

LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Mere 7.30 23/01/23

1 - Attendance:

- League Officers:
 - Chairperson: Andy Long (AL)
 - President: Geoff Jackson (GJ)
 - League Secretary: Mark Newall (MN)
 - Treasurer: David Nuttall (DN)
 - Competition / Trophy Secretary:
 - League Clubs:
 - Mere: Richard Owen
 - Mobberley: Mark Newall (MN) ; Alan Williams
 - Shaw Heath: Chris Parker
 - Tatton:; Andy Long (AL);
 - Wilmslow Cons: Matt Dale
 - Morley Green: Paul Hart

2 - Apologies for absence

- David Taylor (DT)
- Ashley Parker
- JP Diamond
- Dave Rainford

3 - Minutes of last meeting

- MN had previously published details of formation meeting and AGM on the stats website.
- Proposed as a true and accurate representation by RO, seconded by AW

4 - Items arising from the last meetings (not agenda listed)

A proposal was received from PH, seconded by Matt Dale

The following league rules:

15.2

No matches to be re-arranged without first obtaining the sanction of the league secretary at least 72 hours before the original set date;

15.3

Any request to cancel a match must be accompanied by an alternative date that is agreeable to both parties and must be either before or in the same week* as the original match.

* The week being defined as Mon-Sun

Are to be replaced by a new rule that allows an alternative date to be up to 2 weeks after the original date.

A team would not be allowed to fall more than one game behind the rest of the league so couldn't do this for a second time if they still hadn't played a first cancelled match.
All matches need to be finished by the date of the final league match.

The exact wording will be worked on by MN before it is put to a vote at the AGM but the above proposal passed unanimously

Sponsorship. The proposal with Jason Lawrence / The National Snooker Expo has been agreed and is now in place.

MN has updated the website to include a former life members section with Geoff Owen being the first entry.

He has added a list of names from the board that Tony Crompton created on the wall at MVHC.

MN has asked people to cast an eye over this list to confirm that the people on the new page are indeed no longer with us and at some point would like to have a bit of information about each of the names.

5 - Disciplinary / Matters of Dispute

Handicap reductions – Vic McAfee

Discussed the fact that we don't have a fixed starting handicap and that we are using a system relying on common sense and trust. This was one of just a couple of occasions where this hasn't worked where it was clear from watching Vic play (and from the result) that he was far better than +20. MN issued guidance earlier in the season for when bringing in new players and will encourage captains to follow this when asking to register new players.

Incident during match between Wilmslow Cons B and Mobberley A 12/01/23

During a frame between Vinni Rossi and Richard Bailey referee Matt Dale adjudicated that when Vinni was attempting to play the green toward the end of the frame, the cue ball flicked the black on the way to the green and awarded a foul to Wilmslow Cons.

Not that the following matters but MN along with Mobberley captain Paul Adkin both felt that it was the correct call.

Vinni aggressively and vociferously questioned the decision before losing his temper and repeatedly shouting phrases such as 'cheating c***s' and stating how angry he was.

MN attempted to calm Vinni down asking him to respect the refs decision.

The frame finished shortly after and Vinni congratulated Richard but said he was going to leave before he did something he regretted. His behaviour continued to be abusive and threatening toward MD culminating in him saying he'll be 'waiting in the car park' and that MD needs to 'watch his back'.

The next day MN called Vinni to advise that his behaviour was unacceptable, and Vinni agreed. He apologised to his Mobberley team mates and more importantly to Matt Dale and Wilmslow steward Mark

Anderson (both via phone). Both accepted his apology and stated a desire to move on. Mark confirmed that Vinni would still be allowed in the Wilmslow Club as this had previously been in doubt. Clearly if anything similar ever happened then that wouldn't be the case.

Vinni has issued an apology letter in which he is clearly regretful of his actions and references personal issues that affected his frame of mind on that evening. This was read by all of the members on the committee.

A discussion was had and the committee unanimously agreed that there was no excuse for Vinni's behaviour on the night and that as a league, we will not tolerate abusive and threatening behaviour.

Vinni's general behaviour was mentioned by a number of committee members during this discussion with various other incidents and outbursts recalled. None of these incidents alone were as serious as the incident at Wilmslow but a pattern of behaviour is emerging that is not befitting of any snooker league – especially a friendly one such as ours. These include:

- Swearing
- Shouting
- Abusing opponents for flukes and excessive snookers
- Abusing spectators

It should be said that some of the above is done in jest but it is still not behaviour that we want to see in our league.

Proposal – strongly worded letter with a final warning to say that further threatening and abusive behaviour would see Vinni banned from our league and that his general behaviour will also need to vastly improve if he wants to continue playing in our league.

This was proposed by GJ and seconded by DN

Voted unanimously in favour.

MN to issue the letter / e-mail in the coming days.

It was also suggested by a member of the committee that Vinni's team and captain need to take more responsibility for his behaviour. As a member of his team MN stated that he regularly discusses etiquette and behaviour with Vinni but moving forward will take a stricter approach – and encourage the team's captain to do so.

6 - Items notified to Secretary prior to meeting

Proposal to reduce the handicap cap from 50 to 40 from Morley Green.

This was rejected at the AGM last year (in a close vote). The committee see no reason why this shouldn't be allowed to be brought up again – there is nothing in our rules to prevent someone from making the same proposal season after season.

Proposal by PH (Morley Green) to reduce the cap from 50 to 40. Seconded by Chris Jackson (Shaw Heath)

This has been discussed at length in previous meetings. Morley feel that 50 points is too much for amateurs to be giving away and that the current rules favour the higher handicappers.

The thoughts against this are that a quick glance at the table suggests the teams that have lower handicappers tend to be in the top half of the table and the higher handicappers in the bottom half. On that basis the lower handicappers still tend to win more frames than they lose (generally).

The proposal passed by 5 votes for to 1 against.

It should be said – and will be highlighted at the AGM – that some of the clubs voting yes such as Tatton and Mobberley aren't voting yes because they support reducing the handicap. They are doing so as they are happy for it to be decided by the members at the AGM – same as last year.

7 - Trophies / Competitions Secretary

David has continued to do a fine job on the comps and the 6 reds was again a success with the Taylor Jones Legends coming up this weekend.

The Rotary, TC Jay, Pairs and Team KO are all underway and progressing nicely.

It was mentioned that there appears to have been an increase in no-shows for the competitions – the 6 reds being an example. MN to discuss with the comp secretary. There is a rule that allows us to ban players from competitions for not turning up but we had previously indicated that we would give warnings out before doing this so it might be that we need to issue a few warnings to individuals that haven't turned up.

David is having to spend quite a lot of time rearranging matches for various reasons including playing in other leagues. One reason that has come up is that a player doesn't drive and was unable to get to the assigned venue. This had been discussed by league officers prior to the meeting who felt that this isn't a valid reason for not being able to attend a match. Players should only be entering competitions if they are able to make it to the various league venues that they will be asked to play at.

There has also been a request to play games at a club that isn't in our league. The committee discussed this and agreed that if it is arranged and agreed by both players involved then we have no objections to matches being played at clubs outside of our league. Should this happen then we will monitor the situation and our stance may change if it is felt that it adversely affects our league.

MN announced the qualifying criteria for the champions trophy. It has been reduced to 16 players (32 was too many last year) and will be played off 50% handicap.

It will either be 4 groups of 4 or a straight knockout.

The current qualifiers will be:

Last Years Champion (Jason Robinson)
Rotary Champion (Dave Blackburn)
Rotary Runner-Up (Pete Blain)
Pairs Winners (David Taylor and Freddie Rowley)
TC Jay Winner (Bruce)
TC Jay Runner-Up (Gary Long)
Lowest Handicap Winner (MN)
Best Performance Winner (Shaun Brearly)
6 Reds Winner (Adam Griffiths)
Taylor Trophy Winner (???)

The remaining 6 names (possibly more if some of the above choose not to accept their invite) will be taken by alternating between the list of lowest handicappers and the current best performance rankings for this season.

8 – Treasurer

The treasurer thanked all clubs for paying their half season invoices.

The finances are looking ok – whilst we don't have the large cash reserves of previous years the increase in subs to £1.50 and the small comp fee has increased revenue where we will comfortably be able to purchase trophies and pay honoraria once the end of season subs are collected.

9 - Any other business

RO asked when trophies are to be returned to Mobberley. MN thanked Richard for the reminder as trophies do need to start to be returned for Mobberley ready for the end of the season. MN to message the captains group to encourage people to start to drop their trophies off.

10 Date of next meetings

AGM date and venue to be confirmed by MN this week

Added Morley Green to the rota now that they are back in the league.

Mobberley is next on the rota but MN is unsure of whether there will be a charge for booking the hall as this doesn't belong to the MVHC club itself. He'll find out this week and if there is a charge then we will look to the next venue in the list.

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Management Meeting rota:

- Morley Green, Shaw Heath, Mobberley, Wilmslow, Mere

AGM rota:

- Mobberley, Wilmslow Cons, Shaw Heath, Morley Green, Mere

League Formation Meetings

- Will all be held at Mobberley (league HQ) in August each pre-season.

Life Members

- Currently playing in the league: Rob Clarke / Francis Evans / Arthur Hasford / Andy Long / David Nuttall / David Rainford / Philip Simpson / Bruce Tulley / Ed Wakefield / Mervyn Pike
- Not currently playing in the league: Tony Crompton / Ray Dale / Barry Lineham / David Potter / David Sykes / Ronnie Tagg / John Thompson / Peter Watson
