

## **BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASS. ANNUAL REPORT.**



It was with deep regret that the Association announced the passing of David Turner in December of last year. David was President and Vice Chairman of the Association but had held many official titles over the years both within the Association as well as within the Dorset and Hampshire Table Tennis Associations. He is greatly missed.

Due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic and its resulting lockdown of all sporting activities, the shutting of all community halls, the quarantining of all persons and advice offered by Table Tennis England, all Bournemouth league activities ceased before the end of the season

The BDTTA committee met on eight occasions since the last annual general meeting of the association, the last of those made as a conference call using the 'Zoom' application. Geoff Ware joined the committee in January in the position of the association publicity officer. Ian Brown, our results secretary, accepted the position of the committees vice chairman Both will offer themselves for formal election at the 2020 annual general meeting.

For the first time for many years both the Individuals competition and the presentation evening, which was to be held at the Best Western Hotel Royale, were cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Most perpetual cups remain with last season's winners and will probably not be represented until sometime during the 2020-21 season, or later, as the case may be. Perpetual cups can be returned to me as soon as the right conditions prevail.

The Committee is mindful that in three years' time the Association will record its 100th year of BDTTA League formation. Ideas from the membership on how we should celebrate this significant event should be submitted to the committee who will collate and coordinate the various suggested activities and draw up a programme of events in advance of that time.

The Times and Directory handicap competition was played out in full with the final for the plate competition being played between Bournemouth Sports 'J' and Bournemouth Sports 'M' teams. The eventual winners being the 'J' side 5 to 2. The main cup final was played between Merton 'H' and Parkstone 'A'. Here the eventual winners were Parkstone at 5 games to 4. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers in which both finals were played in a friendly and sporting manner. Very many thanks to Ian Robertson for again running the competition on behalf of the Committee, which went without a hitch as usual.

Whilst division three and four supported a full twelve teams, and divisions one and two eleven teams, the Premier division only had eight teams in it which was unsatisfactory both for the teams involve as well as for the committee. The original intention was that this division should have ten teams but, literally at the last minute, two teams withdrew their support. It is hoped that when the new season eventually gets underway the divisions, whatever their makeup, will give all players full satisfaction.

Andy Miller, Dorset Table Tennis Association and Weymouth TTA was appointed as the County Development Officer. His project programme had yet to be agreed, but it was likely that the development of village social table tennis to the West of the County would feature prominently.

The Association clarified the Rule on umpiring a match, following a mild dispute during a team league match. The Committee agreed that in all circumstances the umpire's ultimate decision is always final, although clarification of the decision by a player, in a reasonable manner, is acceptable. All Clubs had been advised of this ruling.

GFW. 25/06/20.