

## AGM minutes 16th September 2024 @ Britannia Club

Present: Tony B, Mary L, Jason N, Dawn D, Ian Jellis, Martin A, Kevin A, Jim T, John T, Stuart G, Alan Taylor, Gary T, Leigh H, Darren W, Dunc H, Karl B, Mick H, Sandy T, Keith T, Phil Y

Apologies: Rob Burton

Chair: Opened meeting at 20.00 and welcomed and thanked all for attending.

The minutes from the previous AGM were read and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer: Copy of accounts attached. Current balance is £3,454.08 . Presentation income ticket sales is included, but no expenses for the food, disco etc. as yet.

Committee Elections: Unfortunately, no new nominations for officer posts have been received.

Chair: Tony - proposed Jim, seconded Gary -carried unanimously

Vice Chair: Jim – proposed Tony, seconded Mary - carried unanimously

Treasurer: Tony -proposed Mary, seconded Jim

Secretary: Mary – proposed Dunc, Seconded Ian J - carried unanimously

Competition Sec: As this post is vacant, Lorin has offered to pick up the duties. Proposed by Dunc, seconded by Dawn - carried unanimously

Social Sec: Michelle –proposed Dunc, seconded Alan - carried unanimously

County Captain: This was rather difficult. The post is vacant, although Jason will complete remaining fixtures as captain. However as most of the Carlsberg team are stepping down as players, it leaves the county with no current A team thus making it unlikely that we will enter an A team into inter area league. We do have a county B team still, so Jim will act as county captain but with the proviso that it will be a B team only at this point in time.

Proposed by Mary, seconded Martin - carried unanimously

Data and Stats: Lorin will continue managing this

General Committee: Delighted that some new faces have stepped forward to serve on the committee

Stew G, Dawn, and Keith will continue as general members.

Dunc Harris – proposed Mary, seconded Tony,

Kevin Ayres – proposed Martin, seconded Dawn

Darren Woodward – proposed Dunc, seconded Gary

Martin Atwill- proposed Mick H, seconded Dunc. All were block voted unanimously

**Proposals:** 1.New addition to rules for Masters Tournament. **Proposed By:** Ian Underwood. **Seconded by:** Colin Underwood

With the current rules making it possible for a player who has won all of his matches against all opponents to still come second in the division standings, would the committee consider awarding 2 points for a match win plus 1 point for each leg won. This would resolve the anomaly.

2. Alternate approach to address issue identified in Proposal 1 above by amending rule 127. **Proposed by:** Lorin Clough. **Seconded by:** Gary Tipping

In the event of a tie, the following shall be the order of precedence:

- a) Match wins.
- b) Number of leg wins.
- c) Highest aggregate score.
- d) Head to Head.

Proposals 1 and 2 were discussed together/ The amendment ,2 – was carried unanimously.

3. To increase participation and attendance at the AGM by presenting our annual trophies and awards during the AGM meeting. **Proposed by:** Kevin Ayres. **Seconded by:** Dave Evans

Over the past decade the number of teams being represented on the committee and also in attendance at the AGM has declined significantly. There is now a high reliance on a small number of individuals to run the league and this is not sustainable in the long term. Historically team captains and players attended committee meetings to find out league positions, results and information that is now readily available from the website & WhatsApp etc... The need to attend a meeting has now disappeared for a majority of players. It is unrealistic to expect players to attend monthly meetings on a regular basis when they have no real need to do so. It does though remain crucial that everyone's views are reflected at least once a year at the AGM, where any major decisions are made.

This problem is not just specific to Northants Bar Billiards, many other groups and organisations have been effected in a similar way. To overcome this several have linked the AGM to their annual awards evening, this has increased attendance at the AGM significantly, as those that have won an award (and their team mates) generally want to attend.

I understand that many people enjoy the current presentation evening, there is no reason why we could not have an end of season ball / party (or similar), but perhaps instead of guests enduring a presentation evening they could enjoy an alternative function for example a charity raffle or auction instead, the options here would be endless. We would be more likely to get new and more people attending an event like this than would attend a standard presentation evening.

Discussed at length however feeling was that this would be something that should be considered by the committee at a later date and put out to the membership to gauge general feeling.

Vote: 4 in favour, 16 against, 1 abstention

4. AGM scheduling. **Proposed by:** Kevin Ayres. **Seconded by:** Dave Evans

If the above proposal was accepted then I would secondly propose that the AGM date is moved to the end of the season, rather than the start of the new season.

Not discussed or voted on due to rejection of previous proposal

5. Condition of Entry for teams into league competitions. **Proposed by:** Tony Britten.  
**Seconded by:** Leanne Tyson

Each team, as a condition of entry, shall nominate a member of the team to attend league committee meetings. The management posts of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Competition Secretary, Social Secretary, County Captain will be filled as per the current system.

This generated a lot of discussion but an amendment was proposed to remove "as a condition of entry". Teams should endeavour to have a representative at some, if not all, meetings - this can be a different person each attendance.

Amendment was accepted and voted on. Carried by majority -1 against, 1 abstention

6. Addressing 'no-shows' for scheduled matches. **Proposed By:** Jim Thomson. **Seconded by:** Dawn Dunkley

If a player fails to turn up for any competition match they shall be ineligible for that competition the following season .... unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be adjudged by the committee.

Point was raised that some members have difficulty in accessing information re fixtures on the website. Any player with this problem may contact a committee member who will try to ensure access. However, it is expected that captains will disseminate information to their players, and if a representative from every team

attends the committee meetings, this will be another source of information. It was noted, however, that players must also accept responsibility for finding out information relevant to them.

Proposal carried by majority. 1 abstention

7. Removal of Bonus points for match wins in league games. **Proposed By:** Dawn Dunkley.

**Seconded by:**Michelle Coleman

Dawn offered amendment to this proposal that the bonus point not be awarded when the 4 man rule has been used. Rejected unanimously.

A.O.B.

Clarification of 4 man rule was then asked for. Each player in the team may play 4 man twice. However, this can be added to, by consultation with the committee, for teams that only have 4 players. Each player must play once before any other player is drawn to play as fifth man.

Member then asked whether the Jim Wison would continue. Hopefully, but it needs to be FULLY supported by the league membership.

Secretary then reminded everyone that the WHATSAPP chat was designed for the dissemination of league information, or for queries about league matters. Latterly, it has been used as a forum for complaints, inappropriate comments and, on occasion, offensive comments about league members/ committee.

This was not what it was intended for! If members have an issue it is to be sent directly to the committee. Any further posts that do not comply with this will be removed. It was remarked that these sorts of comments have contributed to a lack of member motivation and the loss of some very valuable members. However, it was reassuring to see the support for this AGM, the willingness for new people to serve on the committee and a general feeling of optimism that we can move forward.

Grateful thanks were extended to those committee members who have stepped down after years of brilliant service to the league.. namely Simon Coleman, Stephen Coleman, Jason Neal and Leanne Tyson. We are extremely sad that they will not be participating in our league. Perhaps, in the future, they may feel able to return and would be very welcome. In the meantime we wish them all the very best.

Kevin asked that serious consideration be given to Adam Gunn's offer to provide recruitment posters to help generate new interest. This was adjudged to be a lovely idea and thanked Adam for his suggestion. The committee will follow this up.

The Chair again thanked everyone for such a great turnout. Meeting closed at 21.20