

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting – 4 August 2021

Present: Bernard Cooney (Chairman), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer), Lesley Blanchard, Keith Hardman.

1. The meeting commenced at 7:30pm with the Chairman welcoming the returning members of the 2021/22 Committee.
2. Apologies had been received from: Dave Noden, Jennifer Givens and Ray O’Leary. It was explained that Ray had, due to personal circumstances, offered his resignation as a General Committee member. This was reluctantly accepted, and it was agreed not to fill the vacancy left at the present time, to leave an opening for Ray to return if he wished should there be a change in his particular circumstances that enabled him to resume his post.
3. Roles & Responsibilities.

It was agreed that as far as possible all general committee members should be assigned responsibility for a particular role. The following was agreed:

Lesley Blanchard – responsibility for housekeeping for the club room.

Jenny Givens – assist the Treasurer with club finances.

Keith Hardman – property manager and social secretary.

Dave Noden – tournament director and assistant to club secretary in operating the club participation in the Liverpool League season.

Keith Williams – responsibility for adult coaching.

There was still a need for a club auditor. Several possibilities were discussed. It was agreed that IB should speak with Tony Mitchell who had offered his services for the role.

It was agreed that the Chairman should continue with the role of Welfare Officer, this is seen as a very important role. GRT was tasked to find up to date information on training opportunities for this role.

There was also a brief discussion on possible skills gaps that had been identified. In particular in the areas of managing the website and content, social media, media communication and advertising, and need for new blood in junior coaching. It was agreed there should be ongoing conversations to try and find suitable people to help bridge these gaps.

4. Finance – handling refunds.

IB reported that it had been identified that potentially £4550 of refunds were due to be made. The plan is to pay these all by cheque, as the club does not have all of the personal bank details of the individuals due a refund to make the repayments electronically. All is on course to have refunds made by the time set at the AGM.

5. Setting the agenda for the coming year.
 - a. It was agreed that the club should retain the current booking system, but some further relaxations could be made to create specific ‘sessions’ where no booking would be needed. So, as soon as possible, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 11am – 1pm will become general ‘social’ sessions where no booking needed. And Friday between 11am – 3pm will become ‘adult coaching’ with Keith Williams. Keith has offered his services free of charge for this, but members participating may be asked for a small fee (£3) as payment attracts commitment. IB/JG will decide on this. Consideration will also be given to whether this session might be opened to non-members (for a fee), but only to adults wishing to develop

from 'social' player standard.

- b. Liverpool League: GRT reported that the club had only been able to enter 7 teams to the Liverpool League for the forthcoming season. Discussions will now be held with potential team captains to fix the members of each squad.
- c. TT Kidz. IB reported that the club had been accepted as a host for the TTE TT Kidz programme. This is an 8-week introduction to TT course for 7 – 11 year olds promoted and run by TTE. Children are booked in online through TTE and the cost per child is £37.50 part of which comes to the club. Each child receives a pack from TTE, including a T shirt, bag, bat and stickers. The club has purchased the club kit pack at a cost of just under £300. The programme will be led by IB & JG and other adult members have offered assistance. Colin Mitchell is to be approached to train as a L1 coach to head the programme. All involved need to undertake TTE Activator training. A qualified first aider is needed as well as a qualified lead session coach. The Club now need to advertise the programme which will also be advertised by TTE. The aim is to offer up to 12 places.
- d. Are you Ready campaign. TTE have launched a new initiative to encourage people back into table tennis. It was agreed the club should seek to take part and the proposal is to hold an open day on Wednesday 1 September. IB will investigate an advertising banner, and GRT will use the resources provided by TTE to create a handout leaflet, an advert and any other promotional material possible. It was felt that it would be helpful to try and engage with the local newspaper, The Crosby Champion to advertise both this campaign and also the TTKidz programme. Exact nature of the day to be discussed and decided, but refreshments will be served. We will also investigate if it is possible to have a table outdoors. The ongoing works to the car park area may however act against that.
- e. Community engagement: The background to this aspect was that the club had taken part in a club survey a short time ago, which aimed to help clubs identify strengths and weaknesses. One area where there was room for improvement was in the community engagement, diversity and inclusivity. The club is active in the community and already has a diverse membership and believes it is inclusive. However it may be that we need to do more to positively show that is the case. This needs to be an ongoing conversation, and it was also suggested and agreed that we should approach Sefton Borough Council (Sports Development Officer Helen Birrell) for help in building a development plan to assist in this area.
- f. Adult Coaching: Keith Williams has agreed to re-start these sessions (see 5a) on a Friday. GRT will block off the session in the online booking diary. Initially these sessions will be offered to members.
- g. Social Agenda: there will be a gradual re-introduction of social events. The first will be the Christmas Cabaret to be held in the Marine function room on Friday 10 December. The evening will include two tribute acts, Elvis and the 4 Tops.

6. Club Tournament:

The Finals Night for the delayed 2020 club tournament will be held on Wednesday 18 August at Marine. 4 top matches will be played, and spectators will be welcome.

The tournament had proved logistically difficult this time round partly because of the disruption caused by covid, and partly by fragmentation. GRT recommended that for the next tournament the club should revert back to a single day, with the finals being held at Marine on a Finals Night. This was agreed and consideration will be given to either Crosby High or Anfield for the next tournament.

7. Membership Update:

The club currently has approximately 74 adult members and 14 junior members. There are in addition a few about whom there is uncertainty whether they are continuing as members. IB/JG & GRT are following up on this. There have also been good signs of recovery with new members

being introduced since re-opening and several other enquiries. No specific new membership campaign will be undertaken at the moment, but there is plenty of capacity within the club for newcomers. GRT asked that all members who only play socially be reminded that they should still obtain a TTE membership of at least Club Play level. That remains free of charge this year, and confers a number of benefits, not least of which is PL insurance cover. The desirability of obtaining a licence is already advertised on the club's social media.

8. Building improvements & maintenance:

There was a discussion of the desirability of obtaining broadband supply for the building. There could be several advantages; enabling the club to have the online bookings system live at the club house for attendees to book, enabling use of the club printer for notices, adverts etc, possible development of social events such as a film night. It was agreed that investigation a possible supply should only proceed if there are sound reasons for it – not simply enabling members personal phones to work on wi-fi when at the club! BC/KH will take this forward and are in contact with BT about the feasibility and cost of supply.

9. Club Structure & Constitution

BC said there were a couple of issues with the current club constitution that may require a little clarification; for example, the issue about what is a 'quorum' for a meeting. It was agreed however that before looking at the constitution the central issue of structure needed to be resolved. Unfortunately, here the consultation with the Solicitors had stumbled. Only today has the Secretary heard from Breens after a 3-month delay. There are two issues under consultation. First, whether Marine AFC will agree to a change to the 2019 lease to allow the lease to be held in the name of a new corporate entity. And second, if so, the formation of that entity and a decision about whether it should take over the whole of the club activities, or whether it should simply hold the lease for the use of the separate private members club, which would then continue the table tennis operations. The primary aim of the corporate entity is to protect members from liabilities which could arise if the club defaulted on the terms of the lease at anytime. GRT explained that with this aim, the maximum separation between the lease and the members seemed most desirable but it would be best to get the legal advice before making a final decision. GRT/IB & JG will continue to take this forward.

Issues in relation to the constitution can be addressed in the formation of the company if that route is taken, and if not can be addressed once the structure issue is resolved.

10. Any Other Business:

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:27pm.

Graham Turner,
Secretary, 4 August 2021