

Northants Bar Billiards

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2018



Apologies: Martin Atwill, Dawn Dunkley, Ted Dunkley, Sue Thomson, Alan Taylor, Jason Neal, Michelle Coleman, Karen Tipping

Attendees: Leanne Tyson, Tony Britten, Mary Leeming, Simon Coleman, Stephen Coleman, Gary Tipping, Damian Coates, Lorin Clough, Stevie Anscombe, Jim Thomson, Keith Thomson

Meeting Opened: 20:30

Chairman's welcome given.

Reports Summarised: The attendees offered their thanks to the committee for their summaries for the year.

Finances: Unanimous acceptance with further gratitude offered to sponsors and a vote of thanks to Sue & Jim for all their efforts.

Secretary: Lorin provided a brief summary of where we are as a league, what we have achieved and how we stand on the national scene.

County Captain: First time ever Inter Area Winners!! Very positive experience for the whole team and thanks to the whole league for their support and congratulations.

Competition Secretary: This year we saw lots of different players winning competitions - which is great to see. National competitions well received by our visitors from other leagues and counties. We do a lot of things right! Thanks to everyone who contributed or supported.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Firstly I would like to thank you all for coming to this important meeting. For those who are unable to attend, I am pleased that you are taking the time to read this important document as it concerns the ongoing success and sustainability of our league.

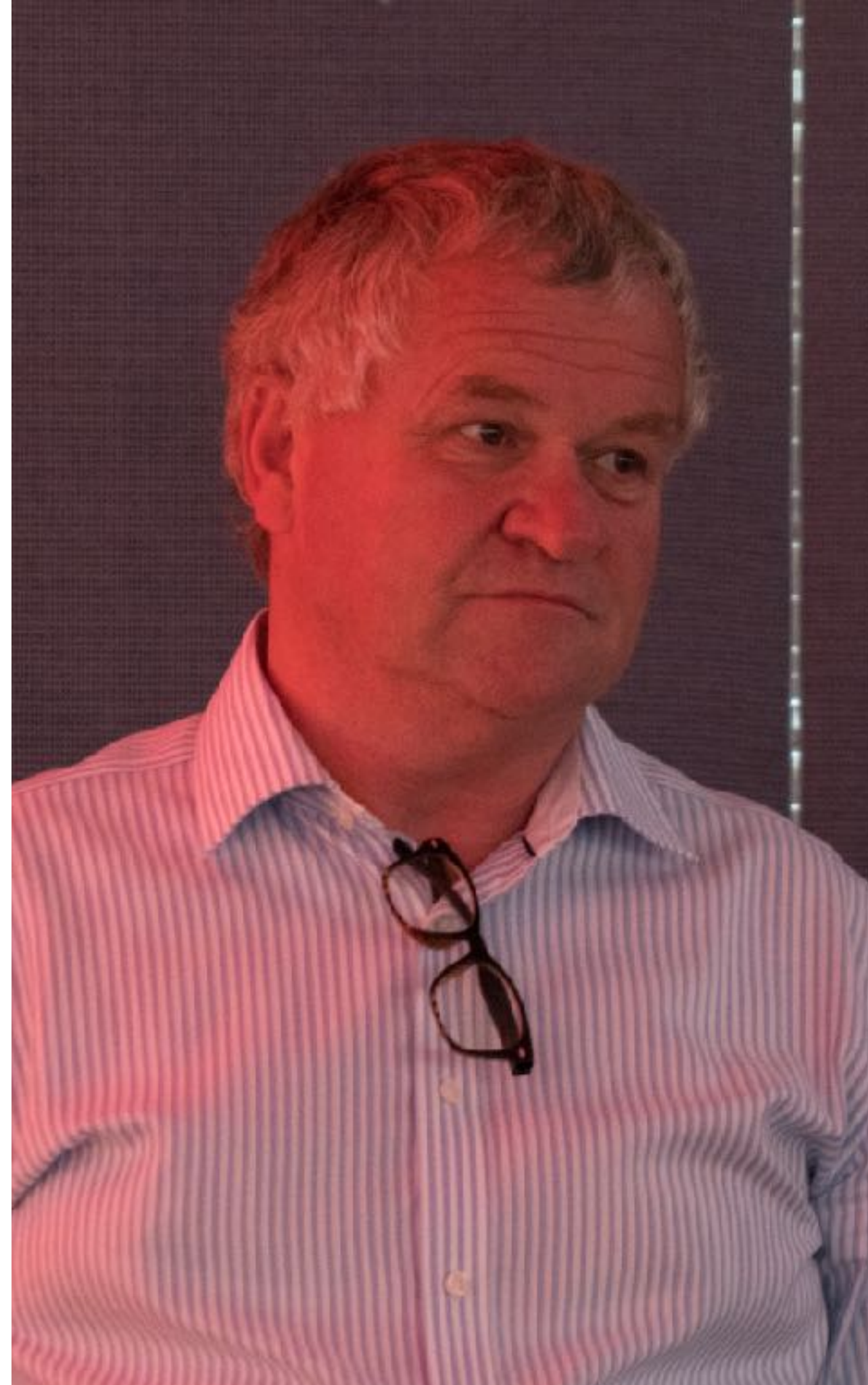
Speaking personally it has again been a very good year where I have been once again more than adequately supported by all my fellow committee members.

What I am particularly pleased with was once again the huge success of the Northants Open which was described by many as the *"the best open of the year"*. We must also recognise the continued success of the 4-Pin competition the day before the Open, which serves to concentrate the mind even further!! Speaking as someone who attended both days, I cannot thank the organisers enough (they know who they are!) - it was a truly great weekend. The organisation was seamless and clearly enjoyed by all those who attended, to the extent that, when the majority of people were leaving they were heard to say *"see you next year"*.

Not only was it a very enjoyable two days but it would seem that it will make a profit for the league, and whilst this was not the primary objective it does mean that our financial position is a very stable one.

As in previous years, if anyone would like the job of Chairman they are very welcome to stand, however, if uncontested, I will happily stand for another year - why would I not with such an entirely splendid group of committee members.

Thank you to you **ALL**.



**Annual General Meeting
2018**

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes from AGM 2017
- The Dirty Dozen
- Resources & Financial Management
- PRIDE in the driving seat
- Success tastes so sweet
- Competition Review
- Keeping it Social
- Committee Elections
- Proposals to AGM
- Any Other Business





APOLOGIES

Thank you to those who have notified in advance that you are unable to attend this meeting and for the many expressions of positive feedback and good wishes. We trust that you will find this booklet informative and that it mirrors your views and experience of how our league has progressed in the last year.

MINUTES FROM A.G.M 2017

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were published on the Northants Bar Billiards League website and are available for review at this address:

<http://northantsbarbilliards.com/committee/>

It is the view of the League Secretary and the League Committee that they represent an accurate account of the 2017 Annual General Meeting and should be adopted into permanent record as such.

Minutes Accepted: **Yes - unanimously.**



THE DIRTY DOZEN

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce new teams for the next Winter League season. As everyone in the league knows only too well, it has been a key objective for some time to increase our league membership, too swim against the national tide, so to speak. It is therefore such great news to be able to report that we are doing exactly that. For the first time in more than a decade, we are back to twelve teams. We will be able to enjoy two divisions of six teams and no bye weeks!

If we can continue to increase the levels of participation and engagement that our league has seen in the last few years then we can indeed expect more teams in the future.

We are particularly grateful to Jim Thomson for his courage and willingness to set up a new team, and for the support of his former Cock 'A' team mates in ensuring that this was possible. The same goes for Lorin's continued efforts to increase participation at The Red Lion. We warmly welcome both new teams and wish them every success as part of our league family. We hope you enjoy it!

Treasurer's Report

RESOURCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



The league remains in a robust financial position considering the limited size of our membership.

Due to a number of outstanding payments for trophies and anticipated receipts the sheets below reflect the current position as opposed to any final position for the year.

Best wishes,

Sue

NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS ACCOUNTS

8/8/2017 TO 3/8/2018

Opening Balance 8th August 2017

£1,184.03

Income

League

League Sponsorship	£0
Subs from teams	£600

Masters

Masters Entry Fees	£517
Masters Sponsorship - Jason Dunkley	£100

Northants Open

Northants Open income from Aug 2017	£758.37
Cheques Banked	£106
Selecta Tyre sponsorship	£200
Alan Taylor	£15
Matt Knight	£22

Jim Wilson

Jim Wilson money banked	£509.70
Alan Taylor	£10

Social & Other

Golf Day 2017	£98
Quiz Night	£84
Race Night	£342.10
Presentation Evening Receipts	£920
Income from tables	£163

£4,445.17

Balance at bank*

Expenditure

Trophies

Not yet paid

Masters

Prize Money	£600
T-shirts (£478.69 sponsored by L Clough)	£0
Trophies - to be sponsored by L Clough	TBC

County/Inter Area Team costs	£122
------------------------------	------

AEBBA Table Hire	£800
------------------	------

K&S Ball Catering	£960
Disco	£100

Returned Cheque for Northants Open	£40
------------------------------------	-----

£2,682

£2,947.20

*Trophies to be paid and sponsorship monies & Golf Day 2018 still to be received.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Income

Golf Day 2017
Golf Day 2018

£98
£100*

Quiz Night 2017

£84

Race Night 2018

Tote
Auction
Sale of Race Cards

£221.10
£146
£150

Event profit

£342.10

Expenditure

Fees £175

Presentation Evening

Income received from ticket sales

£920

K&S Ball Catering £960
Disco £100
Lighting sponsored by L Clough £0

Event Loss

£140

*still to be paid to bank

JIM WILSON & MASTERS 2018

JIM WILSON 2018

Income

Entries	£231
Sponsors	£209
Raffle	£296
Practice Table	£5
Cock League Tables donation	£23

£764

Event Profit

£39

Expenditure

Raffle Tickets	£5
Raffle Prizes & Top Scorer	£70
Prize Money	£170
Table Hire	£480

£725

NORTHANTS MASTERS V

Income

Entry Fees	£517
Sponsorship - J Dunkley	£100
Trophy Sponsorship TBC	£xxx

Expenditure

Prize Money	£660
T-shirts (sponsored by L Clough £478.69)	£0
Trophies TBC	£xxx

IT'S PRIDE THAT DRIVES US FORWARD

As many, if not all of you will know very well, I love to talk! In particular, I will talk about Bar Billiards - and more precisely our league - any chance I get. This is because I am immensely proud of what we have done in the last few years and for what we can still achieve. I am energised by the responsibility of both safeguarding and driving forward this great game that we enjoy.

Recently I was asked what it is that I think has made the difference in Northants. Why we are seen as progressive, why we are seen as successful and why we appear to be achieving where others struggle. My answer was simple - PRIDE. I am proud to be part of Northants Bar Billiards - and I know that this goes for pretty much all of you too - and that is a very powerful thing.

Almost completely gone are the days where I could hear members of our own league almost ashamedly admitting to be so - or when asked by a casual observer what they were doing when playing a match, to hear them say *'I don't know really, the game is dying to be honest because it's not that good.'* I am so glad that they are gone - I am so glad that almost universally our members talk with pride about the game and our league because that was the first and most important step - being more POSITIVE.

With a more positive attitude we have been able to change how people think and feel about the league which has led to wonderfully high levels of engagement and participation in our activities. It becomes ever more





inviting to join something where you know the existing membership participate positively.

In the last few years we have managed to part company with those who have sought to derail this attitude change, whether it be through bad sportsmanship or negative expressions on social media or the like. However painful at the time, this has helped to keep the culture of friendliness, engagement and positivity that we enjoy today.

Of course I do not advocate positivity simply by viewing through rose-tinted spectacles. We absolutely need to be REALISTIC in where we are, what we have achieved and the work we still have to do. It is true to say that we are still a small league when compared to counties like Sussex -

we should have more teams and players than we do and we should certainly have a broader base from the membership attending events and supporting competitions. We are not, and should never rest on our laurels thinking that because so much has changed in recent times and that most things seem to be running well - that it is done. It is far from it. If we are to safeguard this league long into the future there is still a monumental amount to do - but being realistic will help us do it. It will help us prioritise our efforts.

I went on to explain, when asked about our league, that we work hard to keep things moving forward, to introduce new ways of increasing participation, to communicate better, to be inclusive and to INNOVATE. Whether it is our informative website or the great use of



social media, we strive to reach out. This year we shall be introducing a Dream Team game as well as a new Player of the Match award for teams to decide each week. I have tried to be consistent in driving change, encouraging innovation and reaching out to the widest possible audience and I have found myself fortunate to enjoy the support and efforts of a passionate committee in pursuing these aims.

As you will have already seen in this booklet, it gives me great pleasure to announce that for the first time in many years we will have twelve teams competing in the Winter 2018/19 league championship. I was genuinely delighted to have to wrestle with the fixture calendar as a result of adding in these teams. As I have said in previous AGM documents, we need to be DETERMINED in our efforts to grow. We should not let up for even a minute. So far it has got us up to twelve but with more determination and 'B' teams where there are currently none, why not fifteen next year? After all, being greedy for growth is not always a bad thing!

I know that you will welcome the new teams into the league with enthusiasm and warmth so we can do all we can to keep them. My special thanks goes to Jim Thomson for his determination in setting up The Cock 'B' - thanks from me, the committee and the entire league, Jim. Best wishes to you and your team for the season ahead. The same, of course, goes to the newly formed Red Lion 'B'.

It is always heartening to hear positive feedback about what we do. The players from around the country who attended the excellent Northants Open and the equally well organised AEBBA 4-Pin Open were resounding in the praise of the events and the wonderful efforts of Simon and his team. The positive feedback that I receive when visitors view our website and league activities or the warm feedback you gave to Michelle for her herculean efforts with Presentation Evening and Race



Night or Quiz Night etc. Once again, we do so much well.

I know sometimes I drive my committee colleague a little bit crazy when I constantly ask for more - but in the pursuit of EXCELLENCE I believe that everything we do should always be a little better than the last time we did it. If we improve a small amount each time then it will be noticed by all and we'll keep moving forward.

Visitors from other Bar Billiard leagues often remark on the quality of our events and our attention to detail, the improvements that this has led to in our play at a county or national level and the improvement in players at every level of our league.

In the next year I know the committee will continue to deliver excellent events and competitions for you, high quality communications and more opportunities for you to participate in everything we do.

It is now customary for me in my AGM note to set you all a challenge for the forthcoming year and this time it is about PRIDE. With every interaction you have with or about our league try to keep in mind the pride we have in what we are.

Be **P**ositive in your language and approach

Be **R**ealistic about where we are and what we still need to do

Be **I**nnovative - suggest new initiatives and be part of the others

Be **D**etermined to grow our league and invite new players

Expect **E**xcellence in the things that we do

If we all do that - the next year is sure to be that little bit better than the last.

As ever, thanks for your ongoing support.

Lorin



County Captain's Report

THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

- We did it...after 40 years!
- Hard work being rewarded
- Other Leagues look at OUR example
- Team and individual glory



Another year flown by and another year of Northants Bar Billiards making a name for themselves on the national stage. Northamptonshire, although one of the smallest leagues, has always produced some great players and has always done well at a national level - however, we have never quite got our name on one of the big trophies, was this year going to be different?

For the whole story we must start at last year's AGM where the county teams are selected. In what has been one of our strongest years in the league, with many players increasing their league averages, county selection was very competitive. After much debate, however, selection was made and the teams were as follows:-

'A' Team

Stephen Coleman (Capt)
Simon Coleman
Damian Coates
Andy Chambers
Lorin Clough
Jason Neal
Dave Sadler

'B' Team

Jason Dunkley (Capt)
Stewart Greenaway
Jim Thomson
Mark Dickerson
Tony Britten
Dave Evans
Kevin Ayres

'C' Team

Keith Thomson (Capt)
John Tyson
Jon Coe
Martin Atwill
Matthew Thomson
Mary Leeming
Gary Tipping
Stevie Anscombe



We managed to assemble some of the strongest teams the county has seen for a long time and these were the players selected to fight it out with the other counties and represent Northants on the road.

The first competition of the Bar Billiards calendar year is the All England County Championships which has two divisions. The winners of the Division 1 title being crowned as the best county of all! The Northants "A" team had a reputation of being a bit of a 'Yo-Yo' team, floating as they have between the first and second divisions each year. That said, in 2017 we managed to stay up - and so, once again, we were rubbing shoulders with the elite in the top division.

This was held at Didcot Conservative club and after last years great performance staying up and finishing fourth, this year was all about building on that performance and hoping to push forward and move up the table. The team that went down was Stephen Coleman (Captain), Simon Coleman, Lorin Clough, Jason Neal, John Tyson, Jim Thomson and Damian Coates. The seven teams battling it out in Div 1 this year were Kent, Sussex A, Sussex B, Oxford A, Berkshire A, Northants A & Surrey, with each team having an array of talent and a few England players to throw in the mix!

Game 1 was against arguably the team to beat on the day, Kent, and given our history for bad starts, the first game looked like a tough ask. Up first was captain Stephen against Pete Sainsbury and Stephen had a chance early with Pete missing at 2k, and given the even breaks, Stephen built on this and managed to get to 9k before leaving a split short right in front of the 100 hole. After a couple of shots down the bottom a poor shot meant Stephen caught the peg and lost it all. An unfortunate start given the chance we had to take the lead. Game 2 and 3 saw Damian and Jason Neal play Mark Brewster and Gerry Fitzjohn, two games which a good performance is going to be required to take

a leg. Damian broke down very early and the game was then over with Mark Brewster finishing the leg of in his next shot with over 10,000. Jason's game was completely different, Gerry started ok, and Jase chased back well, with the game very close going into the last few minutes. Jason, who was a couple of thousand behind with not long to go managed to get the break back, however unsure if he had time had to rush and meant he played a few shots down the bottom, and just missing out by 200 points by the time the last ball was potted. 3-0 down with 4 legs left to play. Simon Coleman was next and cometh the hour, cometh the man, Northants were dying for a performance that would lead to a leg and Simon did just that winning his game against Ian Wright comfortably by nearly 8000 and Northants had a leg! John Tyson would now make his "A" team debut and what better way than dropping him in the deep end against a previous Northants Open winner. John missed early on and Kevin proved his worth winning by over 10,000 in the end. A tough start for the

debutant, however there was another 5 games to make his mark. The last two games were probably the toughest for Northants with Lorin playing current England captain and world number 1 Curt Driver, and Jim Thomson was playing ex world champion and England regular Paul Sainsbury. Lorin didn't stand a chance with Curt winning the game before Lorin had a chance, however the other game was completely different. Jim started, and it seemed a tricky table with both players missing early due to the red not reaching the 50 hole on the break. Jim managed to get the break back and show the determination which has led him through the years and take a 4,000 lead. Paul struggled to get the break back, however did manage with 5 minutes to go. Unfortunately the ex world champion settled down and managed to come back and take the lead just as the bar went to take the final leg. Jim certainly had him worried though. Final score was 6-1, however the score certainly doesn't paint the full picture.





Sussex B was next, and after the last game a better performance was required if Northants were to stay in Division 1. Captain Stephen started again, this time doing the business winning his game with a 10,000 break before his opponent Stuart Mephram had a shot. The next two games were a different story with Damian Coates scoring a few breaks to beat Sussex captain Stuart Carruthers by 4k, and Jason Neal playing the young and upcoming Jack Baden. Both players had chances to win the game but it was Jack who managed to make the most of it and win a leg back for his county. After 3 games it was 2-1 Northants. Simon had the break next against Tony Jenner and he started well, however a horrible contact on the break meant the red ball only just missed the black peg. End of break and Tony made the most of the nice table winning the game in his next shot. John unfortunately had another difficult game against previous England player Kevin Hall, however neither player could take advantage with a low scoring game, and Kevin's experience just managed to carry him through meaning Sussex now lead 3-2. The last two games were once again Jim and Lorin against Joe Oakley and Ric Cunningham. Jims game was pretty much similar to the first with him leading until the final moment and a few fortunate shots by Joe secured the win at the death. Lorin's game was different however winning against the experienced Ric, with a combined aggregate of nearly 12,000. Final score was another loss but much closer this time in 4-3.

So after the first two matches Northants were sitting at the bottom of the table and looking like another season in the top division was not possible, and having just played Sussex B, we now had the A side! 6 of the seven players were regulars in the England squad so this was never going to be pretty, Stephen and Damian played Nigel Senior and Martin Cole first. Stephen's game was over before he had a shot and Damian's early mistake was pounced upon by Martin and Sussex were already 2 up.





Sussex A continued to flex their muscles and put on a show with their final 4 breaks games all being won before the Northants players had even lifted their cues! The only real good performance came from this match was Jim Thomson. He managed to beat Matt Knight to get a leg for Northants, however another 6-1 loss kept us bottom with only 3 more games to play.

The next match was a real relegation battle with Surrey also struggling to cope with the quality on display. They had also had some difficult matches but managed to secure a few extra legs so we were 2 points behind them. Another defeat would surely relegate us back down to division 2 so a must win game, and if ever a performance was required now was it, and boy did they perform! Firstly Stephen Coleman played Tony Cross, a rematch of the Sussex Open final and the same result with Stephen winning very comfortably by over 15,000. Damian who was next didn't stand a chance with Geoff Jukes touching on over 9k to win the leg before Damian had a shot. 1-1 and the doom and gloom was looking near, however the luck seemed to turn with Simon coming from behind to win by just a mere 800 and then Jason and Lorin stepped up and banged in some big scores to put Northants 4-1 up. The win was guaranteed but the next 2 legs were needed to claw some of the points advantage back from Surrey. John and Jim showed real class to win very comfortably with John just missing out on a 10k score. 6-1 was just the result they needed and now no longer bottom with a 4 point advantage over Surrey.

The final 2 matches were Oxford A and Berkshire A, and the less said about them the better! Of a possible 14 legs of billiards we only managed to secure two legs, losing both games 6-1.



Stephen scraped a win against Terry Cook and Jim Thomson beat Paul Dorgan or Berks, thankfully for us however Surrey also struggled only securing 3 legs themselves meaning we were safe and could try again next year and make a better name for ourselves! Well done to Stephen and Jim who were the two best players of the day for Northants both winning 3/6 games and averages of 7500 / 4400 respectively.

Inter-Area One Day 2017

Next competition in the calendar is the One Day inter area competition also held at the mecca of Bar Billiards Didcot Cons Club. The format this year was two divisions each containing four teams. The winner of each would then play off in a final. Northants was in group A alongside Wallingford Witney and High Wycombe. Although all of the Inter-Area teams are strong it was fair to say this was the stronger division with all four thinking they should win this group. Group B included Eynsham, Portsmouth, Oxford and Reading, so still no small feat! Unfortunately although they won $\frac{2}{3}$ of their games losing to Wallingford meant a second place finish and no qualification to the final. I won't go into too much detail on these games as we still have the main inter-area to comment on and i think you will like that one more! Anyway some performances to mention on the day were Lorin Clough and Simon Coleman both winning 3/3 and Stephen Coleman taking the highest break of the day with 10,450. Wallingford were the eventual winners beating Portsmouth in the final 4-2.

Inter-Area Main Competition 2017

This competition is one in past years we have done very well in which includes a final and narrowly losing out 5-5 on aggregate against Witney only a few years ago. It was a roller coaster ride and I will try to take you through the ups and downs we went through over the 6 months the competition ran for!





Game one was a regular fixture against Reading A who we have been paired against on almost every occasion in the last 4 or 5 years, with Northants having the upper hand, so Reading were looking to get one back on us this year. The first leg was at home and the captain had decided to swap the normal venue Rushden Cons for his home venue The Cardigan Arms. This was a decision which looked in his advantage with Lorin and Andy securing the first two legs to give Northants a 2-0 lead with 2 more home players left! Things didn't go according to plan however with Stephen & Simon both losing their matches, thankfully Damian saved his captain with a win in the final leg, however the mood in the camp was subdued knocking a 3-2 home win was not a good enough result. The away leg a week later was a similar story, no player really getting to grips other than Andy but thankfully although we lost

3-2 an aggregate win put us through by the skin of our teeth and it would appear luck was on our side. The captain was happy but knows a stronger performance will be required in the next round! High Wycombe B was next and this is a team which has been in the final in recent years and also contains a world champion, so if ever a performance was needed this was it! After the disastrous home leg last match Stephen decided to go back to the original venue at The Cons Club in Rushden and what a decision it was! First up was ex Rushden player Jason Neal and although a very scrappy leg 850-290 the first and important point went to Northants. Damian played the experienced Alan Donovan in the second leg and both players got a steady score, but once again the luck was on Northants side and Damian put us 2-0 up.

Simon, Stephen and Andy all then stepped up to the plate, all winning comfortably to give Northants a 5-0 win at home. What a great result and an 18,000 lead meaning only one leg away was required. This is where you could say the complacency kicked in! The away leg was played on a fantastic table so surely after a comfortable win at home the confidence was high and another win was surely on the cards, think again! Andy was up first and his game was over before he had a shot with their captain Doug Carswell scoring 13,000 over 2 breaks. Simon was next and his game went the same way, he missed early and ex world champion Matt Jones scored 15,000 with ease. The calmness within the camp had now gone and the smile on Stephen's face was slowly being wiped away. The one leg required from 5 was now only from 3, and now the aggregate was in High Wycombe's favour. A quick word and a beer ban until that leg was won did the job however with Damian playing third and although he was a fair bit behind he came back to win by just 250 points! That didn't matter to anyone though the win was secured and everyone could relax and enjoy the rest of the night. By this time Jason and Stephen were just relieved the game was won and both lost with nothing but pride on the line.

Sometimes your greatest achievements are not the ones you win comfortably, but the ones you come through despite poor performances and we were certainly showing that! The reward for the win in the last round was Reading B, another game Northants should win, but the captain was adamant not to allow complacency in the camp this time round. Northants were the away team first this time and Reading B certainly used that to their advantage. No one really on the night got to grips with a difficult table and although some heroics from Andy and Simon Northants would have to fight back from a 3-2 deficit in the home leg. The second leg was around Oct/Nov and a fixture congestion gave both captains a selection headache and with the in form Andy Chambers not available Stephen called on Ian Jellis to fill the 5th slot at short notice. Ian

wasn't registered for any county team due to only just coming back from breaking his leg, so a big call up in an important part of the competition. Stephen selected Rushden again after their last great performance and was hoping it could once again prove to be their lucky charm. Simon went on first and this was a massive leg as a loss would put Reading completely in the driving seat, and thankfully Simon did the business against Colin Alder winning comfortably to put the tie back in contention, however Stephen and Ian both lost legs 2 and 3 de-railing their chances once again. The pressure was now on not only did Damian and Jason have to win both their legs, but they also had to claw back 9,000 in aggregate so just winning alone was not enough. Home player and in form Damian stepped up and made the most of his break game winning by nearly 8k. The pendulum of this game had swung so many times that neither team knew what was going on. Could we, would we, these were all the questions being asked but Stephen took Jason to one side and just said "No pressure just settle down and do what you do best". Jase was playing Berks Dave Murrell and he missed early giving Jason a great chance, but the occasion got the better of both of them and each player led then fell behind. You could actually hear a pin drop in the club! Jase had a small lead but Dave with not much time left got the break back, the heads of all the Northants players dropped instantly, Reading B were only 45 seconds away from making the Inter-Area final. Everyone was looking at each other wondering how this had happened from such great performances in previous rounds, BUT!!!! Just as the bar dropped Dave missed. Was this Jason's chance? Both captains ran to the table to try and work out the exact aggregate, double and triple checking as it was CLOSE! Turns out Jason was ahead so he had won the leg but we were down 350 on aggregate with around five balls left, 2 of which were on the table! Stephen couldn't watch this was too nerve racking, Jason played his first shot and sunk both balls giving him the break back but 320 points behind with 3 whites left!

Surely this was impossible but 10 legs, 3.5 hours of solid billiards would come down to these 3 balls, UNBELIEVABLE JEFF! Jason started by playing the one up shot, 50 points but purposely left the second white ball very low almost by the black peg, 280 behind with only 2 balls left a 200 hole is going to be required. Jason played the ball on the table up to the 100 hole and sunk it, but everyone's eyes drew to the cue ball, where was it going, off the cushion and stroked the 50 hole, but stayed up!!!! One ball left 180 behind, was the impossible going to happen, were Northants going to come back from the dead! Cool and calm Jason potted the cleanest 200 hole you have ever seen, met with cheers of emotion from the Northants players and sighs of disappointment from the Berks players. What a night, it was going to take a while to get over this one!

So for the second time in only a few years Northants have made the final this time against last years winners High Wycombe A, so this was never going to be an easy match but after everything they had gone through this could be the toughest! The first leg was away and as the Northants players arrived, they were met by a big home crowd, all seated in a horseshoe shape around the table preventing any of the Northants players from getting close. This was going to be a serious one, but one Stephen was hoping his players would step up to the challenge and make their county proud. The draw was not the best for Northants with High Wycombe's 2 most experienced players up first in Ernie Jordan and Ray Hussey. Both home players made the use of their home advantage beating Simon and Damian, an uphill struggle was once again in front of the Northants team, a position they didn't want to be in but one they could recover from. Andy Chambers, a player who had played so well for the rest of the competition now had the weight of the world on his shoulders, another loss would surely dent the confidence of this team, yet a win could possibly swing the pendulum of fate back in Northants favour. Boy did he deliver, not only did Andy win, but comfortably and 2

boosted the morale of Jason and Stephen who were yet to play. Both used that new found confidence to how why they all deserved to be in the final winning convincingly not only the game 3-2 but also a good aggregate lead. Belief was once again in the Northants camp, and the feeling was that this could be the best chance Northants has ever had to get their name on this amazing trophy. Stephen selected Rushden again given their unbeaten run there and if this would continue then they would be victorious! Simon had the pressure of going first, and for once nerves probably got the better of the player who is normally Mr Cool in these situations, High Wycombe took the first leg meaning it was 3-3 but still advantage Northants with the aggregate. Stephen was next and a real captain performance was required, and thankfully he did not let us down, won the match and increased the aggregate even more. This meant one more leg should be enough to secure the win, and Andy was the man to get it also stepping up to the occasion winning by 11,000. This meant Northants could lose both legs, as long as there was not a 30,000 aggregate deficit. Jason made sure and beat Dawn Jordan meaning the job was done and Damian could enjoy himself in leg 5 and give Northants a 4-1 win on the night and 7-3 win overall.

This meant for the first time ever Northants had won a major competition, Tony Willis and ex League Secretary Pete Farrelly were there to present the trophy and what a trophy it is! Tony had the following to say *"It was a genuine pleasure to travel to Rushden Cons Club last night to watch the final of the Inter Area NBBA Challenge Cup. Many congratulations to Northampton A on winning the cup for the first time after being involved for over 40 years. The Northampton League is one of the most progressive in the country and honours like this are richly deserved. A true testament to the efforts of the committee and the players. Their opponents last night, High Wycombe A, were winners two years ago and were very sporting in defeat."*



Northampton won 3-2 at Wycombe and 4-1 last night to record an exceptional 7-3 victory overall. Thanks to Pete Farrelly, erstwhile Northants Secretary for presenting the magnificent trophy"

I know I have gone on for long enough now, and many of you will have stopped reading many ages ago, however I just want to sign off by saying I am very proud of the team and their achievements this year. It took a while for this to sink in but after a few weeks with that trophy it was soon obvious this was something we would remember for years to come.

Thanks for reading, and hope you enjoy the photos!

Stephen Coleman
County Captain



Competition Secretary Report

COMPETITION REVIEW

- Record increase in receipts
- Highest ever spend on rewards
- Sponsorship becomes even more vital
- Building a sustainable future



We had another successful year in the in house competitions, with numbers up in some and down on the others but roughly overall entries around the same.

With Stevie Anscombe attempting to claim his 3rd successive 2nd Div Individuals title, Martin Atwill proved too strong in the Semi-finals then Martin carried his form on in to the final to be crowned champion. Simon and Ian again against the odds made it to the pairs final against favourites Jase and Andy, who were 12k up in the first leg but with a table play out Simon and Ian retained the title. The Blind pairs again was generous to Lorin Clough as he was again paired with Mick Haynes - this made them event favourites from day one, this was proved right with some high scores in the semi and Final from both players to give them the title. The Individuals was very close to call with Damian proving himself nowadays as one of the best in the league with a table payout against Lorin in the first Semi-final, the other saw Jason Dunkley playing superb with seconds away from being in the final but unfortunately for him Simon managed to get the break back at the very end to secure the win. The final was a very scrappy affair with both players having plenty of chances but in the end Simon secured his 4th consecutive Title.

This year is the last of The Nene and Premiership Cup as with teams as low as sometimes 4-5 entering them the committee has agreed to put them on hold for the time being. With the success in our league though and the possibility of new teams this may only be a very temporary decision. The Headlands again came out victors in the Nene Cup against Crown & Anchor Saints.

The Team Knock Out saw The Stirrup Cup get to the final for their first time against a very strong Rushden side, even though Rushden came out winners on the day it could easily have gone both ways and I'm sure it won't be their last time.

The Masters again proved that it's getting bigger and better with having to bring in another division this year just to cope with the demand of entries. It proved again this competition does work with how the selections are made for entries as most leagues went to the final day once again. With Jason and Lorin battling it out at The Headlands to be Premier Masters champion Jason came out top.

Grand Finals day and Jim Wilson Tournament was a great weekend with plenty of fun, beer and sun - oh, and some billiards played along the way. We had Stevie Anscombe took the honour of the Plate Champion, John and Leanne happy to regain their mixed pairs trophy which I'm sure Leanne must have the record for holding this title throughout the years. Then there were the main competition with some really tough draws; big guns were falling at each hurdle while Damian and Jim sneaked their way through to the final. So this was Damo's 2nd final in as many days and I believe Jim's first ever JW final. Damo going in as clear favourite but Jim started off very strongly and Damo just couldn't manage to catch up. So massive congratulations to Jim on his title as it was well deserved with him playing well all through the day.

We also had the AEBBA 4-Pin Open and The Northants Open which again was a massive success, it was held at The Cock Hotel once again. It is now an annual event on our calendar which brings in all the top players from across the country proving their worth. With numbers down across the country on opens this year we did extremely to be up there on the highest entries.





Again we had fantastic feedback from a lot of people and everyone looking forward to playing again next year. We certainly had some great success from our local talent this year with Lorin winning the AEBBA 4-Pin Plate trophy and Jason coming running up in the main event. The next day again saw Lorin play his best in getting to the QF of the Northants Open

I would like to personally thank over the Jim Wilson and Open Weekend everyone for supporting it, the sponsors - as without them we could not go ahead. The usual crowd for the help with lifting and the setting up. Lorin for helping with behind the scenes stuff and web support, Rob and Liz for being made so welcome and letting us have the run of the pub, Michelle who ran the raffle who once again made a massive amount of money and Finally Stephen and Jason who basically runs the day while I just sit back and drink all day!!!

Here's to another successful year!

Simon



Social Secretary Report

KEEPING IT SOCIAL

- Quiz Night becomes a firm favourite
- Race Night a real winner
- Presentation Evening feedback



Quiz Night 2017 was a great evening, with the usual faces coming out to support. I would like to thank them all for attending. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and I am looking forward to this year's event.

Race Night was also a great success as we raised a good amount of money for the league. Without these important fundraisers the league simply would not be able to operate on the scale that it does so thanks again to all those who attended.

Presentation Evening was, as is becoming normal, a good evening with a lovely atmosphere. We received great feedback regarding the food and the disco was very well received. Given the positive reviews - it would be something that we will try to replicate next year.

As usual I would just like to add that it would be very nice to see our events supported by more teams and more members, friends and families. If you could please do that in 2018/19 - we'd all appreciate it.

Best wishes,

Michelle

Winter 2018/19

IT'S ALL HAPPENING



With the start of the new league fast approaching - a new League Matrix has been created and is available to view on the league website.

For the Winter 2018/19 league season, the teams will be split as follows:

Division 1

The Cardigan Arms

Rushden Cons

Storm

The Cock 'A'

Headlanders

The Red Lion 'A'

Division 2

C&A Cobblers

The Cock 'C'

C&A Saints

St Jimmy's

The Cock 'B'

The Red Lion 'B'

You can see a full calendar of scheduled matches on the next page.

	League	Comps	Cups	Masters
1st Oct	League 1			
2nd Oct	Committee Meeting			
8th Oct	League 2			
15th Oct	League 3			
22nd Oct	League 4			
29th Oct	League 5			
1st Nov		Indiv KO R1		
5th Nov	League 6			
6th Nov	Committee Meeting			
12th Nov	League 7			
19th Nov			Team KO R1	
23rd Nov	Quiz Night			
26th Nov	League 8			
29th Nov		Pairs R1		
3rd Dec	League 9			
4th Dec	Committee Meeting			
10th Dec	League 10			
13th Dec		Blind Pairs R1		
17th Dec	League 11			
7th Jan	League 12			
10th Jan		2nd Div Indivs KO R1		
14th Jan	League 13			
21st Jan	League 14			
28th Jan	League 15			
31st Jan		Indiv KO R2		
4th Feb			Team KO R2	
5th Feb	Committee Meeting			

	League	Comps	Cups	Masters
11th Feb	League 16			
14th Feb		Blind Pairs Q/F		
18th Feb	League 17			
25th Feb	League 18			
4th Mar	League 19			
5th Mar	Committee Meeting			
7th Mar		2nd Div Indivs KO Q/F		
11th Mar	League 20			
18th Mar	League 21			
21st Mar		Pairs Q/F		
25th Mar	League 22			
1st Apr			Team KO S/F	
2nd Apr	Committee Meeting			
4th Apr		Indiv KO Q/F		
8th Apr				Masters 1
15th Apr				Masters 2
29th Apr				Masters 3
4th May	Grand Finals Day			
5th May	Jim Wilson Events			
7th May	Committee Meeting			
13th May				Masters 4
20th May				Masters 5
3rd Jun				Masters 6
4th Jun	Committee Meeting			
10th Jun				Masters 7

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Our committee has operated well in the last year with valuable contributions from all. All members are invited to stand for election to serve on the committee although we intend to keep the number relatively stable.

Sadly, Jason Dunkley will be standing down from the role of Inter Area 'B' Captain and therefore the committee too, and so we invite a replacement. Jason Neal and Leanne Tyson have also notified of their willingness to serve on the committee as ordinary members if elected.

Meeting attendances for the last five years have been as follows:

Role	Name	2013/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Chairman	Tony Britten	100%	100%	100%	88%	80%
County Captain/Vice Chairman	Damian Coates	78%	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vice Chairman	Ian Jellis	56%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vice Treasurer/Vice Chairman	Jim Thomson	78%	75%	67%	50%	40%
Secretary	Lorin Clough	100%	75%	89%	88%	100%
Treasurer	Sue Thomson	11%	13%	0%	13%	20%
Competition Secretary	Simon Coleman	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
Social Secretary	Michelle Coleman	67%	100%	44%	75%	20%
County Captain/Ordinary member	Stephen Coleman	33%	63%	78%	100%	60%
Inter Area 'B' Captain	Jason Dunkley	100%	63%	56%	38%	0%
Inter Area 'C' Captain	Keith Thomson	78%	50%	89%	75%	50%
Ordinary Member	Gary Tipping	100%	75%	67%%	63%	50%
Ordinary Member	Iestyn Pocock	67%	25%	33%	N/A	N/A
Ordinary Member	Alan Taylor	78%	88%	78%	50%	N/A
Ordinary Member	Mary Leeming	N/A	75%	44%	75%	60%
Ordinary Member	Stevie Anscombe	N/A	N/A	56%	50%	50%
Ordinary Member	Ray Crawford	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%	N/A
Ordinary Member	Sean Getty	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%



Given that no notifications were received of league members wishing to contest existing Committee roles this year, it is proposed that those standing for committee posts shall be elected en bloc. Elections of ordinary members will follow.

Proposal Accepted **Yes**

New members voted onto the committee as follows: **Jason Neal & Leanne Tyson**

Inter Area 'B' Captain: **Tony Britten (Proposed by: Mary Leeming; Seconded by: Stephen Coleman) Vote: unanimous**

PROPOSALS TO THE AGM

PROPOSAL 1 (Committee Proposal) - Mothballing of Nene Cup & Premiership Knockout

In order to reduce the number of trophies presented at the end of the season, reduce time taken at Presentation Evening and to preserve the integrity of the competitions, these cups shall be mothballed until such a time as the league is a sufficient size - circa 16 teams.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for: **Unanimous**

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 2 (Committee Proposal) - Introduction of Women's Individual Knockout

To support and encourage the participation of women in our league, an individual knockout competition should be re-introduced. Format of the event shall be determined by the Competition Secretary according to entry numbers.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for: **Unanimous**

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 3: Part 1 - Supplementary to 138,139 & 140 Part 2 - amendment to 144

1. Teams failing to ensure that the appropriate spots are on the table for the start of a match should be penalised by the deduction of 1 point for each indiscretion.

2. Table timers should run between 16.5 minutes and 18.5 minutes. The away team must be notified by the home team captain how long the timer runs prior to the start of any match, or alternatively the times should be declared prior to the start of the season and this should be published on the league website.

Proposed by: Martin Atwill

Seconded by: Ted Dunkley

Votes for: **2**

Votes against: **8**

Proposal not carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS

AOB items discussed:

None.

**Thank you for your continued support and participation in the
Northants Bar Billiards League.**

**We wish you an enjoyable and successful season ahead - let's make
it the best one yet!**

