

UP FOR **DISCUSSION**

Committee Meeting 15th May 2018

Attendees (committee): Lorin Clough, Stevie Anscombe, Simon Coleman, Tony Britten, Keith Thomson, Gary Tipping, Sean Getty, Mary Leeming



Attendees (guests): Sandy Thomson

Apologies received from: Jim Thomson, Sue Thomson, Stephen Coleman, Michelle Coleman

Meeting opened at: 20:33

Chairperson's opening statement:

Thank you for your attendance. We have much to get through as is always the case at this time of year so I am looking forward to another lively and constructive meeting.

Treasurer: Simon Coleman (acting treasurer!)

The current balance at bank is £2685.69 (this includes the payment to AEBBA for table hire – where the cheque is yet to clear).

Lorin has transferred £780 for tickets bought via the website for the forthcoming Presentation Evening and a further £100 of sponsorship for the **2018 Northants Masters V** which was generously provided by Jason Dunkley (Dunkley & Sons). Thank you, Jason.

County Reports: Simon Coleman (acting County Captain!)

Inter Area A – Nothing new to report – fixtures for the match against Reading 'A' are still being arranged.

Inter Area 'B' – playing vs Portsmouth 9th June (away). Return leg to be arranged.

Inter Area 'C' – played Reading 'C' and the team were rather resoundingly beaten 5-0. However, the next game is scheduled for the 10th June vs Wallingford 'C' (away) where the team hope for an immediate bounce back performance. Keith is also still to arrange matches vs Oxford Ladies.

Social Secretary – Simon Coleman (acting Social Secretary!!)

Presentation Evening – 16th June. There have been 48 ticket sales to date which is slightly up on last year. We are looking forward to seeing you for what is always a great event. Sadly, there are two teams with nobody represented this year which is a real pity. Please could captains do all they can to ensure their teams support all of our competitive and social events.

50th Anniversary – Michelle has suggested that we create a separate pot for fund-raising for this important milestone celebration. Michelle would like to invite previous players to the Presentation Evening as well as to present awards to players for longstanding records achieved. Michelle is open to suggestions for fund raising activities and/or additional events.

Annual Golf Day – Scheduled for the 3rd August at Oundle Golf Club. 12 players currently registered with more slots still available.

Competition Secretary: Simon

Jim Wilson events – This year we had 34 entries into the main competition along with other Mixed Pairs entries. The tables were excellently set up and the event ran to time which is a terrific achievement. This competition is extremely difficult to win as it requires focus in a series of testing matches. Therefore, Jim Thomson deserves massive congratulations for his stunning performance in securing this title.

AEBBA 4-Pin – This event was sold out which is the first AEBBA event for a number of years to do so. We received some excellent feedback from visiting and home players throughout this event. It was also great to see Northants League players in both the main & plate final. In particular, well done to Jason Neal for his impressive performance and unfortunately just losing out in the final.

Northants Open – Entries were up this year to 62. This is impressive when compared to other regional events. Feedback was again very positive. Great to see so many players stay for presentations at the end of the event.

Positive feedback included:

'Best Bar Billiards weekend on the calendar'

Thanks to:

- Helpers with tables
- Sponsors – Longmarsh, Selecta Tyres, BBS.
- Table sponsors – Horizon Music, Keith & Sandy, FTW Burrows, The Cock, Dunkley & Son, CottonBuds and others
- Rob & Liz our generous hosts.
- Those who donated Raffle Prizes
- Michelle for raising £733 selling tickets for the raffle - which is incredible.
- All entrants, scorers, the AEBBA for their support and assistance.
- Jase Neal & Stephen Coleman – could have done it without them.

Jim Wilson Finances –

- Entries - £231
- Sponsors - £209
- Raffle £296
- Practice table £5
- Cock tables £23
- £764 total.
- Costs: £75 plus £170 in prize money £245 total.
- After table hire it made a profit of £39.

Northants Open Finances –

- Entries £682
- raffle £437
- sponsorship £369
- AEBBA 4-Pin contribution £160
- total £1648
- Costs:
- raffle £98.63
- £310 prize money
- £480 table hire
- trophies £127.55
- donating £62 for truck fund.

Profit £569.82 although there is one cheque outstanding and in progress.

Secretary: Lorin Clough

Trophies – have been returned and ready for engraving. Sadly, some were not clean and some were in a poor state of repair.

Summer League – Stirrup Cup have moved back to The Red Lion, Cranford. Fixtures and results in process of being amended.

A number of players & venues have stated that there may be some disruption to fixtures during the World Cup. Please ensure that all games that need to be rearranged are done so as early as possible and notified to the secretary with postponements, rearranged dates and scorecards.

Awards

The recipients of the Chairman's, the Committee and the Mary Leeming Award were discussed, voted upon and agreed.

Previous winners have been:

Chairman's Award

- 2018 – will be presented at Presentation Evening
- 2017 – Keith Thomson
- 2016 – Jim Thomson
- 2015 – Stephen Coleman
- 2014 – Simon Coleman

Mary Leeming Award

- 2018 – will be presented at Presentation Evening
- 2017 – Karen Biseker
- 2016 – Shaun Thomson
- 2015 – Sandy Thomson

Committee Award

- 2018 - will be presented at Presentation Evening
- 2017 – Rob & Liz Scarrott

- 2016 - Keith Thomson
- 2015 – Stew Greenaway
- 2014 – Jason Dunkley
- 2013 – Simon Coleman
- 2012 – Keith Thomson
- 2011 – Ian Jellis

Annual Survey – the annual survey will close on Wednesday 6th June and so final submissions are required before then.

AGM Proposals – Lorin reminded the committee to bring with them their suggestions for AGM proposals to this meeting.

There have been some interesting suggestions from the survey responses which include:

- Reduction in the number of trophies ordered and presented
- Replace Nene Cup and Premiership with something else. Maybe a handicapped knock out competition for all teams where you play home and away. Handicaps based on league scores but each player has a different home and away average?
- Make the summer league shorter
- Earlier start than 8:30/8:45
- Improve the quality of the tables as they are, with the exception of the Headlands, very poor.
- Have the Masters competition on for longer

Tony suggested that there may be some merit in reducing the number of trophies in order to speed Presentation Evening. A number of elements were proposed and it was agreed that a committee proposal for the AGM shall be to 'mothball' the Nene Cup and Premiership Competitions until the league is of sufficient size (circa 16 teams) to make them viable. Lorin to draft the AGM Proposal.

Simon proposed that we seek to re-introduce the ladies Individuals competition. We should do all we can to encourage women to play the game and should support this with a competition. All were in favour.

Stevie – Wanted the committee to consider a change to the format of Winter League evenings away from 5x singles matches to 4 x singles plus 1 x doubles. This was discussed at length and although the committee felt strong support for teams that find it difficult to field five regular players and therefore the proposal has merit – it was agreed that a more flexible and discretionary solution can be sought to help support these teams. Stevie was invited to still submit the proposal to AGM.

Any Other Business:

Ahead of the AGM, Mary highlighted the importance of being very clear on the policies and rules regarding committee roles and Inter Area Captain roles. Lorin agreed that he shall add some clarity to AGM communications via email and the website when invitations to stand for election are opened. (end June).

Meeting closed at: 22:07

