

UP FOR DISCUSSION

Here's the latest update from your hard working and selfless committee!!

Committee Meeting 7th January 2014

Attendees (committee): Tony Britten, Michelle Higginson, Keith Thomson, Jason Dunkley, Gary Tipping, Simon Coleman, Ian Jellis, Damian Coates, Lorin Clough

Attendees (guest): Shaun Thomson

Apologies: Jim Thomson, Alan Taylor, Iestyn Pocock and Stephen Coleman

Meeting opened at 20:35.



Chairperson's opening statement:

Tony thanked all present for making time to attend the meeting. He was delighted that people continue to make the effort and is more and more hopeful that this will benefit our league throughout this and future seasons.

Actions from last meeting

Combining Finals/Presentation Night – The event is now agreed and the venue selected has been booked. We will have our Final Day games and Presentation Night Celebration on Saturday 3rd May at Cheyne Walk Club, Northampton. The Annual Jim Wilson Memorial Competition will follow this the following day.

This is great news as it means that we can plan to get as many people from the league attending these events to celebrate our league and the performances of the teams and individuals we have.

Further information will follow over the coming weeks and months such as ticket prices etc. but please make every effort to clear your diary now and tell your teams.

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.

All other arrangements such as food are in progress but **please note that matches to be played on Finals Day will commence at 1pm. Don't be late!**

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 forthcoming Inter Area competitions:

All teams 'A', 'B' and 'C' have been submitted to the Inter Area Secretary. Further updates regarding fixtures will be issued as soon as they are made available.

The Inter Area 7's event will take place on February 10th in Didcot, Oxfordshire. The team representing Northants in this event will be: Damian Coates (Captain), Jason Neal, Andy Chambers, Jason Dunkley, Simon Coleman, Chas Peel and Stephen Coleman.

The please join the whole league in wishing our boys the very best of luck in their matches – we are sure you will do our league proud.

Social Secretary:

Michelle advised that the cards for the forthcoming Race Night (Friday 7th Feb) would be issued to team captains very soon. Please make every effort to sell as many as possible as this is one of our key fund raising activities for the league and has a direct impact on the quality of trophies, rewards and prizes that we can offer.

Michelle continues to work with Tony to confirm the date of the 2014 Golf Day.

Secretary:

Lorin thanked all of those people that have offered feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the new format newsletter. As with all things it was a mixed bag but largely the responses tend toward the positive. One change that was requested was to make the newsletter shorter so as to make it less cumbersome to print. Lorin committed to trying to reduce the size of the newsletter and will invite further feedback on the aspects that are not of value or informative.

Lorin clarified with the committee the current position regarding sponsorship and the committee were delighted to note that all existing sponsors have maintained their commitment for this year's league activity. There remains outstanding sponsorship for the Jim Wilson competition although much of the amounts pledged last year will be repeated this year.

The sponsorship target for the Jim Wilson Day is £300 and to date £100 has been committed. This is required to provide trophies and prizes so please contact Simon Coleman or Jason Neal if you are able to sponsor something at this important event.

Lorin confirmed that he has scheduled time with the Competition Secretary to clarify all trophy requirements ahead of seeking competitive pricing and supply.

Lorin apologised that the website had not had timely updates throughout December and committed to redouble efforts to make sure that this remains the 'Go To' place for up to date information on our league activities.

Matches still to be completed are:

[The Fox versus Headlands Storm from 28th October – scheduled for 23rd January](#)
[Saints Versus Cobblers from 11th November – scheduling in progress.](#)

Treasurer:

Jim advised that the current balance of league finances stands at £1,346.93 with the following subs still outstanding:

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

It is essential that the outstanding amounts be paid as quickly as possible so that we may budget for the forthcoming events.

Competition Secretary:

Simon advised that the outstanding Team Knockout match between Rushden Cons and the Saints has now been scheduled for 14th January at The Headlands.

Other matches outstanding include:

2nd Division Individuals

Mick Haynes vs Karen Bisecker

Pairs

Lorin Clough & Stephen Coleman vs Phil York & Mark Dickerson
Ted Dunkley & Mick Haynes vs Mick Loake & Stewart Greenaway

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

Performance of the month is always difficult to pick one particular effort and so the committee highlighted a few that are very worthy of particular note. They are:

The Headlands team secured a fantastic away win at The Fox. This performance is worthy of special mention not only as it reflects a significant turnaround in fortunes for Dawn's team as they started the season in poor form, but because the team from The Fox had proudly built up a four and a half year unbeaten home record. A great achievement, well done to both sides.

Also worthy of note is Mark Dickerson. Mark has shown some strong form and good performances when up against Division 1 players but is yet to be rewarded with some of the wins that he deserves to get. It is fantastic to see some of our younger players putting in the 'hard yards' so please stick with it, mark – your time will certainly come.

Finally, the committee and the whole league wished to congratulate Damian Coates who has proposed to Trish and she accepted. A great performance, Damo – well done!

The **Wally of the month** award can only be given to Trish who accepted Damo's proposal. Trish – you're allowed to make errors of judgement but Jeez!!

Seriously though, many congratulations to you both.

Any Other Business

Northants League Fund Raising Fun Day – The Cock Hotel – 21st June 2014

This event is all about raising funds for our league and will feature a Northants League versus The Bar Billiard All-stars.

The highest profile players from all over the country will be travelling to Northants to compete against a team from our league across a number of fun events including, Bar Billiards, Skittles, Bowling etc. There will be fines and forfeits all designed to make the day enjoyable as well as to raise funds for our league and our profile nationally. We want you to get involved.

It is hoped that the Northants Team will consist of a couple of players from each team so every team is represented. As such places will be limited for entries so it is important that you contact Simon Coleman as soon as possible if you are interested.

In addition, if you have some great ideas for forfeits and games, if you can offer a raffle prize or make any other suggestions to make it more fun please contact Simon.

Cancer Research Nine Counties Challenge

Simon Coleman and Jason Neal continue to plan this important charity event. It is hoped that we secure as much league involvement as possible so please contact them to see how you can get involved.

Meeting closed at 21:42

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

The next meeting will be held at The Fox, Thrapston on Tuesday 4th February at 20:30 sharp!

