

UP FOR DISCUSSION

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

Committee Meeting 29th October 2013

Attendees: Tony Britten, Stephen Coleman, Keith Thomson, Ian Jellis, Jason Dunkley, Jim Thomson, Alan Taylor, Gary Tipping, Simon Coleman, Damian Coates, Lorin Clough

Apologies: Iestyn Pocock, Michelle Higginson, Sue Thomson



Meeting opened at 20:40 after what seemed like an age to get everybody served at the bar!

Chairperson's opening statement:

Tony again expressed his gratitude for the welcome turnout of committee members. It is starting to look both consistent and therefore reassuring that this is the way forward. Lots of people putting in that extra bit of effort to ensure that our league not only survives into the future but thrives in doing so.

Actions from last meeting

Combining Finals/Presentation Night - Jason visited Cheyne Walk Club and found the venue to be highly suitable. Dialogue with the senior management proved very positive and they seem eager to host our weekend event. There was a little confusion as to whether we would be able to have unencumbered access to the premises but Jason has subsequently confirmed that this will be the case. Further, Jason and Ted were able to secure a highly competitive quote for food covering both the Presentation Night Buffet as well as having food available during competition times.

It was agreed by the committee that this venue should be pursued as 'Plan A'.

Other venues that had been considered have since been discounted based on suitability with many not offering adequate accommodation to host the Bar Billiards tables (or not being able to transit them to the playing venue) or others having restrictive or price prohibitive parking facilities.

Jim T raised the possibility of reviewing the Carlsberg Social Club, which he will do and will report back at the next meeting. In addition, Stephen Coleman also added the 'Snooks' Club in Raunds as a possible venue. Stephen will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

County Team Selection – Simon provided some very useful data regarding player performances in order to select the County Teams for the forthcoming season.

The squads were agreed as follows:

'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, Chas Peel, Ian Jellis, Jon Coe

'C' Team – Keith Thompson recognised that there will be a number of fixtures in the forthcoming year and would like to benefit from as many players as possible. Therefore if you are interested in playing for the County 'C' team please contact Keith as soon as possible. Full squad lists need to be submitted at the next meeting in order to pass on to the Inter Area organisers so **please ensure that you have registered interest before 3rd December.**

The committee wishes all three teams and all players the very best of luck in the forthcoming campaigns.

Masters Competition (Year 2 and beyond) – It was agreed that in order to offer as many opportunities as possible for players to qualify for this competition each year only promotion will apply to this competition and relegation from divisions will not. Therefore the selection will be as follows:

Year 1

Premier Division – Top 7 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 1 – Next 7 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 2 – Next 7 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 3 - Next 7 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Year 2 and beyond

Premier Division – Premier League Masters Champion, Division 1 Champion and Top 5 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 1 – Division 2 Champion and next 6 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 2 – Division 3 Champion and next 6 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Division 3 - Next 7 eligible players who are available to play all matches

Approach to the Wellingborough League – As Iestyn was unable to attend the meeting this action was held over to the next meeting.

County Reports

'A' Team – Damian Coates – The selection of the team for the County 7's which will be held on November 17th in Reading is as follows: Damian Coates (Captain), Simon Coleman, Stephen Coleman, Andy Chambers, Jason Neal, Lorin Clough, Jason Dunkley.

'B' Team – Jason Dunkley – Nothing to report

'C' Team – Keith Thomson – Keith offered match reports for the testing back to back tie versus Reading C. Unfortunately the home leg did not go our way and ended with a disappointing 4-1 defeat. The only highlight of the night was Ted Dunkley's powerful display to secure the point. The return leg was equally tough although all of the games were much closer. Despite this, another 4-1 defeat ensued but this time with Stewart Greenaway taking the plaudits for the Northants side. Keith offered his heartfelt thanks to everyone

who had played during a long C Team season and expressed gratitude to everyone for their commitment and hoped many would play again next year.

Social Secretary:

Michelle was unavailable for the meeting but sent messages to confirm that the Race Night is now booked for Friday 7th February.

Secretary:

Lorin added his thanks to all attending the meeting and also added that it is great to see the enthusiasm for the social media updates during matches. The website is being well used (although there are some teething problems to resolve) and Lorin encouraged all players and friends of the league to visit the website to see match reports, updates, league tables and competition draws.

For all Twitter posts please add the following hashtag so that posts may be tracked by all: #nbarbilliards
Please also note the AEBBA hashtag of #barbilliards

Gary Tipping raised whether a Google Calendar could also be set up for fixtures – this action was taken on by the league's webmaster Stephen Coleman. Stephen will report back at the next meeting.

Treasurer:

Jim advised that there had been no change to cash in the bank (which remains at £1,164.93) until Gary then paid the annual subs for the Saints! This now means that the figure will change! Lorin stated that he will deliver some sponsorship funds to the committee in time for the next meeting which has been sourced as part of the sponsorship commitments to The Masters competition.

Competition Secretary:

Simon advised that competition entries were the highest they had been in many years. This bodes well for our league with particular growth in numbers in the 2ndDivision Individuals as well as the Blind Pairs.

Such a large entry list has forced Simon to factor in some diary changes so please take a look at the amended league diary attached to this newsletter.

Performance of the month was awarded to the Cobblers team for their fantastic start to the winter league season. Also in the frame and worthy of note were: Damian Coates for securing the Highest Break prize at the recent National Team Championships competition in Reading. Damo was a standout performer for the team securing four out of a possible five leg wins. The other performance worthy of considerable note was Johnny George's fantastic score of 17k+ when playing at The Cock 'A'. This is a creditable achievement to reach that score on a home table so to perform this well on an away table shows true skill. This has clearly set a tone from the young Cambridgeshire man. Well done too to Mary Leeming who was the unfortunate opponent on that occasion.

The **Wally of the month** award was given to Ian Jellis who misunderstood the new 6k rule and 'pulled Johnny George off' well in advance of when Johnny was ready. "Don't make me come off yet", said Johnny,

who added "I could have gone for a while yet." That's right, that was a real one in the face for Jel who I am sure will keep his mouth firmly shut next time!

Any Other Business

Simon mentioned that it has been nine years since the last time the Northants League ran a highly successful charity event raising money for Cancer Research. Given the losses felt in our league and the wider Bar Billiards community Simon is planning another event to take place in 2014. It will include playing Bar Billiards in Nine Counties in order to raise funds. **Please let Simon know if you would like to get involved.**

The national **Under 25's tournament** is to be held on the 24th November in Reading. Last year there was a fantastic turnout from Northants so please do what you can to repeat that this month. The experience gained by our younger players can only serve the future of our league well so please encourage them to join in. **Stephen Coleman will be looking after the arrangements.**

Meeting closed at 22:10

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 Rushden Conservative Club on Tuesday 3rd December at 20:30 sharp!

