

Northants Bar Billiards

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2021



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It seems like a very long time since we were able to get together to review, discuss and plan our league activity. Much has changed because of the global pandemic and our league will have been impacted - although we cannot be sure at this stage to what extent.

The AGM is our best opportunity to listen to as many voices as possible - to hear ideas and suggestions and to ensure our committee is as vibrant, energised and representative as possible.

This year's AGM is perhaps the most important for our league in many a year - we have to build our way back from over a year of being mothballed. We have to re-engage with our membership, get everyone back into the habit of playing again and recapture the momentum and energy we had a couple of years ago.

We also need to replace some committee members who shall be standing down. I'd like to thank everyone who serves on the committee - your efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you to all players and supporters of the league - without you there is no league - and we need you more now than ever as we look forward to a brighter future.

All the very best to you all for the resumption of Northants Bar Billiards - we should be excited and ready to embrace the challenges, I am certain we will emerge stronger than ever.

Tony Britten



Annual General Meeting 2021

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes from AGM 2019
- Resources & Financial Management
- We are ready to bounce back!
- Committee Elections
- Proposals to AGM
- Any Other Business





APOLOGIES

The meeting was opened by Tony at 20:05.

Michelle Coleman, Karen Tipping

MINUTES FROM A.G.M 2019

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were published on the Northants Bar Billiards League website and are available for review at this address:

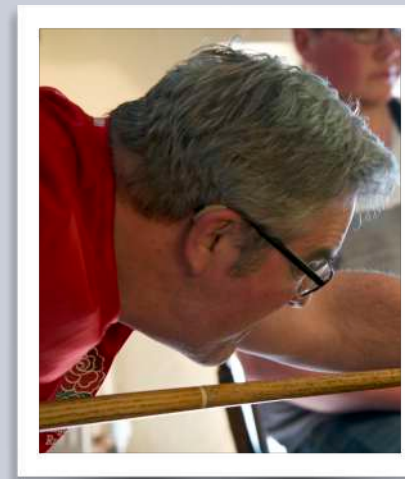
<http://northantsbarbilliards.com/committee/>

It is the view of the League Secretary and the League Committee that they represent an accurate account of the 2019 Annual General Meeting and should be adopted into permanent record as such.

Minutes Accepted: The 2019 AGM Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting and adopted.

Treasurer's Report

RESOURCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT



Covid 19 has caused inactivity for the League for almost 15 months, and as a result there has been little financial activity since I produced accounts at the end of August 2020. A statement is attached and this should therefore be read in conjunction with the statement dated 31 August 2020 and my report of the same date.

When I undertook this role I emphasised that I would do so in the short term to assist the League and did not want my tenure to extend beyond 2 years. It is time for someone else to take on the role and drive the League forward and I am therefore not available for nomination for this role. I will of course give the new incumbent any assistance I can to ensure a smooth transfer.

I had hoped that it would be possible to start up a fund raising lottery but of course with us being unable to meet and play our favourite pub game this has not happened. I hope however that the new Treasurer will be able to push ahead with and generate funds that will allow us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the league which is due shortly.

In concluding, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their help and support. In particular I would like to formally acknowledge the role that Lorin has played in promoting our game. He will be difficult to replace as Secretary but we must move forward, be open to new ideas, and not dwell in the past. The next few years will bring great challenges for this League as it tries to overcome the damage that Covid 19 has done to our society. We must all face those challenges with renewed vigour and determination.

Martin Atwill - League Treasurer

31 May 2021

NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS ACCOUNTS

1/9/2020 TO 31/5/2021

Opening Balance 31st August 2020		£3,377.06	
Income		Expenditure	
Donation - L Clough	£50	Lottery Licence	£20
	£50.00		£20.00
Balance at bank (as at 31st May 2021)		£3,407.06	

Both statements of accounts and the accompanying summaries were set out and discussed. They were unanimously accepted in full.

THE COVID-19 IMBALANCE IN OUR FINANCES

I have produced a financial statement for the year ending 31 August 2020 which shows a disproportionately healthy position for the League due to the effects of Covid-19.

The pandemic has caused the cancellation of many events, such as Finals Day, the Jim Wilson event and the national events that we would normally hold. Also, because the league season has yet to be completed, and the various competitions have been cancelled, no trophies have been purchased, and there hasn't been a presentation event to subsidise.

The current balance in the bank includes £156.00 in fees for the Northants Open which may have to be returned in due course. You will also notice expenditure on a Lottery Licence which was purchased so that we could run a fund-raising lottery to assist with generating funds for the 50th anniversary of the League which will soon be upon us.

You will notice the Charity donation of £100.00. It was agreed by the Committee that we should recognise the very sad passing of our friend Bonso by making a donation to the charity he had nominated.

There is only one outstanding matter from the 2019/2020 season - that being the outstanding team fee for Cock B.

I am happy to continue to serve the League as Treasurer until there can be a formal AGM.

Martin Atwill

2 September 2020.



NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS ACCOUNTS

31/8/2019 TO 1/9/2020

Opening Balance 5th August 20178

£2,947.20

Income

League

Team Fees £660.00

Social & Other

Bingo Night £167.00

Quiz Night £50.00

Race Night £370.00

Table Income

Rose & Crown £78.00

Northants Open

Entry Fees £156.00

£1,481.00

Expenditure

Quiz Night Prize £25.00

Inter-Area Fees £60.00

Lottery Licence £40.00

Repairs to trophy £20.00

Charity Donation £100.00

£245.00

Balance from previous year

£2,141.05

Correction to agree bank statement

£ 0.01

Total Income

£1,481.00

Less total expenditure

£ 245.00

Current balance at bank

£3,377.06

Secretary's Report

WE ARE READY TO BOUNCE BACK.....AND THEN SOME!!



Dear friends

I have routinely used this opportunity to review our activity, performance against objectives and overall state of the league to remind everyone of just how far we have come in the last few years, but also to set the dials for the road ahead, to challenge you all to greater levels of participation and commitment which will always underpin the league's growth and security. This year is no exception, although it will be a little different for me given my somewhat unplanned departure from the league I love. It will not be my time to drive the next stage of development but others, and I couldn't be more excited about your future.

It is always a worthwhile exercise to review what has and has not changed in order to drive the direction forward. It serves to remind us of the building blocks upon which we can build a robust plan and execute it with confidence.

In recent weeks I have taken some time to think carefully about what has changed in our league over recent years and the underlying ingredients that has made this possible. It serves the league well to analyse our strengths and utilise them to enable the execution of ambitious plans for growth and stability.

I am reminded of when I sought election to the role league secretary some years ago. I had already spent several months thinking carefully about the Northants League identity, the constituent parts of the league that make up a far greater and more impressive whole. I tried to understand what was in place already and therefore upon which elements we could build to not only arrest the decline of participation we had seen in our league, but to grow, develop and change.

The ingredients that were present almost eight years ago are still at the centre of our league today and it is the hallmark of our league - no, it is our identity.

Our commitment to Northants Bar Billiards is an essential element of why we have succeeded in recent times and will underpin the leagues efforts to thrive well into the future. The league benefits from a very high percentage of members willing to participate at every level in what we do. Our matches, our competitions, our social events, our presentation evening and our committee. Where Northants Bar Billiards differs fundamentally from leagues that are failing is in that commitment from the membership. It has enabled the league to strive for development and growth with the confidence that it has the support of everyone. Support that I hope has been rewarded and recognised, valued and acknowledged in the provision of better competitions, better social events and more opportunities to play and be a part of our offering.

The energy and passion of the Northants League membership is unique in the country and should be cherished, protected and encouraged at every stage. I am in no doubt that this has underpinned how our league has grown while others have declined. How our league has become closer while others have split. Why our league is the envy of every other in the country because of our relentless pursuit of growth, engagement and improvement.





It is because of the people we have in our league and the way we operate that makes us an attractive proposition for new players and new host venues. Elsewhere they have turned away from self assessment, turned away from internal analysis and have not sought to understand why they need to adapt. As such they have seen their membership decline. If you do not change, if you stand still, the result will always be that you fall behind. I am thrilled that within the DNA of Northants Bar Billiards is an appetite to challenge, a hunger to try and a commitment to always look forward.

Three years ago I used my opportunity in the AGM documentation to set out the pride I have felt in representing the Northants League. This is

a pride that has not diminished in any way but has been magnified by what I have seen reflected back. I have seen a growing pride in our league at every level. It stands to reason that when you genuinely and respectfully consider everyone in the league, and create opportunities for everyone to succeed in their own way, you gain their trust and their support. We have done this and the reward has been their pride in our offering. A decade ago, too often I heard league members speak disparagingly about the game and our league when a person who did not know Bar Billiards asked about it. Now, I know that everyone, without exception, willingly speaks with pride about our league and encourages growth and greater participation. It fills every member of the committee with immense pride that you do so - please do not ever stop. The league's success is down to you.



One of the other elements that I considered at the beginning was rewarding the players for being part of what we do. Creating events that do not serve only the elite players but that create an environment and a drive for improvement but offer equal reward at every level. I am proud that the league embraced and pushed forward with the Northants Masters. It has become a popular competition because of its purity and clear recognition of all of the league membership. To retain a strong and committed league membership it is essential that the league continues to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy being part of the offering. The feedback and participation in events like The Masters will continue to direct the committee to create even better opportunities for all players.

As the committee starts to assess the impact of the global pandemic on our league, and there will be many things that will have set the league back a step or two, it will be important for everyone to posture the right attitude in driving the way forward. Your league does not have to be a victim of the times but moreover can benefit from the changes and opportunities that it creates. More pubs will want to secure regular midweek revenue. More people will want to participate in team games and social events. The league must be there to catch all of these venues and potential players alike. It is essential to **never stand still** and **always look for growth**. The league's future will remain secure when every decision taken places those values at the centre.



Be proactive and reach out. It needs to be a daily and weekly activity to reach out to new players and venues. It is not the task of one person, it is the task of everyone. You can recruit new Red Lion's and Foundryman's Arms'. You can recruit new Dunc Harris and Andy Jarvie's but it must happen every day. If you have 100% confidence in your offering, it is easy to sell it. Hearing twenty 'no's is nothing compared to the first 'yes'. The next two years will be a fantastic opportunity to grow so use it well.

Meanwhile it will be essential to re-engage and re-energise the league membership. Getting people back into the habit of playing and participating will not come easy and will need to be earned. Prove to members what they are missing by listening, adapting and driving positive change. Embracing change is not an attitude but a state of mind - Northants Bar Billiards is the best in the country in this endeavour. The entire league membership deserves to feel rightly proud of how we lead the way in pioneering the growth of our game. This will be tested in the next year or two - but I know that, with the ingredients we have at our disposal, it is inevitable that you will strive to even greater heights.

Perhaps rather selfishly, I'd like to acknowledge the tremendous support and encouragement I have received whilst a part of your league. None more so than Tony and Ted - I cannot tell you how much I have valued your counsel. Simon, Stephen, Gary, Michelle, Mary, Keith, Jim and Jason and all committee members - you know what we have achieved together. I cherish every part of our journey. My teammates at The Fox, The Exiles and The Red Lion and my pairs partners - thank you, I will miss you more than I can express.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your friendship, I feel a sense of privilege and honour that I simply cannot put into words. I know that even as I depart the league, I will always feel a strong affiliation to all that you achieve from this point and I wish you and the league every success in the future.

You have everything that you need to not only weather this current storm, but to thrive and grow long into the future.

You have got this!

Best wishes and so many thanks to you all for having us.

Lorin, Rachel and Meg xx



Winter 2021/22

WHO, WHAT, WHERE & WHEN?



Plans for the resumption of our league are well underway and it is anticipated - COVID restrictions permitting - that matches will commence from Monday 21st June. Teams and players have already started to register and this is both heartening and exciting. We are determined to be back better than ever and to reward your patience.

It is anticipated that, subject to the number of teams, that the remainder of the year will look a little like this:

June 2021	Summer League
July 2021	Summer League
August 2021	Summer League
September 2021	Summer League ends / Winter League commences

A full calendar of scheduled matches and events will be published on the league website in due course.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Our league committee is committed to further the interests of the league for the benefit everyone. All members are very welcome to stand for election to the committee as the league values the input that different voices and perspectives can bring. Sadly, Martin Atwill and Lorin Clough will be leaving the posts of Treasurer and Secretary respectively and so elections for these positions will take place at the AGM. Both will assist their successors with a structured handover in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities. 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.

Proposed: Lorin Clough

Seconded: Gary Tipping

Votes for: Unanimously accepted.

Election of Treasurer

Nominations have not been received and will be sought at the AGM:

Nomination: Tony Britten

Proposed by: Lorin Clough

Seconded: Mary Leeming

Votes for: Unanimously accepted

Election of Secretary

Nominations have not been received and will be sought at the AGM:

Lorin set out the key functions of the role but no volunteers or nominations were received at the AGM. As such the post shall remain vacant.

Lorin agreed to publish the the elements of the role and split the tasks into more manageable roles with better definition. Lorin shall also seek to identify and agree nominees prior to his departure.

New members voted onto the committee as follows:

Nomination: Alan Taylor

Proposed: Lorin Clough

Seconded: Gary Tipping

Votes for: Unanimously accepted



PROPOSALS TO THE AGM

No proposals were received for Rule changes ahead of the AGM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS

AOB items discussed:

Northants Open 2021 - The dates of the Open weekend were confirmed as 28-29th August and the venue also confirmed for The Cock.

Summer League - Lorin updated on the number of teams and confirmed the likely programme. Stephen advised that the former-Cardigan team are still seeking a venue but will enter. Jim anticipated two additional teams from The Cock.

Lorin advised that full rules and safety protocols will be update prior to commencement.

Marin update don the Headlands and that they will not submit a Summer League team but may still be a venue for the Winter League.

Thanks to outgoing officers: Stephen expressed thanks on behalf of the committee to this standing down form roles.

Meeting closed - 20:45

**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 pull
together and drive a positive future for our league!**



