

NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS LEAGUE

Established 1972

MEMBER OF THE ALL ENGLAND BAR BILLIARD ASSOCIATION

2026 AGM Minutes

10th September 2026 8pm @ Britannia WMC

Attendees: Tony Britten (TB), Kevin Ayres (KA), Martin Atwill (MA), Stewart Greenaway (SG), Jim Thomson (JT), Ian Underwood (IU), Damian Coates (DC), Ian Jellis (IJ)

Apologies: Duncan Harris, Colin Underwood, Gary Tipping, Keith Thomson, Mary Leeming, Mick Haynes

1. Meeting Opened @ 8.05pm.

Minutes of previous AGM approved & seconded – JT/KA

2. Chairman's Report

Tony (TB) confirmed that this would be his final AGM as Chairman as he was stepping down after 15 years in the role. At this point all those at the meeting thanked and congratulated Tony on his dedication and the exceptional support he has given the league over such a long period of time as Chairman. Tony confirmed that he had enjoyed fulfilling the role, but that it was now someone else's turn to have a go. Tony also confirmed that he would remain on the committee (as Treasurer / Social Secretary) and support whoever was to take over.

Tony also noted that the 2025/26 season has been enjoyable and successful.

3. Treasurer Report

Tony (TB) supplied the annual accounts for the committee to review – These were approved by SG/MA. (See attachments for the annual accounts).

End of Year Bank Balance £3,647.82 – Note that the cost of trophies awarded at the 2025/26 Presentation Evening remain outstanding and will reduce this balance – awaiting invoice from supplier.

4. Competition Secretary Report

Martin (MA) confirmed that the season was successful with the new 3 league format working well. The leagues had mostly been competitive, and the individual, pairs and team cup competitions had run well without any significant problems. (See final league tables in the attachments.) Martin then confirmed that everything was ready for the upcoming 2026/27 season and that he was really looking forward to it. The 2026/27 season will follow a similar format to the previous season starting on 5th October 2026.

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5. Secretary Report

Kevin (KA) confirmed that he had enjoyed the season and that he was grateful for the support of the league in completing the secretary role for the first time. During the 2025/26 season there had been 58 different players (who have played at least 1 match). The aim for the 2026/27 season will be to increase the number of players. Although we have lost a venue (Carlsberg Club) we have gained Earls Barton Silver Band Club so the number of teams and venues will remain constant for the new season.

6. County Captain Report

This position has been vacant for a majority of the season and no matches have been played. Towards the end of the season Colin Underwood volunteered to lead a team in the inter area 7 a side 2nd division championship, this is due to take place later in September.

7. Committee Elections for 2026/27 Season.

- a. **Chairman – Ian Underwood Elected as role**
- b. **Vice Chairman – Duncan Harris to continue in role**
- c. **Treasurer – Tony Britten to continue in role**
- d. **Data & Statistics Office – Colin Underwood to continue in role**
- e. **General / League Secretary – Kevin Ayres to continue in role**
- f. **Competition Secretary – Martin Atwill to continue in role**
- g. **Social Secretary – Tony Britten Elected to role**
- h. **County Captain – Colin Underwood to continue in role**
- i. **Other Committee Members – Jim Thomson & Stewart Greenaway to continue in roles + Damian Coates & Ian Jellis Elected to the committee.**

8. Proposals

- a. End of Deason Playoffs
- b. Amendment of Rules Document
- c. Toss of Coin to decide start of individual / Pairs Competitions

All Proposals were voted on and passed by the committee. For details of the proposals please see attachments.

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9. Any Other Business

- a. Moving Tables – TB/JT have recently moved the Carlsberg table and they confirmed that they really need some additional help moving the tables going forward. TB confirmed that there are 2 tables currently stored in his business premises that could be used if we gain a new venue³, though volunteers would be required to move and set up the table.
- b. Trophy Inventory – MA questioned whether we had a trophy inventory and ultimately suggested that one should be created. MA volunteered to start this process, which should include an evaluation of each trophy to determine if any repairs were required.

10. Meeting Close 8:45pm

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NORTHANTS BAR BILLIARDS ACCOUNTS		9 SEPTEMBER 2025 to 7 SEPTEMBER 2026	
		income	expenditure
as financial statement 9 September 2025		£ 2,275.97	
2025			
10/09/2025	Stephen Foster WL SUB	£ 70.00	
03/10/2025	Jim Thomson WL SUB	£ 70.00	
09/10/2025	Mick Haynes WL SUB	£ 70.00	
09/10/2025	Alan Taylor WL SUB	£ 70.00	
28/10/2025	Dunc Harris WL SUB	£ 70.00	
28/10/2025	Sandra Thomson WL SUB	£ 70.00	
28/10/2025	Stew Greenaway WL SUB	£ 70.00	
30/10/2025	Tony Britten TABLE TAKINGS	£ 69.00	
13/11/2025	Easy Fundraising	£ 20.83	
18/12/2025	Tony Britten TABLE TAKINGS	£ 70.00	
	County Engravers (£637) (see entry last year)		
18/07/1905			
09/01/2026	Donation - Jim Thomson and Tony Britten	£ 580.00	
28/01/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
30/01/2026	TABLE TAKINGS	£ 55.00	
16/02/2026	E Underwood RACE NIGHT	£ 20.00	
17/02/2026	S Foster RACE NIGHT	£ 50.00	
23/02/2026	County Engravers		£ 18.00
27/02/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
06/03/2026	I Underwood RACE NIGHT	£ 20.00	
12/03/2026	M Atwill RACE NIGHT	£ 50.00	
13/03/2026	D Harris RACE NIGHT	£ 100.00	
13/03/2026	D Harris CASH OUT		£ 70.00
13/03/2026	K Ayres RACE NIGHT	£ 20.00	
13/03/2026	A J Britten RACE NIGHT	£ 285.00	
27/03/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
20/04/2026	Tony Britten TABLE TAKINGS BRIT	£ 60.00	
23/04/2026	Tony Britten TABLE TAKINGS C/BG	£ 51.00	
27/04/2026	E Underwood MASTERS	£ 20.00	
27/04/2026	K Ayres MASTERS DIV 1	£ 60.00	
28/04/2026	K Ayres MASTERS DIV 5	£ 20.00	
28/04/2026	J Thomson CLOTH PAYMENT		£ 89.98
28/04/2026	J Thomson SUBS	£ 11.00	
28/04/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
29/04/2026	M Atwill	£ 40.00	
11/05/2026	A J Britten MASTERS	£ 9.00	
12/05/2026	M Leeming MASTERS (Mary, Sandy DIV 2)	£ 30.00	
13/05/2026	S Greenaway MASTERS SUBS	£ 40.00	
18/05/2026	M Leeming MASTERS (Dunc)	£ 10.00	
28/05/2026	I Underwood MASTERS DIV 3	£ 60.00	
28/03/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
26/06/2026	Presentation Night FOOD DEPOSIT		£ 160.00
		£ 4,516.80	£ 352.98

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		£ 4,516.80	£ 352.98
26/06/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
13/07/2026	Presentation Night FOOD BALANCE		£ 240.00
16/07/2026	Presentation Night PRIZE MONEY (MA)		£ 500.00
17/07/2026	Presentation Night RAFFLE Martyn Neal	£ 5.00	
23/07/2026	Presentation Night RAFFLE	£ 115.00	
28/07/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
20/08/2026	Headlands table	£ 43.00	
28/08/2026	Bank Account Fee		£ 3.00
07/09/2026	Headlander Winter League	£ 70.00	
		£ 4,749.80	£ 1,101.98
		-£ 1,101.98	
		£ 3,647.82	
	NB the trophy account is still awaited and not included		
	Comparable balance last year £2,275.97		

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Division 1 League Table							
	P	W	L	D	Legs Won	Legs Lost	Points
Rushden Cons	16	16	0	0	68	12	84
The Cock A	16	11	5	0	47	33	58
Headlands Storm	16	9	7	0	46	34	55
Division 2 League Table							
	P	W	L	D	Legs Won	Legs Lost	Points
Britannia	16	12	4	0	46	34	58
Headlanders	16	8	8	0	43	37	51
Snooty Exiles	16	4	12	0	28	52	32
Division 3 League Table							
	P	W	L	D	Legs Won	Legs Lost	Points
Carlsberg Cobblers	16	7	9	0	37	43	44
Saints	16	4	12	0	24	56	28
Cock C	16	1	15	0	21	59	22

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Proposal 1:

Proposal: Introduction of End-of-Season Divisional Play-off Matches

Proposed by: Kevin Ayres

Seconded by: Matt Thomson

Background

Following the reduction of teams in the League over the past few seasons, the Winter League now comprises 9 teams, organised into 3 divisions of 3. Under the current fixture list, each team plays 16 league matches per season — 2 fewer than the 18 played when there were 10 teams.

Proposal

That, following completion of the regular season fixtures, each team play a further 4 matches (2 home, 2 away) against the other two teams in its own division. These matches shall count as full league matches in every respect — added to the season's league table and taken into account for promotion and relegation (Rule 50) in the same way as any other fixture.

Suggested rule wording (for insertion after Rule 59):

"59A. At the conclusion of the regular Winter League season, each team shall play a further four matches (two home and two away) against the other teams within its own division. These matches shall be played under the same rules and points system as set out in Rules 54–59, and shall count as full League matches for all purposes, including the season's league table and promotion and relegation under Rule 50.

Effect

Restores the season to 20 matches per team (16 + 4), extending the season.

Adds meaningful, competitive fixtures against direct rivals in the closing weeks, with promotion and relegation genuinely on the line right to the end.

Offsets the loss of fixtures caused by the reduced team count.

Could create exciting, close, winner takes all matches at the end of the season.

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Proposal 2:

Proposal: To amend the Rules & Constitution document to reflect what is actually currently taking place.

Proposed by: Kevin Ayres

Seconded by: Martin Aitwell

Background

The document currently in use on the website is out of date with items like the Masters and the Summer League not reflecting what is actually taking place. This proposal is to amend the document to bring it up to date so that it reflects what we are currently doing.

Proposed Changes

1. Front matter and officers

Rule (2026)	Change
Cover	Dated September 2026 in place of September 2025; the officers' heading now reads "Officers of the league 2026/27".
Cover	The Honorary President entry now reads "HONORARY PRESIDENT IN MEMORIAM — Ted Dunkley" in place of "HONORARY PRESIDENT — Ted Dunkley (decd)".
Cover	The full committee is now listed on the cover, where the 2025 edition named no post-holders: Vice Chairman — Dunc Harris · Treasurer — Tony Britten · Secretary — Kevin Ayres · Competition Secretary — Martin Atwill · Data & Statistics Officer — Colin Underwood · County Captain — Colin Underwood · Committee Members — Jim Thomson, Stewart Greenaway, Ian Underwood. Chairman, Social Secretary and the fourth committee member are shown as "???" and will need completing before publication.
End	A closing line has been added: "ALL RULES ARE BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE".

2. Officers' roles and responsibilities (rule 6)

The Communications Officer no longer appears anywhere in the document; the role's duties have passed to the Data & Statistics Officer.

Rule (2026)	Change
6(d)	League Secretary. Meeting minutes are now forwarded to the Data & Statistics Officer for publication on the NBBL Website — previously "forwarded to the Communications Officer for publication".
6(e)	Competition Secretary. Draws and results are now provided to the Data & Statistics Officer only; the reference to the Communications Officer has been removed.

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Rule (2026)	Change
	A new duty has been added: "The Competition Secretary is responsible for making sure that adequate publication of fixtures is made so that every player should be informed of upcoming fixtures."
6(h)	Data & Statistics Officer. A new sentence has been added: "The role also encompasses control of the NBBL website, where the Data & Statistics Officer is responsible for all website posts."

3. Committee powers

Rule (2026)	Change
10	NEW RULE. "The Committee shall have the right to sanction any player whose behaviour is such that it causes distress to any opponent, or i such that it is considered likely to bring the League into disrepute, or if any player should threaten or occasion injury to an opponent. The sanctions may range from formal reprimands to exclusion from the League, and the decision of the Committee shall be final."
14	<i>(was rule 12)</i> The committee now meets "at approximately bi-monthly intervals during the season " — previously "at approximately monthly intervals".

4. Annual General Meeting

Rule (2026)	Change
17	<i>(was rule 15)</i> The sentence "Proxy votes shall not be valid in the election of committee officers and AGM proposals", previously a separate unnumbered paragraph, is now part of the rule. The wording is unchanged.
22	<i>(was rule 20)</i> A report of business transacted at all meetings must now be published within 14 days of the meeting — previously "seven days".

5. Awards

Rule (2026)	Change
26	<i>(was rule 24)</i> Personal trophies and medals are now supplied to winners only ; "and runners-up" has been deleted.
28	<i>(was rule 26)</i> On dissolution of the league, the disposal of properties and assets is now qualified: " with all proceeds donated to charity decided upon by the Committee ".
30	<i>(was rule 28)</i> Highest Away Score and Highest Away Break prizes are awarded "for the top performances in each division".
31	<i>(was rule 29)</i> Qualifying matches have been redefined: • Individual Knockout matches now qualify throughout — the exclusion of semi-finals and finals has been removed. • Division 2 Individual Knockout matches now qualify only where "played on neutral league tables"; the exclusion of semi-finals and finals has likewise been removed.
32	<i>(was rule 30)</i> Division 1 players may not submit an eligible score or break when playing a team or player from Division 3 — previously "a lower division".

6. General conditions

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Rule (2026)	Change
53	<i>(was rule 51)</i> Match scorecards are now made available to the Data & Statistics Officer for publication on the League Website — previously the Communications Officer.
55	<i>(was rule 53)</i> Two changes to competition venues and dates: • NEW: "Where all players concerned have the same home venue then the match could be played on the home table. This must be agreed with all parties and the competition secretary prior to taking place." • Games must now be played "on or before the allocated date unless sanctioned by the Competition Secretary" — previously "within one week of allocated date or at any time before the allocated date".

7. League matches (Winter)

Rule (2026)	Change
62 & 63	TWO NEW RULES, marked as proposals. They are preceded by the note: "The following two rules (62 & 63) are PROPOSED additions, subject to approval at the AGM, and are not yet in effect". 62. At the end of the regular Winter League season each team plays a further four matches (two home, two away) against the other teams in its own division, under the same rules and points system, counting as full League matches for the league table and for promotion and relegation. 63. Divisions are constituted by the Competition Secretary at the start of each season, according to the number of teams entered.

8. League matches (Summer)

Rule (2026)	Change
67	The eight rules that set out the Summer League playing variation (2025 rules 63–70) have been deleted in their entirety and replaced by a single rule: "The Summer League format & scoring will be determined by the Committee. Often a variation of the standard Bar Billiards rules will be used for this competition. All rules will be issued prior to the start of the competition." The deleted rules covered: the break from the centre of the 'D' onto a triangle of six white balls; placement of the triangle 14 cm from the 100 hole; re-racking and banking of the break score; fouls applying only to the current break; building an incomplete triangle after the bar has dropped; break shots played off-the-spot; the black skittle counting as a white; and the allocation of first breaks under 'chase the break'.

10. Pairs challenge competitions

Rule (2026)	Change
100(a)	In the Blind Pairs the opening break is now taken by " the lower ranked player " from each team — previously "the 'Division 2' player".

11. The Northants Masters

Rule (2026)	Change
105	<i>(was rule 108)</i> Where the Competition Secretary or organiser exercises discretion to allow a player entry, they " will place them in an appropriate division based on their perceived ability " (new).

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Rule (2026)	Change
108	<i>(was rule 111)</i> The fixed divisional structure has been removed. The 2025 edition allocated players to a Premier Division and Divisions 1–6 by ranking band (six, then seven, then eight players), each with a guaranteed place for the previous winner of the division below. The 2026 rule instead allocates players by their Masters Ranking in the preceding Winter season, with the number of players per division and the number of divisions both determined by the number of entrants, divisions equal in size where possible, communicated by the Competition Secretary and published on the NBBL website.
111	<i>(was rule 114)</i> Rearranged fixtures. A fixture that cannot be played on the scheduled night "must be played prior to the commencement of the final round of fixtures", with failure resulting in "the player considered to have caused the delay forfeiting the match". The 2025 window of up to 5 days before or 5 days after the scheduled match has been removed.
114	<i>(was rule 117)</i> Entry fee. No longer fixed at £12.00 — it "will be determined by the Committee and will be communicated prior to the competition start", and is "collected on Match Night 1 by a Committee nominated player". "Matchnights will commence at 8pm sharp!" now reads "Match nights will commence at 8pm".
116	<i>(was rule 119)</i> Division size and length are no longer fixed: "a division" over "a period of several weeks" — previously "a division of eight players" over "seven weeks".
121	<i>(was rule 124)</i> Scorers' recording requirements reduced from four items to two. Retained: player scores; player highest breaks. Deleted: the qualifier "(regardless of score) in each match" on highest breaks; "Player aggregate score"; and "Player opening break (from the leg where the player commences with the break)".
124	<i>(was rule 128)</i> The tie-break order of precedence has been expanded from one step to five: (a) result of head-to-head matches; (b) number of matches won; (c) number of legs won; (d) highest aggregate score; (e) failing that, a play-off in a format determined by the Competition Secretary. In 2025 only head-to-head and the play-off were specified.
125	NEW RULE — prize schedule. The winner of each division receives the title of Northants Master, the Northants Masters Trophy to keep for one year, a winners' trophy to keep, and a cash prize (value set by the Committee before the competition, based on the number of entrants). The player with the highest break in each division receives the Northants Masters Trophy for one year, a winners' trophy to keep and a cash prize on the same basis.
128	<i>(was rule 132)</i> Adjudication decisions "will be made prior to the next scheduled game and will be final" — the finality wording is new.

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Proposal 3:

Proposal:

Proposed by: Martin Aitwell

Seconded by: Damian Coates

Background

This proposal relates to the Individuals, 2nd Division Individuals, Pairs and Blind Pairs competitions. At present, the draw dictates the order of play, and can lead to anomalies where a player might have to break in the 1st leg of each round, or conversely might have to break in the 2nd leg of each round depending on when they were originally drawn out. In order to introduce fairness, I propose the following:

Proposal

In each competition match the players shall determine the order of play by the toss of a coin, with the person calling correctly having the option of whether to break first in the 1st or 2nd leg.