

President Report 6th AGM – July 12, 2014 – Belize Table Tennis Association

Welcome every to our 6th annual general meeting... and the interest show to the development of our sport of table tennis..

With the world cup finals all happening this weekend, I am sure we all want to get over with this meeting to watch the remainder of today match.

- We are now 6 years old and still growing as our slogan states “the development continues...’

Membership

- Our membership continues to grow to over 300, unfortunately not all active in playing or full participation in events. We are in the process of reviewing the list to have a better idea of what participating membership the BTTA really has.
- Members’ dues continue to be an issue. We had a membership fee “forgiveness” in 2012.
- Fees for 2013 and 2014 remain unpaid for a few members which we will work towards securing payment as best as possible.
- With the fees as low as 50.00 & 10.00 per annum, we believe that all effort should be made by all members to pay up and support their association in its development.
- Quite a significant amount of junior members have become active but do need to formalize their membership status, including the payment of membership dues.
- Our membership continues to enjoy the use of our 14 STAG tables here at the BES auditorium during our Saturday table tennis sessions.
- Coaching is also available on Saturdays for those who are interested.

International Affiliation

- We remain affiliated to the Latin American, Central American and International Table Tennis Federations. Both as active members of these federations, as well as “paid up” membership.
- We continue to attend the Central American General Assembly since this is more closer to us, and financially affordable for us. Where possible we do attend the other two federation general assemblies.

Local Affiliation

- We also remain affiliated and close to the National Sports Council, with annual filing of reports and financials as required.
- We are also close to the Belize Olympic Committee and remain engaged in their development and support structure. Assistance has been received from this committee, with great possibilities in the future for development assistance.

ITTF Development

- 2013 was not a year of ITTF development as this is a cycle process. We do expect more support in 2014/2015.

Executive Committee

- Your executive met 6 times in 2013 to work towards getting the business of the association done. In addition to these meetings, your executive do remain in contact on a regular basis as needed.

BTTA Secretariat

- This position remains in operation with support staff managing this position with Miss Kayla Arnold taking over from Ms. Alvarez. This position is there for the membership to contact as needed.

Membership Director

- As a support to the Secretariat, Mrs. Janine Carballo was added as the new Membership Director in May. This position was introduced to give the membership an added support. Contact number is 636-7873.
- The roll of the Membership Director is to remain engaged with the membership and to provide support during BTTA events. Especially during our busy annual tournament schedule.

COMMITTEES

Tournament Committee

- Busiest committee of all.
- Started 2013 with the review and publishing of the 2103 Tournament Calendar.
- Another full year of events with a total of 13 event for 2013.
- Fully geared towards a diverse selection of participants.
- Junior events, veteran events, team event, primary school event, SJC annual event, open knock out formats, double elimination formats, round robin formats, doubles event, women event. And the list goes on.
- 2013 was the year to develop the junior category of the BTTA. Specific tournament were made to showcase the junior talent. SMART JUNIOR TOURNAMENT. 3rd Division Team League and the Junior National Championships. All these events are only for junior players.
- The Categories or 18Under, 15Under and 12Under has also been establish to further provide competition at different levels within the junior categories
- This has shown to be successful as the entire event had full participation of as much as 75 participants.
- This remains the focus of the BTTA going forward

Development committee

- The development committee remains under the leadership of the President and did manage to fulfill the implementation of the Primary Schools Coordinator.

- Ms. Kayla Arnold assumed this position in October 2013, through which she has been able to establish communication and scheduled sessions at several primary Schools. This has produced many junior players to our sport.
- Weekly visit was established with at least 7 schools, at which introduction to table tennis was made available to interested students at these schools.
- The more advance students were encouraged to visit the BES auditorium on Saturdays to get more advance exposure to the sport.
- This has proven to be a good development for the primary school table tennis clubs.

Referee/Umpire Committee

- This committee remains a “work in progress” with the Tournament Committee managing the need for umpires at tournaments.
- This committee remains an important factor to better management of our tournaments and events.
- It will remain on our “to do” list until it can be fully developed

Membership Committee

- The introduction of the Membership Director in May 2013 is the first step in moving this committee forward.
- In addition to the Membership Director, the Executive Committee and the Tournament Committee continue to provide the necessary support for this committee.
- The idea is to eventually establish a committee that will concentrate complete on membership initiatives and support.

Rating System

- Active and competitive members continue to be a part of the BTTA Ranking System.
- It has been further developed into “showcasing” several categories. Open, 18, 15 & 12 under categories, as well as women category
- Updated ranking listings are produced as soon as they become available.
- A few glitches and delays at time, but we try to get it out as soon as possible.
- List is now over 150 rated players.

Web site

- This remains an important development of our association.
- Perhaps not as much visits as we would like, but it does contain all the information on the development, events and tournament of the BTTA.
- Full information on upcoming events and tournament can always be found on the site.
- “belizetabletennis.com”
- Of importance to the site is the ability to register “on-line” for all tournaments. We continue to ask members to use the on-line registration for all tournaments.

Sponsors

- Our sponsors remain constant with a few changes and additions.
- We try and showcase all our sponsors in all our events.
- Also displayed on our web site and on facebook after ever event.
- 2013 saw the addition of SMART as our Junior Ranking tournament sponsors, as well as James Brodies as our Strong & Weak Double sponsors.
- Rf&G, brothers HABET, Barrow & Williams, BNE, Travellers and San Cas continue as our constant sponsors to which we truly appreciate their support to our development.
- Additionally we get other sponsors who have contributed to “banners” that are displayed in all our events.

2013 Tournaments

- 13 events were accomplished in 2013
- SJC Annual club tournament, 1st & 2nd SMART Junior ranking, 1st & 2nd RF&G National Ranking tournament, 2nd Annual Dutch Lady Primary School tournament, Don Omario Cup, Travellers Annual Veteran tournament, 5th Annual Barrow & Williams Summer OPEN, Brodies Strong & Weak doubles, 5th annual brothers HABET Team League, and the Junior & Senior BNE National Championships.
- Of significant achievement in 2013 was the hosting of the Central American Masters Championships in September 2013
- This was a great accomplishment for our association as it showed the region that we have the potential to stage an international event.
- Event was very successful with all the Central American countries very satisfied with the organization and great hospitality displayed by our association.
- Opening and closing ceremonies were complete with full country colors, flags, and anthems.
- A budget of some 17,000 was acquired to stage this international event that included all international umpires and referee.
- All our main sponsors “step up to the plate” in support, including several other local sponsors who also contributed to this event.
- With more ITTF approved equipment such as tables, flooring and good lighting in the auditorium, we can be in a better position to host more international events. The future is open for us to move in that direction as the ITTF does provide the opportunity to all associations to host international events.

Moving ahead in 2014

- Continue to develop on our junior players
- The eventual BTTA club house remains on the priority list for us. Communications continues with GOB on this to which we have been promised space at the Marion Jones stadium. Of course, everyone can see how that is developing over time. We wait and see.
- The continuation of the Schools Coordinator project will develop more into 2014
- Continue to look at ways to improve our income and as well as the collection of membership fees.
- Improve on our Saturday sessions as it related to membership participation.

- Continue with the development of the Umpire/Referee committee to better improve our tournaments efficiency.
- Participation in international events. With the support of the Olympic Committee we could improve in this area. However, we would also need to improve in our National Selection process. The limitation of venues is really what contributes to this process.
- Continue with the active tournament schedule throughout 2014 as this is really our only way of keeping our players active and in shape.
- Implement a full time Technical Director position for development.

I have covered most of the main factors of our development over 2013 and the move into 2014.

We remain challenged by not having a venue for our own use, and limited by the Saturday sessions alone. It does not help in keeping players as motivated as we would like to. Hence the reason for our active tournament schedule.

We would like members to be aware of this limitation and to make every effort to participate on the events. It is only in that way that we remain together as a close association and membership body.

As an election year, I do wish the next executive all the best in the next term.

Thank you

PRESIDENT

July 12, 2014

