

UP FOR DISCUSSION

Following a hugely successful AGM the first committee meeting of the new winter season has been held. Again there was a great turnout which was very heartening. It is fantastic to see the commitment shown and we are all hopeful that this can lead to strengthening our league.
Thanks, Ed!



Committee Meeting 24th Sept 2013

Attendees: Tony Britten, Stephen Coleman, Keith Thomson, Ian Jellis, Jason Dunkley, Jim Thomson, Alan Taylor, Gary Tipping, Michelle Higginson, Iestyn Pocock, Simon Coleman, Damian Coates, Lorin Clough

Apologies: Sue Thomson

Meeting opened at 20:43

Chairperson's opening statement:

Tony expressed his thanks for such a great turnout of committee members. It is gratifying and he expressed his optimism that this will continue and will be reflected in the progress we make in adding exciting competitions and opportunities for all players in the league.

County Reports:

'A' Team – Damian Coates – Selection of the team is yet to be made following the early defeat in the 2013 Inter-Area tournament. The County 7's will be held on November 17th in Reading and Damian will be identifying his preferred selections in due course.

'B' Team – Jason Dunkley – Jason noted that there has been no activity for the 'B' team and will be little until March 2014

'C' Team – Keith Thomson – Keith highlighted that the weekend of the 28th/29th September was a 'double header' in the C Team Shield against Reading C. With the home leg to take place at The Cock hotel on Saturday followed by a demanding away tie at Reading the very next evening, the league wishes Keith and his team the very best of luck for this tie.

Social Secretary:

Michelle informed the committee that following the proposal carried at the AGM to investigate whether it would be possible to hold a joint 'Finals Night' and 'Presentation Night' this year in a bid to improve attendances lots of initial work has been carried out.

There have been at least two possible venues identified with the most likely candidates being Duston Community Centre and Cheyne Walk Club. Both venues appear to have adequate car parking and bar facilities and have expressed a willingness to progress dialogue. Other issues still to be determined include whether they have ample accommodation for both the billiard matches and the presentation evening and disco as well as the all important costs.

Agreed next action: Jason D, Simon C and Jim T all offered continued support to review these venues and report back in the coming weeks/months. Good luck to them all and thanks for the support.

The annual Race Night will be scheduled again for early February (provisionally 7th) at Moulton Working Men's Club. Please continue to support this much-needed fund raising event. The date has been added to the League diary.

Tony added the following the successful Golf Day held during the summer he will organise the next event and notifications will go out in due course. The date is yet to be fixed but will be published through the newsletter and the website. Please support this fun and enjoyable event when it comes around again.

Secretary:

Lorin advised that there will be a need to issue a revised fixture list (the cry of 'What? Version 5?' was heard from the back!) following some date changes.

The secretary requested that all captains submitting match scores to the competition secretary would help the production of the end of season review if they could add a short match summary in addition. Highlights of games or interesting moments would all add to the quality of the Presentation Night souvenir programme.

He wished all teams the very best of luck for the forthcoming league season and looks forward to some exciting matches and great play.

Treasurer:

Jim advised that cash in the bank stands at £1,164.93. Iestyn asked whether subs would increase this season but was advised that since this must be a proposal agreed at the AGM this would not be happening this season. A proposal for this increase would be welcomed and considered at the AGM should anyone wish to put it forward. Jim noted that the balance of league finances is healthy at the moment and expressed concern that any increase may prove hard to collect. Collection of subs is currently more difficult than it needs to be so issued a request for all teams to pay subs as early as possible. This allows the league to budget effectively for trophies, venues etc.

Competition Secretary:

Simon advised that competition entry forms are being produced and will be issued with the forthcoming newsletter. All competition dates have already been added to the league diary which will enable players to plan dates accordingly.

Simon requested that entry forms be returned on or before the 18th October if at all possible.

Performance of the month was awarded to the team from The Fox who recently clinched a competitive Summer League.

A **Wally of the month** was also nominated to Stephen Coleman for his comical editing of the Wikipedia site ensuring that Ian Jellis was noted as the current World Champion after defeating Damian Coates in the final – neither had in fact entered the tournament in Jersey last year. Nice one Stephen!

Any Other Business

At the recent AGM the league passed a proposal to institute a **County Selection committee**. This will ensure selection is based on set criteria and on merit. Further to this proposal Simon will forward full details of player averages and notable performances to all committee members. This will then be discussed at the November committee meeting with a view to making selections at the December meeting.

There is a forthcoming **Under 25's tournament** to be held in Reading during November. Last year Northants sent a number of up and coming players to gain experience of tournament play. It is hoped that at least as many players will be encouraged to play again and represent our league. Transport can be made available to those who wish to enter. Please recommend this tournament to the younger players in your teams and let Stephen Coleman know of those who wish to enter.

It is intended to add an additional date into the league diary for a **social/charity event**. The Northants league has embarked on so remarkable charity events in the past and raised both valuable funds for nominated charities as well as elevating the profile of our league. Whilst the date and details are still to be decided please advise the committee if you have ideas or time that you wish to contribute. If you have a particular charity that you think the league should support in this event please alert a member of the committee. All league players and friends will be welcome when the event is organised.

Whilst there are a number of activities and actions currently ongoing it was suggested that committee meetings return to a monthly schedule for the foreseeable future. This will enable the committee to progress and report on all agreed actions and initiatives.

AGM Roundup:

A reminder to all teams that if you would like to take advantage of some help to **improve your league table** then there are a number of people who have volunteered to help. They would be happy to work with you to level your table and give advice on how to maintain a consistent playing surface.

There remain a few cloths of the highest quality (Hainsworth Match) available for those teams who wish to see further improvement or refresh to their tables. The Cock 'A' table has been recently re-covered and a re-cover for the Headlands top has also been planned. Both the Rushden and Burton have expressed interest and confirmed that they will notify Lorin as soon as they are able.

lestyn asked about sourcing a new set of Aramith Bar Billiards balls for the C&A table. These will be sourced and issued in due course.

Plans are now under way to commence the inaugural **Masters competition** and dates have been allocated within the league diary. Whilst there are some finer points to be resolved around eligibility for Year 2 – the Year 1 plan will proceed as ratified at the AGM. Trophies are now being purchased and Lorin will be seeking additional sponsorship over the coming weeks and months. **You will hear more on The Masters over the coming months so watch this space – and our new website!**

It was agreed at the AGM that we would approach the Wellingborough 4 pin league to seek greater collaboration between the two leagues with a view to recruiting some new players as well as setting up some challenge matches. At the meeting we sought volunteers to kick start that process and were delighted that lestyn has agreed to get in touch with them through his existing contacts. lestyn will report back in due course. Many thanks lestyn.

Meeting closed at 22:03

If you have anything you wish to raise at the next committee meeting why not come along or let one of the members know. We are looking for your ideas!!

The next meeting will be held at The Headlands on Tuesday 29th October at 20:30 sharp!