

# W C CLARK BILLIARDS & SNOOKER LEAGUE

Established 1909

SPONSORED BY DG SCAFFOLDING

Secretary

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13 August 2021

Dear Colleague

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 14 September 2021**, at **7:15pm** – at **Broadstone Conservative Club, Tudor Road, Broadstone, BH18 8AW**. 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 **Tuesday 12 September** in order that they can be put on the agenda. There will not be an opportunity to raise 'Any Other Business' at the meeting.

As ever, the League's officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer) are elected. The three current officers have indicated their willingness to continue in those roles but, if you would like to stand, or nominate someone to stand, for any of these posts, please also let me know by **Tuesday 12 September**.

Please note that, owing to the unusual timescales this year, the **Pre-Season Meeting** for the 2021-22 season will **immediately follow the AGM**.

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 Monday 1 July 2019 7:30pm at Flat E, 3 Gillam Road MINUTES

Present:

Denis Carr (President)

Chris Downer (Secretary/Treasurer)

Lawrence Millington (Chairman)

Dave Gerrish (Vice Chairman)

Adrian Berry (St. James')

Chas Best (Broadstone Conservative)

### 1 Apologies

None were received

### 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:

*The season has run untroubled once again, as should, with no real newcomers, hopefully be expected. St James' once again claimed the Division 1 title, this year by a bit more of a convincing margin than in recent years. I know there was a little discomfort of the placing of Spectrum in Division 2, and they duly won that division by a relative landslide. However, any other team, if it had been demoted, might well have won by a similar margin and feedback has generally been that it is preferable to have an even-numbered split in divisions rather than go 5/5 and be riddled with free weeks.*

*The league recorded a century break after three full seasons without one – Peter Hendes (Broadstone) made a 109, although Carl Davies could have had one on the very first week, missing the final pink on 96.*

*The Veterans' and Hugh Theobald one-nighters have had very good take-up considering the small pool of eligible entrants, and the Ian Cryer at the end of the season has seen the most entries in a good few years.*

*I also think the Pairs and, particularly, Singles are well supported, with 24 entries for the latter (although there were six no-shows on the night). These events seem to have been completed without the usual fuss over arranging matches. The Singles and Pairs finals were of a relatively low quality considering the players involved. Brad Chappell claimed the Singles title with a hard-fought win over Ian Bell, while Lawrence Millington and Carl Davies overcame Paul Chaffey and Gavin Rogers in a dour Pairs final.*

*The Billiards could have returned to a knock-out format but in the end the round-robin phase was decided on, serendipitously as it turned out since there were a couple of withdrawals on the night, myself included. Mick Kunzi retained the Billiards title by winning the final, from a large deficit, by the thinnest of margins at 300-297. (Well, not quite the thinnest of margins; the 1952-53 final was won with a 500-499 scoreline!)*

*The two more recent additions to the Calendar have also worked well. The President's Cup as a light-hearted season opener remains well supported and the Captain's Cup worked well, despite some scepticism a year ago when the idea was mooted. I hope this becomes a regular feature as the President's Cup has.*

*This season saw another bout of snow, the only substantial snow of the winter and again it happened to occur on a Thursday. The League was quick to announce that unplayed fixtures could be rearranged at any time, and one arrangement was to count double the remaining fixture between those teams. I'm not sure that this was the intended way of doing things but it was difficult to fit it in any other way and both sides were happy with that. Apart from that, there have been a handful of matches rearranged under the League's usual rule for this, and I am satisfied that this rule continues to work well.*

*I hope the combined prize presentation and Ian Cryer evening is accepted as the most straightforward, workable and cost-effective way of doing things. Minutes of previous AGMs point to the way this has evolved from a fully-fledged presentation evening, costly with ever depleted take-up, to the present arrangement. This year's competition did run a bit on the undesirably late side, but this is almost inevitable with a larger number of entries and random draw across all playing standards. I apologise that the evening was postponed; with hindsight the original date was always going to be unworkable so soon after the end of on-table activities.*

*I hear, disappointingly, that the Wallisdown Conservative team may not be renewing their membership, citing difficulties getting a team together. As I say every year, we should keep our collective ears to the ground and seek out and encourage any potential new blood.*

*Lawrence Millington is resigning as Chairman tonight, having taken on the Vice Chairmanship after then-Chair Keith Fooks's death in February 2014 and then, with successor Dudley Cattnach's death the same November, moving up to take the Chairmanship the following season. He superstitiously suggested at the time (hopefully in jest) that the post might be a poisoned chalice, and he has certainly quashed that idea! As well as for this, I would like to thank him for his services during his time on the committee. He has been a valuable right-hand man to me as Secretary. I would like to wish him well in his new life overseas.*

There were no substantial matters arising. The Meeting agreed that the Captain's Cup was a welcome addition to the calendar and likewise hopes that it continues. There was a little confusion at the end of the event, as to whether there was a winner from each Division or whether the two winners should contest a play-off with relevant handicap to provide an overall winner (as did occur). It was felt that the complete format should be set in stone.

#### **4 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report is replicated here in italics, and there were no matters arising:

*The league has spent a little more this season than it received, despite a £100 upturn in entry fees after these were put up by £10 per team.*

*Half of this £100 can be accounted for in the Secretary's honorarium, which was increased from £200 to £250 last year in anticipation of the increased fees. Much of the rest of it is explained by the larger trophy invoice – not only the Captain's Cup providing an additional event to cover, but a higher-than-usual bill for the main end-of-season prizes. I think these were of an appreciably better quality and Malcolm Gray continues to do the League well with what he can produce for the money we spend. Their beauty is rather in the eye of the beholder, as I am aware that some members do not care even to receive their keepsake trophies, while others will keep reminding me of it if they haven't had theirs!*

*Certainly, there don't seem to have been any grumbles about the increased fees.*

*Once again, I would like to record my thanks to Malcolm for his work on the trophies as detailed above, and to Dave Gerrish for sponsoring the League by way of covering the website subscription. I say this every year but we must not be complacent that such generosity within our ranks will always be available.*

As there has not been any issues about the increase in entry fees, there was no appetite to alter them this year.

## **5 Election of Officers**

The Secretary / Treasurer and Vice-Chairman had indicated their willingness to continue in these posts and there were no other nominations.

The Chairman had indicated his intention to step down from the post owing to his impending emigration. Chas Best had indicated his willingness to take on the role and there have been no other nominations.

The meeting therefore agreed that the Secretary / Treasurer and Vice Chairman be re-elected, and that Chas Best be elected unopposed to the Chairmanship.

The Meeting wished to mirror the gratitude noted in the Secretary's report to Lawrence Millington for his services to the League over the last five years.

## **6 Chequebook signatories**

The Treasurer was aware that with Lawrence Millington departing, the League would have only two living signatories, and with two being the required number of signatures on cheques it would clearly be wise to add further name(s). Also, though not particularly pressing, the League had never bothered to remove names of signatories who had passed away.

The Meeting agreed that at least three signatories should be available, and felt that four might be more failsafe.

It was agreed that the League should create a new mandate at the bank, such that Chris Downer and Malcolm Gray remain on the list, Dave Gerrish and Chas Best be added, and that all other signatories be removed.

The Treasurer would make such arrangements with the NatWest.

## **7 Closing date for entries for 2019-20 season**

This was agreed as Monday 26 August 2018, with pre-season meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 August, at 7:30pm at Flat E, 3 Gillam Road.

## **8 Secretary's Honorarium**

The Meeting was a little reluctant to award the same figure as last year, viz. £250, as this would leave a bank balance of only £13. In previous years it had been lowered when the balance was similarly low. However, as there will be no financial transactions due before entry fees were deposited, and the fees were now £35 per team, it was not expected such a small figure to pose an issue. Denis Carr therefore suggested, and it was unanimously agreed, that the figure should again be £250.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.