

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting at 14 Park Drive – 24 June 2020

Present: Bernard Cooney (Chairman), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer),
Lesley Blanchard, Mary Delamere, Jennifer Givens, Keith Hardman and Doreen Smith.

1. The meeting commenced at 3:15pm.
2. Apologies received from Des Logan.
3. Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting since the start of the corona virus pandemic. He thanked Lesley for allowing the club to use her grounds and hosting the meeting so that the Committee could meet in a covid compliant way.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to start preparations for the return to play and re-opening of the club and to consider how members loyalty could be recognised.

4. Re-opening of Club and Return to Indoor Play
 - a. It was acknowledged that there could be no return to indoor play until Government and Table Tennis England guidance permitted.
 - b. It was disappointing that in the raft of relaxations of the lockdown to come into effect from 4 July that indoor sport such as table tennis was not included even though community centres and social clubs will now be able to open.
 - c. GRT reported that he had an appointment for Thursday to discuss with TTE plans for re-opening, through a webinar presentation offered by TTE; and is also discussing with TTE the possible use of their new Club Spark platform which is a club management tool and which potentially includes the facility to make online bookings if a bookings system is needed.
 - d. It was agreed that we should work towards re-opening as soon as the relevant rules and guidance permit.
 - e. In preparing for re-opening it was agreed that we should first attend to outstanding works, with a view to having them complete before the hall re-opens. In particular, the fitting of the acoustic tiles and the repair to the wall. A fresh coat of paint for the internal walls is also desirable. BAC will contact Eagle about the outstanding wall repair. If they are unable to attend to it quickly then the club will ask member Ken Jackson if he can repair. IB, BAC and KH will attend to the acoustic tiles with help, if necessary, from Tom Bell.
 - f. It was agreed that necessary supplies of sanitiser, soap and paper towels need to be obtained and these will be purchased from CostCo.
 - g. In the first phase of re-opening the aim will be to follow as closely as possible the guidance provided by TTE (the so-called Stage 2 guidance).
 - h. Initially, all members will need to book a play session, and play will be limited to 2 tables. This will be kept under review and will increase to 3 tables if and when circumstances permit. A maximum of 1 hour will be allowed per session which will include preparation time and clean down afterwards, which should give at least 30 mins of play. There will be no changing ends and a separate ball for each player will be encouraged, preferably of 2 different colours.
 - i. Again, initially, play will be allowed between 10am and 6pm; this will also be kept under review.
 - j. IB will order a supply of new orange and white training balls, and a small supply of orange match play balls.
 - k. To facilitate bookings a dedicated phone line will be used; and bookings will be recorded in an appointment's diary. KH will arrange that. The aim will be to have a member of the management team on duty for at least Monday to Friday, and the Chairman agreed to facilitate this for weekends too. The Club will for the time being remain closed at all other times. Only 1 session will be allowed each day for each individual and sessions can only be booked up to 7

days in advance.

- l. All users will be encouraged to adopt the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness, including wipe down after play. The kitchen will not be in use, but the toilet will be available. And again, highest hygiene levels to be maintained for use. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance door and for the toilet.
- m. Consideration will be given to whether general cleaning will need to be more frequent than the current weekly clean up. Initially cleaning may need to occur at the end of each day.

5. Fees 2020/21

IB explained that he and JG had discussed this matter. Since April 2019 the club has effectively been closed for 6 months. First there was a 2 month gap between the closure of the old hall and the opening of the new and now we have the pandemic lockdown which has already lasted 3 months and it is likely to be a further month before we can re-open. Throughout this period the majority of members have continued to pay monthly membership subscriptions. Members were reminded that the membership fee is set by the AGM and is effectively an annual fee regardless of the amount of use. The only reduction is for new members for whom the annual fee is reduced on a pro-rata basis for the period of membership in the first year. It was however felt that some recognition of members loyalty during the pandemic should be made.

Various options were discussed. It was agreed that an important issue was to consider what level of fee income is needed to ensure that the club can meet its ongoing costs. The club has benefitted during the pandemic from a grant from the Sport England covid emergency fund, and has also received a contribution from Sefton Borough Council intended to help businesses and community organisations get through the pandemic so that they can re-open again as soon as regulations allow. These grants have been a considerable help over these difficult months of lockdown.

Without the grants it is likely that there would have been a need to increase fees for 2020/21. However, this seemed harsh because of the period of closure. After a full discussion it was proposed that the fee recommendation for 2020/21 to be put to the AGM would be £150 for the year for adult members. With a pro-rata reduction for new members. Further it would be intimated that this level would be held for both 2020/21 and 2021/22 to encourage continued commitment and loyalty. Providing there is no significant loss of membership as a result of the pandemic this should allow the club to fully meet its costs, and with the grants enable the club to invest in further improvements to the building, facilities and equipment. Issues that could be addressed for the building, would be the planned 'skirting' for the outside and a permanent solution to prevent the condensation issue that seriously affected the building in the early months of the new hall. It was hoped that a new high-quality match table might also be added.

It was agreed that a draft resolution be prepared for the AGM and a press release prepared to inform members and acknowledge their loyalty. GRT & IB will prepare these.

There was unanimous acknowledgement of the excellent way in which the club's finances have been managed over this very difficult year of transition and through the pandemic.

6. Any Other Business

There being no other matters the meeting was closed at approximately 5pm.

Graham Turner
Secretary, 24 June 2020