

DRAFT

Southport Table Tennis Club

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
4th September 2007
held at St Teresa's CMS Social Club, Birkdale

1. Bill Bradley, Chairman for the evening, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Attendance: Bill Bradley (chair), Alan Nolan (secretary), Dave Williams (treasurer), Tom Banton, Charles Coombes, Dave Ferguson, Colin Fyles, Paul Lunan, John Pilkington, Nigel Pilkington, Tom Taylor, Alan Walton.

Apologies were received from Stan Clarke, Dai Davies.

2. The secretary reported that the previous AGM was held on 10th September 2000 and the secretary at the time, Mabel Neary, had died suddenly in December 2000. There were therefore no minutes from that meeting. In the succeeding years, there had been many changes at the Club, most notably the move from the Drill Hall to the Sports Hall at Southport College, and many changes in personnel, without there being any General Meetings. Much of the administrative business of running the club had therefore disappeared but the club continued to play table tennis nevertheless. Those essential tasks such as collecting subscriptions, registering players and paying league fees, and paying Southport College and keeping the accounts have in the meantime been done by Dave Williams. In the absence of the previous AGM minutes, John Pilkington proposed and Colin Fyles seconded acceptance of the statement concerning the unavailability of the previous minutes. The proposal was agreed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report (2006/7):** Dave Williams gave a summary of the financial position as at the end of July 2007, showing a healthy bank balance of £907.30. (Due to a clear-out of papers, only the last two bank statements were available.) Of this, £260 will be due at the start of the season for League affiliation fees.

Dave reported that following Mabel Neary's death in December 2000, he had inherited the paperwork and the responsibilities of secretary and treasurer, and had effectively kept the club going during the intervening period. This included opening an account with HSBC when the previous bankers were taken over. Cheques issued on the account should have two signatories, but sometimes they are issued with only one, and there had been no problem to date. The meeting accepted Dave's report and noted the sound financial position.

Colin Fyles proposed and Alan Nolan seconded a Vote of Thanks to Dave for all his hard work over the years. The meeting agreed unanimously.

4. **Secretary's Report:** Alan Nolan reported the results of last season's endeavours. STTC had entered three teams in the league. The A and B teams, while finishing in the bottom two places, were not relegated and will again be in the second division. The C team finished sixth out of nine teams in the third division. In cup competitions, we fared somewhat better, with the B team finishing as runners-up in the Anon Plate and the C team runners-up in the Gunson Plate.

For the 2007/8 season, we will enter five teams – A and B in division 2 and C, D and E in division 3. The new D team, led by Paul Lunan, will be classed as a Junior team, consisting mainly of under 18s (In fact, the 5 regular juniors are all aged 12 at present and have lots of potential.) The new 'E' team consists of members of the Aughton and Ormskirk U3A, captained by Charles Coombes.

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The college sports hall has been booked on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 18 September until 20 March, excluding 3 weeks over Christmas and New Year. On each evening, the court has been booked from 7.30 until 10.30pm, allowing more time to finish the matches and also time for a refreshment break upstairs.

5. **Chairman's Report:** Bill Bradley mentioned there had been lots of correspondence around 1999/2000 concerning the fate of the Drill Hall. Despite the loss of our "own" premises, the transfer of playing venue to Southport College Sports Hall has generally been a satisfactory solution to a long-term maintenance headache.

The Chairman was pleased that the club has increased the number of teams entered this year.

6. Election of Officers:

- 6.1. **Chairman:** Bill Bradley, proposed by John Pilkington seconded by Paul Lunan
- 6.2. **Secretary:** Alan Nolan, proposed by Dave Williams seconded by Dave Ferguson
- 6.3. **Treasurer:** Dave Williams, proposed by Nigel Pilkington seconded by Alan Walton
- 6.4. Four **additional members** were nominated to the Committee. They were:
Paul Lunan, Nigel Pilkington, Colin Fyles and Tom Taylor.

All nominations were agreed unanimously.

7. Election of Auditor:

- 7.1. **Hon. Auditor:** Paul Lunan, proposed by Alan Nolan seconded by Colin Fyles.

Paul Lunan was elected unanimously.

8. Changes to the Club Constitution

- 8.1. Alan Nolan reported that there were a number of areas in the existing constitution which were no longer relevant or were incorrect since the move to Southport College. There were also some inconsistencies and weaknesses that should be addressed. It was proposed that Tom Taylor and Alan Nolan would work together to draft a revised constitution, with a view to presenting it for amendment and/or approval at a General Meeting in November 2007.

- 8.2. There was some discussion of the types of membership appropriate to the current set up, in which there is a mixture of members who expect to play most of the matches (A, B and C teams), and others who may only play a few matches in the season (mainly the E team). For those playing a small number of matches, a "pay per match" system would be more appropriate – these could be termed "casual members".

- 8.3. The secretary mentioned that as John Pilkington would not be playing this season for health reasons, but we wished to see him actively involved in the club, it had been suggested that there be created a position of Honorary President. John pointed out that there was already such a position, currently filled by a Mr Sam Purser. However it was agreed that another such position could be created.

9. Election of President. Alan Nolan proposed and Dave Williams seconded that John Pilkington be elected as a President of the Southport Table Tennis Club. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

10. Membership fees. The fees for the 2007/8 season were agreed as follows:

Full adult members: £45

Full junior members: £20

Casual adult members: £2 plus £2 for each match played

Casual junior members: £1 plus £1 for each match played

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11. Team designations and playing order. Alan Nolan to discuss with team captains and draft a ranking list for approval by team captains.
12. Any other business
 - 12.1. Extra keys for the cupboard were needed. Nigel had tried to get some made in Liverpool without success and would continue trying.
 - 12.2. Alan Nolan will order some new net and post sets.
 - 12.3. It was decided to use yellow balls for matches this season, as they are more suitable for the lighting conditions in the sports hall.
 - 12.4. It was noted that the cupboard at the college contains a ball machine, but this is no longer used, because of the change of ball size. Alan Nolan will investigate whether the machine can be adapted to suit the new 40mm ball size.
13. The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.