of copies of the accounts, and this year's E.T.T.A. registration forms

### **2. Apologies**

John and Beryl Halsall, Mike Hilton, Ken Handley, Dave Morris, Simon Hardwick

### **3. Minutes of the previous AGM held 24th June 2008**

Having been proposed by Warwick Francis, and seconded by Chris Guard, it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of last year's A.G.M. should be accepted as a correct record.

### **4. Matters arising**

Vernon Hyde reported back on the matter of E.T.T.A. affiliated organisations being required to purchase their civil liability insurance via the E.T.T.A. A vote on this issue was taken at last year's A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. and a majority voted in favour of it becoming a condition of affiliation that insurance must be arranged via the E.T.T.A. Vernon said he would defer any further observations on League insurance until agenda item 15.

A question had been raised last year as to whether the Tameside League was in possession of any financial assets when it ceased to exist a couple of seasons previously. Vernon said that various efforts had been made to get in touch with the people who had been Chairman and Treasurer of the Tameside League at that time. No responses had been forthcoming by the time of the Glossop A.G.M. Vernon asked whether it was felt that further efforts should be made, and the feeling of the meeting was that they should not.

### **5. Correspondence**

Vernon Hyde reported as follows -

There had been extensive correspondence with Alex Murdoch, Chairman of the E.T.T.A. concerning the Approved Laws relating to racket coverings, cleaners, toners and the like. Vernon said he would return to the subject in his Secretary's report.

The League had written to St. Philip Howard School expressing concern about the condition, use and maintenance of the table tennis tables used at the Saturday coaching sessions/Sunday practice sessions. The School had responded with a detailed reply which, the Committee felt, showed that they understood the problems and were prepared to do something about them.

Vernon had received correspondence and phone calls from both Alan Ransome and Alex Murdoch in the run-up to the E.T.T.A. elections which would see one of them returned as Chairman. The Committee had considered who, of the two, they wished to see elected and had decided that the League's vote should be cast in favour of Alex Murdoch. And so it was. Vernon informed the meeting that Alex had been re-elected as Chairman.

A player/coach in Poland had contacted several English Leagues, including the Glossop, asking if they had a need for a coach as he would like to come to this country both to play and teach. Vernon replied, wishing him well but informing him that the Glossop League did not require a coach at the moment.

Eric Pentland, who recently resigned as the League's auditor, had written to express some concern about the banking procedures we had adopted in regard to the income from the St. Philip Howard

coaching sessions. He felt there was insufficient detail being passed to the Treasurer. The Committee looked into this, and was able to inform Eric that procedures had been amended to fall into line with his recommendations.

There had been a number of e-mails to the League, from people wishing to play/practice in the Glossop. Gary Oke had found a home with Old Glossop Cricket Club; Mark Townsend, a player of high standard from the Isle of Man, looking to play preferably somewhere in Greater Manchester, had been put in touch with various people who could help, and he eventually signed on for the Bolton League; Frank Corlett, who will be playing for one of the Hollingworth teams; Peter Murphy, who used to play for the Strines E team, contacted the League and said that he would like to rejoin the League next season. Vernon informed the meeting that, if anyone was interested in signing Peter, he had Peter's e-mail details.

## 6. **Reports**

**President** - John Halsall was unable to attend this year's A.G.M. due to ill health. He had sent his apologies, and regards, via Vernon, saying that he hoped to be soon feeling well enough to recommence his periodic trips to Glossop.

**Chairman** - Mike Flynn began his report with thanks to John Halsall for his continued dedication to the League, despite living so far away. The Committee's feelings in this regard were reflected at this year's Presentation Evening when John, and his wife Beryl, were jointly awarded the J. D. Trophy in recognition of their long-standing support and commitment.

Mike went on to say that this had been another successful season due to the hard work put in by all the League officials. There had been some disappointment expressed as a result of the reduced number of teams in Division 3, with a consequent reduction in matches, but this was something that would be resolved next season.

Tim Baker, he said, had carried out the unenviable job of Match Secretary in a thorough and professional manner, and thanks must go to him for the day-to-day running of the League as well as for our excellent website.

Thanks were also offered to the General Secretary, Vernon Hyde. Mike observed that the Glossop League must be one of the most efficiently run in the country, and that Vernon's contribution was a factor in this.

Mike also expressed his thanks to other members of the Committee. To Di Twist who, he said, had got us out of a difficult situation by taking on the role of Treasurer; to Barry Fordham for his work as Welfare Officer and his work with the younger players in the League; to Graham Bellis who, together with Tim, had once again carried out the work relating to the League's trophies; to Dennis Bradshaw who had put in another season of hard work with his coaching at the Centre of Excellence at St. Philip Howard School; and to Simon Hardwick who had always been on hand to offer his advice.

Mike lastly expressed his thanks to Mike Hilton who, although no longer serving on the Committee, was continuing in his role as Town Championship organiser, and this season had agreed to be the League's auditor.

**General Secretary** - Vernon Hyde said that this year's proposed E.T.T.A. rule changes, to be voted on at their A.G.M. in July, had been discussed by the Committee. Most of the proposals would be of no immediate relevance to the League, but the ones relating to the E.T.T.A.'s plans to introduce Individual Membership would, if passed, have an impact - both for the Committee and for members of the League.

When, in 2005, the E.T.T.A. was seeking to introduce the current system of Individual Registration, the Committee had reservations about the likely impact on the League, but had decided to vote for the proposals on the grounds that such a scheme was essential for a national organisation whose aims were the promotion and development of table tennis but which, in fact, had a very unclear understanding of who constituted its membership.

This year's proposals were seen by some Committee members as a necessary continuation of a process which would eventually enable the E.T.T.A. to have a much more accurate understanding of its membership, and they felt that the League should continue to support the E.T.T.A.'s initiatives in this regard. This view was not unanimous, and a vote was taken. A majority voted for the Glossop League's approval of the proposed E.T.T.A. rule changes. Consequently, Vernon said, he had exercised the League's vote accordingly, and that he would report back on the outcome.

Vernon said that he and Tim Baker had, this season, produced, and uploaded match reports to the website. Vernon offered his thanks to those who had contributed, and his by now customary encouragement to those that hadn't.

In regard to the E.T.T.A. registration forms for the forthcoming season, Vernon said he was adopting the same approach as last season. Forms were distributed with an accompanying explanatory letter, an addressed envelope for their return, and a request from Vernon for as speedy a response as possible. He also reminded members that League application forms should go to Tim Baker and not himself - something which had happened in a few instances last season.

Earlier in the season Vernon had sent letters to all Team Secretaries regarding the League's response to the changes in the Approved Laws regarding racket coverings, glues, toners, cleaners and the like. He reported that, as yet, the League was in much the same position as when that letter was sent, i.e. waiting for guidance from the E.T.T.A. This was now even more important as the next edition of the Approved Laws would contain yet another amended version of the Law relating to racket coverings. Vernon said he had some confidence that guidance would be forthcoming before the start of the 2009/10 season, and he said that Team Secretaries would be kept informed. In the meantime the Committee would still not be implementing any restrictions on racket coverings.

Until some years ago it had been the practice to invite Team Secretaries to attend the latter part of Executive Committee meetings should they so wish. This provided an opportunity for Secretaries to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Committee, and for them to be briefed on the business of the League under discussion at that meeting. The practice has lapsed over the last few years but Vernon said that it would now be reintroduced. He will notify Secretaries of future meeting dates, meeting by meeting - the only exception being the annual pre-A.G.M. - and will suggest that anyone wishing to attend should arrive at about 9.30pm. He asked that anyone intending to come should give him at least a few days notice so that the business of the meeting could be structured appropriately.

**Treasurer** - Di Twist had circulated copies of the accounts. She informed the meeting that there had been some profit from the St. Philip Howard coaching sessions, and also a small profit from the Presentation Evening. The Town Championships this year had broken even. Our financial situation was healthy, with more money in the bank than this time last year. There were no questions from the membership, and the accounts were accepted. *[copies of the accounts are appended {A.G.M. file copy only}]*

**Match Secretary** - Tim Baker said that he thought that overall it had been a successful season. It had obviously been disappointing that Division 3 had suffered from a shortage of teams and fixtures but, other than that, the League had run fairly smoothly, with only a few of the usual issues arising from postponements and late cards.

Tim felt that both the main Volcrepe competition, and the newly introduced Consolation Cup had both run successfully. There had been no adverse feedback regarding the earlier timing of the first couple of rounds and, as far as the handicapping had been concerned, there had been the not unusual mix of comments both praising it and criticising it.

The possibility of friendly matches to compensate for any shortage of League fixtures had been sanctioned for this season, and a number of teams had expressed a willingness to participate, However, as far Tim was aware, no such matches had taken place.

There had been a number of positive comments about the League website.

Tim briefly explained the reasoning behind the Committee's decision to split the roles of Match Secretary and Competition Secretary, and to reinstate the position of Competition Secretary as an Officer of the League.

He asked Team Secretaries, wherever possible, to nominate an e-mail contact for their teams. If they personally didn't use e-mail, Tim asked them to see if any of their team members would agree to be the e-mail contact. Having such a contact is of considerable help to the running of the League.

**Town Team Organiser** - Vernon informed the meeting that Steve Lyons, who ran the League's team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League this season, no longer wished to organise the team. Ken Ward had expressed a willingness to take on the responsibility, and the Committee had agreed that he should be the Lancashire and Cheshire representative for the forthcoming season. In the pre-A.G.M. letter which Vernon had sent to Team Secretaries he had indicated that, although some players had already expressed interest in playing for the team, anyone else who was interested in putting themselves forward should contact Ken, providing they were of Glossop 1st Division standard

and were not currently registered to any other inter-League team. Vernon confirmed that this was still the case.

**Town Championship Organiser** - In the absence of Mike Hilton, Vernon used Mike's report to inform the meeting that this season's Championships had been very successful, with a far higher number of competitors than in the previous season. There were increased numbers of entrants in all but two of the events, and this fact, combined with a slight increase in the entrance fee of 50p per event, had helped to offset increases in the cost of the room and table hire, enabling the event to break even financially. Mike offered his thanks to those members who helped to set out the room on the Saturday evening prior to the event.

Next season's event, unless otherwise notified, has been arranged for Sunday January 17th 2010, and it will once again be at the Glossop Leisure Centre.

**Presentation Night Organiser** - Mike Flynn reported on The Presentation Night which this year was once again held at the Glossop Cricket and Bowling Club. He said that 98 tickets were allocated, 5 of which were free to Juniors, and 1 was a complimentary ticket for Ron Bowden who made the inaugural presentation of the Dorothy Dook Memorial Trophy.

Mike felt that the food this year was of an acceptable standard - far better than last year. Also, that the quiz, which last year had come in for some criticism, had this year been pitched at a better level, with Barry Fordham, ably assisted by David Jones, doing an excellent job of presenting it.

David Jones, this time in his role of Vice-President, made the presentation of the trophies as our President, John Halsall was unable to attend due to illness.

Mike said that the evening had gone on longer than scheduled and he felt that we may have to consider reducing the length of the quiz in future.

Receipts from ticket sales and the raffle produced a modest increase of £85 as compared with last year's event.

**Development Officer** - Mike Flynn said that the major push for League development took the form of the Centre of Excellence at St. Philip Howard School on Saturday afternoons (2 - 4pm), certain weeks being excluded for exams and holidays. Mike briefly outlined the organisation of the sessions, saying that he helped Barry Fordham set the room up, and took responsibility for the administration - collecting and banking money, liaising as required with Derbyshire County Council's Sports Development Officer Emma Champion, and dealing with any other similarly related matters. Dennis Bradshaw is responsible for the coaching, and he is assisted by Barry, and Nesta Chambers - their help is invaluable. Occasionally Tim also attends to help with the coaching.

Mike said the the Centre has gone from strength to strength this year. Attendance in the teens had been the norm, and on one occasion 24 people had turned up. Several adults accompany their children to the sessions.

The school had taken on board the concerns we had about the condition of the tables and is trying to make sure that their use in future is supervised and appropriate. They have also taken the decision that they will buy at least one new table.

Mike reported that Barry has contacted the E.T.T.A. with a view to securing places for himself and Nesta on the next suitable Level 1 coaching course. Also, as part of the development of the junior players attending the coaching at St. Philip Howard, Barry has formed two new Junior teams which will be entered into Division 3 of the League in 2009/10 season.

Mike said that several outstanding matters regarding coaching, insurance etc. had yet to be resolved, and that he would be arranging a meeting with Emma Champion in the near future to discuss these problems.

Mike said that he attends 6 Sports Forum meetings each year, explaining that these are helpful for sports development purposes, and networking. He also reported that Tim had recently attended a Sports Funding workshop with a view to exploring ways that we might obtain funding to assist in future development projects. For example, the League would like to get funding for the costs of the Level 1 coaching courses that Barry and Nesta will be attending.

Mike reminded the meeting that tables can still be hired for practice at St. Philip Howard on a Sunday. Details can be found on the Glossop League website, or from the Sports Development Office on 01457 866 612.

Barry Fordham said that the Glossop Band room was now also available for practice for a modest £4 hire charge. Anyone interested in using the facility should get in touch with Barry.

## **7. Resignations and elections of Officers**

Di Twist had submitted her resignation as Vice Chairman. There had been no nominations for this position and consideration of a possible replacement for Di was deferred.

Steve Lyons had submitted his resignation from the Executive Committee.

When Mike Hilton resigned the post of Treasurer last season there had been no nominations for his replacement. Shortly after last year's A.G.M. Di Twist had offered to take on the role of Treasurer. She had acted from then on as Treasurer in an unelected capacity, but was now seeking election to the post. Warwick Francis proposed her, and Ron Mitchell seconded the proposal. Di was duly unanimously elected.

Paul Neaves had asked to be considered for election to the Executive Committee. Vernon provided the meeting with a short account of Paul's background in table tennis, and then asked for a Proposer and Seconder. Graham Bellis and Barry Fordham obliged. Paul was unanimously elected to serve on the Committee.

## **8. Reinstatement of, and nominations to, the post of Competition Secretary**

As explained by Tim Baker earlier in the meeting, the Committee had decided to reinstate the post of Competition Secretary and nominations were being sought. There had been none forthcoming following Vernon's 'A.G.M.' letter to Team Secretaries, and there were none forthcoming from the meeting. Tim Baker expressed a willingness to continue administering the Cup competitions for a further year only. It was agreed that he should be officially nominated for the post of Competition Secretary and a Proposer and Seconder were asked for. Neil Coppard and Paul Neaves responded. Tim was unanimously elected as Competition Secretary.

## **9. Re-election of the Executive Committee**

Those members of the Committee who had neither resigned nor been involved in earlier elections had all expressed a willingness to seek re-election. Mike Flynn asked for a Proposer and Seconder for the motion that those Committee should be re-elected en bloc. Ron Mitchell proposed, and Alan Smith seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **10. Appointment of an Auditor**

Mike Hilton had informed the Committee that he was prepared to continue as the League's Auditor. This found approval with the Committee, and there was no dissent from members at the meeting. Mike Hilton will be League's Auditor for the 2009/10 season.

## **11. Proposed rule additions/amendments**

The background to, and the nature of, the proposed Rule changes had been circulated to all Team Secretaries three weeks prior to the meeting. Vernon and Tim briefly went through each one again, and called for a vote on them individually. The results were as follows:-

### **i) An amendment to Rule 3a**

#### **Proposal**

That the final sentence of Rule 3a (League Fixtures/Matches) , which currently reads :-

*All matches must be played according to E.T.T.A. rules, and, specifically, ball and bat coverings must conform to E.T.T.A. approved standards.*

be amended to :-

*All matches must be played according to the E.T.T.A. Approved Laws of Table Tennis*

**Proposed by : Tom Hennegan    Seconded by : Ron Mitchell**

**Carried – unanimously.**

## ii) An amendment to Rule 1d (Registration of Team and Players)

### Proposal

That the following should be inserted before the final sentence of Rule 1d (Registration of Teams and Players) :-

*In order to grant such permission, the Match Secretary will need to be satisfied that, in making such a request, a team is not seeking unfair advantage and, moreover, would receive no such advantage should permission be given.*

**Proposed by : Peter Fowler    Seconded by : Steve Hilton**

**Carried – unanimously**

## iii) An amendment to Rule 6a (Cup Competitions : the Volcrepe Cup)

### Proposal

That the following two sentences should be added to Rule 6a (Cup Competitions : the Volcrepe Cup) :-

*At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a Consolation Cup competition may be held for those teams knocked out of the Volcrepe Cup in round 1. Such a competition will be considered as part of the Volcrepe Cup competition and will follow the same rules.*

**Proposed by : Neil Coppard    Seconded by : Fran Marsden**

**Carried – unanimously**

## iv) An amendment to Rule 6b (Cup Competitions : the Volcrepe Cup)

### Proposal

That the following sentence should be added to Rule 6b (Cup Competitions : the Volcrepe Cup) :-

*In any one season a player may play for only one team in the Volcrepe Cup*

**Proposed by : Lee Brown    Seconded by : Chris Guard**

**Carried – unanimously**

## 12. League Fees for 2009/10

Di Twist said that, given the healthy state of the League's finances, she saw no reason to increase the League fees for the forthcoming season.

## 13. Formation of the League 2009/10

Tim Baker said that, of the 28 teams from this season, he knew of one only at this stage that would not be registering for the 2009/10 season, and that was Hyde YMCA 'A' from Division 1. It was almost certain that three new teams, two of them Juniors, would be entering, and playing out of the Glossop Band room. It was also possible that another Junior team might emerge, organised by Peter Jepson, and playing from wherever 'George Lane' find to continue their illustrious Glossop League career. Tim said there had also been mention of a possible team being entered by Adam Wilson, and also that Pat Downs would most likely reassemble the Strines D team.

Tim said all of this suggested a strong healthy League of around 32 teams. That being the case it would mean that the season would be rostered on a 12 week cycle, which adds 4 weeks of fixtures, and results in a reduction in the number of free weeks, and a later finish to the season. Tim also felt that, given the likelihood that most, if not all, of the new teams were likely to be starting off in Division 3, then that division could possibly end up with a higher number of teams than the other two divisions. It could turn out that some variation on the normal 2 up, 2 down system of promotion and relegation might be needed.

Finally, Tim mentioned three players who would be looking for teams to play in - these were Neil Coppard, Paul Neaves, and Pete Murphy.

#### **14. Cup Competition 2009/10**

Tim said that he was proposing that the match format of the Cup competition, and the Consolation Cup should remain the same as this season.

Tim then spent some time revisiting the perennial problem of trying to ensure fair handicapping whilst retaining the interdivisional structure of the Cup competitions - something the Committee was committed to, and something which also found favour with many League members. He explained that difficulties arose because the current handicapping range was less than the span of abilities in the League, therefore the differentiation of handicapping is insufficient to overcome the fact that, overall, teams of players with greater skills will almost always win out over those whose players' skills are less advanced.

Tim said that, next season, he was proposing to try a new approach in an attempt to increase the handicapping range by using a system of negative handicaps for the better teams, together with a conversion formula to cover when a negatively handicapped team plays a team carrying a positive handicap. More details will follow nearer the time.

Following comments made at the last A.G.M. about some teams not really wanting to play the handicap competitions, Tim pointed out that this year's League application forms contained provision for teams to opt out of the Volcrepe if they so wished.

It had been realised this season that, if a team received a bye in the first round of the competition, and then lost their second round match, it meant they also lost the opportunity to play in the Consolation Cup. Tim said that next season he would schedule the byes, should there be any, for the second round and this would correct the problem.

#### **15. League Insurance**

Vernon explained to the meeting that, as a result of queries arising from our collaboration with St. Philip Howard school, the Committee needed to obtain a clearer understanding of precisely what cover we could expect from the insurance policy which the E.T.T.A. negotiates on behalf of all its affiliated bodies - a policy which now is an obligatory requirement for affiliation.

The Committee obtained a Summary of Liability Cover and, whilst it proved satisfactory in answering the questions raised by St. Philip Howard, it also led to concerns that the League was not currently in a position to comply with the terms and conditions of the policy in regard to incident notification and recording. This meant that, in the event of someone successfully suing 'the League' for damages, the insurance cover, that we pay for to protect us in such instances, could well be refused because we had not informed the insurance company of the incident that had given rise to the claim. Vernon pointed out that in such an eventuality 'the League' effectively meant everybody in the League, and that damages could be recovered from any or all of the membership.

Vernon said that, from next season, all League members should be aware of this and, in the event of an accident, or other relevant incident, occurring at a match venue, a coaching session, a League social event, etc. it would be expected that someone would take responsibility for noting down relevant details - nature of incident; witnesses; relevant names, addresses, telephone nos. etc. - and getting those details, as soon as possible, to the relevant member of the Committee (to be announced). There will be an incident/accident report form on the League website which should be printed out and used to record the relevant information or, in the absence of an internet connection, a copy of the form can be obtained from the Committee. Vernon said he would include an explanatory note in next season's handbook, outlining what was a reportable incident, and the procedure to use when reporting it.

#### **16. Centenary Celebrations 2010**

Barry Fordham informed the meeting that discussions were still ongoing with David Jones, but that the most likely event would be along the lines of a social evening, attended by present and former members of the League. The Glossop Band room was the likely venue. Food would be served, and there could possibly be some form of table tennis activity on the table there - possibly involving hardbats, and/or some of the League's junior players. Further deliberations and developments would be reported to Committee in the coming months.

17. **A. O. B.**

Mike Flynn's query of 'Any Other Business?' was greeted with a comfortable, and no doubt welcome, silence.

That being so, Mike declared the meeting closed - but not without having first cast a somewhat nervous sideways glance at the General Secretary, whose predilection for 'Any Other Businesses' is legendary! For once, nary a murmur issued from the General Secretary's lips. The time was 9.10pm - surprisingly, and somewhat disappointingly, 40 minutes short of the 2004 world record.