

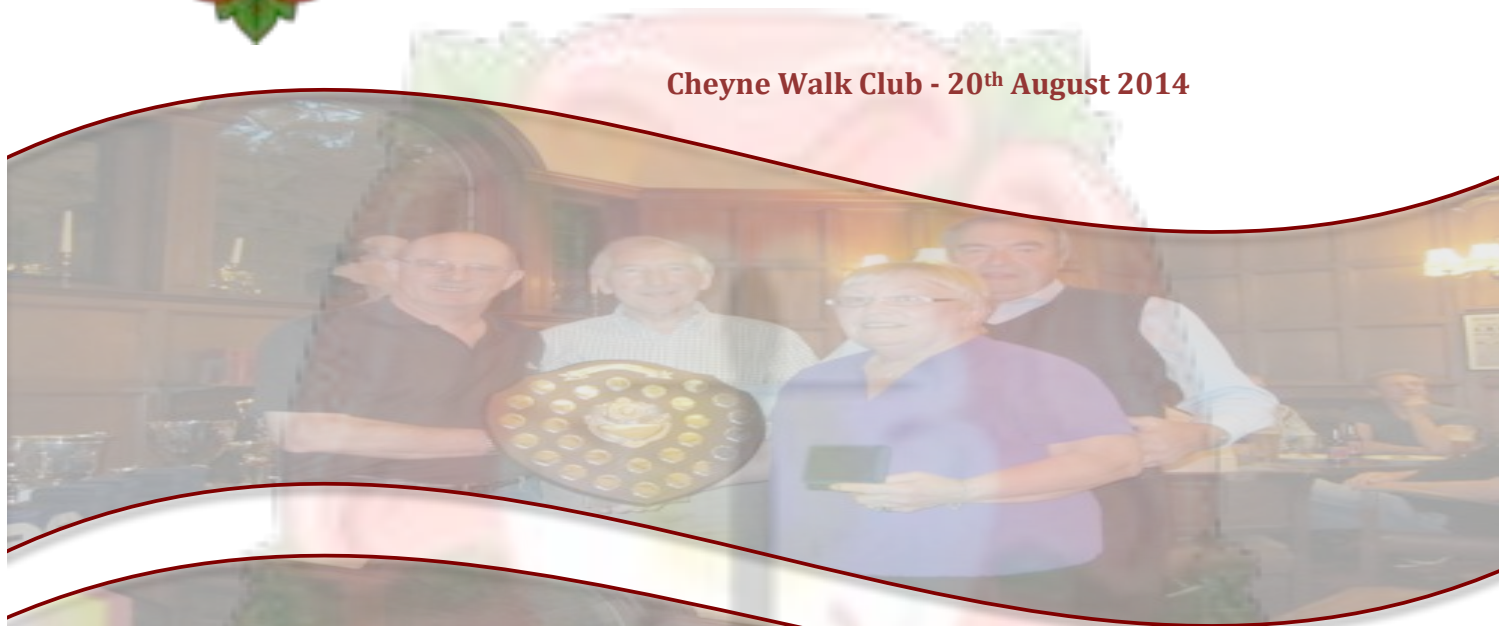


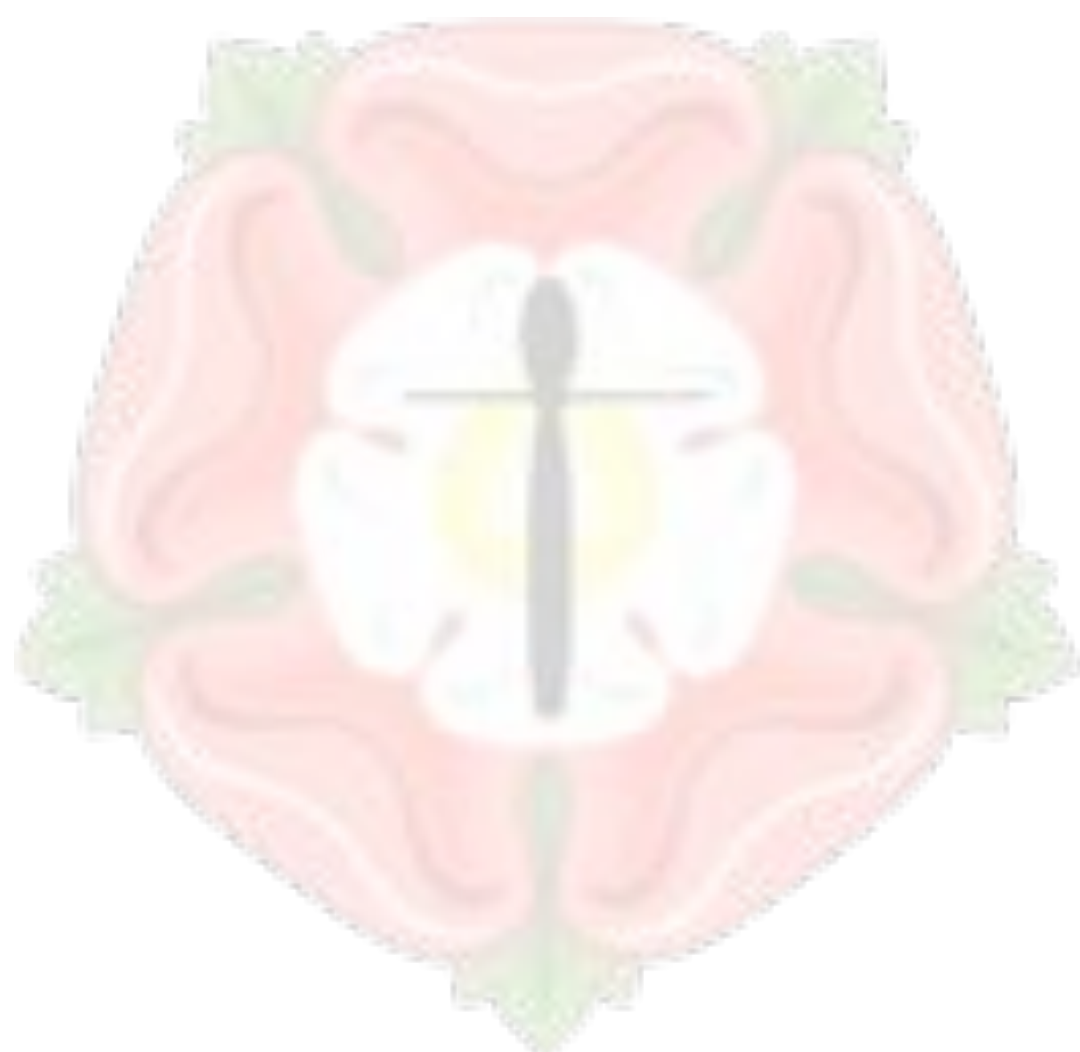
Northants Bar Billiards League

Annual General Meeting

2014

Cheyne Walk Club - 20th August 2014





AGM AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of Previous AGM – 27th August 2013

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

Apologies

The 2014 Annual General Meeting was declared open by Tony Britten at 20:40.

Apologies were received from:

Johnny George
Mary Leeming
Karen Biseker
Chris Brewer
Iestyn Pocock

The 2014 AGM was attended by:

Tony Britten
Simon Millward
Kevin Ross
Ray Crawford
Jason Dunkley
Simon Coleman
Ben Foster

Sue Thomson
Sandy Thomson
Dawn Dunkley
Alan Taylor
Stevie Anscombe
Stephen Coleman
Gary Tipping

Lorin Clough
Keith Thomson
Ted Dunkley
Chas Peel + guest
Michelle Kennedy
Damian Coates
Jim Thomson

Minutes of the 2013 AGM

NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS LEAGUE

Established 1972

MEMBER OF THE ALL ENGLAND BAR BILLIARD ASSOCIATION

SPONSORED BY ABINGTON GLASS LTD

Horsley Road, Northampton NN2 6LJ, Tel: (01604) 720549

2013 A.G.M

**At Earls Barton Silver Band Club on Tuesday 27th
August, 8.30pm**

1. Chairperson Tony Britten opened the meeting at 20.30pm
2. Apologies were accepted from Sean Getty & Michelle Higginson.
3. The minutes of the 2012 AGM were read by all and agreed.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. Chairperson's report:

What a difference a year makes, after last years turnout of 4 people at the AGM and the thoughts that the league would not last, 23 people from all teams turned up, to give their point of view. Brilliant and thank you all.

6. County Captains Report:

County A team review

Overall it has been a good season with the team getting to some finals, and though playing very well, the results did not favour us.

B Team

Played Wycombe "a" away and lost 4 -1, then at home we won 3 - 2 but lost overall on aggregate. However we have a few new faces joining and enjoying the county scene.

C Team

Played Wallingford home & away and lost both legs, Then we played Reading "D" and lost 3 – 2 away but won the home leg 3 – 2, unfortunately, as the B team, lost on aggregate.

7. Secretary's Report:

Steve Foster commented on the successful completion to the winter league and the summer league getting nearer its end. Unfortunately, after 7 years and due to other commitments, I will not be standing as Secretary again this year.

8. Treasurers Report:

After a great year and successful events of the Race night and presentation evening the balance stands at £1164.93.

9. Competition Secretary Report:

Simon Coleman congratulated all winners from last year. The "Blind Pairs" competition proved very successful and was fun for all. The Jim Wilson day went off very well, and the tables this year played great.

10. Social Secretary Report:

Michelle commented on the success of the Race night and the Presentation evening, it was good to see players from most of the teams, though it would be nice to see more support.

11. Sponsorship:

Abington Glass agreed to sponsor the league once again.

12. Election of Officers:

Position	Filled by	Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	Tony Britten	Mary Leeming	Ian Jellis
Vice Chairperson	Ian Jellis	Tony Britten	Simon Coleman
Treasurer	Sue Thomson	Tony Britten	Ben Foster

Secretary	Lorin Clough	Simon Coleman	Gary Tipping
Comp Secretary	Simon Coleman	Stephen Coleman	Steve Foster
Social Secretary	M. Higginson	Ian Jellis	Ian Coleman
County Rep	Damian Coates	Lorin Clough	Iestyn Pocock

Committee
 Stephen Coleman
 Jim Thomson
 Iestyn Pocock
 Alan Taylor
 Gary Tipping

Inter Area Captains
 "A" Damian Coates
 "B" Jason Dunkley
 "C" Keith Thomson

13. Proposals:

This year there were 6 proposals, these were:

1. Consideration of combining the finals night with the presentation evening. Proposed by Lorin Clough. Seconded by Simon Coleman

After an extended discussion, with a venue being the main point, the proposal was accepted by 17 votes to 5

2. Table standards. Proposed by Lorin Clough. Seconded by Simon Coleman

After much discussion regarding the quirks of home tables being an advantage for a home team, the vote was very close with an 11 to 9 in favour of a nominated person to help set up tables at a nominated venue.

3. To end the Summer League and replace with another competition. Proposed by Lorin Clough. Seconded by Stephen Coleman

After an extended discussion the proposal was rejected by 13 votes to 7, because this is a friendly competition to encourage and bring in new players.

4. The Northants Masters.

Proposed by Lorin Clough. Seconded by Damian Coates.

It was agreed that the wording of this proposal could have been better, but it was clarified that the vote was about the league being able to fund a new competition which would eventually make money. This being said the proposal was carried by 15 votes to 2.

5. County & Inter Area teams to be selected by the committee.

Proposed by Simon Coleman. Seconded by Damian Coates.

This proposal had a lot of support from County captains as the committee can supply league averages to help in the selection, however the Captain will have the final say in his team. Carried by 20 votes to 3.

6. Maximum breaks against 2nd division teams.

Proposed by Simon Coleman. Seconded by Stephen Coleman.

This proposal would restrict all 1st division players to a maximum break of 6000 against a 2nd division player, unless the opposition is a newly relegated from the 1st division, then the maximum break would be 8000. Thereafter a 2000 limit will apply for further breaks. Carried by 21 votes to 2.

14. Performance of the Year.

The performance of the year award was given to Stephen Coleman for winning the Sussex Open

15. Wally of the Year.

Wally of the year is awarded to Tony Britten, for encouraging more people to attend the AGM then trying to urge along the meeting to get home.

16. Any Other Business.

A vote of thanks was extended to Lorin Clough for all his work in trying to better the NBBA. Also thanks were given to Steve Foster for all the years service as secretary.

Wellingborough bar billiards are to be approached to see if they would like to join in with the summer league next year.

17. Date and place of next committee meeting, Tuesday 24th September at the Fox, Thrapston.

18. The meeting closed at 22.37

Minutes from the 2013 AGM were Accepted and Approved unanimously.

Chairman's Report

The Summer League is now over and what seemed like only yesterday, when I was pleasantly stunned by the magnificent turnout at our 2013 AGM we now have this year's! I hope and suspect that I will again be greeted by lots of familiar faces.

It is very gratifying for me, and the rest of the committee, that you turn out to support this important element of our league. I think that Northants Bar Billiards has done much to buck the trend of declining numbers of both other Bar Billiards counties as well as other pub-related pastimes. I am sure that this is due to everybody's continued enjoyment of our league, our approach and the spirit in which we play.

One of the privileges that comes with the position of Chairman is that you are afforded the honour of selecting the recipient of the Chairman's Award. This year I was particularly delighted to award this prestigious prize to the highly deserving Stephen Coleman. In my view Stephen epitomises much of the great things about our league and our future. He is a talented and committed young man who we have seen mature into a highly capable player. Stephen is also one of the players we have come to rely upon in representing our league on the national stage. I would like to congratulate Stephen once more and wish him continued success in the game.



We have continued to try to innovate and offer even more to the members of our league and I hope we are seeing the rewards of that through increased levels of participation. In particular the new Northants Masters competition seemed to me to be a roaring success!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their hard work and commitment over the past year and, of course, the many volunteers who give their time, their money and their creativity to our league – I feel confident that we have built an effective team and may indeed have hit on a formula that will preserve our league for years to come.

For those that are stepping down from committee activity, I would like to reserve a special thank you for your hard work and dedication.

As with all of the committee posts, the position of Chairman is 'up for grabs'. However, should it be the general consensus that I continue in this post, I shall do so happily for another year as I feel tremendous pride in doing so. Of course, should this not be the case I should like to offer my congratulations to my successor and wish them my very best wishes for the forthcoming year.

Tony Britten

The Chairman added to his statement that it was again gratifying to see a strong turnout for this important meeting. It is only two years ago when the AGM commanded only four attendees and it was felt that the committee and structure was largely broken. There is a strong sense now that we are on the right track and that we are bucking the trend of decline. Long may this continue!

Treasurer's Report

Full statements are available as a separate sheet at the meeting.

This year has seen an increased level of activity what with new competitions, changes to Presentation Night as well as the recent Northants Fun Day. All of these changes meant different strains on the finances in 2013/14 but we should conclude that we are still in a stable financial position.

I would like to offer the following highlights:

Cash in Bank – October 2013	£1,164.93
Cash in Bank – August 2014	£1,844.55
Total Income during the period	£3,391.00
Total Expenditure during the period	£2,711.38

Race Night continued to be a successful and vital event for us in raising funds to pay for Presentation Night, Trophies etc. As ever this was well executed by Michelle and we were delighted to have made a profit of £261.80 for the event. This was in line with our plan.

To highlight an ongoing frustration, it took until after the last winter season had been completed to receive all of the subscriptions due from each team. 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.

This year we increased the budget and spend for both Presentation Night and for the trophies that were presented. The ticket price for Presentation Night remained at the lowest possible level this year even though we sought to offer more. The trophies were fully engraved and repaired by a new trophy provider who also replaced a number of lost or broken perpetual trophies. In addition, new and



modern perpetual trophies were purchased for the new Northants Masters competition.

Due to the enormous support of Simon Coleman, who collected, stored and delivered the All England Bar Billiards Association competition tables, we were able to make a sizeable donation to the AEBBA of £320 to support their appeal for a replacement truck.

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

A full balance sheet was provided to the meeting.



Competition Secretary's Report

I would first like to congratulate all of the competition winners and runners up in each of our many competitions. Whether as an individual or part of a team, each one is as important as the other and represents a great achievement. You deserve to feel rightly proud of your efforts.

I am delighted to report that, despite a few hiccups along the way – such as the organizer scheduling players to play knockout matches on their own table – all competitions ran well and largely to time. Be assured that I have been fully reprimanded for all of these mistakes and I have been made to promise not to repeat them in the future if re-elected!

This year we selected a new venue for our competition finals, which also incorporated our presentation night. We started it at around 2pm to ensure we could fit all the matches in with plenty of time. I have spoken to numerous people during and since the event and so far there hasn't been any particularly negative feedback regarding the venue change and it was largely felt that it was a good choice for the future. I would very much like to thank the Cheyne Walk Club for hosting us and also for the hospitality and friendly welcome.

I am thrilled to report that our league remains very exciting and that we continue to improve. Two years ago we introduced the Blind Pairs to our competition diary and it was considered a great success. We continued the competition this year and welcomed a new sponsor and a beautiful new trophy. I would like to thank Fen Regis Trophies for their support of this competition.

This year we tried again to add something new and therefore introduced the Northants Masters. Well before the competition got

going it was being discussed on Twitter and Facebook – with people eager to speculate on where they would qualify and against whom they would play come the end of the league season. Players were able to keep up to date on their qualification progress throughout the winter as the Masters pages on the website were always well stocked with the very latest information.

The competition itself ran as well as could be expected with only three matches unfulfilled. I am confident that, now players have had a taste for this fantastic competition, there will be even greater enthusiasm for The Northants Masters II.

We also ran a Fund Raiser to support our League as well as Cancer Research UK in which we invited some of the very best players in England to take on 2 teams from Northants. Even though it started extremely well for the Northants teams, the expertise and tactics of the England All-Stars shone through at the end when they finally won 116 - 102. It was hailed as a fantastic day for everyone and the amount raised was an amazing £730.50.

I would like to wish Rushden Conservative Club (Winners of the Team Knock Out) and Lorin Clough (Winner of the Individuals Knockout) all the very best when they represent Northants on the national stage as the winners of these events.

My final words of thanks must, as always, go to the sponsors of all our competitions throughout the year. Without them we would simply not be able to continue.

Simon Coleman

Simon reiterated his congratulations to all winners and wished everybody success for the forthcoming season.



County Captain's Report

Inter Area 7's - 2014

The Inter Area 7's tournament took place in Didcot, Oxfordshire on Sunday 10th February and the team selected was as follows:

Damian Coates (Captain)
Jason Neal
Andy Chambers
Jason Dunkley
Simon Coleman
Chas Peel
Stephen Coleman.



Despite being drawn in a very tough group with Eynsham, Reading and Oxford, the Northants team played three very close matches and each could have gone either way. First up were Eynsham in a match where Northants won 4-3, which included victories for Simon, Charlie, Jason, and Andy. In the next series we played Reading and unfortunately lost 4-3 despite wins from Stephen, Simon, and Jason Dunkley. In the final match we entertained Oxford and again won 4-3. This time Stephen, Damian, Simon and Andy all scored victories. After what was a highly competitive set of matches, the final group table was:

Reading	13
Eynsham	11
Northants	11
Oxford	7

Despite two great wins and an agonising defeat Northants did not qualify for the final. However, there were some excellent performances on the day and special note must be made of Simon's strong performance with three wins from three matches and an average of over 9k per game. Well done, Simon!

Inter Area 5 aside

Northants A were handed a bye in the first round meaning a delayed start to the competition. In the 2nd round we were drawn against Wallingford B in what would prove to be an extremely difficult match. With the first leg drawn at home (Rushden Conservative Club) my team knew they would need to take a strong advantage away with them for the return given Wallingford's tremendous record. Despite having much of the play, the game ended in a rather disappointing 3-2 win. There were wins for Damian, Lorin, and Stephen and two surprise defeats from two home players, Andy Chambers and Jason Neal. This result meant that Northants would have to play well in the away leg as we only had a 6,500 lead!!!

Wallingford B vs. Northants A was played in late May. We needed to be at our best to win and it started very badly as Mick Shepherd eased through the opener with a 10k opening break to beat County Captain Damian Coates. Big pressure on the 2nd leg as Stephen had the break and started with a brilliant 9,000+ break and finished with a score of 12,590 to restore the one leg lead overall.

Simon was next up and produced an out of character shaky start. But as he struggled to stay on the table he grew in confidence to produce an 8000+ break and a final score of 12,930. Northants were now 5-3 up on aggregate and needed one more leg for certain victory however, the captain of Wallingford, Colin Martin, swiftly made it 2-2 on the night with a win over Jason Neal.

With all to play for going into the final leg and with Pete Burton having to play the table out to restore the aggregate it would be a difficult task against Lorin Clough. Particularly as Lorin started in determined fashion as he eased past three thousand. Alas, he lost his break by hitting the white peg and offered Pete and the Wallingford team a lifeline. Pete set to work to close out the game and played some exquisite billiards. In the end he fell short with a split shot on a little over 7,000 giving the match to Northants on a very tight aggregate with five legs apiece.

Northants A were then drawn to play Wallingford A, one of the best sides in the competition. We journeyed down to Wallingford for the first leg and grabbed two vital legs despite playing well and having chances in all five games. As for the return, unfortunately Wallingford

A were unable to fulfil the fixture due to lack of players and forfeited the game. This means that Northants have now reached the semi finals for the second time in four years.

Northants A are now in the process of organising the 1st game vs. Reading A. I would like to thank the Team for their great support over this season and let's give it our best shot to reach the final of the Inter Area competition!

Away from the A side it has been a good year for the B and C teams. For the first time in over a decade the B side won a hard fought match against a very experienced Reading side. This result, under the excellent leadership of Jason Dunkley, fills me with great confidence as to the increased depth of our sides and the overall improvement of our play. Likewise the C team has also benefitted from some consistency and has therefore won many more legs than in previous years. Under the leadership of Keith Thomson we have seen a wealth of new, young players join the ranks of our league. The next target will of course be to convert the leg wins into match wins but there has been a very clear step in the right direction and retaining the enthusiasm and supporting these young players will be the key to our continued success.

Northants, with three committed Inter Area teams, continues to maintain a strong presence in the competition and, as I announce my resignation from the role of County Captain, I feel very proud of the contribution I may have made to that and I am grateful for the support I have received from the players.

I strongly believe that we are in excellent shape and can now compete with all of the other leagues around the country. We have a dedicated and stable membership and we enjoy improving standards of play. I wish my successor every success for the future and offer my continued support.

Damian Coates

Damian thanked all of his players for their unstinting support during his period as County Captain.

Damian's contribution was recognized by the AGM and formal thanks were offered.



Secretary's Report

I am delighted to report that Northants Bar Billiards has enjoyed a record-breaking year! The last winter season saw more players achieve leg wins than in any of the previous five years. Average scores and total scores are also on the up. It is possible that there are many contributory factors to this, but I am convinced that one of them is that we are seeing the benefits of greater participation levels and improved table conditions. This can only be good for our league in the

longer term, as it will help to make us an attractive league to join for newcomers. The last year will also be remembered for the fact that as a league we tried a number of new initiatives and saw a great deal of success across most of the things we tried.

So it is against this positive backdrop that I am pleased to offer my report on how we have progressed in the last 12 months. In particular I would like to focus on the discussions of last year's AGM and what we have achieved since that time.

Many will recall the wide and varying discussions over the proposal to introduce The Northants Masters at the AGM of 2013 – I certainly do! You will also recall that the premise was to try to get more people involved, develop a competition that inspires and gets people enthusiastic because it is inherently fair and competitive. The general consensus of the league membership was to participate in something that was both a blend of a social competition that brought with it a real competitive edge. I think we achieved that with the competition which prevailed. I saw and spoke to many people who were motivated by the qualification process, and stated that this process was having a positive impact on league performances for their team.

I am thrilled that the competition turned into a success. I am glad that it seemed to capture people's imagination and that it has already fostered its own identity. Of course the branding, the t-shirts and the prizes help, but mostly it is about the willingness of the players to 'buy in' to the concept.



This is something that happened in abundance. I would like to congratulate all of the players and particularly the winners of each Division. Your achievement is significant! A particular 'well done' to Johnny George from The Exiles who finish top of the pile in the Premier Division – a fantastic achievement.

It is important that we do not rest on this success thinking that the job is done. We need to harness the enthusiasm in order to drive further participation and eliminate a few of the 'bugs' that we found in the structure. So this year I am proposing that we extend The Masters to eight players per division. Yes, this will demand greater commitment from players but in return it will offer a more polished competition.

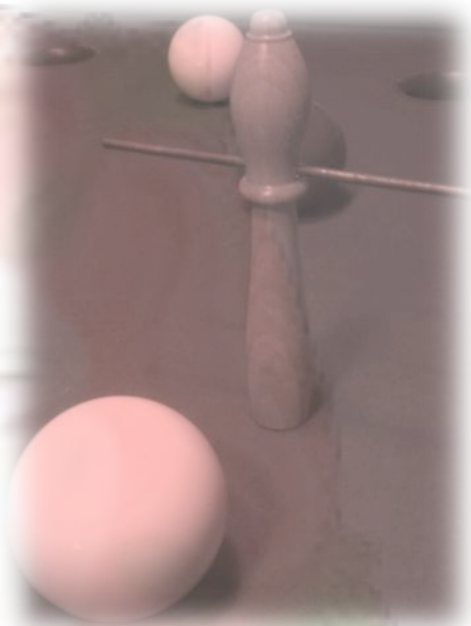
Another development saw the increased use of the Northants Bar Billiards website. I have stated many times that I wanted the website to become the main route for disseminating and discovering information and this is fast becoming a reality. The site is regularly maintained and continues to develop. Not only being used to provide updates of results, league tables and news, but also to provide transparency of organisation – all meeting minutes are available on the site for example, and they make for an interesting read!

Furthermore the website was used for the first time to survey the membership. Although it was used for fun, it did prove to be a useful indicator of what we value and what we would like to see improved. It is worth reminding our league hosts at both The Cock and the

Crown & Anchor of how much the whole league values their hospitality on match nights.

Traffic to the website has only been monitored since late February but in that time we have seen nearly 3,000 hits to the site. This represents a good showing given there are only about 60 playing members of the league.

We are regularly getting several hundred hits per month and I look forward to this improving as we work hard to improve the site further. During 2014/15 there will be additional development that will add more value to the members. A new 'Member's Area' will go live that will allow us to strike an appropriate balance between our internal 'business' and our 'public face'. In a further development, the site will get a little more proactive. You will soon be able to receive automatic notifications that will alert you to new items on the site. This has already been made available to some users and has, to date, been well received.



I know that it is important that we continually consider how we can effectively communicate to a wide spectrum of our members as well as to the outside world. I am delighted with the support we have had from Iestyn Pocock, Stephen Coleman, Gary Tipping and Ben Foster who have helped to establish our online presence and profile through the use of social media (such as Facebook and Twitter) and, in the case of Gary, through creating a Google calendar for people to utilise. Their help and creativity has been invaluable and can only help us attract new members to the league.

With every new venture such as this come new considerations. Social Media can be an highly effective tool in reaching out to a wider audience but care must be taken over the perception we create. The vast majority of the comment regarding our league has been positive, fun, engaging and presents our league in the best possible light. It has

made our league appear to be the attractive place to learn and play billiards that it truly is.

Conversely there have been a couple of instances where league members have expressed their dissatisfaction with league organisation and affairs via these channels and have created a less than positive impression around the wider Bar Billiards community. It is important that we do not allow the good work of our events and of our raised profile in making our league the envy of many other counties to be jeopardised by airing our 'dirty linen in public' (not that I believe we have much!). I would therefore like to take this opportunity to urge any member with any concern, any gripe or any suggestions for improvement to approach any one of the committee members to discuss it. As a league we take pride in our open, fair and sporting approach and so will welcome any comments that provide us with areas to improve the offering. All feedback will be considered seriously and proposals on their own merits. We will make it very easy for all members to contribute and have their say. We will, however, treat with equal seriousness, instances where concerns are raised by members regarding damage to our reputation. I know that you are attending this meeting because you value the league and enjoy the fact that we are all seeking to sustain it – so we must all redouble our efforts to help support any league member who has concerns and allow them to raise them through recognised channels.



Effectively communicating with members has not all been an unfettered success and there are areas where lessons are to be learned. The newsletters that were published from September to March received a mixed response. Many felt that they were too cumbersome and that they lacked the concise information about results, competition draws and fixtures but were instead *'....bloated by nonsense that seems to be all made up.'* In the coming year I will endeavour to produce a newsletter that is perhaps better balanced in its content and I

look forward to your feedback to see if it is moving in the right direction.

Another positive step saw us receiving more regular print coverage in the local newspapers. Having forged a dialogue with the relevant people I have now established the parameters of their interest – it is, almost exclusively, limited to the Winter League and Winter Team competitions. It is helpful to have been able to get clarification on that and it was great to see the reports in the press again. I am confident that this will continue during the new season.

In the last year we have managed to attract great levels of sponsorship, which is great news. On the flip side it came largely from the same organisations or people. We are forever grateful for their generosity and support but we must recognise that this does leave us vulnerable should any of these need to withdraw sponsorship for any reason. It is vital therefore that we continue to speak to our workplaces and other organisations with which we have relationships to offer them the opportunity to sponsor us. It is also vital that we all continue to support all of our fund raising efforts. Whether that is through raffle prizes or through attending social events – every pound will be important and can make the difference.

With the new sponsorship came new trophies. I have received largely positive feedback regarding the trophies that have been presented and so I would like to thank Fen Regis Trophies for their fantastic support.

This year I have allocated an additional date in the calendar for another social event to help raise funds for the league. Please support it.

I would also add support to the comments 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.



In the last 12 months I have very much enjoyed working with an energised and enthusiastic committee. They have brought fresh ideas and the willingness to see them through and I know we have all seen some of the fruits of that. I would like to thank them for their support and for their considerable efforts.

If I am re-elected I intend to support the committee further in this way so that we may focus further on league and player development.

As ever, we face the constant challenge of time pressures, pub closures or moves away from traditional team pursuits as well as harsh economic realities. I would therefore like us to set a number of goals that will help to sustain our league into the future. We need to consider how we add at least one new team to our ranks in the coming year. We also need to support the players we have today. I would like to see us set up some sort of 'buddy' system to support the development of our players. This is where some of our more experienced players are able to spend time with others to help them develop their skills in the game and therefore see greater results sooner. There is no doubt that our game becomes quite addictive when you start to win – we should help our players in doing so.

Lorin Clough

Lorin summarised the above statement and highlighted The Masters and Communication as areas that had seen significant success. Lorin pointed out that there is still much to achieve but that he is optimistic given the energy and commitment that the league enjoys of its membership.

Sponsorship of League and Competitions

League Sponsorship: *Abington Glass has kindly agreed to sponsor our league for another year*

Northants Masters: *This competition would not exist without generous sponsorship and so invitations for support were extended to all.*

*Tony Britten
Longmarsh Vehicle Hire
Dunkley & Son*

Many thanks to those listed above who have kindly offered their support but we shall need lots more!

Thank you!

Election of Committee Officers

It is intended that the committee shall retain all existing posts and range in size from 12 to 15 members. This is to ensure that an adequate cross section of the league is represented as well as sharing the burden of duties across a stable number.

In 2013 the committee attendances were much improved on previous years with every meeting (9 were held in all) being well attended.

Meeting attendances were as follows:

Chairman	Tony	100%
Vice Chairman	Ian	56%
Secretary	Lorin	100%
Treasurer	Sue	11%*
Competition Sec.	Simon	100%
Social Sec.	Michelle	67%
County Captain	Damian	78%
Inter Area B	Jason	100%
Inter Area C	Keith	78%
Ordinary Member	Gary	100%
Ordinary Member	Stephen	33%
Ordinary Member	Jim	78%*
Ordinary Member	Iestyn	67%
Ordinary Member	Alan	78%

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

An open invitation for league members to stand for election to committee posts was issued on 5th June 2014. Those wishing to stand for each role are detailed below.

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	2013 holder:	Tony Britten
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Tony Britten	Lorin Clough	Simon Coleman	<i>Unanimously Elected</i>

Role:	Vice Chairman	2013 holder:	Ian Jellis
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Damian Coates	Lorin Clough	Tony Britten	<i>18 for 2 against</i>

Role:	Treasurer	2013 holder:	Sue Thomson
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Sue Thomson	Tony Britten	Simon Coleman	<i>Unanimously Elected</i>

Role:	Secretary	2013 holder:	Lorin Clough
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Lorin Clough	Tony Britten	Simon Coleman	<i>Unanimously Elected</i>

Role:	Competition Secretary	2013 holder:	Simon Coleman
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Simon Coleman	Lorin Clough	Tony Britten	<i>Unanimously Elected</i>

Role:	Social Secretary	2013 holder:	Michelle Kennedy
Candidate	Proposed By:	Seconded By:	Votes Cast
Michelle Kennedy	Simon Coleman	<i>Jim Thomson</i>	<i>17</i>
Iestyn Pocock	<i>Ben Foster</i>	<i>Gary Tipping</i>	<i>2</i>

There were 2 abstentions in this vote

Role:	County Captain	2013 holder:	Damian Coates
Candidate	Votes Cast		
Stephen Coleman	<i>19</i>		
Johnny George	<i>0</i>		

There were 2 abstentions in this vote

Role:	Inter Area B Captain	2013 holder:	Jason Dunkley
Candidate	Votes Cast		
Jason Dunkley	<i>Unanimously Elected</i>		

Role:	Inter Area C Captain	2013 holder:	Keith Thomson
Candidate		Votes Cast	
Keith Thomson		Unanimously Elected	

Role:	Ordinary Member(s)	2013 holders:	Jim Thomson Gary Tipping Alan Taylor Iestyn Pocock Stephen Coleman
Candidate		Votes Cast	
Jim Thomson		<i>The candidates were elected En Bloc to the committee and welcomed by the Chairman and Secretary.</i>	
Gary Tipping			
Alan Taylor			
Iestyn Pocock			
Stevie Anscombe			
Mary Leeming			

The full committee for 2014/15 is as follows:

Chairman: Tony Britten
Vice Chairman: Damian Coates
Secretary: Lorin Clough
Treasurer: Sue Thomson
Competition Sec: Simon Coleman
Social Sec: Michelle Kennedy
County Captain: Stephen Coleman
Inter Area 'B' Captain: Jason Dunkley
Inter Area 'C' Captain: Keith Thomson
Ordinary Members: 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.

Acceptance of modified proposals

1. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of the AGM it is proposed that 'Proposals can be accepted for voting purposes where minor modifications to the terms of said proposal have been discussed and agreed during the discussion of that proposal at the AGM.'

Proposed by: Tony Britten
Seconded by: Lorin Clough

Votes for:.... **21 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **0**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.

Honorary President

2. The committee wishes to institute an additional, non-voting, position of Honorary President, which shall be awarded by committee to reward, and in recognition of, longstanding commitment to the league.

Proposed by: Lorin Clough
Seconded by: Tony Britten

Votes for:.... **21 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **0**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.

Modification of 6k rule

3. To remove the existing '6k rule' governing matches between Division 1 vs. Division 2 teams. This shall be replaced by a rule that limits players to a maximum of 6,000 break in any visit to the table as follows:

'In matches where a team from Division 1 plays a team from Division 2 all players are limited to breaks of 6,000 in any visit to the table. A player must leave the table immediately on the shot which takes the break upto or over 6,000 points.'

Proposed by: Simon Coleman
Seconded by: Lorin Clough

Votes for:... **20 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **1**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.

Competition venues

4. For competition matches, games may only be played at the venue allocated by the Competition Secretary or organiser. Games must be played within two weeks of allocated date or at any time before the allocated date. All disputes regarding fixture fulfilment shall be escalated to Competition Secretary or organizer for adjudication.

Proposed by: Simon Coleman
Seconded by: Lorin Clough

Votes for:... **21 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **0**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.

Member's Proposals to AGM

Extension of Northants Masters

1. In order to accommodate additional participation in the Northants Masters competition and to eliminate the need for 'BYE' fixtures, it is proposed to extend the qualification and format of the Northants Masters to five divisions of eight players (currently five divisions of seven players).

Proposed by: Lorin Clough
Seconded by: **Stephen Coleman**

Votes for:... **20 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **1**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.

Summer League averages

2. In order to eliminate any significant anomalies the Summer League averages may be reviewed by, ***and at the discretion of***, the committee ahead of the commencement of the Summer League and altered ~~by a maximum of 500 points either up or down~~ where necessary to ensure they reflect a player's ability.

Proposed by: Iestyn Pocock
Seconded by: Lorin Clough

Votes for:... **4** Votes against:... **14 (incl. Chairman)**...

There were 3 abstentions in this vote.

This proposal was rejected and will not be carried forward.

Pension for players over 70

3. All players over the age of 70 years at the commencement of the Winter League season may receive a pension from the league for as long as they continue to play. ***Pension amounts shall be decided exclusively at the discretion of the committee.***

Proposed by: Ted Dunkley
Seconded by: Dawn Dunkley

Votes for:... **12 (incl. Chairman)**... Votes against:... **9**.....

This proposal has been carried and adopted for the commencement of the 2014/15 season.



Any Other Business

- Membership discipline and etiquette

Lorin

Lorin reiterated that if anyone is aware of, or feels concerned about comments that are posted on social media sites that are to the detriment of the league or, in extreme cases, bring our league into disrepute they are invited to raise this with any member of the committee. Action will be taken to clarify the league's position in all cases with a view to reconciliation or disciplinary action.

- 8 Counties Challenge in aid of Cancer Research UK

Simon

Simon reminded the league that the 8 Counties Challenge in aid of Cancer Research UK is nearly upon us. This is a flagship event for our league and as such we would like to see as much support and as many donations to this very worthy cause as possible. You can follow the team's efforts via the Northants Bar Billiards Website and make a donation there or by attending the match at The Cock Hotel, on Sunday 31st August (18:30 approx.)

The team is:

*Simon Coleman
Stevie Anscombe
Stephen Coleman*

*Damian Coates
Iestyn Pocock
Ben Foster*

*Theo Heley
Andy Chambers*

Simon singled out Longmarsh Vehicle Hire and Rocket promotions for their generous sponsorship of the event.

We wish all of the team good luck in their mission to raise funds for an excellent charity.

- Northants Fund Raiser

Simon

Simon has received many positive comments from our guests, The All England All-Stars, at this event. It was an unqualified success and the league and organizers deserve to feel very proud of their efforts. Particular thanks was offered to:

The All-Stars team

The Cock Hotel for hosting the event

the Northants team captains Tony Britten and Damian Coates

Stephen Coleman & Jason Neal for their help on the day

Tony Britten for paying for all of the meals for our guests

The event raised a massive £730 and the committee shall allocate a proportion of this to the 8 Counties Challenge at the meeting on the 2nd September. Further details will follow.

Ray Crawford added his congratulations to the organizers on behalf of the Northants players who all enjoyed the event. He asked to be notified if the event will run again. All agreed that it should, however it is unlikely to retain the same prestige and raise as much money of it was an annual event.

- Additional Social Event

Lorin

Lorin reminded the league that the Players Diary is constantly updated on the website and shows all events, league and competition dates as well as social events for the forthcoming season. He highlighted that an additional date has been allocated for a fund raising social event in November. Please do anything you can to support it.

- Winter League Fixtures

Lorin

Lorin reminded the league that the Winter 2014/15 fixtures shall be made available on the website from midnight on 22nd/23rd August!

He further wished all league members every success for the league season and looked forward to another great year of Bar Billiards in our thriving league.

Lorin ended the meeting with thanks to Cheyne Walk Club for generously hosting our meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 22:21.

Meeting Close

Thank you for attending and supporting your league.

Please enjoy the forthcoming Winter Season!

