

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting – 21 October 2021

Present: Bernard Cooney (Chair), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer), Keith Hardman, Dave Noden & Keith Williams.

1. The meeting commenced at 8:15pm with the Chair welcoming members present.
2. Apologies had been received from: Lesley Blanchard & Jenny Givens.
3. Membership

BC reported that the influx of new members had created a few problems, especially about how to access the building. It was emphasised that members who wished to come into the building other than when general sessions are on, needed to have a key or be with someone who had a key. Key's can be obtained through Keith H at a cost of £10. There had been around 20 new members in recent times, which was particularly good, but we all needed to do our part to ensure that new members were clear about what they needed to do to gain access,

4. Sponsorship and Logo

BC update the group on the progress with the Care Trust, a neighbour on the Marine site, with their offer to provide a new strip for the club's teams bearing the Care Trust logo. That logo together with a new logo for the club is now with the manufacturers ready for applying to the grey polo shirts. All that is now needed are the numbers in each size. GRT will seek to obtain this info through team captains. The sizes will be: S up to 39", M up to 42", L up to 45", XL up to 48", XXL up to 50" and XXXL up to 53".

There was some discussion on the style. Unfortunately, a sample is not available. The style cannot be changed at this stage. There may be a preference amongst some players for the newer airtex form of breathable shirt, which can be lighter and more comfortable during play. It was agreed we should go ahead with the current deal and then later look at whether additional supplies to the same design can be obtained in different materials.

5. Property

- a. The issue of keyholders had effectively already been discussed under membership. The preference is that the outdoor key safe is only used by our guest team, Anfield 1st, for their Monday evening use.
- b. The electrics have now been set for winter use of the building, with timers in operation. Members are asked not to touch any of the electrics, especially the heaters. The de-humidifiers will also be brought into use as necessary and again will be timer controlled. This also raised the issue of ventilation and whether the ventilation grills above the ceiling level are effective – it was reported that they had made a significant improvement on condensation.
- c. The issue of protecting the tables was discussed. Keith H had done excellent work in removing marks from the main match table. This table should be covered after use. Also, members are urged to be careful with sanitising spray. Too much wetting of the table surface could damage its playing properties. A damp cloth wipe over is all that is needed, and the table should then be dried before the cover is put on.

6. Junior Programme

- a. IB reported on the launch of the TTKidz programme and the first 3 weeks of activity. The programme has attracted a full intake of 12 children, the capacity set, and all have attended. Any absentees have been known about, but so far all have been keen to come back. The

Activators are keeping to the official programme and have a planning session the day before each session. The evidence suggests that both children and activators and helpers are all enjoying the experience and the children have made a very good start.

- b. GRT brought to attention a note he had received from Ian McElwee and Jenny Givens concerning junior programme. Only one part he thought was relevant to the Man Com containing the following request: “With full and proper liaison between our committee and the coaches we should be able to come up with a strong, realistic, coaching programme for the future.” This was discussed. The view was that a strong programme had already been put in place which all relevant parties were part of and included in. First, 3 members had put themselves forward to obtain the TTE L1 coach qualification, at the last moment 1 of those 3 was not able to attend the first part of that training which was on the 17 October. The TTKidz programme had been introduced and launched on the 7 October with a strong team of activators operating it. Following from previous discussions an additional junior coaching session has been added to the programme so that there are follow on options for children who complete that 8-week course. This session, on a Tuesday, is an addition to the existing Monday session and the existing Teens session on Friday’s. Initially it is expected to start with a small number leaving capacity for further intake from TTKidz. For normal junior coaching sessions, the capacity of a group is limited by the number of tables, as it is essential with children that they are fully engaged in the activity. The Monday session is already at full capacity, and one or two have now been moved up from that to the teens session to provide better quality of practice. With the resources available it was considered that the club already had in place the best programme it could offer. This can be added to if new coaches want to operate additional sessions.

7. Finance

- a. IB reported that the current balance at bank stood at just over £40k. This had been enhanced by the influx of new members, it had also been enhanced by the 3-month rent free period given by Marine due the pandemic closures. Currently there are 95 adult members and 23 junior members. The highest figure the club has recorded.
- b. IB said he was concerned about the latest news on energy prices and the effect that could have on the club’s electricity tariff. He recommended that we had a building survey to ensure that we are doing the best we can to operate efficiently and effectively as far as energy was concerned. It was suggested that a survey that looked at both energy and ventilation as a combined topic might be useful. IB/JG will take this forward.
- c. The club had gained a prize of £50 from TTE for its video accounts of the open days, however so far this has not been received. GRT will follow up on this.
- d. Overall, finances are currently in a good position and seem to have stood up well over the lockdown period despite the number of refunds made.

8. Current Activity

- a. It was agreed that online booking should be extended so that once again the club is able to offer 24/7 access. Most members like the booking system. GRT reported that it is moving to a new platform from 1 November.
- b. GRT reported that details of the club programme recorded on the website needed to be updated and he will deal with that.
- c. It was agreed that we should try and continue offering a public open session on alternative Tuesday evenings. The experiment had not started well but on the second occasion a number had attended including two potential new recruits. Tony Mitchell is assisting with this. Attendees need to be advised that parking in the area may be restricted if it is a football match night at Marine, which is often the case on Tuesday’s.
- d. Keith confirmed that the adult coaching is continuing, even though he is not always able to

attend each Friday. He also offered assistance for the teen's session, and GRT agreed to contact him by phone to book a time when he could come and do a specialist session.

- e. GRT reported that the club now had at the suggestion of the Care Trust a new Twitter account. This means the club now has its own website, the online bookings platform, Facebook, and Twitter. These all need to be kept moving. Assistance is needed in operating all of these. It was agreed that Bernard would take on the new Twitter account, he already has access.

9. Liverpool League Update

GRT gave a brief report on the start of the Liverpool League season. Two matches had been impacted by covid, but fortunately no club players had been directly affected.

10. Social Plans

- a. Mary Sefton is organising a Christmas Lunch for members at the Royal Hotel, Waterloo on Tuesday 14 December at 12:30pm. GRT will add to the events calendar on social media. So far 34 have booked to attend. Contact Mary or Keith H for further info or to book.
- b. An evening social is planned for Friday 10th December at Marine. This will include two cabaret acts as well as a grand raffle. Ray O'Leary is preparing the advertising poster. The cost will be £5 per head for members and guests. The main function suite in Marine is being provided free of charge but there will be a cost for the disco of £90. The price is being kept low as a way of saying 'thank you' to members for their support. It is expected that tickets will go on sale at beginning of November.

11. TTE Initiatives

A number of matters had arisen:

- a. Information had been received about an NSPCC Parents in Sport week which was 4 – 10th October. Unfortunately, this was a week that GRT was away on holiday. This had meant he had been unable to issue any info at the time. It was agreed no further action necessary.
- b. GRT reminded members that the Commonwealth Games 2022 is being held at Birmingham and TTE are advertising tickets for the table tennis. A real opportunity to watch live world class play.
- c. TTE will be celebrating its 100th birthday on 7 November. There is an online event and members can sign up for it.
- d. The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) has opened a new online digital marketing hub for clubs. There may be resources available which could be of interest or use to the club. GRT has registered and it may be worthwhile for the finance team to register or take a look.
- e. TTE has launched a new Diversity & Inclusion Strategy with the broad aim of ensuring as far as possible that table tennis is a fully inclusive sport and that it reflects the broad make up of society in general. It was agreed that the club also aims to be inclusive and welcome diversity. No further action seemed to be needed at present, but the club would continue to offer opportunities for all to enjoy and participate in, table tennis.

12. Club Structure & Constitution

GRT reported that he had sent a chasing note to the solicitors about the lease issue, but so far nothing has been heard. It was suggested that the club informally approach the Marine AFC Chairman /IB & JG had a meeting with Breen's Solicitors on 27 August to discuss exactly what the club wanted to do and why as requested by the Marine AFC solicitors. We now await the direct to see if the proposals had yet been considered by the football club's management board. The only change the club seek is to transfer the lease into a new corporate identity to ensure the long-term stability and continuity in the best interests of all members.

13. Any Other Business

Just one further matter was raised:

- a. There have been further incidents of damage occurring to the wall heaters. This is an issue when the room is arranged in practice mode. The damage is impacting the wall each time the brackets are loosened. Tom Bell is being asked to come and make further repairs. As a short-term measure, it was agreed that barriers will be placed in front of each heater to remind players to take care, some extra barriers will be acquired if needed. On a longer-term basis, consideration will be given to either more substantial guards being fitted around each heater – themselves presenting a hazard, or having the heaters moved and placed high up on the walls. But the latter could impact the way the heating works. It was agreed that part of the building survey recommended earlier should include review of how the building is heated.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Graham Turner,
Secretary, 21 October 2021