

# **GLOSSOP & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Dinting Cricket Club, on Monday 28th June 2010, 7.30pm.**

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

The Chairman, Mike Flynn, opened the meeting at 7.40pm and welcomed the assembled members.

### **2. Apologies**

Graham Oakley, Dave Morris, Lionel Royle, Ian Wilson, Steve Hilton

### **3. Minutes of the previous AGM held 24th June 2009**

Having been proposed by Barry Fordham, and seconded by Neil Coppard, 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 results of the E.T.T.A.'s A.G.M., held July 2009, at which the Glossop League's vote had been in favour of proposals relating to the E.T.T.A.'s intention to proceed with its plans for Individual Membership. Vernon said that those proposals had been approved. The E.T.T.A. had now begun the process of implementing Individual Membership and, from the beginning of the 2010/11 season all League members would be required to apply for E.T.T.A. membership.

Vernon said that, in his Secretary's report (agenda Item 6), he would explain fully what the new membership scheme would mean for the League.

### **5. Correspondence**

Vernon Hyde said that there had been little correspondence this season. He reported on the following three items -

He had written, at the Committee's request, to Councillor Graham Oakley in order to thank him for attending, in his official role as Mayor of High Peak, the League's Presentation Night, and for presenting this season's trophies to the winners and runners-up in the League and Town Championship competitions.

Mike Flynn, in his capacity as Chairman, had written to Andrea Stone, of Derbyshire Sport, with an application for a sporting bursary which, if awarded, was go towards enabling some of the volunteers at the St. Philip Howard table tennis Centre of Excellence to acquire coaching qualifications.

A letter had been received from the headteacher of Simmondley Primary School, thanking the League for its donation of 100 practice balls for use in the school's after-school table tennis club. The League also received a thank-you card signed by one of the teachers, and several of the pupils who attend the table tennis club.

### **6. Reports**

**President** – Due to the death, in November 2009, of John Halsall – the League's President of many years – there was no President's report this year.

**Chairman** - Mike Flynn began his report by offering, on behalf of the League, condolences for the death of John Halsall. Mike said that John had been our President for many years, and that he had made significant contributions, both as a player and as an Officer of the League, and that he would be sadly missed.

Mike said that the League had had another successful season and that this was due, in the main, to the hard work and professionalism of the League officials and Executive Committee members. He did not wish to single out any one individual, as everyone worked as a team and contributed accordingly. However, he did wish to express thanks, on behalf of the Committee and the League, to Tim Baker for his contribution as Match Secretary over the last eight years. Unfortunately for the League, Tim is leaving the area and moving to the Isle of Man where his new job is based.

Finally, Mike said that Vernon had informed the Committee that he would be resigning as League Secretary at the end of the 2010/2011 season – and that came as a bit of a shock! Over the coming year therefore, and starting now, the Committee will be looking for someone to take on the role of League Secretary from the beginning of the 2011/2012 season. Mike said that anyone who might consider taking on this work, either in full or in part, should contact himself, Vernon, or any member of the Committee.

*[Secretary's addendum : It had been the Chairman's intention to mention during his report that the Committee had recently asked Councillor Graham Oakley, Mayor of High Peak, whether he would accept the position of League President. However, Mike omitted to include this in his report, but subsequently asked me to insert into the minutes a note indicating that Graham had accepted the Presidency of the League. So, as of now, the Glossop League has a new President.]*

**General Secretary** - Vernon dealt with three items in his report, two comparatively brief, and a third which went on a bit! The items were as follows :-

Match Reports - As has been customary in his reports, Vernon thanked those people who had contributed match reports during the season, and offered the usual encouragement to those that hadn't. However, he observed that fewer and fewer teams were completing the match report section of the scorecard. He said that, starting next season, if there was a report on a scorecard then that report would appear on the League's website. However, if there was no report then, unlike previous years, there would be no summary of the match appearing on the website.

E.T.T.A. rule change proposals – This year's proposals were discussed by the Committee at their pre-A.G.M. in order that Vernon, as the League's nominated representative, might know how to vote on the League's behalf. Vernon said that many of the proposals concerned amendments to the wording in the E.T.T.A. company Rules, and would not have a direct effect on Glossop League table tennis. These proposals would be left to the discretion of the Chairman of the E.T.T.A. A.G.M to decide upon. Proposals 12, 13, 14 and 15 however, concerned the Laws of table tennis and would affect the way the game was played.

- No. 12 proposed that 'the racket covering shall be a brand and type currently authorised by the I.T.T.F. This did not receive unanimous approval by the Glossop Committee. After a vote of 4 – 2 in favour, Vernon was instructed to vote for the proposal.
- No. 13 concerned itself with a revision of the wording in the E.T.T.A. Rule book should Proposition 12 be passed. Given that the League was going to vote in favour of No. 12, it was logical that it should also vote for No. 13. Vernon was duly instructed.
- No. 14 was a proposal by Evesham and District T.T.A. which said that, in the event of No. 12 not being passed, a new Rule should be inserted into the E.T.T.A. Rule book saying 'A County Association, Local League, or Directly Affiliated Club, may diverge from the Approved Laws for some or all of its competitions by restricting the type of racket covering to that of a brand and type currently authorised by the I.T.T.F.' The Committee felt that, were this proposal to be passed, it would bring about a situation where different Leagues could end up imposing different rules in regard to what racket coverings their members could, or could not use. This was seen as an unacceptable situation, and a unanimous decision was taken that Vernon should vote against this proposition.
- No. 15, a proposal from the Potteries T.T.L., read as follows, 'Add to the E.T.T.A. Approved Laws – a racket shall not be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used.' The Glossop Committee unanimously found in favour of this proposal and Vernon was instructed to vote for it.

Vernon had voted as instructed above, and he said he would report back in due course on the outcome.

Individual Membership – Vernon explained (at length!) the E.T.T.A.'s Individual Membership scheme - the various types of membership, the various ways of applying for membership, and the implications for the League and its players. Every Team Secretary present, or their representative, was given (or will be, in the case of unrepresented teams) a letter containing detailed instructions on how

they and their team members should apply for the required individual membership of the E.T.T.A.

Vernon took great care to stress that, from the forthcoming season (2010/11) a player would not be eligible to play in any League match unless the League had received a properly completed E.T.T.A. membership application form for that player. The League's handbook meeting on Tuesday 31st August would be, for most teams, the appropriate time to submit the forms although Vernon indicated that forms could be sent to him in advance of that date.

As far as membership subscriptions are concerned, Vernon explained that the major difference under the new scheme would be that every player on a team would be required to pay the appropriate subscription for their own membership. Again, the most likely way for most players to do this will be for their Team Secretaries to collect their individual subscriptions and pay them in at the Handbook meeting. Or, once team invoices have been sent out in August, payment can be made in advance direct to Di Twist, the Treasurer.

Vernon explained that, if a player had already paid their membership subscription to another League, or had joined, and paid, the E.T.T.A. online, they would not be expected to pay again to play in the Glossop League. But, once again, he stressed that the Glossop League would still need a properly completed membership application for them, as without it they would not be eligible to play in the Glossop League.

Vernon was asked what the situation would be if a team, during the season, wanted to use a player not originally signed to their team, to help out temporarily. Vernon said that if the player was not an E.T.T.A. member, a membership application would have to be made and a subscription paid. If the player was already an E.T.T.A. member, but not a Glossop League player, the League would still require a completed application form, and the player's E.T.T.A. player number. The current rule (1b) would still be applicable, i.e. the application form would need to be received by the Match Secretary 'at least three days before a player can participate in his/her first match'

Vernon said that anyone with queries about Individual Membership and how it applies to them should get in touch with him.

**Treasurer** - Di Twist had circulated copies of the accounts. Di said the accounts for season 2009/10 had been audited by Mike Hilton. This year they showed a loss of £506 as compared with 2008/9. Di explained that this was partially due to payment for coaching courses, and an increase in E.T.T.A. and C.T.T.A. fees. She said that we are hoping to recoup £160 from a local grant scheme towards the cost of the coaching courses. There was also a net loss, Di said, of £54 from this year's Town Championships. On the plus side, she reported that Vernon had found a new printer for the season's handbooks, and this had saved £203.

Di said that the League's financial situation is still healthy, with a closing balance for the season of just over £4500.00. This is split between the current account and the business reserve account – although the latter receives very little interest at the moment.

*[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, with an increase of 6 teams over last year's 28. He was particularly pleased by the strengthened 3rd Division – which had grown to 12 teams, including 5 new, four of which were Junior.

Tim said that the League had run fairly smoothly, despite him frequently organising things off-shore! There had been fewer late cards this season, but there had been a few issues around postponements. The lack of free weeks, and the spell of severe snow and ice, had made it difficult to catch up with postponements, but he did feel it was disappointing that three unplayed fixtures had to be awarded at the end of the season – including 2 from the top two teams in Division One. He observed that Division One had been the division with the highest number of postponements.

Tim made reference to the split role of Match Secretary and Competition Secretary this season. This year he had fulfilled both roles, but pointed out that next season, assuming the elections later in the meeting appointed the nominees for the positions, the League would have a new Match Secretary, and two new joint Competition Secretaries. Regarding the Cup Competition this year, Tim felt that it ran well, and that the revised handicapping system that he had implemented had been a definite improvement on previous years. It had been decided not to run a Consolation Cup competition this season, as there were more than enough matches to played anyway.

Tim mentioned the League website, saying that there had been several positive comments made about it – despite, perhaps, its somewhat basic design. He told the meeting that, earlier in the

season, Jacek Jarzab – then Team Secretary of Rosehill C – had put together a suggested redesign of the website which, if the Committee felt it appropriate, could be uploaded and used instead of the current one. The Committee is still investigating this possibility and will report back in due course.

Tim finished by saying that he thought that those areas of the League for which he had responsibility were in good order to hand over to his successors. He offered his thanks to everyone, especially the Committee, and wished everyone well for the next season.

**Town Team Organiser - Lancashire & Cheshire League** - Ken Ward, our Lancashire & Cheshire League Representative addressed the meeting. He said that our League team, which had been playing in Division One (there being a Premier Division above, and a Division 2 below), had succeeded in holding its place in that Division, finishing sixth out of eight – just above the Blackpool and Manchester 'A' teams. Players this season had been Ken himself, Nick Bakewell, John Potts, Jordan Potts, Marcus McNulty and Simon Hardwick.

Ken said that he thought it ought to be possible for the Glossop League to register a second team to play in the Lancashire and Cheshire League, and encouraged anybody who might be interested to contact him, and he would discuss it with them. He was asked about the format of the competition and he explained that the fixtures took place over two weekends. This year's had been in October and February, and were held at the Halton Table Tennis Centre in Widnes.

A proposal was made that the Town Team should be able to claim from the League 'reasonable' travel expenses. The Committee members present had no hesitation in agreeing with this, and Mike Flynn asked that the decision to pay expenses be minuted. And so it is.

**Town Championship Organiser** - In the absence of Mike Hilton, Di Twist distributed copies of Mike's report on this year's Town Championships. Mike felt that this year's event had once again been successful, albeit with a lower turn-out than last year. This was most notably due to the need to re-arrange the date of the Championships due to the adverse weather conditions in January. There had been a net loss of £54 this year, but Mike thought that this should be viewed against the positive benefits of such a good event. He offered his thanks to those League members who helped to set up the Glossop Leisure Centre hall on the Saturday night prior to the event the following day.

Mike said that a decision needed to be taken as to when the next event should take place. Should we take a chance on the weather being better next year, and have the competition in January again, or leave it until later in the season. The Committee had already discussed this at their pre-A.G.M, and come out in favour of January – this being a time when Mike Hilton had a greater chance of being available, and also there would be no likelihood of clashes with other Leagues' events. The members at the A.G.M. were asked their opinion on the matter, and they reinforced the Committee's decision. So, January it will be – date to be announced.

**Presentation Night Organiser** - Mike reported that 108 tickets had been sold for this year's event. We had returned this year to the Glossop Golf Club, which has been recently refurbished. Mike said that people appeared pleased with the venue, and that the food was excellent. We paid the caterers £7 per head this year but this included a sweet of apple pie and cream.

Mike offered his thanks to Graham Bellis and Tim Baker for organising the trophies, and to Barry Fordham for running the quiz. The Mayor of High Peak, Councillor Graham Oakley, made the trophy presentations, and Mike felt that this was much appreciated.

The raffle raised £130, and Mike offered thanks to David Jones, who ran it, and to all those who had contributed prizes for it. Despite the generosity of those people who had brought prizes, Mike suggested that the quantity of prizes this year was a little less than ideal. Mike asked those present to try and ensure that each team attending the next event brings something suitable for the raffle.

The meeting was asked to give its approval to returning to the same venue next year, and for the same format to be adopted for the evening. Approval was forthcoming.

**Development Officer** - Mike Flynn said that the main emphasis on development this season had concerned the Centre of Excellence at the St. Philip Howard Sports College. He reported that development there had been successfully maintained. Dennis Bradshaw, our Level 3 coach, had played a major part in this, and this year Barry Fordham and Nesta Chambers – formerly unqualified volunteers – had now gained their Level 1 coaching qualifications. Mike offered them his congratulations.

Mike said that the Centre of Excellence will shortly become an E.T.T.A. Premier Club, and this will have its own Committee with Barry as Chairman. They will have a responsibility for the development of the Club, and Mike thought that they would work closely with him as League Development

Officer.

The Executive Committee agreed that the sum of money previously ring-fenced for use at the St. Philip Howard Centre of Excellence would continue to be made available to the Premier Club if required.

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

Resignations had been received from Mike Flynn, who had served his maximum three as Chairman and was required to stand down, and from Tim Baker, who was resigning his positions as Match Secretary and Competition Secretary. Tim was also resigning from the Executive Committee.

The nominations received had been as follows :-

For the Executive Committee - Lionel Royle (proposed - Tommy Hennegan, seconded – Pete Fowler, carried unanimously); Alan Smith (proposed – Simon Hardwick, seconded – Neil Coppard, carried unanimously).

For Chairman - Lionel Royle (proposed – Simon Hardwick, seconded – Ernie Shaw, carried unanimously).

For the previously vacant position of Vice Chairman - Mike Flynn (proposed – Dave Richardson, seconded – Dennis Bradshaw, carried unanimously).

For Match Secretary - Alan Smith (proposed – Peter Jepson, seconded – Barry Fordham, carried unanimously).

For Competition Secretary - Dennis Bradshaw & Barry Fordham – to serve jointly (proposed – Graham Bellis, seconded Pete Fowler, carried unanimously.)

## **8. 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. Peter Jepson proposed, and Simon Hardwick seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **9. 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 2010/11 season.

## **10. 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 briefly went through each one again, and called for a vote on them individually. The results were as follows:-

### **i) An amendment to Rule 1b – Registration of Teams and Players**

#### **Proposal**

The section of Rule 1b (Registration of Teams and Players), which currently reads :-

***'Every player must be properly registered for their team on one of the League registration forms, and the Match Secretary must have an appropriately completed form at least three days before a player can participate in his/her first match'***

be amended to:-

***'Every player must be an E.T.T.A. player-member, and be properly registered with the League – without this, a player will not be eligible to play in the League. The Match Secretary must have an appropriately completed form ..... etc.'***

**Proposed by : Neil Coppard    Seconded by : Barry Fordham**

**Carried – unanimously.**

## ii) An amendment to Rule 2a (Fees)

### Proposal

That Rule 2a (Fees) be amended to read as follows :-

***'The annual subscription will be set by the Executive Committee. The fees set will be shown on the League's team registration forms, and announced at each Annual General Meeting. The subscription will include the League fees, C.T.T.A. fees, an entitlement to three tickets per team for the annual Presentation Evening, and a team levy towards the costs of running the annual Town Championships. In addition, each team will be required to pay the appropriate E.T.T.A. membership fee for each of its players. Each player in a team must be registered with the Match Secretary. There is no limit to the number of players that may be registered, but no player may be registered for more than one team.'***

**Proposed by : Barry Fordham    Seconded by : Fran Marsden**

**Carried – unanimously**

## iii) An amendment to Rule 7c - Town Championships

### Proposal

That Rule 7c be removed from the Handbook.

**Proposed by : Tim Baker    Seconded by : Steve Reese**

**Carried – unanimously**

## iv) An amendment to Rule 6b - Trophies

### Proposal

Insert the following into Rule 9 (Trophies) after '...currently holding it ... ' (

***'In the event of loss or serious damage, the League will expect the person (for individual trophies) or Secretary of the team (for team trophies) to pay the full replacement cost, or the cost of repair to a comparable standard.'***

**Proposed by : Lee Brown    Seconded by : Frank Corlett**

**Carried – unanimously**

## 11. League Fees for 2010/11

Di Twist said that League Fees would be different next season due to the introduction of E.T.T.A. Individual Membership. She explained that the League registration fee for a team would be reduced from £70 to £50, but each individual player will also have to pay an E.T.T.A. membership fee. This fee can be paid to the Glossop League, or direct to the E.T.T.A., or to any other League in which a player plays. The fees for the Presentation Night tickets (£24 for 3 non-refundable tickets), and the Town Championship levy (£10 per team) will remain the same.

Di said that the current E.T.T.A. membership fees [subject to approval at the E.T.T.A. A.G.M in July] are set at £5.64 for a Senior Player Member, £3.20 for a Junior Player Member, and £2.50 for an Associate Member.

Di reminded the meeting that teams registering with the League by Sunday 4th July 2010 would benefit from an early registration discount of £10 off their League fees. She explained that, once all the team entry forms had been received, invoices would be generated and sent to Team Secretaries for payment at, or before, the Handbook/Fees meeting on Tuesday 31st August.

## 12. Formation of the League 2010/11

Tim Baker said that, thus far, he was not aware that any of the 34 teams from this season were planning to leave the League. He had been made aware that there would be at least one extra

team entering, a Division 3 team organised by Ryan Conway. Ryan, who was at the meeting, confirmed this. Tim said that team registration forms had been sent out, and that there were forms available at the meeting for any Team Secretary who might not have received one yet.

Tim thought it likely that, unless teams did drop out, next season would once again be structured round a 12-week cycle. That being the case, there will be a minimal number of free weeks, and so it would be important to avoid cancellations if at all possible.

Tim said he would be working alongside Alan Smith, our new Match Secretary, in the preparation of the new season.

Simon Hardwick informed the meeting that Richard Sarre, who has been playing for the Rosehill A team in Division 1, would be playing for Hollingworth Nomads next season. Simon wondered whether Rosehill A would continue to exist as a team.

Peter Jepson asked if it was necessary, in a situation where more than one team was playing out of the same venue, that players for all relevant teams be ranked according to ability, with an 'A' team being selected from players at the top of the ranking list, and 'B', 'C' teams etc. being formed from players lower down the list. Vernon and Tim jointly answered, saying that this was not a requirement in the Glossop League. Teams could consist of players of any ability, the only requirement was that stated in Rule 1d – i.e. that players should, in the first instance be registered to a specific team, and play their matches for that team. Permission could be sought from the Match Secretary for a player to represent a team other than the one for which they had signed. Permission to do so would be most likely given providing the Match Secretary was satisfied that no unfair advantage would be gained.

Neil Coppard had a question concerning the likely relegation/promotion situation in relation to the formation of teams for next season from Stanley Square. He was interested to know if the 'B' team would get relegated as this would have an effect on the membership of the 'A' and 'B' teams next season. Tim explained that, at this stage, it was not possible to say with any certainty because next season's divisional structure could not be finalised until we knew definitely which teams had registered for the 2010/11 season.

### **13. Cup Competition 2010/11**

Tim said that he envisaged the Competition being organised along similar lines to this year's, but this would ultimately depend on the views of Dennis and Barry, the new Competition Secretaries. He thought that the handicapping approach adopted this year might be used again as he felt that it had served to offer a better opportunity for weaker teams to progress through the competition. He also thought that continuing to offer an opt out from the competition for teams not wishing to enter was a better option than having teams concede first round fixtures.

Tim said he would be available to support Dennis and Barry in their new roles should they require it.

### **14. League Insurance**

Vernon explained to the meeting that, with the introduction of Individual membership, the League would no longer be paying the E.T.T.A. a single premium for its Civil Liability insurance. Instead, it would be the case that a part of the annual subscription collected from every E.T.T.A. member would go towards insurance cover. Vernon had made enquiries with Rob Sinclair, the General Secretary of the E.T.T.A. as to whether this change in payment procedure would have any effect on the reporting of incidents that might give rise to claims against League members. Rob Sinclair said all recommended procedures should remain in place, and so Vernon advised the meeting that the page in the Handbook relating to Insurance would not be changed in any way and that, in the event of accident/incident, the procedures laid down there should continue to be followed.

### **15. Centenary Celebrations 2010**

Mike informed the meeting that plans for celebrations had not been finalised. However, he said that he and David Jones were still intending to try and organise an event based round a get-together at the Glossop Band Room. By the end of the next six weeks, they intended to have made a final decision as to whether that event would take place or not, and the League would be informed accordingly.

There had been a suggestion from Paul Neaves for a Centenary knock-out competition, in which clubs would set up round-robins amongst any of their players who wanted to enter. It would culminate in a last-eight knock-out to be played at a single venue, and entrance fees for the

competition could go towards the cost of centenary medals. Mike said that Paul's idea had been given consideration but, it had been decided that the organisation of such a competition was not feasible.

Peter Greenhalgh told the meeting that Bad Vilbel, a spa town in Germany, was twinned with Glossop, and that he was on the twinning committee that organises exchange visits. He said that there was a strong table tennis league in Bad Vilbel. He wondered if our league might be interested in an exchange visit i.e. sending a team over to Germany, or for a German team to visit us. Would there perhaps be any interest in a tournament between the 2 towns? This might be something which could be tied in with our Centenary celebrations? Peter said he is going to Bad Vilbel in August and he will find out the level of competition and report back.

Peter said he would provide website info for Vernon.

*[Information about table tennis in Bad Vilbel (in German only) can be found at <http://www.tvbv.de/tischtennis/> ]*

**16. A. O. B.**

In relation to the possible introduction of a Law relating to the obligatory use of I.T.T.F. approved racket coverings, Fred Lilley asked how did one know whether a rubber was I.T.T.F. approved or not. Vernon explained that a current list of approved rubbers could always be found via either the E.T.T.A. or I.T.T.F. websites. He also pointed out that, just because a rubber had an I.T.T.F. logo on it, it did not necessarily mean that it was currently approved – the I.T.T.F. revises its list frequently, sometimes adding new product, and sometimes removing rubbers it had previously approved.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed. The time was 9.20pm