

UP FOR DISCUSSION



Committee Meeting 1st March 2016

Attendees (committee): Lorin Clough, Jason Dunkley, Simon Coleman, Michelle Kennedy, Tony Britten, Stephen Coleman, Keith Thomson, Stevie Anscombe, Alan Taylor

Apologies received from: Iestyn Pocock, Mary Leeming, Sue Thomson, Gary Tipping, Jim Thomson

Meeting opened at: 20:35

Chairperson's opening statement:

Tony welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their continued commitment.

Social Secretary:

Grand Finals Day: A 'Snack menu' has been agreed with the caterers at Cheyne Walk Club and will be available all day (until circa 4:30pm) from midday.

Presentation Night: This will also be held at Cheyne Walk Club (see later discussion) and an evening finger buffet has been confirmed. The cost to the league is £10 per head.

Jim Wilson Memorial competitions: Again this will be held at Cheyne Walk Club. The caterers have confirmed that Sunday Lunch will be available until 3:30pm. Other snacks available will include Meat rolls etc.

Competition Secretary:

Northants Open: Simon has reviewed various venues and feels that the most likely option is The Cock Hotel although Simon is yet to confirm the final details. In order to ensure that this event is a success it is important that as many Northants players as possible register and play in this competition.

Simon is also organising an event for the preceding Saturday and is interested to hear any ideas that league members may have in terms of format. Either way, the event is planned to offer a great opportunity for Northants players to get used to the competition tables and will be limited to only £3 per entry.

Jim Wilson: Entry forms are now available and the closing date for entries has been set as Friday 8th April.

Team Championship: Sadly only two teams entered this event which is disappointing. Simon will configure a suitable format to this competition and advise in due course.

Treasurer:

Tony reported on behalf of Sue.

Balance at Bank: £2,328.70

Outstanding Subs: No subs are now outstanding – many thanks to those who assisted in settling the outstanding amounts.

County Reports

Inter Area 7's: Northants were in a tough group including Oxford, Witney & Reading. The results for Northants were:

Oxford – 4-3 win to Northants

Witney - 5-2 win for Witney

Reading – 4-3 win for Northants

This meant that Northants finished in joint second place in the group and so did not qualify.

Inter Area Main Northants 'A' vs Northants 'C' team – the first leg has been played at the Cock C. 'A' team is 5-0 up and approximately 15k up on aggregate score. Return leg will be 16th March

The County Captain requested more County Shirts from Chairman.

'B' team game still to be arranged. (Apr/May)

Secretary:

Masters Update: First time we have a full compliment of 40 players. Use the forum to add your tipsters.

Lorin to email about entry fees – outstanding fees to nominated people.

Inter Area 'D': Raised conversation with Tony Willis re: possibility of a 'D' team. The committee felt that this was not the right time to consider this but may in the future.

Any Other Business:

Raising Funds – Voted 7 in favour of keeping ticket price for Presentation Evening at £10.

Presentation Night & Grand Finals – After the conversation about pricing for Presentation Evening there followed an extended debate about the event. There are a number of committee members (and many others who have spoken to them) who feel that the event is not working and should be considered for change. It was said that many people would prefer it to return to how it was previously arranged. The committee members who would like to see the event change are growing in number from previous meetings but it is fair to say the committee remains very split on this issue.

Points raised included:

- The event is no longer a 'social' event and is now dominated by the actual presentation of Trophies and Awards. This makes the event difficult to enjoy for non-players and partners etc.
- Attendances are in decline as a result of the changes made to the event over the last two years
- There are numerous people who have stated that they will not attend the event while it remains in this format
- The event now ".....is rubbish."

There were counter arguments put as follows:

- Other feedback, both formal and informal has been very positive. It seems that there is a split amongst the membership because positive feedback seems to go to those committee members who are supportive of the current format and negative feedback tends to be delivered to those who are supportive of change
- The event should rightly focus on rewarding Bar Billiards members for their exploits
- The event has become more engaging since the changes were brought
- To make statements as to the quality of the event is fine but we should be more sensitive to those who have put much time and effort into making the evening an enjoyable one

No agreement was reached by the committee on how to proceed and so the discussion was postponed until after this year's event. Feedback will be taken by committee members with a view to producing something that provides the best possible balance in future.

Teaching the game to new players – Stevie Anscombe raised the potential of an 'Academy' or skills assistance to encourage new players and show them how to play key shots. It was agreed that it is of vital importance that we should be highly supportive of new players and help them learn how to improve their game.

Stevie committed to putting something in writing on the website Chat Room and request responses.

Performances of the month:

Leanne & John Tyson showed their growing abilities with both of them scoring 6k in games recently. Alan Tarry, a new member of the league, has won his first game. Theo Heley continues to develop well and has recently played well and won.

Meeting closed at: 21:35

