

President report 4th AGM – July 7, 2012

Welcome everyone to our 4nd AGM.

Attendance at our AGM. Like we have today, definitely shows the interest of our members to the development of our sport

- Established in February 2008, we are now 4 years.
With our Membership list now around 265 registered members. Of course not all paying membership. But we can definitely say so 90 did pay up over the last year. That is quite encouraging.
- Information on membership payments is included in the financial report.
- We continue to be official member of the ITTF, ULTM, CONCATEME. Paid up to date as it is important to remain affiliated to these international bodies.
- We continue to attend, where possible, all general assemblies of the affiliated bodies. We did Central American meeting in January , where two of us from the Executive participated in El Salvador.
- Like the last two years, we did not attend the ITTF General Assembly in Germany.
- Locally we remain affiliated to the NSC, as well as the Olympic Committee.
- We continue to successfully offer the Saturday sessions on our 12 STAG table which has become quite popular with many “walk-in” interested persons.
- We can now boast a total of 6 ITTF Approved STAG tables now available here in the auditorium on Saturdays.

ITTF development program

- In 2011 we were able to secure another ITTF Level 1 training course which we completed in November 2011. Some 19 participants took part. The Belize Olympic Committee provided financial assistance in this course.
- We included in this course several primary school teachers so as to try and get the sport of table tennis into the schools.
- We now also have 1 Level 2 Certified coach who completed his course in Salvador in July 2011
- We also received 6 ITTF Approved DX1000 STAG tables and table tennis balls and rackets. 6 score boards were also received. All courtesy the ITTF Development Program donations.

Executive committee

- We were able to accomplish a total of 10 executive committee meetings over the last year. An increase from the year before.
- We continue to work towards getting the business of the association done, and the executive members do remains in contact on a regular basis as needed.

BTTA Secretariat

- As you might know, we have officially implemented our secretariat. She is Ms. Alicia Alvarez and she can be reached at the BTTA official telephone # 636-7873.
- The establishment of this secretariat is to help our membership to better communicate with the association. You will now see an increase in text communication from the secretariat.

Other Committees

- **Tournament committee** through scheduled meetings in relation to tournaments, rules, and the likes, this committee continues to work on improving the matters regarding tournaments.
- As can be seen from the last tournaments, schedules were out before the tournament date, with full schedule of playing time and table assignments. We do try to get these schedules out as soon as we can. Delays in getting registration from players sometimes affect the delivery.
- Deadlines are instituted, but at times it becomes challenging to enforce it without affecting the success of the tournament. We do want maximum participation, and therefore are forced to follow up on players to get their confirmations. With the assistance of the new Secretariat, we should see some improvements in get players registered on time.
- **Referee/umpire committee:** this committee continues to develop on a slow pace. But we remain committed to improve this committee as it is important to the smooth flow of our tournaments and should relieve the players from having to umpire games.
- Some training of umpires was done earlier this year 2012 in an effort to encourage some pass players to become involve in umpiring. We continue to look for people who are not competitive players that may be interested in umpiring at our events.
- **Membership Committee**
- This remains an important part of the overall development of the association, as without our membership, we have no association. It is intended to improve membership participation. The existing post of Membership Director is still a work in progress and developing as it moves ahead. The new Secretariat position may also provide some assistance to this position.
- **Social Media:**
- With the use of our Facebook account, we continue to reach out to others via this “much used” social network. In addition to email notifications, we do use this social media to also promote all our news and events.
- Our web site also continues to be a main focus for showcasing our developments and events. It is updated as soon as possible, and it has a lot of history over the last few years of our existence.
- We sincerely appreciate any recommendations and suggestions from you the membership on improving our web site.
- **Development Committee**
- A development committee was previously approved by the Executive to look at other opportunities for the BTTA. This is currently work in progress, and headed by the President.
- Our most recent development during the past year was the introduction of table tennis into the primary schools. We were able to train several teachers through the ITTF Level 1 training course in November, and we then delivered tables and equipment to some 5 Primary Schools.
- The work now continues in developing the students and teachers in table tennis.
- Schools involve are St Marys, St Joseph, Trinity Methodist, Wesley Primary and Holy Redeemer. And by extension, BES as well.

Rating System

- The BTTA Rating system continues to be an integral part of our overall competition development. Made up of Categories. A, B, C and NOVICE Categories, the 15Under and Womens.

- Ratings are published as soon as possible, following all “rated” events.
- 117 players now comprise the Ratings listing. The reduction in this is due to non-competing players that have been removed from the list and placed under the “dormant” listing.
- Complete rules of ratings can be found on our Web Site.
- As the list of players grows we do plan to introduce other divisions, like 21 Under, 18 Under, and even a much younger group of 9 Under. With the future in the hands of the junior players, we can now start to emphasize their very own accomplishments.

Web Site

A very important development for our association is the continued development of our very own Web Site. It does deliver the “goods” we need to showcase ourselves to others both locally and internationally.

- We try and use this avenue to keep everyone informed and reminded of our upcoming events and accomplishments, with lots of “action” photographs to add more interest to the site.
- The “home page” does highlighting recent news and “upcoming” events as a good reminder to everyone.
- Of course our sponsors are also “prominently” displayed for everyone to see.
- Our top 25 Rated players continue to be listed individually as well, along with the top 5 in the 15Under and Women Categories.
- The work continues on this web site and we do appreciate any suggestions that could help us in this area.

Affiliated Clubs

- This continues to be “work in progress” towards encouraging clubs to be formed and become a part of the BTTA structure.
- We are in the process of reconfirming all existing clubs and new ones that have emerged.
- The intention is still to introduce a “Club Competition” where all “listed” clubs will be able to compete throughout the years to win the “Club Competition” Championships.
- One such important rule will be for “clubs” to officially register their name, logo, and players associated with their club. Of course these members will also need to be members of the BTTA.

SPONSORS

- Our list continues to grow with the original sponsors still with us, and the addition of a few more already accomplished.
- So far we have on board RF&G Insurance who are sponsors for our National Ranking tournaments
- We also have Grace Kennedy on board as sponsors of our 15 Under Junior singles, and Strong & Weak Doubles tournament
- Brothers Habet is also fully onboard as the sponsors of our Annual Team League.
- BNE, who are now sponsors of our NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, and has agreed to do it for three years, since 2010 and ending in 2012.
- Barrow & Williams are now sponsors of our Annual Summer Table Tennis Tournament.
- Travellers Liquors have indicated their interest in providing sponsorship of our Annual Veterans Tournament. We are working with them on this new sponsorship.

- In addition to these major sponsors, we continue to get sponsorships of companies willing to do a “banner” or barrier that we use during all out table tennis events.
- We have also received some monetary contributions from other smaller providers through the assistance of members of our own Executive Committee.
- A big thank You to all these supporters.

2012 Tournaments

To be presented by the Tournament Committee

Moving ahead in 2012 & 2013, we still have much more to do.

- Priority number 1 on our list is the improvement of junior players in our association.
- We will soon be organizing a NATIONAL JUNIOR SELECTION to begin training and to compete in regional events. We do have the necessary arrangements in place and only need the commitment of the players. The Belize Olympic Committee has committed to assist us in this regard. STAG is also interested in providing some form of sponsorship as well.
- We continue to work towards identifying other locations for table tennis. With the limitation of Saturdays here at BES, we do need to see if we could get some other location for during the week. Some discussions with St. Marys Primary School are already in the making.
- Our goal of eventually having our own association club house is something that remains on the agenda of the executive. We have already began communication with government over the possibility of get a piece of land for our own development to begin. This is definitely “long term”, but it must be worked on as we continue to grow and develop the sport of table tennis.
- The “Mentoring/Big Brother” program to encourage younger players to become involve is also a program soon to be launched. It basically provides for senior players to “adapt” so to speak, younger players with the responsibility of getting them involve.
- The implementation of a Technical director is also something we are working towards.
- The continued development of the Umpire/Referee committee is also of great importance. This would assist us significantly in the organizing and smooth running of our tournaments. Using players to umpire is definitely not the best way to go. It creates too much delays during our events.
- The completion of our new “umpire tables” is also improvement to our events. With the kind assistance of Nel Ayuso, we are soon to complete these tables.
- The continued development of table tennis in the schools is also a great priority in the coming year. With some of the schools now equipped with tables and coaches, we need to continue and provide the necessary support to keep it going.
- The overall goal of all this is to accomplish a “Primary and Secondary School competition” .
- Also important is to continue to keep our international affiliates close to us. This will continue to offer the international support we need to move ahead in a productive way.
- Continue to deliver and improve, as needed, on our Saturday Sessions.
- We continue to look at ways to improve, and perhaps increase our revenue income. This would give us more flexibility to do more in the development of the association. To date our main source of revenue is from membership fees, and tournament fees. Added to this is the monetary support we have been able to receive to date.

- As you can see from our financials, we have been concentrating on “building” a good financial foundation for future developments.
- With only 4 years behind us, we believe we have done quite a bit financially to build this needed foundation.
- As mentioned last year, participation on international event is always in the future plans. For this to be accomplish, we need two main “ingredience” that being good talent, and finances. Both subjects already address in this report. What is left is the “will” by the players and the good work of the executive to deliver on these two “ingrediances”.
- Members are encourage to join and participate in other committees as they may be interested.
- It is the involvement of the membership that will “move” this association forward.

With quite a lot to report, I believe I have covered all the important topics I need to bring to you the membership.

If I have missed out on anything, please feel free now to comment on them so we can provide you with the details.

I close by wishing the new executive the best in future ventures.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT