

W C CLARK BILLIARDS & SNOOKER LEAGUE

Established 1909

SPONSORED BY DG SCAFFOLDING

Secretary

Chris Downer, Flat E, 3 Gillam Road, Bournemouth, BH10 6BW
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7 June 2019

Dear Colleague

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 1 July 2019**, at **7:30pm** – at **Flat E, 3 Gillam Road, Bournemouth, BH10 6BW**. All League members are invited to attend the meeting.

I enclose a copy of the minutes of the last AGM, for your reference.

I would ask you to note that any matters for the Meeting must be advised to me by **Saturday 29 June** in order that they can be put on the agenda. There will not be an opportunity to raise 'Any Other Business' at the meeting.

Also, **the League's Chairman, Lawrence Millington, will be standing down and the League is therefore looking for a replacement.** The Secretary/Treasurer and Vice Chairman have indicated their willingness to continue in those roles. If you would like to stand, or nominate someone to stand, for the post of Chairman, or indeed Secretary/Treasurer or Vice Chairman, please also let me know by **Saturday 29 June**.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Chris Downer
Secretary / Treasurer

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 27 June 2018

7:30pm at St. James' Institute

MINUTES

Present:

Denis Carr (President)
Chris Downer (Secretary/Treasurer)
Lawrence Millington (Chairman)
Dave Gerrish (Vice Chairman)

Adrian Berry (St. James')
Chas Best (Broadstone Conservative)
Dave Channing (St. James')
Malcolm Gray (St. James')
Mike Winchcombe (Greenbaize)

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Chaffey and Mick Kunzi (both Greenbaize)

2 Minutes of the last AGM

These were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

3 Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report is replicated here:

It has been a relatively low-key season, starting once again with the President's Cup which was well received and well supported.

It was unfortunate that the Branksome team fell rather to pieces towards the end of the season and I know their Captain, Paul Chaffey, was as annoyed as the rest of the League that he had been let down on so many occasions. It did not overshadow the activity of Division 1, with another tight finish between St James' and Greenbaize. The calendar fell this season such that Greenbaize had their free week on the last day, and St James' did enough to retain the title.

Division 2 also turned out to be a bit of a two-horse race between a St James' and a Greenbaize team, and the Grinders had a bigger winning margin than their Division 1 counterparts.

The weather caused a bit of an interruption as the 'Beast from the East' snowed everybody in on 1 March, and those matches were rescheduled to Maundy Thursday – it was fortunate that there was a free week incorporated into the calendar and I am keen to consciously keep a week free in the future.

The one-nighters for the Vets (Dudley Cattnach trophy) and for Division 2 (Hugh Theobald trophy) were supported reasonably well. The decision on the night to have a round-robin for the Hugh Theobald backfired as it ran far too late into the evening, and the final had to be played the following week. Never mind – we live and learn!

The billiards was again run as a round-robin leading to two finalists and I think this may well become the norm for this event. I mentioned it last year and will say again that it will be a shame to lose billiards from the league programme, seeing that we started as a billiards league in 1908 with snooker coming along 20 years later.

The Singles ran pretty smoothly, ironically until the late stages where it was teammates contesting matches that did get delayed. Perhaps we should be more stringent in having dates prescribed for the latter stages. Something, anyway, for discussion tonight, perhaps.

The Pairs continues to throw in some walkovers – perhaps, like the billiards, the League should look at some form of round-robin or other arrangement that all games are played together as a scheduled fixture.

In closing, as last year I should like to ask everyone to be on the lookout for any potential recruits to the League. Any encouragement would be most welcome.

The Meeting agreed that the League would look more closely at the Singles and Pairs timetable next season. There were no other matters arising.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is replicated here in italics:

It is nice to see that we have returned this season to running at a surplus – a modest one at £12 but a surplus nevertheless.

Once again, Malcolm Gray has produced the prizes at an even lower cost than last year, so the League's continued thanks go to him for that. We are also fortunate to have the League's website subscription sponsored by Dave Gerrish – I say every year that we are lucky to have such generosity within the membership. I record thanks to him once more.

This final paragraph seems to just be repeated every year in my Treasurer's report: I would certainly not recommend an increase in entry fees at this time, when we need to encourage membership all we can. The only truly discretionary expense is the Secretary's honorarium and at current income levels I can see no other place where the League would make any real savings if it felt it needed to.

A number of issues arose. Firstly, it was noted that we are by far the cheapest League in the area, in terms of entry fees: the East Dorset, for example, is £65 per team. There was therefore some discussion on putting fees up, in the knowledge that they had remained the same for as long as anyone could remember. The Secretary glanced at previous AGM minutes and saw that fees were £18 in 2001, and had gone up to the present £25 in 2005.

Although the League was within budget, Malcolm Gray mentioned that the trophies, which, as noted, he produces at very low cost, are very low quality as a result. The Secretary mentioned, though, that a number of players had publicly not been bothered about even taking home their keepsakes – although which of these factors was the chicken and which the egg was perhaps debatable.

Another discussion point was the lack of catering at the presentation evening. It was felt that, rather than impinge on League funds, each team or individual could have been asked to provide some items towards a buffet on the evening (although it would not do if everyone chooses sausage rolls as their contribution!).

After a number of suggested fees for the upcoming season (including keeping them as they are), Lawrence Millington proposed setting them at £35. This was put to a show of hands and there was a clear acceptance of this proposal; it was therefore duly carried.

5 Proposed alternative (or addition) to the Knock-out Cup

Dave Gerrish had brought a suggestion to the table, as he felt that in the Knock-out Cup some teams exploit the rules governing which players are eligible to play in it – ensuring that their best players have played the prerequisite two games in the first half, and making sure that those players are used in the Cup. It was acknowledged that this happens; indeed, the rule does restrict availability and does therefore ensure that eligible players have genuinely been a part of the team.

The Secretary could see no logic for *not* using a team's best players in standard league fixtures anyway – Dave explained that some teams, who are never going to win their division, are not so bothered about the League, and therefore 'manipulate' the handicapping for the Cup by not overusing their best players.

There was some talk about amending the Rule to require three games to have been played, even resulting in such a proposal from Chas Best. However, the Meeting was mindful that a change to the size of divisions, and thus number of fixtures, could render that undesirable. It was thus agreed that this aspect be added to those items which are decided at each pre-season meeting, when the number of entries is known and the make-up of the League decided.

Discussion then turned to Dave Gerrish's suggestion, which was for a 'Captain's Cup' as is held in some pool leagues. Each team captain plays in a knock-out singles event, either within each division or across them. There was some hesitation to believe that this would garner much support, and other suggestions included a nominee rather than necessarily the captain from each team.

After considerable discussion, a majority but not unanimous decision was reached that there would be no harm in trying out a Captain's Cup. If it was popular it could continue; if not, it can always be ditched.

6 Entry fees for upcoming season

This had already been settled at Item 4.

7 Duration and scoring system for fixtures

This item was brought up by the Secretary, not with a view to setting a Rule at this Meeting but to gauge how the nine-frame fixture had been seen in Division 1.

Lawrence Millington reported that he had had about equal feedback – Warren Blamey and Phil Butler, for example, had reacted generally negatively to it while Jake Baker and Grant Mason were enthusiastic about it. As these players came from the top two teams, it was seen as a reasonably good sample – so, there was no real conclusion one way or the other.

It is, anyway, something decided at each pre-season meeting, and will remain as such.

8 Election of Officers

The Secretary/Treasurer, Chairman and Vice-Chairman had all indicated their willingness to continue in the roles, while no other nominations were received for any positions prior to the Meeting.

The meeting therefore agreed that the three postholders be re-elected *en bloc*.

13 Closing date for entries for 2017-18 season

This was agreed as Monday 27 August 2018, with pre-season meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 August, at 7:30pm at St. James' Institute.

14 Secretary's Honorarium

The Meeting was mindful that the League had run at a small surplus again this year, and that entry fees were to increase to what should ensure a healthy bank balance whatever the entry level next season. Therefore, Malcolm Gray proposed that the honorarium be increased back to £250 as it had been up to two seasons ago. This was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 8:34pm.

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BALANCE SHEET 2017-18

Balance brought forward: £270.77

INCOME

Team registration fees (10 @ £25)	£250.00
Entry fees: Veterans	£16.00
Hugh Theobald	£22.00
Ian Cryer	£34.00
Singles night	£30.00
Dave Gerrish - sponsorship of website	£42.90
Total:	£394.90

£665.67

EXPENSES

Secretary's honorarium (2016-17)	£200.00
Trophies: Veterans'	£15.00
Hugh Theobald	£15.00
League proper / Ian Cryer	£70.00
Secretary's expenses	£10.00
Website subscription	£42.90
Singles night - venues	£30.00
Total:	£382.90

Balance carried forward: £282.77