

Northants Bar Billiards

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2019



Notes:

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Yet again it is that time of year again, where does the time go?

The AGM is your chance to have your say and make any changes you feel should be made.

I'm sure you will agree that all of the following: Summer League, Northants Masters, Finals Night/Jim Wilson, Northants Open/4 pin, Quiz Night, Race Night and Golf Day were all resounding successes and I'd like to offer my thanks to everyone who planned, contributed, organised, sponsored and participated in any or all of these events.

It must be noted that one of the reasons, and probably the main reason for the success of the Northants Bar Billiards League is the excellent communication of all things bar billiards, brought about by the web site which is the envy of all other counties.

Thank you to all players of whatever standard for your continuing support of the league, because without you there is no league.

All the very best for the winter.

Tony Britten



**Annual General Meeting
2019**

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes from AGM 2018
- The Dirty Dozen - this time it's real
- Resources & Financial Management
- Are we finally seeing some fruit?
- Handing over the baton
- Competitions celebrated
- Speaking Socially
- 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 2018

The minutes of the 2018 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 2018 Annual General Meeting and should be adopted into permanent record as such.

Minutes Accepted:



THE DIRTY DOZEN - YES, REALLY THIS TIME!

Despite last year's false start - this time we really can say that we are back up to 12 teams in the winter league. This shows tremendous progress and is a fantastic reward for those who have put in so much effort to try to attract new players and teams and make our league an attractive place to be.

After the loss of the team from St Jimmy's, it is wonderful that we have not only replaced them with a new team from the Rose & Crown, Islip - but then to add a further team from the Cock is truly great news. So this time we really can celebrate 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!

We'd particularly like to welcome all the new players to the league - in the new teams or if they have joined existing teams. We are absolutely thrilled to have you as part of our league family.

We hope you enjoy it!

Treasurer's Report

RESOURCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



The league finances remain in good shape although it must be noted that it was not possible to recover all monies owed for team subs in the 2018/19 year with two teams not paying in full - which is hugely disappointing. I would ask all teams to ensure that their subs are paid swiftly this year.

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.

I would finally like to take the opportunity to wish the league and my successor as Treasurer well for the future.

Best wishes,

Sue

NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS ACCOUNTS

5/8/2018 TO 4/9/2019

Opening Balance 5th August 20178

£2,947.20

Income

League

League Sponsorship	£0
Subs from teams	£570

Masters

Masters Entry Fees	£429
Masters Sponsorship	£0

Northants Open

Northants Open banked	£1,059
Money from returned entry cheque	£40

Jim Wilson

Jim Wilson money banked	£477
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Presentation Evening

Tickets	£940
Flower auction	£148

Social & Other

Quiz Night	£86
Race Night	£305
Table Income	£197

£4,251

Expenditure

Outstanding trophy payment from 17/18	£1,197.95
League Table costs (replacement key & bulb)	£19.98
County/Inter Area Team costs	£272.50

Masters

Prize Money	£660
T-shirts (£564.38 sponsored by L Clough)	£0

Bingo Books	£5
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AEBBA Table hire (after adjustments)	£800
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Catering	£980
Disco	£100
Cottonbuds charge for table decorations	£50
Lighting Dry Hire (148.64 sponsored by L Clough)	£0
NBBL Popup Stand ((£229 sponsored by L Clough)	£0
Trophies	£1,001.72

£5,087.15

Balance at bank (as at 8th September 2019)

£2,111.05

ARE WE FINALLY SEEING SOME FRUIT?

Last year I used my AGM note to you all to set out to all members just how much pride I take in my association with our league and how much we have achieved in recent times. I also took the opportunity to remind everyone how much still there is that can be done. So long as we Positive, Realistic, Innovative, Determined and how we should set our sights on Excellence. I believe passionately that these are the key ingredients that will underpin our future sustainability and success.

In the last twelve months much has happened to reinforce that view.

It is through members new and old talking positively about our game and our league that has ensured we have been able to welcome new players. With family members of existing players or neighbours from along the street joining this year it is clear that we can offer something that people find attractive.

Our determination to safeguard our league has been well demonstrated this year when we risked falling back to ten teams following the departure of St Jimmy's. Instead of taking that blow several committee members and others found a way to attract not one but two new teams!

We are thrilled to welcome the Rose & Crown and The Cock 'B' - I wish you every enjoyment this season and for many to come.

Further, our innovation and our ability to embrace change led to one of the most popular, even and enjoyable Summer League season's in recent





times. A simple rule change led to a very evenly contested series of matches where newcomers saw success in the game immediately. This has been important in supporting their desire to feel a worthy member of the league straight away.

Further developments are on the way - with a new format Quiz Night in the coming weeks!

Players in Northants have always exhibited excellence in both their play and in the spirit in which they do so. We are fortunate to enjoy probably the most harmonious league in the country. There have been no unfortunate incidents to deal with this year which demonstrates just how communal our league has become.

The finest demonstration of excellence over the last year, however, was shown in the outstanding performances of Jason Neal. Not only did he beat the finest players in the country when he landed the Northants Open crown - he then continued his amazing form to become the first player to retain the Premier Division Masters title - dropping only one leg along the way. This led to Jason deservedly topping the year end rankings and landing the County No.1 spot. He will prove equally tough to overcome this year as he delivers outstanding levels of consistency.

Jason is a model member of our league and continues to be an inspiration to all other players.



I should also like to take the opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions of some key members of the league.

First, Michelle - her efforts in organising our vital fundraising events as well as our wonderful Presentation Evening should not be underestimated.

Simon, Stephen and Jason put in untold time in order to ensure our season competitions as well as our Grand Finals, Jim Wilson and Northants Open events are the envy of the Bar Billiards community. Your support to our league is the reason why we continue to buck the trend.

Tony & Jim - the incredible duo - are always willing to give up their time to help the league. In the last year they have covered tables, moved tables, fixed locked tables, contributed important sponsorship and generally guided us forward. The entire league is immensely grateful for your commitment from which we all benefit.

Finally, I'd like to especially thank Sue Thomson. Her long service as League Treasurer and her careful stewardship of our finances has meant that we can look forward positively. Most leagues do not enjoy the robust resources that we are able to rely upon - and that is in no small part down to Sue. I'd like to wish you a fulfilling retirement and my unending thanks for what you have done for our league.

With the commitment we enjoy, with two new teams and a number of new players - I believe this is cast iron evidence that our hard work is starting to bear fruit. It is something to be proud of that we are growing, but I do not want to stop there. I am greedy for more growth and more people to know what it is to be part of our league. I think there is more to come and it will happen if everyone does more thing than they did last year.



If I am elected to serve as Secretary for a further year I will continue my mission to grow the league membership with both more players and venues. I plan significant promotional activity in a bid to increase our reach and our sponsorship intake. In that endeavour I would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

We can all rely upon a fantastic committee and a good number of others will give up their time to deliver wonderful opportunities for you to play this great game and to contribute to our league. My challenge to you is to think a little harder about what you can contribute this year.

Who do you know that may be interested in becoming part of our league - as a player, as a host venue or as a sponsor?

What can you do to help make this year better than last?

It will be fantastic when we come to review this coming season if everybody participated that little bit more - if everyone promoted us to one more person and if you all communicated your ideas to me so that we can take real action.

In the meantime - thanks for being part of it. We are fortunate to have you and be assured, it is appreciated.

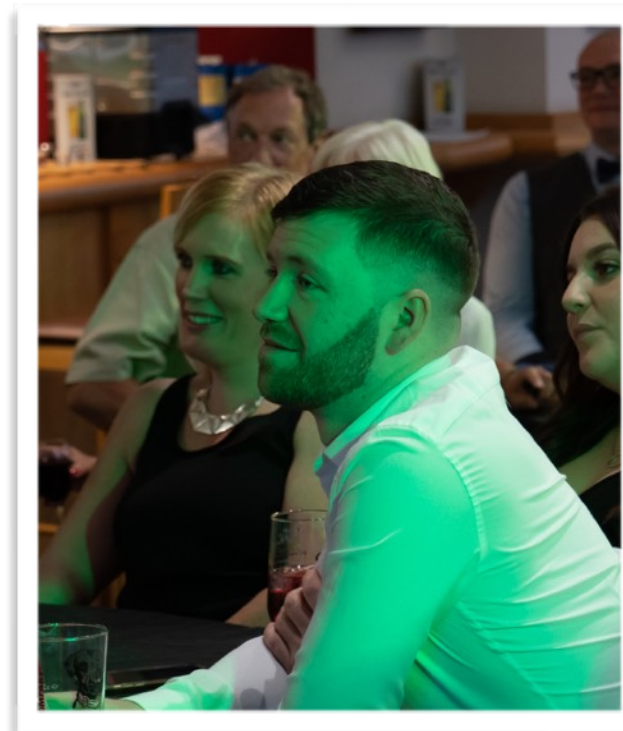
Here's to 2019/20 - I wish you and the league every success!

Lorin



County Captain's Report

HANDING OVER THE BATON



Whilst the time between reports seems to diminish each year, the fact that there is always much to say can only be a good thing!

It is a real thrill that this year we were able to field an all new Inter Area 'D' team - under the fantastic leadership of Mary Leeming. This is yet more evidence that we are working hard to engage our membership and provide everyone with plenty of opportunities to play this wonderful game. So, with four teams, we are once again leading the way both locally and nationally.

For the County team it was a little like so close and yet so far. Given their performance the year before, Northants 'A' were looking for some redemption given another final loss. This year a similar looking team had a point to prove, starting at the All England County Championships. The chance to perform on the big stage against the elite and this year was no different - and with six teams entered, this would make for an even more competitive line up in Division 1. With Sussex 'A', Sussex 'B', Kent, Oxford 'A' and Berkshire 'A' we were in good company and, although confident, once again staying up and in the top division is always the target. There were some great performances on the day from everyone which saw a very close league table with Northants only missing out on the top spot by 1 leg, and somehow finishing 4th!!!



The final standings were as follows:-

Sussex 'B'	20 Points	(4 Wins)
Oxford 'A'	20 Points	(3 Wins)
Kent	19 Points	(Higher Aggregate)
Northants 'A'	19 Points	(Lower Aggregate)
Berkshire 'A'	9 Points	

A good day was had by all and, as the table shows, we are not as far from the elite level as we may sometimes think!

With the absence of the Inter-Area One Day competition this year there is only the NBBA Challenge Cup to report on, however with another bitter defeat in our 4th final in 5 years, confidence was high. That was soon dented when we realised we had been drawn against one of arguably the most under achieving teams in the last few years in the first round - Wallingford 'A'. With 3 England players they are for sure a team not to be taken lightly, and with good reason given that we suffered 4-1 loss away in the first leg! Thankfully a massive performance from everyone at the fortress that is Rushden Conservative Club we secured a 4-1 win and aggregate win to put us in the next round. This time it would be a repeat of the final for the last few years! Last years winners who were now the 'A' Team managed to take 2 legs in Northampton, which no team has done for a long time! Another four legs for them at their home venue meant another loss for Northampton against their new bitter rivals High Wycombe 'A'.

With that in mind, it felt like the right time for me to stand down as Inter Area 'A' Team Captain. In the last few years I have been very privileged to have captained one of the best sides Northampton has had, and our league is now one the elite players do not take lightly, with my proudest moment finally putting our name on the NBBA Challenge Cup!

Competition Secretary Report

COMPETITIONS CELEBRATED



Another successful year in the Northants Bar Billiards Competition department!!!

As always there needs to be losers if there's winners, and we certainly have a few which stand out this year.

Dunc Harris had an incredible season this year in reaching the 2nd Division Individuals, main individuals and the pairs final. Andy and Jason at last claimed back their favourite pairs trophy against Dunc and Norm. Simon managed to retain the Individuals again this year which is now 5 on the trot. Lorin won the Blind Pairs again with his successful partnership of Sean Getty. And last but certainly not least this year saw the return of the Ladies Individuals which Leanne retained I Believe as she won it all them many years ago.....

The Jim Wilson saw a new Winner on its Cup with Lorin Clough at last adding that to his trophy count and goes with the Mixed pairs as Jason and Mary teamed up to make a formidable partnership to win the final. Last years winner Jim Thomson managed to get to the Plate final this year but unfortunately Andy showed he was too strong on this occasion.

With The Masters this year as no different to others people are eager all year to find out their positions and can't wait for it to start. In the top division it was a battle into the end with Lorin incredibly winning every game but Jason pipping him to the top and becoming the first person to retain it.

Again this year we partnered up with the AEBBA to hold the AEBBA 4-Pin Open Championships, it is always a great day with fun, laughter and billiards played by all.

The Northants Open this year was a sell out which is always nice to see, but with some dropouts on the day caused a few headaches for the organisers but they managed to turn it around and made it another great day for all. What a remarkable day as well with one of our own, Jason Neal, beating all the best in the country to lift the trophy.

We must not forget this weekend is very important to our league, so we thank you all for supporting this, we made a tremendous amount of money which was helped by again a record breaking raffle by Michelle.

I'm sorry if I haven't mentioned all the winners but we congratulate you all.

Regards

Simon.



Social Secretary Report

SPEAKING SOCIALY



Quiz night was well attended, however it would be nice to have all teams represented next time.

The support of Race Night was a little disappointing, although it was lovely to see all of Rushden supporting this year. again would be nice to see all teams supporting the event.

Golf day was reportedly a good day out as ever.

Presentation evening was well supported, we had approx 47 attendees. the food received good feedback as normal and the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I am hoping that this years events will be supported as much if not more. It would be nice to see representatives from all teams at the events this year, as the funding of the league effects everyone.

Best wishes,

Michelle

Winter 2019/20

WHO, WHAT, WHERE & WHEN?



With the league well underway - a new League Matrix has been created and is available to view on the league website on the Winter League Full Fixtures & Results page.

For the Winter 2019/20 league season, the teams will be split as follows:

Division 1

Rushden Cons

The Cardigan Arms

Storm

The Cock 'A'

Headlanders

The Red Lion 'A'

Division 2

Foundryman's Cobblers

The Cock 'C'

Foundryman's Saints

Rose & Crown

The Cock 'B'

The Red Lion 'B'

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

	League	Comps	Cups	Masters
23rd Sept	League 1			
30th Sept	League 2			
7th Oct	League 3			
14th Oct	League 4			
21st Oct	League 5			
24th Oct		Indiv KO Rd1		
28th Oct	League 6			
29th Oct	Annual General Meeting			
4th Nov	League 7			
7th Nov		Pairs Rd1		
11th Nov			Team KO R1	
12th Nov	Committee Meeting			
18th Nov	League 8			
22nd Nov	Quiz Night			
25th Nov	League 9			
28th Nov		Women's KO - Groups		
2nd Dec	League 10			
3rd Dec	Committee Meeting			
9th Dec	League 11			
12th Dec		Blind Pairs Rd1		
16th Dec	League 12			
6th Jan			Team KO Q/F	
7th Jan	Committee Meeting			
9th Jan		2nd Div Indiv Rd1		
13th Jan	League 13			
20th Jan	League 14			
27th Jan	League 15			
30th Jan		Women's KO - Groups		
3rd Feb	League 16			
7th Feb	Race Night			

	League	Comps	Cups	Masters
10th Feb	League 17			
11th Feb	Committee Meeting			
13th Feb		Blind Pairs Q/F		
17th Feb	League 18			
24th Feb	League 19			
27th Feb		Pairs Rd2		
2nd Mar	League 20			
3rd Mar	Committee Meeting			
5th Mar		Indiv KO Rd2		
9th Mar	League 21			
12th Mar		Women's KO - Groups		
16th Mar	League 22			
19th Mar		2nd Div Indiv Q/F		
23rd Mar			Team KO S/F	
30th Mar				Masters 1
2nd Apr		Pairs KO Q/F		
6th Apr				Masters 2
9th Apr		Women's KO - Groups		
16th Apr		Indiv KO Q/F		
20th Apr				Masters 3
23rd Apr		Women's KO - Groups		
27th Apr				Masters 4
2nd May	Grand Finals Day			
3rd May	Jim Wilson Events			
4th May				Masters 5
11th May				Masters 6
12th May	Committee Meeting			
18th May				Masters 7
1st June	Summer 1			

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Our league committee continues to strive for improvement as we discuss ways in which we can gain more interest from venues and players alike. Every member of the committee is highly valued for their commitment, their time and their contribution.

All members of the league are invited to stand for election to serve on the committee although we intend to keep the number relatively stable.

Sadly, Sue Thomson will be standing down as League Treasurer and Stephen Coleman from his role as Inter Area 'A' team captain. He will continue, if elected, as County Captain. Election for Sue's replacement will be held at the AGM and selection of Inter Area Squads - and perhaps team captains - will also be conducted during the meeting.

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

Proposal Accepted: Y/N

Election of Treasurer

Nominations have been received as follows:

Martin Atwill - Proposed by Ted Dunkley; Seconded by Lorin Clough

Votes for:

Votes against:

Abstained:

New members voted onto the committee as follows:



Selection of Inter Area Squads:

	'A' Team	'B' Team	'C' Team	'D' Team
Captain				
Player 2				
Player 3				
Player 4				
Player 5				
Player 6				
Player 7				
Player 8				
Player 9				
Player 10				

PROPOSALS TO THE AGM

PROPOSAL 1 - Addition to Rule 107

Qualification shall also be based on a factor calculated from the respective ranking of each player in each qualifying game. This would mean that a win against a higher ranked player should carry more weight than a win against a lower ranked player. The precise method of calculating this is to be determined by the League Secretary.

Proposed by: Martin Atwill

Seconded by: Ted Dunkley

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 2 - No changes required

I think the league runs well and propose we leave as it is, it works very well!

Proposed by: Jim Thomson

Seconded by: Dave Sadler

Votes for:

Votes against:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS

AOB items discussed:

**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 strive
to do all we can to make it better than ever!**



