



Northants Bar Billiards League

Annual General Meeting

2015

Cheyne Walk Club – 2nd September 2015



AGM AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of Previous AGM – 20th August 2014

Chairman's Report

Treasurer Report

Competition Secretary Report

County Captain's Report

Secretary's Report

Sponsorship

Election of Committee Officers

Committee Proposals

Members Proposals

Any Other Business

Meeting Close

Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were published on the Northantsbarbilliards.org website on the 26th August 2014.

They remain available at this address:

<http://www.northantsbarbilliards.org/committee-meetings.html>

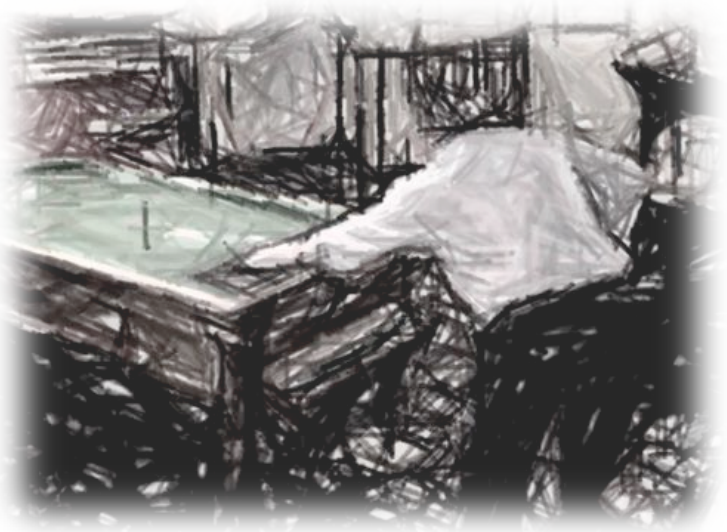
It is the view of the League Secretary and the entire committee that they do represent an accurate account of the 2014 Annual General Meeting and should be adopted into record as such.

Minutes Accepted (Y/N).....

**Total scoring from Division 2 Teams in
the 2014/15 Winter League increased by
a massive**

19%

Chairman's Report



It only seems like yesterday that we were last sitting in these delightful surroundings for our last AGM where we enjoyed a fantastic turnout and a highly successful meeting. I am very grateful to Cheyne Walk Club, which has again generously offered to host our Annual General Meeting, and I trust this is being read by an equally impressive number of attendees.

The reason we have and depend upon an AGM is to enable all players, old and new, to have their say in how we proceed as a league. What we change and what we retain; and what steps we can take to safeguard our league into the future. With the demise of our current League Championship team, The Fox, we were all concerned about the impact this may have on our league but again we have turned this into an opportunity and so this winter have more teams than in the previous years, not fewer. I believe that this is an indication that we must be doing something right, and moving in the right direction.

I'm sure you will agree that the league continues to improve on its efforts of previous years in order to make the events and competitions we organise the best they can be. This year we have enjoyed:

- Summer League 2015
- Winter League 2014/15
- The Northants Masters II
- Grand Finals Day and the Jim Wilson Memorial Events
- Race Night
- A new Quiz Night
- The Northants Bar Billiards Golf Day 2015

These events were all a success and every one delivered more for the attendees and for the league than in previous years. I am very grateful to all of you who found a way of attending or supporting these events. They continue to be the lifeblood of our league and are therefore wholly dependent on your commitment.

It must be noted that one of the reasons, and probably the main reason for the success of the Northants Bar Billiards League is the excellent communication of all things bar billiards, brought about by the website which is the envy of all other counties. We are all able to enjoy the benefits of up to date information, qualification positions and league tables and this year we even saw Ranking Points published. Please continue to support the website by providing information of interest as well as your match reports.

I am a very proud Chairman of our league and there is little about the role that gives me more joy than when I am able to select the recipient of the Chairman's Award. This year I could not have been happier in awarding this prestigious prize to a man that has for many years given our league so much. He has been a sponsor, a supporter, an organiser and an outstanding player. Most importantly for me, I call him my friend – Jim Thomson. If, in the future, we can secure the support of more people like Jim we will no doubt thrive for many years to come.



Finally, I would like to thank all players, of whatever standard, for everything you do for our league and for your continuing support because without you there is no league.

All the very best for the winter.

Tony Britten



Treasurer's Report

This year saw a highly active league from a financial standpoint. Our income and expenditure rose dramatically and I shall set out the key reasons for this but, in summary, we were able to spend more money on events, prizes, assets and a large scale charity donation whilst retaining a balanced financial position. That said, my strong recommendation is for financial prudence in the next fiscal year to ensure that we do not overstretch ourselves should a need arise to dip into our cash reserve.

I would like to offer the following highlights (2014 reported figures in brackets):

Cash in Bank – October 2014	£1,844.55	(£1,164.93)
Cash in Bank – August 2015	£1,330.55	(£1,844.55)
Change in period	-£ 514.00	(£ 679.62)
 Total Income in the period	 £4,990.35	 (£3,391.00)
Total Expenditure in the period	£5,504.35	(£2,711.38)

Full financial summary documents are included below as well as summaries for the major events and competitions to illustrate the league activity but I would like to call out a number of key elements.

This year we added another event to our calendar of activities for raising funds for the league, the Quiz Night. This was intended to augment

**League expenditure in the 2014/15
financial year WAS up by a massive**

203%

our already popular Race Night and it proved to be a great success for a first attempt. It managed to deliver a profit for the league and combined with Race Night they contributed a vital £399 to league funds.

It is worth pointing out that the league is not run as a profit making organisation and that all funds raised are used exclusively to benefit the league and it's membership. We constantly strive to add quality to the offering and this is evident in the significant increase in budget allocated to trophies (there is no doubt that we have enjoyed better quality trophies this year – thanks must be given to our fantastic sponsor and partner Fen Regis Trophies) as well as more money spent on food and entertainment at this year's Presentation Evening.

Both the Race Night and Quiz Night were very well planned and delivered by Michelle and I am grateful for her efforts (along with her helpers!) and the tremendous contribution these events make each year. Without them, we simply could not afford to offer what we do.

I am particularly delighted to report that we have invested in some additional assets in the form of Bar Billiards Table cloth, which can be used by teams in order to refresh the playing surfaces in the league. I am informed that we continue to improve as a league and in particular on the Inter Area scene and as such I feel it is important that we continue to work hard to demonstrate that our league is always looking to improve and present ourselves in the best possible way. With a strong reputation we help to secure our future.

In addition, this year's Northants Masters will stand out as not only a fabulously competitive event but also the one with the richest single prize fund of all Bar Billiards League competitions in the country. This is a measure of how we continue to innovate and should continue into the future. I would like to congratulate all of the prize winners and urge them – for the benefit of the accounts – to cash their Prize Cheques as soon as possible if you have not already!!

**NBBL supported Cancer Research
UK with a donation of**

£500

I am perhaps most pleased, however, to report that following a fantastic charity fundraising event – led by Simon Coleman – in aid of Cancer Research UK, the league has

been able to make a sizeable donation in addition to what was raised. The entire league membership should feel very proud that even in these austere times we were able to allocate a significant sum to this very worthy cause. Our league has been impacted by the blight of cancer and the excellent work of this world leading charity is worthy of every penny of support it receives.

Sadly I must again highlight an ongoing frustration around the payment of subscriptions. This year was even worse than last in terms of payment and astonishingly there are still monies outstanding well after the season has concluded. This puts our finances in an unacceptable position, so may I urge you to please do everything you can to ensure that all subs are paid by the first committee meeting in September for the coming league plus any arrears.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of the sponsors of the league and our events as well as to all those who attend. Without you our league would not survive so we are very grateful for your continued support.

Sue Thomson

Northants Bar Billiards League - Financial Summary Report

Balance brought forward October 2014			£1,844.55
<u>Item</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>
Abington Glass League Sponsorship	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
League Subscriptions (still awaiting payment of £48.00 from 2014/15 season)	£ 500.00		£ 500.00
Race Night	£ 442.00	£ 175.00	£ 267.00
Presentation to Ted Dunkley – Long Service Gift		£ 106.00	-£ 106.00
AEBBA Affiliation Fee		£ 20.00	-£ 20.00
Quiz Night	£ 162.00	£ 30.00	£ 132.00
Charity – Cancer Research UK	£1,000.65	£1,520.00	-£ 519.35
Grand Finals Day & Presentation Evening	£ 296.00	£1,685.02	-£1,389.02
Mary Leeming Trophy Donation	£ 65.00		£ 65.00
Jim Wilson Memorial	£ 542.00	£ 183.25	£ 358.75
Northants Masters II (still awaiting payment of £52.50 for Masters Division 4 Entry Fees)	£1,832.70	£1,371.20	£461.50
Inter Area Expenses		£ 203.00	-£ 203.00
Cheque paid through bank (to be clarified as possible duplicate Affiliation Fee)		£ 20.00	-£ 20.00
New Match Cloths		£ 190.88	-£190.88
	£4,990.35	£5,504.35	-£ 514.00
Balance at bank 5th August 2015			£1,330.55

Northants Bar Billiards League – Social Events Financial Report

Item	Income	Expenditure	Profit/Loss
Race Night	£ 442.00	£ 175.00	£ 267.00
Quiz Night	£ 162.00	£ 30.00	£ 132.00
Grand Finals Day & Presentation Evening			
£8.00 each food ticket x 37 tickets sold	£ 296.00		
Bar Billiards Table Hire		£ 300.00	
Trophies for Competitions (League, Cup & Jim Wilson Memorial incl. engraving)		£ 885.02	
Catering for Presentation Evening		£ 400.00	
Disco for Presentation Evening		£ 100.00	
Grand Finals Day & Presentation Evening - Total			-£ 1,389.02

Northants Bar Billiards League – Competition Events Financial Report

<u>Item</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>
Northants Masters II			
New trophies		£ 283.20	
Trophy Engraving		£ 32.00	
Invitations		£ 15.00	
Masters T-shirts		£ 491.00	
Prize Fund		£ 550.00	
Entry Fees (Still missing £52.50 for Masters Division 4)	£ 232.50		
Sponsorship – Fen Regis Trophies	£ 32.00		
Sponsorship – Longmarsh Vehicle Hire	£ 25.00		
Sponsorship – Tony Britten	£ 300.00		
Sponsorship – Lorin Clough	£1,143.20		
Sponsorship – Dunkley & Son	£ 100.00		
Northants Masters II - Total			£ 461.50
Jim Wilson Memorial			
Prize Money		£ 165.00	
Additional Prizes		£ 18.25	
Entry Fees	£ 144.00		
Raffle	£ 208.00		
Sponsors	£ 190.00		
Jim Wilson Memorial - Total			£ 358.75



Competition Secretary's Report

I am happy to say that all competitions went very well this year even though we had a couple of new rules passed at last years AGM; which were:

Games may be played anytime prior to the date set or a maximum of week after and also, all matches must be played at the venues indicated.

Even though I secretly had the expectation that the phone would be ringing all hours of the night asking for clarifications, along with the usual 'Well, nobody told me about this!!' it didn't happen. All of the tournaments ran smoothly and apart from three matches, all others were played

according to the new ruling.

We do keep saying that our league is thriving and interest is at its highest its been for years and, whilst I am cautious by nature, I would like to concur with that. Particularly as most of the competitions we held in the last year had increased numbers of entrants. I do hope that all of the pubs and clubs that support us are feeling some of the benefits. We are all very grateful to our generous hosts on match nights and I would like to place on record our thanks at this AGM.

The Masters in 2014 was again a massive success. Sometimes the hype and enthusiasm of a competition can drop after it's initial fanfare but, after its second year, The Masters is still thriving with lots of us keeping an eye on averages and positions in the league to see where we going to end and which division we can make – and for some we are even looking at which positions we may finish in our

respective divisions! This enthusiasm must not be allowed to wain and so I urge the committee and all of the league membership to continue to support this event.

Likewise, the 'Jim Wilson' had increasing numbers and the Mixed Pairs had over double its entries from previous years. This gave the organising team a tough problem on the day of trying to sort out tables (and I very much hope we have the same problem next year!).

For the Grand Finals Day & Jim Wilson weekend this year we opted to remove one of the Bar Billiards tables and so there was no speed break. It was a difficult decision to make as the Speed Break was an important revenue generator however I am pleased that it was the right decision as it created so much more space and made it perfect for the eight tables. It is so much nicer to be able to do the split shot without having to sit on someone else's lap!! Sadly, one thing I do need to keep mentioning is how we struggle a lot with people playing 'hide and seek' when scorers are required. Please remember that without scorers we cannot run the competitions.

This year representatives from our league entered a friendly competition between York and Sheffield Bar Billiards Leagues. These are leagues in their infancy and so it was a delight to be able to support them in their endeavours. The competition was played in York with a doubles format. Our team comprised of Simon Coleman & Michelle Kennedy, Damian Coates & Ian Jellis and Andy Chambers & Stewart Greenaway. All of the matches were played in very good spirit across a group of seven pubs. Even though the tables were very hard and mind blowing at times, Northants came out victorious with York coming second. Hopefully will be looking to host the event ourselves in the near future.

I would like to offer massive congratulations to all of the winners of each of our competitions. I trust you feel truly rewarded for your efforts and I hope you return to defend your titles in the coming year.

If this year's competitions run with the same enthusiasm as last year I can see a very bright future for our league.

Best wishes,

Simon Coleman

Social Secretary Report

This year's events included a Quiz Night, Race Night and Presentation Evening.

All went well, we could however do with a little more support from certain teams.

Next year I hope the events will be better supported

Thanks

Michelle



**Broad Shoulders dominated Quiz
Night with a answer success rate of**

79%

County Captain's Report

At the 2014 AGM it was announced that, after a long successful campaign, Damian Coates would step down as county captain. So first of all I should like to say thank you on behalf of everyone who played under him for the hard work he put in over the years. Anyone who has been a team captain will understand the hard work that goes into arranging games. So a new captain was required and, for some reason, I decided to step up (maybe to make sure I was in the team!). It was also announced at the AGM that the captains would be assisted in picking the county and Inter Area squads by members of the committee, although the final decision on who is selected to play each game coming down to the captains themselves.



The squads were selected as follows so please take the time to congratulate them where necessary.

'A' Team

Stephen Coleman (C)
Simon Coleman
Andy Chambers
Damian Coates
Jason Neal
Ian Street
Lorin Clough

'B' Team

Jason Dunkley (C)
Jim Thomson
Jon Coe
Mathew Thomson
Tony Britten
Stewart Greenaway

'C' Team

Keith Thomson (C)
Mark Dickerson
Gary Tipping
Alan Taylor
Shaun Thomson
Stevie Anscombe
Mary Leeming
Mick Haynes
Kevin Ross
Ted Dunkley

It may be useful as a start to take up the story where Damian finished last September. Northants 'A' were still in with a chance of winning the Inter-Area 2015 Cup, something that has never been achieved before. In the semi-final we were up against Reading 'A', a strong side with past England players, so a strong away result would always be important. A fantastic 4-1 win meant it was ours for the taking in the home leg. Another strong performance and a 3-2 win at home meant Northants were in the final, could Damian go out as captain with a bang?

The final would be up against the experienced Witney 'A' team. Both teams had played well to get to the Final, but there was a confidence in the Northants team that we were hoping would spur us on. Witney travelled to Rushden Conservative Club for the first leg and it was a great start for Northants when I took the first against Bill Keenan, with myself settling earlier after a nervy start on both sides. Roger Bowen (Witney) took the next leg with some excellent play against captain and home player Damian Coates. Tony Willis (Witney) then broke off with 8000+ in the third, taking long enough to give Lorin Clough no chance. Simon Coleman then levelled the match with a brilliant 10K score against Jon Bamsey. Terry Cook (Witney) went off next but missed the break first shot and giving Andy Chambers an unexpected opportunity - however he uncharacteristically broke down too early and after some scratchy play by both players, Terry got the break back right at the end and stayed there. After the bar dropped trapping the red and white, he was left with six whites and only had to play the break three times to win by 150! The final result - a 3-2 loss, however a mere 2,830 aggregate deficit meant it was all still to play for!

**The win ratio of players in the Inter Area
'A' side is up by a staggering**

46%

In the second leg at the Lamb & Flag, Hailey, Terry Cook broke off in the first with about 4,000 and after much toing-and-froing, I managed to

put the game back level by finishing the table off with a 6k break. The second was a strange game with Witney's talismanic Jon Bamsey making lots of unusual errors to let Damian Coates in to take Northants second point. Northampton now 4-3 up, it was a dream in the making! In the third Simon Coleman broke down early to give Roger Bowen an opportunity and he tapped on at a brilliant 9,000 and after adding another 4,500, Witney drew level. Four all and anybody's game! Witney's break in the fourth and Tony Willis went in with 10,500 in steady time, tapping on for victory. Andy Chambers got them back after a couple more shots each and then finished off the table. 5-4 to Witney and 18,490 up on aggregate, the game had taken such an evil twist in the matter of two legs and this left Lorin Clough an almost impossible task of requiring not only a leg win but also a winning margin of nearly 19,000! It was not to be and although Lorin beat Bill Keenan in the end, the aggregate proved too much and Witney 'A' were crowned 2014 Inter Area Champions!

Overall it was an excellent and friendly night and a very enjoyable and competitive final with Northampton proving very gracious runners-up. A match played in exactly the right spirit! Jenny Parsons presented the trophies and Andrew, landlord of the Lamb and Flag, provided a lovely curry to finish off. So it wasn't to be, however a great experience and achievement for all of the 'A' side.

With this final performance it was to be the end of an era and the new 'Stephen Coleman' years would start with the AEBBA County Championships, where the very best of the best play it out to be named the No.1 County side in England.

This tournament didn't go quite as well for Northants as the team would have hoped, but there were still many positives to be taken from the event. Northants were drawn in Division 2 along side Sussex 'B', Oxford 'B', Bucks, Kent 'B' and Berkshire 'B'. A very poor first game against Sussex losing 6-1 did not put us in good stead, however we did manage to win the other four games. Alas it wasn't enough for us to win the competition and enjoy promotion to the top table of County Bar Billiards as we finished the day in 3rd place. However, we certainly feel we can challenge for the title this year. Here are the rest of the results from the day:

Sussex 'B' 6 v 1 Northants
Northants 5 v 2 Bucks

Northants 4 v 3 Oxford 'B'
Northants 4 v 3 Berks 'B'
Kent 'B' 3 v 4 Northants

I think it is fair to say that although we did not win the division there were plenty of good signs, and if only we had started better the whole day could have been so much different. Particular credit must go to our star player Simon Coleman who finished top of the averages and has now not lost a county game in three years in this competition, a tremendous achievement and so worthy of congratulations.

Next came my opportunity to redeem ourselves and put Northants back at the top in the Inter-Area 'One Day Competition' 2015. The format was two divisions of four teams and the winner of each division would play in the final. Going into the competition we felt very strong, and although we didn't have the easiest group, we ran out group winners, comfortably winning all three matches (5-2, 6-1 and 5-2). The confidence had paid off and for once we started well, and continued that form throughout the day.

So Northants had made another final, could it be different this time, we made the final of this competition a few years ago but had a disastrous result, could it be different this year! As captain I was hoping to secure a trophy in my first season, but it unfortunately wasn't to be, whether the occasion got to us, or we just didn't perform when it mattered we unfortunately came runners up losing 4-2 however if the whole day was anything to go by, I would say we were definitely the best team!

The final competition to be played of the year was the Inter-Area Main competition, which we were the current runners-up. In the first round we were drawn to play Wallingford 'B', however for one reason or another they could not get a team together meaning we had an automatic win straight through to the next round.

In the second round we had High Wycombe 'A'. The first match I made the decision of moving our home venue to The Cardigan Arms, given that Rushden Cons has not been used for a couple of months with them not playing summer league, and also 3 of the 5 were playing out of the Moulton pub. Sadly this match did not go according to plan, and a 3-2 loss resulting from poor performances from myself and last year's skipper, meant the gamble of a venue change

obviously didn't play in our favour. Jason Neal scraped an important win and Simon Coleman didn't stand a chance being significantly behind before really having a proper chance. Andy Chambers however played exceptionally well coming from behind with a 7k break to save our blushes. So, under pressure in my first year we had to step up the performance for our away trip. Lorin Clough was up next, and looked really comfortable, however a whipped split shot collided with a peg and made our difficult job even harder, they finished the balls off to make it 4-2. We did manage to claw a few games back, however going into the last game it was a repeat of last years final, with myself requiring an 18,000 win to take the tie. I would have probably managed it if I didn't leave both balls short on my first break shot!!!! So, this year it wasn't to be and Northants who had tasted so much victory recently were out at the first hurdle. I know we will come back stronger and hungrier then ever to win the Division 2 County Championship and, if I am selected as County captain again, I will do whatever I can to lead this team to victory.

Inter Area 'B' Report (Kindly supplied by Jason Dunkley)

We started our campaign against High Wycombe 'B' in May hoping to improve on our progress in last year's competition. Unfortunately, a very good performance by Wycombe on the Cock 'C' table saw them run out 4-1 winners with Stew Greenaway the only home winner. Things didn't improve much with another 4-1 win for Wycombe played at the R,A,F,A club and so, down but not out, we entered new territory with the new Supplementary Cup where we were drawn against tough opposition in the shape of our very own 'C' team. First up was the away leg at The Cock Hotel where Gary Tipping got the home team off to a great start posting a score of 7,530 (which is fast becoming a good habit for Gary) to get the better of Stew Greenaway. Ian Jellis levelled things up for us before we took a 2-1 lead, Jim getting the better of Stevie Anscombe. Alan Taylor edged a very

Gary Tipping made the most of his 'C'
Team chance this year with a score of

7,530

close game against Jon Coe to set up a decider between Shaun Thomson and Jason Dunkley. Despite a very good performance from Shaun, Jason clinched a close game to give the 'B' team a 3-2 win.

All of which set up a good home match for us, again played at the Cock Hotel but this time on the other table. This time we got the better start with wins for Jason, Jim and Matt in the first three games to clinch the tie. Northants 'C' came back strongly with wins for Keith Thomson and Mary Leeming, with Mary equalling the highest score of the night in an excellent performance. It also proved to be a highly enjoyable game and a very good night for the Thomson clan with all 3 running out winners. So now we await our opponents as we go into the semi-finals of the supplementary cup. Honourable mentions go to all our players who put themselves up for selection and to Rob Scarrott for hosting all of our games.

Thank you to Jason Dunkley for providing us with this report and it is great to see all our county teams doing well and trying to compete against the super counties with numerous leagues.

Inter Area 'C' Report

The 'C' in previous years has been a place where Keith has always done well at bringing new players through the county ranks and introduce them into playing other counties, however this year Keith has looked determined for some silverware with a strong and experienced squad. The 'C' Team are involved in two different competitions, the main cup and also the 'C' Team Shield. In the main competition they unfortunately came across a very strong Oxford team who ran out 8-2 winners overall, meaning with the introduction of the new Supplementary Cup competition it would be a battle of Northants 'B' v Northants 'C'. I won't go into the game too much with Jason already doing a good job on the match report, but I will congratulate the winners for the 'C' team on giving Jason and his team a close running. In particular, I'd like to congratulate Gary Tipping on his great win against Stewart Greenaway with over 7k, which would give even the 'A' team a run for their money. Gary's sharp improvement over recent years is testament to his renewed confidence in his ability and also to the approach the league has taken in the last few years. This is exactly what we want to see continue with many more players tasting success as it is this that will ensure our league's prosperity in the future.

The 'C' Team Shield is still a very strong competition, with last years highest break being over 7,000 which goes to show how competitive the standard is. Last year Northants were lined up against Wallingford 'C', Reading 'C' and Reading 'D'. Keith and his team unfortunately however struggled in a difficult group and came fourth, however with his team this year and their valiant performance against the 'B' Side, I feel confident that they will do their utmost to impress. They have already started strongly and equalled last years accumulated leg total after the first game, narrowly losing out to Witney 'C' on aggregate only. A further pat on the back again goes to Gary Tipping for winning both home and away and to Alan Taylor for a great 2,140 break, and 4,750 score. Good luck in the rest of your competitions.

Lastly, I would just like to thank all the players who represented our county over the last year, also for the captains who did a great job of rallying up the troops and letting everyone else know Northants is still here and we wont lay down quietly to the other thriving counties. I would also like to thank everyone who voted for me as captain (given who I was up against) and hope I can, if selected, hopefully bring some silverware back to Northants.

Stephen Coleman





Secretary's Report

It gives me great pleasure to report back again at the 2015 AGM as it provides a welcome opportunity to review the year we have just had and to try to understand what worked well and why, as well as to be clear about the things that did not go so well. There is always room for improvement and so I regularly take time to think about the things we can do that we currently don't. As Secretary for the league the majority of my time is spent trying to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible. The real work is done by the Competition Secretary, the Social Secretary, the Treasurer and by our most generous sponsors. Without these guys our league simply could not operate. We all owe them a debt of thanks for their tireless efforts.

There is no hiding from the fact that our league, in fact our pastime, is very much swimming against a tide. Both in terms of how we are performing against other, similar, leagues but also in how we must constantly innovate to keep this league of ours alive. We run a constant risk that we may see a terminal decline and in many ways it is thanks to the tremendous efforts of a few people that we can look forward to another year of healthy competition, of fun and enjoyment and most of all of celebrating this game. We simply cannot take for granted the efforts of Simon, Tony, Jim, Stephen and Jason. It seems that we become ever more reliant upon them and whilst we have been fortunate in that they 'always deliver' – we must still try to broaden the burden. It is in that area where I feel we have made some excellent progress this year. We have been able to benefit from a vibrant committee where every member has sought to contribute and in doing so we have delivered more than ever for the league.

When I first sought election to the role of Secretary I did so with a broad plan of what I wanted to see happen – the changes which I felt were needed most urgently. I had in my own mind that it would take three years to achieve. I felt that we would need to strike a delicate balance of pushing hard for change, introducing new ideas, setting new standards and engaging more widely but also being sensitive to the people who have been part of this league for such a long time. Too much change can be scary to many and in enforcing it you risk alienating the very people you are trying to support, but change too slowly and you risk achieving nothing. It therefore seems almost frightening that I am already seeking election for my third year and so it is fair to ask the question ‘How are we doing against the plan?’ – well, I think we are doing pretty well actually. There have been some faltering steps along the way but generally all of the steps have been going forward.

I very much wanted to see if, as a committee, we could reinvigorate the league – up the enthusiasm so to speak. I think we have done this very successfully – the Northants Masters was again a success with improved prizes, improved participation and some amazing performances. Special mention in this regard should go to Shaun Thomson who was clearly the man of the tournament as he coasted – without a blemished record – to a maximum of twelve out of twelve legs and eighteen points gathered. I suspect it may be some time before we see someone dominate their division in this way again.

Qualification for the Northants Masters is now an additional feature of Winter League play and I know that there are many players who have used this as added motivation – as if they needed it!

Another key objective I had was to arrest the decline in the number of teams and start the process of bouncing back. It seemed that mid way through the last winter campaign that was going to be a forlorn hope as we knew that The Fox was going to part ways. This meant that we were more likely to drop to only eight teams rather than grow. I am therefore thrilled to see that, like a phoenix from the ashes, we should be able to boast ten teams this year. This is down to the efforts and determination of Simon Coleman (who has brought back some former league members – and introduced others) and his new team from The Cardigan Arms.

We also welcome the team from the Thomas a` Becket who started with a fantastic display in the recent Summer League. In the main it is with thanks to Gary Tipping and Alan Taylor that we have this new venue as part of our league. These two guys have taken the role of growing our league very seriously and this is due reward for their efforts. As such, our league should be better balanced with five teams in Division 1 and five in Division 2. They are:

Division One

Burton Exiles
C&A Cobblers
The Cock 'A'
Rushden Conservative Club
Storm

Division Two

The Cardigan Arms
The Cock 'C'
Headlands
C&A Saints
Thomas a` Becket

Last year's AGM saw a number of rule changes which have all benefitted the league. This year there are only a couple but, given the entry of our new teams, they are a must. I do hope you support the committee proposals. The cynic in me is alarmed by the lack of proposals being brought to the AGM this year for discussion – I hope that this is not a sign of apathy setting back in. Let's hope that this is merely a reflection that things are going well and that, as a membership, we are taking a breather!

This leads me onto one of my other main objectives when taking up the role – we absolutely needed a documented Rule Book. This may have existed in the past but has been lost or, at the very least, gone out of use. I am delighted to be able to report that I managed to find sufficient time to create an 'all new' Rule Book which can be located on the website. This should give us all a sense of piece of mind that all aspects of our operation are documented. It means that we have a robust foundation upon which to build. If I achieve nothing else in this role (and I certainly hope to achieve much more) then the Rule Book, the Northants Masters and the website give me a sense of satisfaction!!

Please take some time in the near future to familiarise yourself with the Rule Book so that you can be sure of the rules governing the competitions in which you play. If you spot errors or inconsistencies please bring them to the attention of the committee.

Use of the website as a primary means of communication continues to go well. In fact traffic has been consistent throughout the year with well over 7,000 hits since the last AGM. This is not only from league members but also from others who are looking at the types of things they can do to improve their own leagues. We should feel some pride in this, as it must surely be a compliment, but we must always seek to do more. So, as a plea, I should like you to redouble your efforts in sending through information, match reports and other interesting news for the site. The more we have, the better it will be.



Given the level of enthusiasm that greeted year one of the Northants Masters, it was reasonable to assume that maybe year two would see a bit of a momentum drop – but thankfully that was not the case. In fact we enjoyed even greater participation than the previous year and a tremendous competition –

and I am not just saying that because I secured a victory!! I am therefore hopeful that year three will be supported just as well and that this continues to grow and become a vital feature of our league calendar.

**Scoring in the 2015 Northants
Masters II was up by**

17%

I would like to congratulate all of the winners and runners up in each division as well as the winners of the High Aggregate and High Break prizes.

Following the feedback from members that they did not really value the newsletters that were issued I have not continued with them. Instead, only the minutes from Committee Meetings have been published on the website. I have canvassed opinion on this change and had a mixed response so I would like to ask everyone to offer your opinion on this. Would you like to see the return of the newsletter? If so, drop me a mail as it can easily be resurrected!!

Sponsorship remains the lifeblood of our league and so it is with a massive sense of gratitude and indebtedness that we should thank Jim Thomson and Abington Glass for their many years of sponsorship of our league. Jim's recent retirement means that Abington Glass can no longer do this and so I'd like to thank Jim formally for everything he has done for our league and wish him every happiness in his well earned retirement.

Once again our trophies partner Fen Regis Trophies came up trumps with some magnificent prizes. Their range of awards is first class and given that they have set a very high bar, I have challenged them to exceed our expectations next year too!

Once again I can only echo the sentiments of our Treasurer regarding the timely payment of subs. It is simply unacceptable to be waiting until March or April for payments that are due in September. Please do whatever you can to remedy this for the coming season.

The committee has again worked hard to do the very best for this league and I should like to thank them for their support. If I am re-elected, I look forward to continuing our work together.

Lorin Clough

Sponsorship of League and Competitions

League Sponsorship:

Northants Masters:

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Other:

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Thank you!

Election of Committee Officers

It is intended that the committee shall retain all existing posts in 2015/16 where possible and to encourage representation from each team. As ever, all members were invited to stand for the committee however there were no responses were received by the Secretary expressing interest.

In 2014/15 the committee attendances remained very strong across the eight meetings that were held.

Meeting attendances were as follows:

Chairman	Tony	100%
Vice Chairman	Damian	50%
Secretary	Lorin	75%
Treasurer	Sue	13%*
Competition Sec.	Simon	100%
Social Sec.	Michelle	100%
County Captain	Stephen	63%
Inter Area B	Jason	63%
Inter Area C	Keith	50%
Ordinary Member	Gary	75%
Ordinary Member	Mary	75%
Ordinary Member	Jim	75%*
Ordinary Member	Iestyn	25%
Ordinary Member	Alan	88%

**J Thomson covered all financial aspects where Sue was not available.*

Election of officers shall take the form of a ballot (show of hands) where the candidate with the highest number of votes shall prevail.

The committee extends its heartfelt thanks to those officers resigning from committee duties this year.

Role:	Chairman	2014 holder:	Tony Britten
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Tony Britten	Lorin Clough	Simon Coleman	

Role:	Vice Chairman	2014 holder:	Damian Coates
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Jim Thomson	Lorin Clough		

Role:	Treasurer	2014 holder:	Sue Thomson
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Sue Thomson	Tony Britten	Simon Coleman	

Role:	Secretary	2014 holder:	Lorin Clough
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Lorin Clough	Tony Britten	Jason Dunkley	

Role:	Competition Secretary	2014 holder:	Simon Coleman
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Simon Coleman	Lorin Clough	Tony Britten	

Role:	Social Secretary	2014 holder:	Michelle Kennedy
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Michelle Kennedy	Simon Coleman	Jim Thomson	

Role:	County Captain	2014 holder:	Stephen Coleman
Candidate	Votes Cast		
Stephen Coleman			

Role:	Inter Area B Captain	2014 holder:	Jason Dunkley
Candidate	Votes Cast		
Jason Dunkley			

Role:	Inter Area C Captain	2014 holder:	Keith Thomson
Candidate	Votes Cast		
Keith Thomson			

Role:	Ordinary Member(s)	2014 holders:	Jim Thomson Gary Tipping
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			Alan Taylor Iestyn Pocock Mary Leeming
Candidate		Votes Cast	
Jim Thomson			
Gary Tipping			
Alan Taylor			
Iestyn Pocock			
Stevie Anscombe			
Mary Leeming			

Committee Proposals to AGM

The following proposals are designed to recognise where further change or amendment is due as part of the long term strengthening of our league and to support the effectiveness of the committee.

The committee recommends these proposals for approval.

Amendment to Rule 59

1. The rule is to be revised as follows: 'A handicap system shall apply to all Summer League players which shall be calculated as an average of the player's scores against teams of his/her division in the preceding Winter league. The resulting average is then divided by two to calculate the Summer League Handicap.'

Proposed by: Mary Leeming

Seconded by: Lorin Clough

Votes for:.....

Votes against:.....

Amendment to Rule 38

1. The rule is to be revised as follows: 'Each team can use the 4 Man Rule UPTO 8 TIMES PER SEASON. This may be deployed in any team league or cup match (incl. Nene Cup, Team KO & Premiership) but up to a maximum of eight times in total.
 - a. Players may only be drawn as the '5th man' twice per season.All other aspects of Rule 38 remain unchanged.

Proposed by: Simon Coleman
Seconded by: Stephen Coleman

Votes for:.....

Votes against:.....

Member's Proposals to AGM

Utilise a single method of calculating Ranking Points for the league

1. There are currently two methods used by the NBBL to calculate Ranking Points neither of which has been officially adopted by the league. The first, managed by Simon Coleman is similar to that used by the AEBBA. It has been used in recent years to inform the committee when selecting County and Inter Area squads. The second is a more basic method and has been maintained by Lorin Clough and is published on the website. This proposal is for the league membership to understand each method and then to adopt a single method that shall be carried forward and adopted into the Rule Book.

Proposed by: Lorin Clough
Seconded by: Gary Tipping

Votes for:.....

Votes against:.....

Any Other Business

- Winter League Fixtures Lorin
- Northants Open 2016 Simon
- Northants versus York, Sheffield and East Anglia Simon



Winter League Fixtures 2015/16



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
7-Sep-15	14-Sep-15	21-Sep-15	5-Oct-15	12-Oct-15	19-Oct-15	26-Oct-15	2-Nov-15	9-Nov-15
6 vs 10	4 vs 9	7 vs 10	6 vs 9	8 vs 10	8 vs 9	9 vs 10	10 vs 5	1 vs 10
7 vs 5	5 vs 8	8 vs 6	7 vs 8	9 vs 7	10 vs 4	1 vs 8	6 vs 4	2 vs 9
8 vs 4	6 vs 7	9 vs 5	10 vs 3	1 vs 6	5 vs 3	2 vs 7	7 vs 3	3 vs 8
9 vs 3	10 vs 2	1 vs 4	4 vs 2	2 vs 5	6 vs 2	3 vs 6	8 vs 2	4 vs 7
2 vs 1	3 vs 1	2 vs 3	5 vs 1	3 vs 4	7 vs 1	4 vs 5	9 vs 1	5 vs 6
Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18
16-Nov-15	23-Nov-15	30-Nov-15	7-Dec-15	14-Dec-15	11-Jan-16	25-Jan-16	8-Feb-16	22-Feb-16
1 vs 2	1 vs 3	3 vs 2	1 vs 5	4 vs 3	1 vs 7	5 vs 4	1 vs 9	6 vs 5
3 vs 9	2 vs 10	4 vs 1	2 vs 4	5 vs 2	2 vs 6	6 vs 3	2 vs 8	7 vs 4
4 vs 8	7 vs 6	5 vs 9	3 vs 10	6 vs 1	3 vs 5	7 vs 2	3 vs 7	8 vs 3
5 vs 7	8 vs 5	6 vs 8	8 vs 7	7 vs 9	4 vs 10	8 vs 1	4 vs 6	9 vs 2
10 vs 6	9 vs 4	10 vs 7	9 vs 6	10 vs 8	9 vs 8	10 vs 9	5 vs 10	10 vs 1

Teams:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Headlands | 6. Storm |
| 2. Thomas a` Becket | 7. C&A Cobblers (Subject to Registration – otherwise BYE) |
| 3. C&A Saints | 8. The Cardigan Arms |
| 4. Burton Exiles | 9. Rushden Conservative Club |
| 5. The Cock ‘C’ | 10. The Cock ‘A’ |

Meeting Close

Thank you for attending and supporting your league.

***Please enjoy the forthcoming
Winter Season!***