

# UP FOR DISCUSSION

Here's the latest update from yet another very well attended and productive committee meeting.

## **Committee Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

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

Attendees (guest): Shaun Thomson

Apologies: Ian Jellis, Sue Thomson and Stephen Coleman

Meeting opened at 20:35.



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

Tony thanked all present for making time to attend the meeting. Again this shows a level of commitment we have not seen for some years and we are already starting to see the fruits of people's hard work for the benefit of our league.

## **Actions from last meeting**

**Combining Finals/Presentation Night** – Following visits to review the complete appropriateness of the venue it was decided in principle to commit to holding the Finals Night matches along with the League Presentation Night at Cheyne Walk Club. Subject to a final joint visit by Michelle, Simon, Jim and Jason. Following this Michelle will commence with the organisation of the event as in previous years.

The committee is excited about the potential for this change – we shall have a very comfortable venue and by joining the two events together we hope to see many more faces present to really celebrate the successes of the 2013/14 Winter League.

**Inter Area Team Selection** – The people whose names were submitted to the inter area committee for the forthcoming season and who will represent Northants in the Inter Area competition are:

'A' Team – Damian Coates (Captain), Simon Coleman, Jason Neal, Andy Chambers, Lorin Clough, Stephen Coleman, Dave Sadler

'B' Team – Jason Dunkley (Captain), Jim Thomson, Tony Britten, Dave Evans, Leigh Holmes, Ian Jellis, Mick Haynes, Jon Coe

'C' Team – Keith Thompson (Captain), Gary Tipping, Alan Taylor, Shaun Thomson, Mark Dickerson, Phil York, Stewart Greenaway, Ted Dunkley

Many congratulations to all of those selected – we know you will represent Northants with pride and sportsmanship and we wish you the very best of luck in the forthcoming campaigns.

**Approach to the Wellingborough League** – this action was held over to the next meeting.

## County Reports

County Captain Damian Coates gave the following update regarding the recent All England County 7's competition held in Reading.

Northants currently play in Division 2 of this event and faced competition from Berkshire B, Kent B, Buckinghamshire B, Surrey, Sussex B.

The squad consisted of Damian Coates, Simon Coleman, Stephen Coleman, Andy Chambers, Chas Peel, Lorin Clough and debutant Jason Dunkley.

Despite a strong and positive start with wins against Berks B (4-3), Kent B (6-1) and Bucks (4-3) this was followed up with defeats to Surrey (5-2) and Sussex B (5-2) which meant that Northants finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the group. This is despite occupying higher spots earlier in the day.

There were some great performances by some of the Northants team with Simon Coleman making a strong contribution winning as he did four matches out of the five he played. Also worthy of recognition is the excellent performance of Jason Dunkley on his debut. He secured three wins from five and looked comfortable in the company of some of the best players in the country.

It was a less successful day for Lorin Clough who lost all five of his matches despite starting one match with more than 8,000 only to be overtaken by his opponent.

The team averages for the day were as follows:

Simon Coleman	7,692 (won 4/5)
Stephen Coleman	5,636 (won 3/5)
Andy Chambers	5,362 (won 3/5)
Damian Coates	5,022 (won 3/5)
Chas Peel	4,386 (won 2/5)
Lorin Clough	4,062 (won 0/5)
Jason Dunkley	2,980 (won 3/5)

## Social Secretary:

Michelle reminded us all that the date for the forthcoming Race Night is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

This is an important fundraiser for the league and the monies raised from this event go directly to funding trophies for the League Presentation Night. Please support this fantastic event.

Iestyn has created a Facebook event where you may also confirm your attendance or speak to a member of the committee.

Michelle also committed to working with Tony to confirm the date of the 2014 Golf Day. This was a fun event earlier this year with Mick Haynes running out a convincing winner. Let's make sure we give him more competition next year!

## Secretary:

Lorin confirmed that he has received all of the details for trophies etc for the end of season events and will make contact in the New Year.

The website continues to be the main source for league updates and league tables and we are very grateful to Stephen Coleman for all his efforts here. Please assist him by ensuring that all scores and match reports are passed to him in good time and also check that all of your matches are recorded as there appears to be the following matches still to complete:

[The Fox versus Headlands Storm from 28<sup>th</sup> October](#)  
[Saints Versus Cobblers from 11<sup>th</sup> November](#)

If these games have been played please forward details to [matchnightresult@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:matchnightresult@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Twitter remains a fun and informative way to keep up to date on match nights. When posting please add the following hashtag so that posts may be tracked by all: #northantsbarbilliards #nbarbilliards. Please also note the AEBBA hashtag of #barbilliards

## **Treasurer:**

Jim advised that the current balance of league finances stands at £1,274.56 with the following subs still outstanding:

Cock C	£60
Cobblers	£60
Rushden	£39
Exiles	£60
The Fox	£45
Storm	£20
Cock A	£35
Headlands	Paid in Full
Saints	Paid in Full

Please forward outstanding amounts to Jim as soon as possible. This allows the league to budget effectively and is heavily relied upon.

## **Competition Secretary:**

Simon advised that he is still waiting for Rushden Cons to offer dates to The Saints in order to complete the outstanding Team Knockout match. He reminded both teams that this match **must be played by 27<sup>th</sup> January**.

The other competition match that remains outstanding is from the Blind Pairs Knockout and concerns Stevie Anscombe & Gary Tipping versus Jason Neal & Karen Bisecker. **This match must be played by 16<sup>th</sup> January**.

The draw for the following rounds of the Blind Pairs Knockout and the League Individuals was also completed. Full details can be found in the competition section below.

**Performances of the month** was difficult to narrow down as there have been a number of individual and team performances worthy of note. They are:

Mary Leeming and Rob Scarrott both performed very well when securing league wins against players from current league champions The Fox. Both Stephen and Simon Coleman qualified for the prestigious All England Grand Prix event which is a fantastic achievement and means that the league has had representation at this event for the last two years and a further sign of our improvement. Both put in some creditable performances this year with Simon winning his group (which included a grudge match with Stephen!) and reaching the semi final.

And when it comes to team excellence you need look no further than to the boys from Rushden Conservative Club. They have capitalised on the indifferent form of other teams whilst showing excellent form themselves which has put them in pole position for the Division 1 league title. This form was exemplified by a series of consecutive 5-0 victories against The Saints, Headlands, The Fox and the Cock A which is an incredible achievement. Well done lads!

The **Wally of the month** award was given, rather mischievously, to Ted and Dawn Dunkley who managed to travel to the wrong venue for their recent Individuals Knockout matches. Despite the late arrival Ted still managed to give Stevie Anscombe a scare but alas both the Dunkley's were defeated that night. It sure was a long night for them!

## **Any Other Business**

The national **Under 25's tournament** was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November in Reading. Both Stephen Coleman, Mark Dickerson and potential new recruit Lee McCormick attended from Northants gaining valuable experience on the high quality competition tables. Well done to Stephen who again reached the semi finals.

Simon reminded us that he is working on the details for next years Charity Events which will raise money for Cancer Research. Events are likely to include a Northants versus Nine Counties Charity Tour as well as a Northants versus England Allstars evening. It would be fantastic to have the widest possible involvement so if you feel you can spare the time the **please contact Simon Coleman**.

Meeting closed at 21:35

**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 Cock Hotel on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 20:30 sharp!**