

# STOWMARKET TABLE TENNIS CLUB

*Annual General Meeting,  
Held at Pickwicks, The Old Fox Yard, Stowmarket  
on Tuesday 3rd May 2016*

Meeting began at 19.50hrs

No	Agenda Item	Outcome / Decision / Action Point
1.	Members Present	Tony Mooney , Lee Balaam, Mark Beaumont, Ian Bridgeman, Ray Perry, Nora Martin, Richard Stokes, Chris Smith, David Gough & Nick Samson
2.	Apologies for Absence	Sandra Balaam, John Clarke, Keith George, Anne McFarlane, Terry Betts. Gordon Slack, Carol Clarke & Lynn Allen
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Ammended by hand to correct spelling. All then agreed.
4.	Chairman's Report (Lee Balaam)	<p>Following such a successful 2014/15 season was always going to be a tall order, but once again we appear to have strengthened as a club and had yet another very successful season.</p> <p>We continued with last year's format for the club championships with the earlier rounds being played across the various club practice sessions and then the club coming together for the finals on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The finals event was once again very well organised with our own master of ceremonies, Chris Smith, ably assisted by our Club Secretary, Ian Bridgeman! It was good to see more people watching the finals this year which is testament to the developing social side of the club. With regards to the organisation of the event, I would like to again thank Ian Bridgeman, Chris Smith, Ray Perry and David Gough for organising the event and chivvying players up to play their matches. Also, thanks to Bob Watts for giving up his time to umpire the matches at the finals event. It won't be long before the committee will consider whether we run a tournament next year and in what format, so any feedback on this year's tournament would be appreciated.</p> <p>The club had a very successful league championships again this season and entered 6 league teams in the Bury St Edmunds and District League. In last year's report, I joked, 'To show improvement we will have to aim for first place in all three divisions next season' – we weren't far off as I am sure our Club Captain will elaborate on later! Our juniors are continuing to show improvement within club sessions and in local and national events - details of which will be picked up in other reports.</p> <p>On the social side we have staged the club finals event and a very successful summer barbecue, both held at our St Peter's venue. The feedback from the barbecue was very positive indeed and we have decided to make this an annual event. The next barbecue is booked in for Saturday 2nd July and we are planning to use this year's barbecue to celebrate the club's 30<sup>th</sup> year. Any suggestions for future events, I am sure, would be well received.</p> <p>This year our continued focus has been on the development and retention of players. This, I feel, we have achieved with consistency of numbers, players and improving playing standards at our various sessions. Looking forward, our priority needs to be sorting out our coaching structure and ensuring we have sufficient numbers of qualified coaches to meet the needs of our players. If anyone is interested in training to be a coach, at whatever level, then please contact our coaching secretary – Nick Samson.</p>

I again wanted to note the work of the club's volunteers. The club has continued to benefit from a strong team of volunteers, both on the committee, and in the wider club, particularly helping with Friday nights. Our club committee continue to be one of the key strengths of the club, many of which invest a considerable amount of their time to help the club develop and grow - a big thank you to those on the committee and indeed the wider volunteers. The team of volunteers at the club has remained relatively stable for some time now and I think we are getting to the point where it would be good to get some 'fresh blood' in the shape of some new volunteers to help spread the load.

Last year we revived the 'Bert Robinson Award' presented for services to the club. The committee were unanimous that the award this year should, in the clubs 30<sup>th</sup> year, go to one of its founding members, who has been a driving force in the club for most of that time. This person dedicates a huge amount of time to the club each and every season and I think it is fair to say that, without him, the club would not be anywhere near as strong as it is now. The award goes to Tony Mooney.

Here's to a successful 2016-17 season.

5. Treasurer's Report  
(Tony Mooney)

A loss of £66.25 was made in the year to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 compared with a profit of £725.54 the previous year. It was policy of the committee, given the balance that remained in the area of £5,000 for most of the year, to subsidise number of club activities as a way of giving some back to the members. This included subsidising the championships; BBQ; NCL/NJL/Border leagues; club shirts; adult coaching; not charging those who assisted with junior coaching at Friday sessions. etc. The total subsidy came to £1,316.

All practice sessions were well supported, although down from last year due to lower numbers playing during the summer months. The average monthly surplus was £85 as opposed to £118 in the previous year. Early indications are that match fees collected from league players will, for the first time, exceed the cost of hiring the venues by some margin.

Given the strength of the finances it is proposed that membership subscriptions and playing fees remain the same. This is assuming that we remain with our current arrangement for Fridays but the committee have the power to charge extra if professional coaching is provided. The proposal to the meeting, therefore, is that the following subscriptions should apply for the year 2016/7

**Subscriptions and fees**

	Practice Fees	Subscriptions
	£	£
JUNIOR – Members	3.00	11.00
Non-members	4.00	
ADULT – Members	3.00	14.00
Non-members	4.00	
SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED- Members	3.00	

		Non-members	4.00	11.00
		FAMILY	£7.00 for 3 £8.00 for 4 £10.00 for 5 or more	£30.00 (£23.00 if all players are juniors) + the TTE individual charge for each member.
		DAYTIME CLUB	£2.00	As above.
		<p><i>Notes</i></p> <p>❖ Family means close family members living together.</p> <p>Tony Mooney Treasurer</p> <p><b>The proposed Fee structure was unanimously agreed.</b></p>		
6.	Club Captain's report (David Gough)	<p>Overall it has been a very good year for the Club's teams in the Bury League. In the 2-player events Bobcats were bottom in the standard League but moved up to 4<sup>th</sup> in the handicap.</p> <p>In Div II Lynx were winners with Tigers and Leopards 3 &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. 6 of the top 8 players in the individual averages were Club players with Jack Samson finishing top with 93%, other notable performances were from Andy Bennett 89%, Pete Bernard 79%, Martin Chamberlain 75%, David Gough 70% and Luke Davies-Stokes 70%.</p> <p>In Div I Pumas were the winners by 28 points and were unbeaten all season, Jaguars finished a very creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and in the individual averages 4 of the top 7 were from Stowmarket Ryan Collins and Dan Shelley were unbeaten Malcolm Collins 89%, James Davies-Stokes 83% and Nigel Howe 70%</p>		
7	Coaching Secretary's Report (Nick Samson)	<p><b><u>Coaching License</u></b></p> <p>I passed my UK CC2 coaching award last year but finally got my certificate as of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015. My coaching license has now been renewed and will expire on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p> <p><b><u>Coach Continuing Professional Development Course</u></b></p> <p>A coach CPD course was held at St Neots on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 which was tutored by Helen Lower, a previous National Champion. The session was around preparing players for tournaments. This covered both nutrition and training sessions.</p> <p><b><u>Improver/advanced coaching sessions, led by Nick and assisted by Sandra</u></b></p> <p>Before I start on activities, a big thank you to all those who have helped out on the volunteer rota. This is so important in that it allows me to lead a session rather than participate, and provides the youngsters, with usually, more consistent drill partners.</p> <p>Friday night has in the main, been formal sessions looking to teach and improve on all aspects of table tennis, however, there have been fun nights as well.</p> <p>On a competitive front, Stowmarket entered a team in the Suffolk and Cambridge league. They competed in Division 2, where they finished runners up, with Joseph Kulesa not losing a match. In the end of season tournament Jamie Hyde was runner up in the Division 2 Singles.</p>		

		<p>Jamie Hyde and Lewis Hammond were the other team members.</p> <p>A cadet team was entered in the Eastern Region National Cadet League. All their matches were played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division over 4 days. The team was: Albert and Lewis Roberts, Jamie Hyde and Joseph Kulesa. All won at least 1 match which was great.</p> <p>A junior team was entered in the Eastern Region National Junior League. The nucleus of the team was last year's NJL team of Jack Samson and Natalie Wills, ably supported by Luke and James Davies Stokes, with a guest appearance by Ellen Pengelly. They won the event by a comfortable margin in the end.</p> <p>A number of club juniors have taken part in various tournaments this year, ranging from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk schools individual tournament.</li> <li>• The National U11 and U14 qualifying tournament</li> <li>• The Junior Suffolk Closed tournament</li> <li>• The Senior Suffolk Closed tournament</li> <li>• Team containing Jack and James competed in the British Junior League qualifiers.</li> <li>• As well as representing the county at Cadet and junior levels.</li> </ul> <p>We also continue to have a number of juniors regularly attending the County training sessions held on a Tuesday at Stowupland, and the Eastern Region 'A' squad.</p>
7	Election of Club Officials	<p>Vice-Chairman Ray Perry took the Chair. Ray proposed Lee Balaam as Chairman, seconded by Nora Martin and elected unanimously.</p> <p>The remaining committee were proposed 'en bloc' by Ian Bridgeman, seconded by Ray Perry and duly elected.</p> <p>So the committee for 2016/17 and their positions are as follows:-</p> <p>Chairman - Lee Balaam  Treasurer – Tony Mooney  Secretary &amp; Webmaster- Ian Bridgeman  Vice-Chairman &amp; Publicity Officer – Ray Perry  Club Captain – David Gough  Development &amp; Welfare Officer - Carol Clarke  Coaching Secretary - Nick Samson  Volunteer Co-ordinator – Sandra Balaam  Disability Officer – Nora Martin  Junior Rep – Richard Stokes  Social secretary &amp; Assistant Volunteer Co-ordinator – Lynn Allen  Deputy Welfare Officer – Chris Smith</p>
8	A.O.B.	<p>The County AGM will be held on Tues 28 June at 7:30 in the Drama studio Stowupland.</p> <p>It was agreed the Richard Stokes should be the Club representative at subsequent County meetings and that Ian Bridgeman would be the Club representative at Bury League meetings.  <b>Ian to confirm date &amp; time of League AGM.</b></p> <p>Next committee meeting Weds 8<sup>th</sup> June 7:45 Lee &amp; Sandra's house</p>

Meeting closed at 20.40 hrs  
Ian Bridgeman