

# UP FOR DISCUSSION

Another instalment from your ever giving committee!!

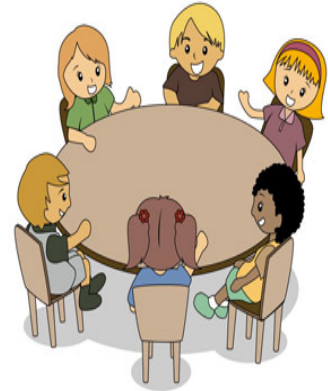
## **Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Attendees (committee): Tony Britten, Jason Dunkley, Gary Tipping, Alan Taylor, Jim Thomson, Simon Coleman, Ian Jellis, Damian Coates, Iestyn Pocock, Lorin Clough

Attendees (guest): Ian Coleman

Apologies: Keith Thomson, Sue Thomson, Michelle Higginson, Stephen Coleman

Meeting opened at 20:35.



## **Chairperson's opening statement:**

Tony thanked all present for making the effort to attend again. We have now had six monthly committee meetings since the AGM and attendance at each has exceeded ten committee members. In many cases we have had everyone. This is remarkable and gratifying, but more importantly has allowed us to get many more things decided. Whether it is the new style Finals/Presentation and Jim Wilson weekend or the exciting new Northants Masters competition. It feels like we are making excellent progress.

## **Actions from last meeting**

**Approach to the Wellingborough League** – Iestyn provided contact details and will invite members from the Wellingborough league to join us for forthcoming Jim Wilson weekend as well as the 2014 Summer League. Iestyn will provide a further update in March or April.

## **County Reports**

County Captain Damian Coates gave the following update regarding the forthcoming Inter Area competitions:

The Inter Area 7s tournament takes place in Didcot, Oxfordshire on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This year's team of Damian Coates (Captain), Jason Neal, Andy Chambers, Jason Dunkley, Simon Coleman, Chas Peel and Stephen Coleman are hoping to go one better than last year where Northants were Runners up.

## **Inter Area Main competition**

The draw for the 2014 competition has been completed and has now been received by each team captain. It shows that each Northants team has been drawn with a very difficult tie. The fixtures are as follows:

Northants 'A' will play Wallingford 'B' (previous winners) in April and May

Northants 'B' have a tough tie against Oxford 'B' and will play the home leg first in Feb/March

Northants 'C' have been drawn against Wallingford 'C'

## **C Team Shield**

Our 'C' team have been drawn in Group B with the following other sides:

Wallingford C, Reading C and Reading D

The 'round robin' format offers ample opportunity to give some valuable experience to Northants players and they should expect to perform well in this group.

Doing well in the Inter Area competitions provides more than just prestige. It gives valuable exposure of our league and serves to improve our players and to that end it is very important that we perform well. If you get the opportunity to support any of our Inter Area teams please do – they will always appreciate it.

### **Social Secretary:**

**Race Night** preparations were all complete and Michelle (in her absence) sent a message stating how much she is looking forward to seeing as many people there as possible.

### **Finals/Presentation Night**

- Our host venue Cheyne Walk Club will be inviting guests to attend an Open Evening on 21<sup>st</sup> February where we could get the opportunity to view the club and get an insight as to how our event may take shape
- A buffet menu proposed for Presentation Night was issued to the committee for approval. Comments were generally very positive and the committee invited Michelle to proceed with this.

The **2014 Golf Day** has been agreed for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Further details will be posted on the website soon!

### **Secretary:**

The secretary offered hearty congratulations on behalf of the entire committee to Rushden Cons on their impressive league victory.

Lorin advised that he has agreed with the Treasurer that the budget for trophies in 2014 will be higher than that of 2013. This is in large part due to the need to replace the damaged Premiership trophy. Further discussion was had on the nature of trophies to be awarded and Lorin set out that there was greater choice available in the new catalogue.

**The Northants Masters** – Lorin advised that there had been one or two changes to the structure to accommodate an additional Division of players. This is great news as it affords greater opportunities and to date it appears that the appetite to play is strong. The proposed changes to the costs of the event have been presented to the treasurer and approved.

**Table Standards** – Lorin stated how pleased he was with the improvement in table quality since the AGM. Many of the tables have had new cloths applied or are in the planning process of doing so. Furthermore venues have thought seriously about other improvements to their tables such as levelling. This has led to significant improvements in scoring which can only be better for players. It is a great move forward for our league as it means that with improving table standards we can expect improved playing performances. This in turn improves our chances when competing against other counties and makes our league more attractive for new players.

**Effective communications** – Lorin is eager that we find the best possible ways of communicating with players as response levels for feedback or competition entries are notoriously slow and challenging. Lorin advised therefore that he was going to issue a Captains and Contacts form that will allow us to keep more effective records of players preferred contact methods.

### **Competition Secretary:**

The draw for the semi-finals of the Team Knockout and the quarter-finals of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Individual Knockout as well as the Blind Pairs was completed. Full details can be found in the competition section below.

**Performance of the month** – there were three major contenders discussed at the meeting and they are:

Ian Street has recently joined our league playing for The Cock 'A' and he is very welcome. His 6k start in a recent match shows that he has settled in well and will prove to be a major asset in the fight to stave off relegation.

Stevie Anscombe and Gray Tipping also deserve special mention as they secured an impressive win over Simon Coleman and Kevin Ross in a recent Blind Pairs match. It is always a significant achievement for lower ranked players to overcome some of the 'big boys' and one that should not be overlooked. Fortunately it was ensured that this would not be overlooked by the committee as it was indeed Gary that proposed himself! (this obviously also qualifies him for **Wally of the month!**).

Finally, congratulations are also due to Rushden Cons on their emphatic league victory.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Northants League Fund Raising Fun Day – The Cock Hotel – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014**

As mentioned last month this important fundraising event is really starting to take shape and Simon has had a number of calls and emails from players who wish to be included which is great news. Simon stated that we do however need more people to play so please check your availability and contact Simon if you wish to get involved.

### **Cancer Research – 9 Counties Challenge**

Simon Coleman and Jason Neal are progressing well with this and all places in the travelling team have now been allocated. Many thanks to all those who have offered to support in this important charity event. A team needs to be organised for the Northants vs Northants match, which will be hosted by The Cock Hotel. Jim Thomson will organise this team so please contact Jim if you wish to be part of it.

### **Oxford Open 2014**

Four players from Northants have entered the Oxford Open Bar Billiards Tournament which takes place the day prior to the Inter Area 7's. The committee offered their best wishes to:

Simon Coleman, Stephen Coleman, Damian Coates and Johnny George. We hope you do yourselves and the league proud.

Meeting closed at 21:37

**If you have anything you wish to raise at the next committee meeting why not come along or let one of the members know. It is your league so we are eager to hear your thoughts!!**

**The next meeting will be held at The Headlands, Northampton on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 20:30 sharp!**

