

W C CLARK BILLIARDS & SNOOKER LEAGUE

Established 1909

SPONSORED BY DG SCAFFOLDING

Secretary

Chris Downer, Flat E, 3 Gillam Road, Bournemouth, BH10 6BW
01202 258368 — chrisdowner@live.co.uk — 07999 825634

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING Thursday 12 August 2021 7:30pm at Broadstone Conservative Club MINUTES

Present:

Chris Downer (Secretary/Treasurer)
Chas Best (Chairman)
Dave Gerrish (Vice Chairman)

Adrian Berry (St. James')
Mick Kunzi (Branksome)
Gavin Rogers (Branksome)
Mike Smith (Broadstone)

1 Apologies

These were received from Denis Carr (President), Paul Chaffey (Branksome), Louis Clarke (Broadstone), Luke Spiller (St. James') and James Sumner (St. James')

2 Arrangements for the unfinished 2019-20 season:

The Secretary had invited team captains' and their members' opinions on whether they wished to see the 2019-20 season completed, or to abandon it, or any other suggestions. The season had come to a halt owing to the Coronavirus pandemic 18 months ago with only one game remaining for Division 1 teams and 1½ rounds remaining in Division 2. The Singles and Pairs were well underway while the Knock-out Cup had only had its preliminary round completed.

The Secretary opened by saying that a number of tonight's absentees had contacted him with their teams' thoughts. Luke Spiller was the only captain to report that his team thought the season should be abandoned as it was so long ago; the remaining feedback had favoured completion. All, though, would happily support the decision reached at this meeting

2a Regular league fixtures

The meeting looked at the league tables and remaining fixtures. In Division 1, the top two teams were tied, with only their head-to-head match left to play. Gavin Rogers, being one of the team members involved, spoke strongly in support of completing the season, on both his own and his captain Paul Chaffey's behalf. He had spoken to James Sumner, the opposing captain, and knew he felt likewise.

It was thus agreed that at least this top fixture would take place.

The bottom two placings were also thought to be significant in case demotion became relevant next season. The two bottom teams also had only their own head-to-head fixture remaining and, as bottom spot was not already mathematically settled, it was agreed that this fixture should also be played.

The remaining fixture, between the two mid-table teams, was of no mathematical importance to the League's final standings, but with the other two being played it was thought desirable that this match too should go ahead (*but see below at **).

Turning to the second division, the situation was a little less straightforward, as two teams had two games outstanding, and the other two teams had only one.

Again, it was found that the top two teams were both mathematically able to win the division, with four points separating them and the second team with a game in hand. It was therefore agreed that both matches (one being their head-to-head fixture) should be played.

The meeting was rather more ambivalent about the remaining fixture, as it was of no ultimate significance. It was therefore agreed that these two captains should decide between them whether they wished to play it. * Retrospectively, it was thought that the same principle should be applied to the mid-table fixture in Division 1 (*above*).

It was felt that, for the games that are to be played, the two team captains should make contact and arrange a suitable date. The meeting had no wish to dictate the day of the week, or any other preference, other than to say that it must be played by mid-September. The Secretary would notify the teams of the exact deadline date, once he had set dates for the upcoming AGM and opening meeting for next season.

2b Singles and Pairs

The meeting considered the progress of these competitions and was keen for them to be finished. With minimal discussion, it was decided that they should continue as shown on the drawsheet, and that players should arrange between themselves for the matches to be played. If one player did not wish to continue his involvement, he can concede the match and his opponent will go through to the next round.

There was not felt to be such urgency to conclude these competitions. As the new season's Singles and Pairs will not even be drawn until the December meeting, it was agreed that the Singles and Pairs finals should be played by **30 November 2021**. The Secretary would arrive at suitable closing dates for the earlier rounds and communicate these to the players involved.

2c Knock-out Cup, one-nighters and Billiards

An even shorter discussion concluded straightforwardly that these events be scrapped.

3 Arrangements for AGM prior to the commencement of the 2021-22 season

There was some debate as to whether an AGM was required prior to the new season, given the exceptional circumstances and the short timescale before the season is expected to start – but the conclusion was that an AGM should be held. The Secretary was aware that there was at least one item that had been identified during the past season to go onto the agenda, apart from the regular AGM business.

As two weeks' notice of an AGM must be given, it was thought sensible to hold it in three to four weeks' time, to allow the Secretary to set a date and prepare paperwork as well as give the required notice. The Secretary would arrange this in the coming days.

4 Arrangements for the 2021-22 season

As there were so few outstanding fixtures to be completed for 2019-20, the meeting was confident that a full 2021-22 programme could be planned without any real departure from the usual calendar. The season will therefore start in the second half of September. There will not be the normal two-month gap in which to invite entries but nine of the ten current teams are thought to be re-entering, and the Secretary would do what he could in the short time available to try to secure more interest.

There was some discussion about the ongoing coronavirus situation, and any anxieties that may remain among league members when the season gets underway. One aspect was that Debbie Ealy, Greenbaize manager, had told the Secretary that the pool league was resuming in September but without catering, to minimise close contact. Another similar matter mentioned was whether it was sensible to hold the one-nighters that traditionally punctuate the season, which see a roomful of players playing multiple opponents, unlike league fixtures of half a dozen people confined to the area around a single table.

It was appreciated, though, that these were matters that should be finalised at the pre-season meeting and did not need to be dwelt on this evening. As the pre-season meeting will be in around a month's time, the coronavirus situation may have moved on, and official restrictions may have been revised by then.

The meeting closed at 8:18pm.