

## **St. Helens Thursday Snooker League** **Annual General Meeting Minutes 2013/2014**

Present (18): **Birchley St. Mary's, Windleshaw, Greenalls, St. Teresa's 2, Eccleston Social, East Sutton Labour 1, East Sutton Labour 2, St. Anne's Town, Parr Cons WMC, Lowe House, Thatto Heath RBL, Sidac Social 1, Garswood Labour, Holy Cross, Scala Snooker 2, Ravenhead Social, Rockware, Rainford Ex-Services**

Apologies (4): **Huyton Constitutional, Sutton Cricket, Sidac Social 2, Unison**

Absent (3): **Moss Bank Community, Scala Snooker 1, St. Teresas 1**

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Meeting Opened at 8.00pm

Minutes were read out and accepted as a true record. Dave pointed out from those minutes that Rainhill Sports had not taken their place in the league for last season and this was offered to Garswood Labour who competed instead. He also mentioned the efforts to join the GM Inter League for this season as the Merseyside Association was not suitable after recent poor history. It was also mentioned the fantastic effort of raising over £900 for Willowbrook Hospice from the pay & play scheme.

Ste thanked all teams for another tremendous season and also gave thanks to Dave and Chris for their efforts. He also mentioned Eccleston Social and was grateful to them for their efforts to continue in the league despite their club closure in November.

Chris thanked everyone for encouraging the terrific number we had enter all of our competitions this past season. We saw very high numbers for all the competitions we put on and there were no major problems reported back. He hopes that teams will be encouraged more to try and improve the numbers in each competition further this new year, but reminded all those who enter to inform the league if they change their contact numbers so no problems arise.

Dave then spoke and basically reiterated all that Ste and Chris had said. Dave thanked all teams for their brilliance in returning scores and match cards on time all season meaning no warnings or penalties were given out again.

Finance was read out by Dave. The league made a profit of £48.05 over the year thanks to improved numbers in the league and competitions. He also confirmed that Hattons Solicitors had paid for another season's sponsorship, the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Dave then mentioned we had spent the extra money on improved prizes where we could and the joint Presentation Night with the Wednesday League was a superb success.

Ste Burrows was re-elected as the League Chairman, un-opposed.  
Dave O'Dowd was re-elected as the League Secretary and Treasurer, un-opposed.  
Chris Hill was re-elected as the Competition Secretary, un-opposed.  
Steve Ridgway (Unison) and Jason Fairhurst (St.Terasas 1) both were re-elected to the league committee unanimously. There were no new nominations.

There were no rules changes or amendments proposed by any teams

There were FOUR new applications from teams wishing to join the league for the new season. They were from **Scala Snooker (2), Ravenhead Social, Rockware and Rainford Ex-Services**. This would mean a provisional total of 25 teams for the new season. All applications were passed unanimously. They will all start in Division Two.

Following on from the above, Rule 2 will be amended to read "2 Divisions of no more than 14 teams" as the league has now voted to exceed the current limit of 2 Division of 12 teams.

The new league structure was then discussed and it was proposed that the league will be played as follows in the new season 2012-2013:

- a) **TWO Divisions. Division One 13 teams, Division Two 12 teams.**
- b) **TWO sets of fixtures each team HOME & AWAY. There will be 24 games in Division One, 22 games in Division Two.**
- c) **Each division will have open dates because of grid size (D1 – 2, D2 – 4)**
- d) **Season will start 5/9/12.**
- e) **ONE week break at Christmas (26<sup>th</sup> December)**
- f) **Any play-off needed will be arranged by the league on a mutual date.**
- g) **The Inter-League match will be scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**

All of the above arrangements were voted on and passed with a unanimous verdict.

Dave also mentioned that the higher division always takes preference in an odd-numbered league meaning that two teams will need to be moved up. **Thatto Heath RBL and Parr Cons WMC** will be placed into Division One (as they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Division Two). Thatto Heath RBL informed the league after their clubs recent closure that they will be playing at Ravenhead Social Club for the new season and will be known as LEGION RAVENHEAD. Ecclestone Social also informed the league that they will be changing their team name to GREENALLS XXX (TripleX) which recognises the original name of their old club.

Dave then proposed a change to the format of the KWT Knockout Cup for the new season to add some extra fixtures to the season for all teams concerned. It was proposed that we introduce a group stage to the competition which will see teams placed in 5 groups of 5 teams and will play each other on a home and away basis.

These fixtures will be played at regular points throughout the season and will be mixed in with the normal league fixtures. The top 5 teams plus the three best runners-up will qualify for the quarter-finals to be played at the end of the season on a knockout basis as normal. Matches will be played like the traditional cup games and be decided on aggregate scores only. Winning teams would receive 2 points on the group table (losers receive zero). If teams finish level on the group table then the aggregate points difference will be immediate tie-breaker. Examples of the groups and the expanded fixture program were shown to all delegates. The proposals were met with great enthusiasm as it would be extra revenue to clubs with home games and would keep the season competitive with constant matches. The proposal was passed unanimously for the new season. More detailed rules would be issued to the teams as soon as possible. The competition will be called the KWT Challenge Cup and the final will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

In any other business, Dave mentioned again the success of the pay & play scheme and that it will continue again this year. He asked delegates to suggest local benefactors if they wished to do so otherwise donations would remain for Willowbrook.

Dave then read out a letter received from a member team with regards to Start Times being uniformed to 8pm for all teams, the purchase of drinks for opponents playing the last frames, and handicaps. The members decided to not change the ruling on start times and they will remain at team discretion. It was also decided that the drink purchase suggestion be brought up as part of match etiquette within league rules. A debate about handicapping took place but no suggestions were made and all teams present were happy with the leagues review and prevention procedures.

With no further business, everyone was thanked for their time.  
Meeting closed 9.20pm