

DUMFRIES TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Information meeting Tuesday 12 May 18.30 – 19.30 at DTTC

SHOULD DTTC BECOME A CHARITY?

Definitions

- “Charity” = **Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or SCIO**. A SCIO must have only charitable purposes and be of public benefit.
- SCIOs are regulated by the **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator or OSCR**. OSCR decides on all applications to be a charity.



2. WHY BECOME A CHARITY?

DTTC is an **unincorporated association**, which causes problems as the club grows and seeks new partnerships and funding. Being unincorporated means:

- The club has **no legal identity**. Contracts – including for employment and title to the building – are in the name of the club's trustees (President, Secretary, Treasurer), rather than the club.
- Members and trustees have **unlimited personal liability** for the club's debts and obligations.
- Some funding we could apply for is restricted to charities.

Club trustees and committee members have looked at options and taken advice from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (TSDG), and **recommend becoming a charity**.

The SCIO legal structure is purpose-built for the voluntary sector in Scotland, and some other Scottish table tennis clubs are charities.



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3. WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR BECOMING A CHARITY?

1. The committee (including the 3 trustees) prepares an application by:
 - Drafting a new constitution
 - Defining our charitable purposes
 - Stating what activities the club will do to fulfil its purposes
2. Members attend an information meeting for questions and feedback.
3. The application is submitted to OSCR
4. If the application is approved, a new club, DTTC SCIO is set up. (Approved 30-06-2026)
5. The current membership votes at an EGM for or against winding up the old DTTC and transferring all its assets to the DTTC SCIO.
6. Legal arrangements are made for the transfer. The SCIO takes over from DTTC.
7. If the membership votes against, DTTC continues under its current structure and the SCIO is dissolved.



4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CHARITY?

- A charity has a defined legal identity for holding property, entering into contracts and employing people
- Members and trustees have limited liability
- Charities are eligible for additional funding streams
- There are some tax benefits – e.g. Gift Aid for donations.
- Charities get 80% relief on business rates, plus a further 20% (worth approx. £2k) at the council's discretion. (We currently get 100% at the council's discretion, but this is not guaranteed)
- Charities are eligible for free banking
- Being a charity demonstrates that a club is well-regulated, and enhances its reputation with funders, sponsors and the local community



5. WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES TO BEING A CHARITY?

- Being regulated means a **legal requirement** to run the club in a certain way, e.g. holding an AGM, having accounts inspected, keeping membership records. Though DTTC already does many of these things
- It means more admin (especially for a secretary!), e.g. requirements to report to OSCR, or to notify it of changes
- There are restrictions on what a charity can do, e.g. DTTC SCIO could not use its premises for non-charitable purposes
- Preparing an application and a new constitution is time-consuming
- There will be legal costs to winding up the current club and transferring its assets to the new charity
- If the club no longer wants to be a charity, the SCIO would have to be dissolved and a new organisation created



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6. WHAT WOULD BEING A CHARITY MEAN FOR THE CLUB?

- It would continue to be a democratic membership organisation, where members elect trustees and trustees are accountable to the members. (A “two tier” structure)
- The club would be governed by a new, more detailed, constitution, based on a template provided by SCVO, with advice from TSDG
- As a charity, the club would have new, slightly different, purposes:
 - a) to advance public participation in the sport of Table Tennis by providing inclusive opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to take part in regular physical activity, coaching, recreational play and competition in a safe and welcoming environment.
 - ~~b) to advance health and wellbeing by encouraging active lifestyles, physical literacy, social connection and positive experiences through table tennis and community participation~~ This purpose was removed following correspondence with OSCR+



7. WHAT WOULD IT MEAN FOR MEMBERS?

- In the new constitution, “members” refers **only** to members of DTTC SCIO, the charity, who we are calling (for now!) **Voting Members**
- **Voting membership** is free, and open to anyone over the age of 16 who is interested in playing or supporting table tennis. Application will be via an opt-in on our Club Membership Registration/Renewal form.
- Voting membership is a different category from members who pay to play or support the club, who we are calling (for now!) **Club members**.
- **Club members** will register or renew membership and pay fees to play in the same way members do now. We anticipate fees being in line with what would have happened under the old structure.
- We hope that many Club Members will opt to be Voting Members, but recognise not everyone will want to, as it comes with extra responsibilities.



8. VOTING MEMBERS

- Voting Members have ultimate control over the charity. They have a duty to act in the interests of the charity, and to ensure, as far as they can, that the club as a charity sticks to its charitable purposes.
- They have the right to:
 - take part in Voting Members' meetings, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
 - elect Trustees
 - take part in some decisions, like making changes to the constitution or winding up the club
- direct Trustees to take, or not to take, any particular step



9. CHARITY TRUSTEES, AKA THE BOARD

- The new constitution has a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 trustees, who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the club
- Trustees monitor and control the charity's financial position, set policies, and oversee forward planning
- They are collectively responsible for ensuring that the charity is run properly and meets its legal duties under charity and other relevant laws
- Trustees have a legal duty to:
 - Always do what is best for the charity
 - Put the interests of the charity above their own interests
 - Act with care and diligence to protect the charity including its beneficiaries, assets and reputation

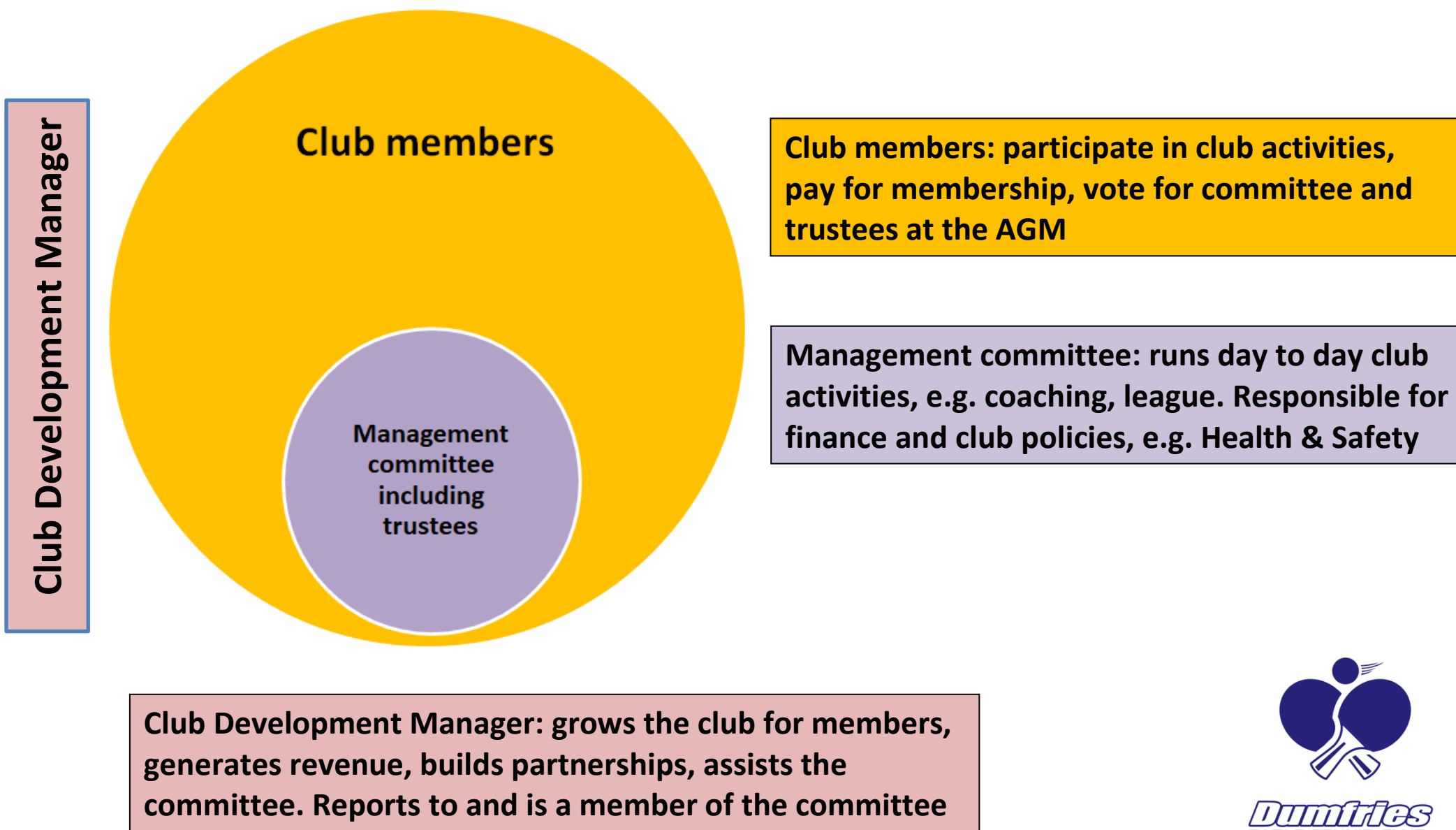
Current DTTC trustees have a similar duty, but it is not a legal one.



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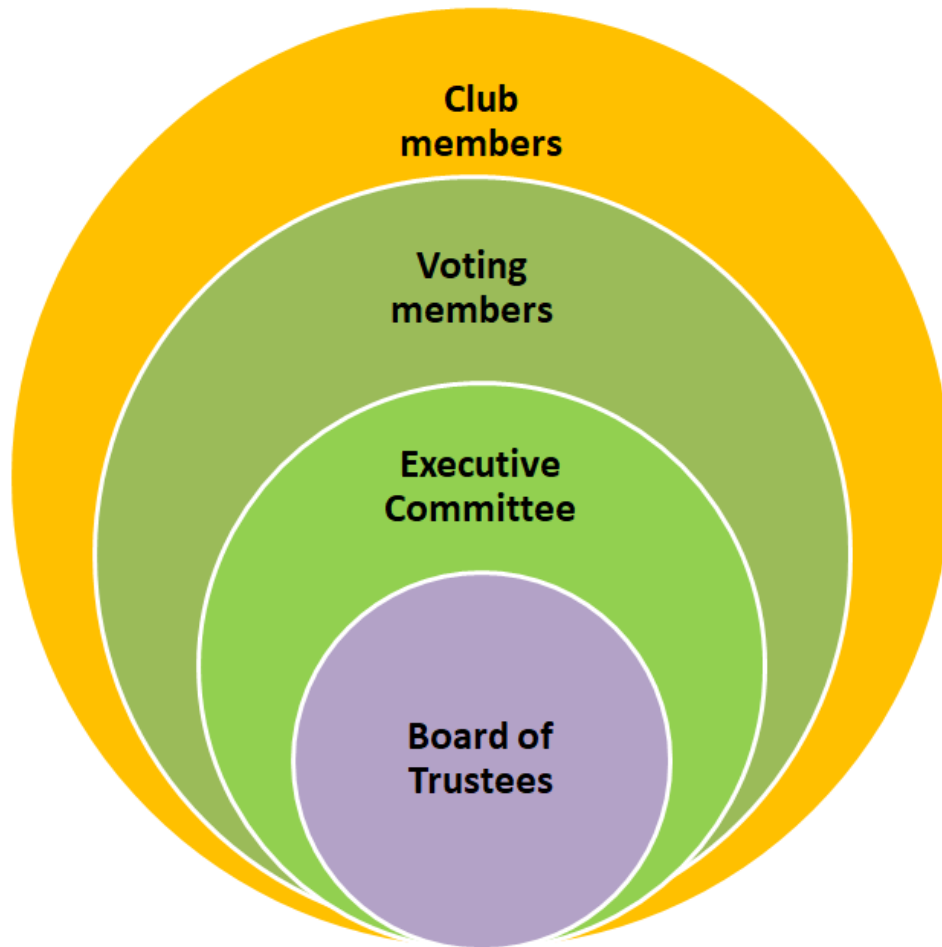
10. WHAT WOULD BEING A CHARITY MEAN FOR CLUB OPERATIONS?

a) Current structure



b) Possible organisational structure for DTTC as a SCIO

Club Development Manager



Club members: participate in club activities and pay for membership

Voting Members: ultimately control the club, vote at AGMs to elect and direct trustees

Executive committee: runs day to day club activities, e.g. coaching, league. Implements club policies, e.g. Health & Safety

Board of Trustees: Has overall responsibility for monitoring & controlling finances, policies, meeting legal duties & forward planning

Club Development Manager: grows the club for members, generates revenue, builds partnerships, assists the committee. Advises and reports to the Board