

Hertford and District Table Tennis League

A.G.M June 16th 2025. 7.30pm

Thundridge Village Hall

Present:- Jo Swain, Colin Bullworthy, Andy Reeve, John Barnes, Sandy Nash, John Manley, Rai Liiv, Neil Skull, Simon Rata, Ray Rata, Zak Layton-Elliot, David Aitken, Deborah Sumbly, James Pugh, John Hughes, Paul Jones, Faith Frankel, John Harris, Andrew Nash, Terry Smith, Steve Hooker, John Broadbank, Sara Hudson, Nick Jenkins, Barry Sumbly, John Pope

Apologies for Absence:- Mike Roberts, Colin Fell, Tina Layton, Steve Burton

Minutes 2024:- The minutes from the June 3rd 2024 A.G.M. were proposed, seconded and passed. It was pointed out that the winners of the 2023-2024 Clifford Troll were omitted from the list of winners during the Presentation of Trophies. The reason was that the final had not been played. The Trophy was eventually won by Water Lane Phoenix A with HRC C as runners up.

Treasurer's Report:- The Treasurer's Report, prepared by Andy Reeve was proposed, seconded and passed. There was discussion about whether or not to charge Team Fees. As the finances of the League have been healthy no team fees have been charged for a few years. The main question was 'When would it be necessary to recommence charging?' It was decided that this will be looked at again at next year's AGM. The consensus was that it would be better to charge a small amount rather than zero so that when team's fees are re-introduced there would not be a large increase in fees as this could prove onerous for some teams.

The meeting was informed that the affiliation fees to County would remain at £14 per team.

This was proposed, seconded and passed.

Match Secretary's Report :-

Colin Bullworthy once again gave thanks to the players for another enjoyable season, the 79th of the league.

Same as previous season, we had 24 teams split into three divisions. The Premier Division remained the same. HRC D went down to D2 and were replaced by Cheshunt D. Cheshunt E also moved up, Pramastars A going the other way.

HRC A retained the Premiership title. Cheshunt D won Division 1 and Aston Division 2.

HRC A did the double in winning the Creasey Cup. Water Lane B won the Clifford Troll trophy. Water Lane C came from 4-3 down to win the next two games and retain the MSD trophy with a 5-4 win over Pramastars A.

Cheshunt E had three 9-0 victories to reach the final of the Builders Cup where they met holders Water Lane A. Although the latter won the final 9-0 to win the trophy for the third

consecutive year, the scoreline did not reflect the evening, six matches being decided in the third set.

Postponements were, as always, the main issue throughout the season. Unfortunately a number of matches were conceded. I received a few emails regarding the issues. Whilst I concur that the rules need updating (more of that later), I also believe that there is a way of conveying such views, and accusing specific teams of indirect cheating is not one of them. Also a number of the emails were anonymous so I assume if the person is that passionate they will be here tonight. Hopefully the discussion on the rules may resolve some, if not all, the issues.

Although the webmaster has moved, he will still be doing handbooks and updating the website. It is proposed that we produce a slimmed down handbook with club details, last season league table and averages, trophy winners and fixture chart in paper form. The full handbook will be on the website and can be downloaded if required.

2025/26 registration forms are on the website and need to be in by 14 July. Once we know number of teams registered we can look at the format of the league and print the slimmed down handbook

Plan is to collect handbooks in late August ready for start in mid September.

Chairman's Report:-

The Chairman expressed a big thank you for all the Committee's hard work and continuing support to enable the Hertford and District Table Tennis League's survival.

Jo Swain expressed thanks to Gordon Imroth for being the League's Herts County Representative and John Barnes for being the League's representative with Table Tennis England.

A special thank you to Rai Liiv for taking the Minutes of our AGM tonight and over the past two years. Also thanks to Andy Reeve for being the Treasurer; to Colin Fell for being our Webmaster and for organising the handbooks and to Steve Hooker for his continued support.

A huge thank you to Colin Bullworthy for all his hard work for without him there would not be a League. For a short moment this year I was very worried that he was going to resign but luckily for all of us in the League this did not happen because of the members' supportive comments and emails.

Presentation of Trophies:- The Pine Trophy was awarded to Sandy Nash for her hard work and contribution to the League.

Premier Division – HRC 'A' Division 1 – Cheshunt D

Division 2 – Aston

Creasey Cup – HRC A

MSD Trophy – Water Lane C

Hertford Builder's Cup – Water Lane 'A'

Clifford Troll Trophy – Water Lane B

Election of Officers:- Proposed, seconded and agreed to 'en masse'.

Rule change on Page Three of the handbook

Revised Rule 13: Composition of Divisions

In general there was a simplification of the sub-sections of this Rule. The key point was that each team is to have three members and that teams have a duty to register teams and players in rank order. Registrations can be looked at by the Match Secretary.

The main concern was that people could play in teams lower down but with a higher ranking and that this could affect the outcome of promotion and relegation.

Where somebody is helping out playing for a lower team, for instance when ensuring a fixture is not postponed, then perhaps the points won/lost by that player would not count. In addition where this expediency is used then the other team should be made aware of the situation.

Revised Rule 14: Fixtures and Postponements

Again, the general idea was to simplify this Rule. As with all issues there should be a degree of flexibility and tolerance with regard to re-arranging fixtures. For some teams there is the possibility that extra costs may be incurred or their home venue is not available except within strict limits.

Revised Rule: Creasey Cup Tournament Rules

The rule was accepted with no discussion.

Any Other Business:-

1. There was a re-statement of changes to the handbook mentioned in the Match Secretary's Report.
2. Registrations for 2025-2026 to be in by 14th July.

The meeting closed at 21.10 hrs