

BATH STREET MARINE TABLE TENNIS CLUB
General Management Committee Meeting - Virtual – 28 October 2020

Present: Bernard Cooney (Chairman), Graham Turner (Secretary), Ian Brownrigg (Treasurer), Lesley Blanchard, Jennifer Givens, Keith Hardman, and Dave Noden.

1. The meeting commenced at 7:30pm with the Chairman welcoming all members to the first 'virtual' meeting of the Management Committee.
2. Apologies received from Ray O'Leary (due to birthday celebrations). No word had been received from Keith Williams.
3. Matters Arising from Minutes of last meeting:
 - a. Acknowledgement of former members (Item 3): It was confirmed that a small 'gift' had been sent to Mary Delamere, Doreen Smith and Des Logan for their former service. These were very much appreciated.
 - b. Welfare Officer (Item 4a) – GT confirmed that he had obtained details of available training courses. All are currently only available in online versions. GT to forward details. BC has spoken with Mary Sefton who has agreed to assist in this area. BC will become the formal Welfare Officer.
 - c. CIC Update (Item 5) – affected by the Tier 3 covid restrictions. A meeting with the Solicitors to be arranged once GRT, JG & IB have had opportunity to discuss where we are with CIC. Also need to take forward with Breen's the registration of the club's lease with Land Registry. JG will try to check this through a contact and report back so that we only take to Breen's the matters necessary.
 - d. Press & News (Item 7) – in the absence of RO'L it was agreed that BC & KH would take forward a discussion with him.

4. Corona Virus Impact

GT reported that as our area is now within Tier 3 of the covid restrictions the situation is that adult table tennis is currently suspended. It is possible for members of the same household to continue to play, and there are some exceptions for people with disabilities and in theory individuals could practice with a robot. However administratively it is very difficult to manage the club and facilities for these few exceptions and therefore the decision to close all adult table tennis remained. However Junior table tennis is continuing and currently there are junior sessions on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

The next review of the restrictions is set for 11 November and the situation will be kept under review with the aim of re-opening as soon as it is possible. The premises remain 'covid secure' and every effort is continuing to maintain the highest standards of hygiene so that the premises are ready to re-open.

The closures caused by the pandemic have already impacted on club membership and around 10 members have been lost. The concern is that any further sustained period of closure could have an adverse impact on membership. Thankfully, the vast majority of members have remained loyal. Every effort will be made to keep all members informed and engaged with the club during these testing times.

5. Property Matters

- a. KH reported that now the cooler months were upon us careful monitoring was being carried out to ensure there was no repetition of the condensation problem that had been experienced last winter. The dehumidifiers are now back in use, and some limited heating being used to keep the chill off the air. So far, so good - no condensation problems. Monitoring will continue.
- b. KH reported that they had also formulated a plan to develop some additional, much needed,

storage space in the building. No work on this can however be done whilst the Tier 3 restrictions are in place. It was agreed this could be taken forward once those restrictions ease and full details will then be brought forward.

6. Membership

- a. It was reported that there are currently 10 paid up junior members. There are just 2 girls to be followed up.
- b. As noted above there has been some loss of members as a result of the pandemic which has hit income. 4 other adults who were members last season, and who we believed wished to continue membership have not yet paid a fee for the current year. All are individuals who would normally only play league table tennis at the club. As there is currently no league play it is likely that they have taken the view that 'no play, no pay' and that as and when league play recommences they will pay the full fees appropriate if they decide to return to league play with the club. No further follow up for these individuals is therefore needed at present. The good news is that the majority of members who pay fees by monthly instalments are continuing to make those payments.
- c. It was agreed that any loss of members was regrettable. As a club we seek to be open and inclusive. One or two members had stopped monthly payments indicating that this was due to hardship in these particular days. They had not indicated that they wished to cease membership. Our fees however remain as determined at the AGM, and are a single fee covering the year as a whole. The only exception is for 'new' members. The Treasurer will consider carefully the circumstances of anyone experiencing difficulty with fees and every effort will be made to be as sympathetic to circumstances as possible. On the whole, we wish to encourage continuation of membership and continuing payment of fees, to enable the club to meet its overhead costs which, sadly, have not stopped due to the pandemic!

7. MML & Club Tournament,

GRT reported that after just 2 weeks of excellent competition the Marine Mini League had been suspended due to the Tier 3 restrictions. Whether or not it will be able to recommence will depend on timing and whether the Liverpool League does in fact commence in January as indicated by the League Management Committee.

There had been a good response to the invitation to enter the Club Tournament 2020 and the next stage is to put in place the plans for the opening group games. GRT & DN will take this forward.

8 Any Other Business

- a. JG proposed that the club should purchase a new robot. Agreed and JG & IB will take forward.
- b. KH brought forward a suggestion from a member about a possible means of engagement of members through a form of 'draw'. This may not be practical at the moment, but it was agreed that avenues should be explored about some form of social event, possibly a 'virtual' event, particularly in the run up to Christmas when the club would normally hold a Christmas social. That is unlikely to be possible as a physical event this year, but all avenues will be explored as to what might be possible.
- c. BC reported that a couple of incidents recently suggested that there may have been some 'unauthorised' use of the building for table tennis. It was agreed that only authorised use should occur at the present, and that the only authorised use is the two junior sessions. A new code number will be adopted for the door lock forthwith, and this number is not to be shared outside of the management group at this time.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 8:40pm. GRT to look at dates for future meetings.

Graham Turner,
Secretary, 28 October 2020