

All England Bar Billiards

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2018



MEETING NOTES

Apologies:

Attendees:

Meeting Opened:

Minutes from previous AGM:

Reports Summarised:

MEETING NOTES

Finances:

Secretary:

England Captain:

Election of Officers:

Proposals:

AOB:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly I'd like to thank everyone for attending the AGM, unfortunately due to some double booking and a date change I am unable to attend but thank you for your continual support of the AEBBA.

Sadly, Chrissie Newson is standing down as Treasurer and I'd like to thank her for her sterling work over the last few years. When she took the role as Treasurer our finances were not at all healthy, but we are now in a much better position thanks to Chrissie's efforts. We will all miss her.

I should also like to thank Dave Alder for all his efforts in ensuring tournament tables are available and that the tournament calendar is managed to accommodate the needs of all of our affiliated associations and leagues. Dave puts in tremendous time and effort and I know that his commitment is not always fully appreciated by all. It is pleasing that we have seen more assistance in setting up and taking down the tables this year but it would still be great to have more. Lorin Clough has taken on the role of Secretary which has eased the pressure on Dave, who can now concentrate on our logistics. Lorin has brought in some changes over the last year and those of you who attended AEBBA competitions will have witnessed some of these. It is the association's intention to make further improvements and whilst it may be that not everyone will be totally on board with what the association's officers propose, let me assure you that the whole purpose is to move the association forward and promote our beautiful game and I sincerely ask for your support in these matters.

I am delighted to congratulate all of the winners, runners up and competitors in each of the AEBBA tournaments as well as the county open competitions.



In particular, I was obviously delighted with the National Team Championship and, of course, Paul's second world championship. Congratulations also to our secretary on winning his first major open title. It is particularly pleasing to see the progress of youngsters within the game especially Joe Oakley and Jack Baden - both of whom are definitely future champions. Finally and most of all, congratulations to Sussex 'B' on winning the county championships - a truly magnificent achievement guided by their non-playing captain Tony Jenner.

Thanks to Nigel Senior for providing statistics and ranking points. Nigel continues to demonstrate the flexibility that the role demands by providing tournament schedules, often at extremely short notice, to enable the smooth running of our tournament calendar and to ensure that all players are accommodated as best as possible.

Finally I offer my thanks to everyone who has provided support to the AEBBA.

**Annual General Meeting
2018**

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes from AGM 2017
- Partnering for improvement
- Resources & Financial Management
- PRIDE in the driving seat
- Success tastes so sweet
- Committee Elections
- Proposals to AGM
- Any Other Business



*Safeguarding
our tradition...
...innovating
for the future*

APOLOGIES

Thank you to those who have notified in advance that you are unable to attend this meeting and for the many expressions of positive feedback and good wishes. We trust that you will find this booklet informative and that it mirrors your views and experience of how the AEBBA has progressed in the last year.

MINUTES FROM AGM 2017

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were published on the Proboards forum by Chris Saville and are available for review at this address:

<http://barbilliards.proboards.com/thread/19316/minutes-annual-general-meetings>

It is the view of the Secretary and the Committee that they represent an accurate account of the 2017 Annual General Meeting and should be adopted into permanent record as such.

Minutes Accepted Yes/No





DRIVING IMPROVEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Raising the profile of our great game is a challenge that starts by improving our event quality, adding prestige and delivering a consistently high quality product. It is only then that we will secure greater participation from players and therefore a better value proposition for partners. Much of the activity this year has been focused on making improvements to our events - adding more rewards for players and developing rewarding partnerships. The feedback from competitors has been positive and we are optimistic that these improvements will continue in 2019.

Finding sponsors is a challenge that we have faced for some time and so we are delighted to have had the pleasure of working with the sponsors above - they have done much to support our operations this year and we look forward to developing these relationships further.

It has not all been plain sailing - requests for sponsorship support from the wider Bar Billiards community has largely been unsuccessful and so we ask for you to reconsider how a sponsorship arrangement can offer value to your organisation or brand as well as supporting our traditional and much loved game.

In 2019 we will need to double our achievements of this year to drive improvement in the manner that is required - therefore the challenge is to raise more than £6,000 of sponsorship commitment. It's a tough target but with your support we can make it happen!

RESOURCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At the time of publication the full summary of accounts was not available but will be provided at the meeting.

The association currently has a reliable financial position to meet historical expenditure but is in need of considerable additional revenue to meet the many challenges that lay ahead. It is entirely right that we should end the race to the bottom on costs and set ourselves ambitious objectives for growth and improvement. The AEBBA is already giving consideration to improving and repairing the tables, adding transportation resources to assist with the logistics of event set up as well as preparing for the time when a replacement vehicle is required.

Further, there will be additional costs associated with improving our event rewards, adding to our promotion and game growth activity as well as increasing our reach. Affiliation fees from county associations, which represent a tiny part of our annual revenue, are simply nothing like enough to meet these challenges. Additional sponsorship, partnerships and other revenue raising activities will be vital to us as we progress.

Throughout 2019, the AEBBA will consult on a range of measures to increase revenue so that we can do more for the game. This includes new and existing league initiatives, protecting tournaments and creating an attractive environment for new entrants.

We will require the wholehearted and positive support of the entire Bar Billiards community to achieve this - so please bring your passion and resourcefulness to the events in the next year!

IT'S PRIDE THAT DRIVES US FORWARD

As many, if not all of you will know very well, I love to talk! In particular, I will talk about Bar Billiards - and more precisely the AEBBA - any chance I get. This is because I am immensely proud of what we have achieved in the last year and for what we can still achieve. I am energised by the responsibility of both safeguarding and driving forward this great game that we enjoy.

Recently I was asked by a longstanding Bar Billiards player and former committee member, what it is that I think will make the difference in ensuring we can protect, promote and grow the game. Why we can be different and progressive, and why we can deliver meaningful achievements where previously we have struggled. My answer was simple - PRIDE. I am proud to be part of All England Bar Billiards - and I know that this goes for pretty much all of you too - and that is a very powerful thing.

We need to make a thing of the past the times that we hear players almost ashamedly admitting to be so - or when asked by a casual observer what they were doing when playing a local league match, to hear them say *'I don't know really, the game is dying to be honest because it's not that good.'* I am glad that these days will soon be gone - I am so glad that almost universally players this year spoke with pride about the game and our association's efforts because that has been the first and most important step - being more **POSITIVE**.

With a more positive attitude we have been able to start to change how people think and feel about what we do and what we can do. This has led increased participation in all but one of our events this year! It becomes ever more inviting to be part of something where you know the existing membership participate positively.





In the last year I have encountered an almost universal acceptance that change is required to safeguard what we have and to make an attempt to promote the game further into the future. However, I have also encountered - almost in equal measure - a resistance to any particular suggestion of what to change. I realise that people get very comfortable with the status quo - *'It's what we've always done..'* or *'you can't change that because nobody will support it..'* or rather more alarmingly *'the rules say that it has to be this way and so you cannot mess with that...'*

We must however be absolutely clear - without significant and innovative change we simply will not have a future. The AEBBA is determined to be responsible custodians of the game and we will safeguard it so that it has a future - long after our time. We are driven to improve every aspect of our operation - to make events more attractive and rewarding, to have a clearer

message and value proposition for partners and to redouble our efforts in promoting the game to new players.

Of course I do not advocate positivity simply by viewing through rose-tinted spectacles. We absolutely need to be **REALISTIC** in where we are, what we have achieved and the work we still have to do. It is true to say that we are still scratching the surface of all the things that we need to do - we should have even greater participation than we do and we should certainly have a broader base from the membership supporting our activities. We are not, and should never rest on our laurels thinking that because some things have changed in recent times and that the operation is generally smooth - that it is done. It is far from it. If we are to safeguard this great game long into the future there is still a monumental amount to do - but being realistic will help us do it. It will help us prioritise our efforts.



I went on to explain, when asked about future plans, that we will work hard to keep things moving forward, to introduce new ways of increasing participation, to communicate better, to be inclusive and to **INNOVATE**. Whether it is our informative website or the great use of social media, we strive to reach out. In my role as Secretary I will continue to be consistent in driving change, encouraging innovation and reaching out to the widest possible audience and I have found myself fortunate to enjoy the support and efforts of a passionate committee in pursuing these aims.

As you will have already seen in this booklet, it gives me great pleasure to announce that for the first time in many years we have grown the number of event participants and, perhaps more remarkably, the number of sponsors who make it possible. I was genuinely delighted to have to calculate larger sums of prize money, to more competitors in 2018 as a result of increased revenue. As I have said in previous discussions, we need to be **DETERMINED** in our efforts to grow. We should not let up for even a minute. So far it has got us a little over £3k of new sponsorship and an average growth in event entries of more than 10% but with more determination we can spread the sponsorship burden beyond a small number of partners in and around Northamptonshire to include Sussex, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and beyond. Why not get £6k next year to enable us to do much more with our events - reach farther and wider. After all, being greedy for growth is not always a bad thing!

It is always heartening to hear positive feedback about what we do and players from around the country who attended our competitions were resounding in the praise of the events and, in particular, the wonderful efforts of Dave Alder and Nigel Senior. The positive feedback that we receive when visitors view our social media platforms is heartening but we shall certainly be looking to do more. We have already a pipeline of new innovations that will be launched in due course!

I know sometimes I drive my committee colleagues a little bit crazy when I constantly ask for more - but in the pursuit of **EXCELLENCE** I believe that everything we do should always be a little better than the last time we did it. If we improve a small amount each time then it will be noticed by all and we'll keep moving forward.

The wider Bar Billiards community value and often remark on the quality of the competition tables that are largely set up by Dave; or the attention to detail that ensures high quality event formatting, statistics and rankings from Nigel. As we increase our aspirations and inevitably grow our workload, we will need to find ways to offer more support to Dave and Nigel. Helping with event setup will make a massive difference to Dave and entering events early will make things far more achievable for Nigel.

In the next year I know the committee will continue to deliver excellent events and competitions for you, high quality communications and more opportunities for you to participate in everything we do.

In my AGM note to you I'd like to set you all a challenge for the forthcoming year - it centres around **PRIDE**. With every interaction you have with or about our our association and our game, try to keep in mind the pride we have in what and who we are.

Be **P**ositive in your language and approach

Be **R**ealistic about where we are and what we still need to do

Be **I**nnovative - suggest new initiatives and be part of the others

Be **D**etermined to grow our game and invite new players

Expect **E**xcellence in the things that we do

If we all do that - the next year is sure to be that little bit better than the last.

As ever, thank you to so many of you for your ongoing support.



England Captain's Report

**THE SWEET
TASTE OF
SUCCESS...**

**...FAREWELL
TO A LEGEND**



Just before the 2017 AGM the England selection took place to decide what the team would be for 2018 to play Jersey at home and Guernsey away .

After the selection committee had decided on the team I was pleased to announce that the team included Phil Osborne who had been selected for the the first time. This just goes to show that if you play well over a period of time you can be rewarded with an England call up. Well done Phil!

Unfortunately on the 19th Jan 2018 I reported the disappointing news that again Jersey would not be sending a team to play over the Bournemouth weekend in March. As a result there was considerable discussion regarding a range of options that could ensure a fixture for the England team. Finally, it was decided that a team of players would be put together to take on the England team in the slot when we should have been playing Jersey. A team was selected that included some of our best women players, two of which played in my team.

The event was a success and an enjoyable one at that, with the final score of 22-11 to England. The result wasn't what this evening was about, it was about a group of talented Bar Billiards players, playing billiards and enjoying the occasion. I would like to thank Bob Hall for getting the select team together and stepping up to be their captain.

I then took a very strong team out to Guernsey. This would be Phil's first competitive England match. Since taking over the captaincy I have always put myself with any new player in the doubles as I remember the nerves I had on my first appearance.



That turned out to be a great decision as I was rubbish and Phil played very well and did most of our scoring. After the pairs we were 21-9 ahead but with another 36 points to play for in the singles it was far from over.

The singles matches went very well for us and we streaked ahead running out eventual winners by 50-16. Phil again showed us why he was selected by having the highest aggregate score of 23,880.

Before the team was selected in 2017 Kevin Tunstall informed me that he had decided to hang up his cue on his international game and 2018 is the first year Kev hasn't taken part in an England match. Nobody will ever be able to fill Kev's shoes as he has led and been part of the England set up for many, many years. I am sure his record will never be matched neither will his commitment to the England team, and to promoting the game of Bar Billiards. I would like to thank him for all the years he has put in and wish him every success as he continues to play in events long into the future.

Curt



Events 2019

IT'S ALL HAPPENING



We were thrilled to see greater participation levels in almost every All England event in the 2018 calendar - and we are already planning for similar next year. We also always try to listen to the feedback from players in order to ensure that you can play in as many events as possible.

One of the key challenges that we intend to address swiftly is to reduce the burden on players in the final quarter of the year. It seems that with the exception of two events - all of them are crammed into three short months. This has proven a challenge for many to be able to commit to each event and has at times almost beaten our Assistant Tournament Director Nigel who continues to do a remarkable job on formatting our competitions. As always, his aim is to produce events that offer as many opportunities for play as possible whilst delivering a fair competition every time. He is one of the associations greatest assets and we will continue to rely on him in 2019 to produce some fantastic events.

An additional burden of the event schedule is on the logistics effort for Dave Alder. It demands considerably more than is reasonable and we want to ensure that all of our people are looked after.

Finally, the busy end of the year renders us almost too busy to manage any other day to day activity - almost everything else goes on hold and this cannot persist.

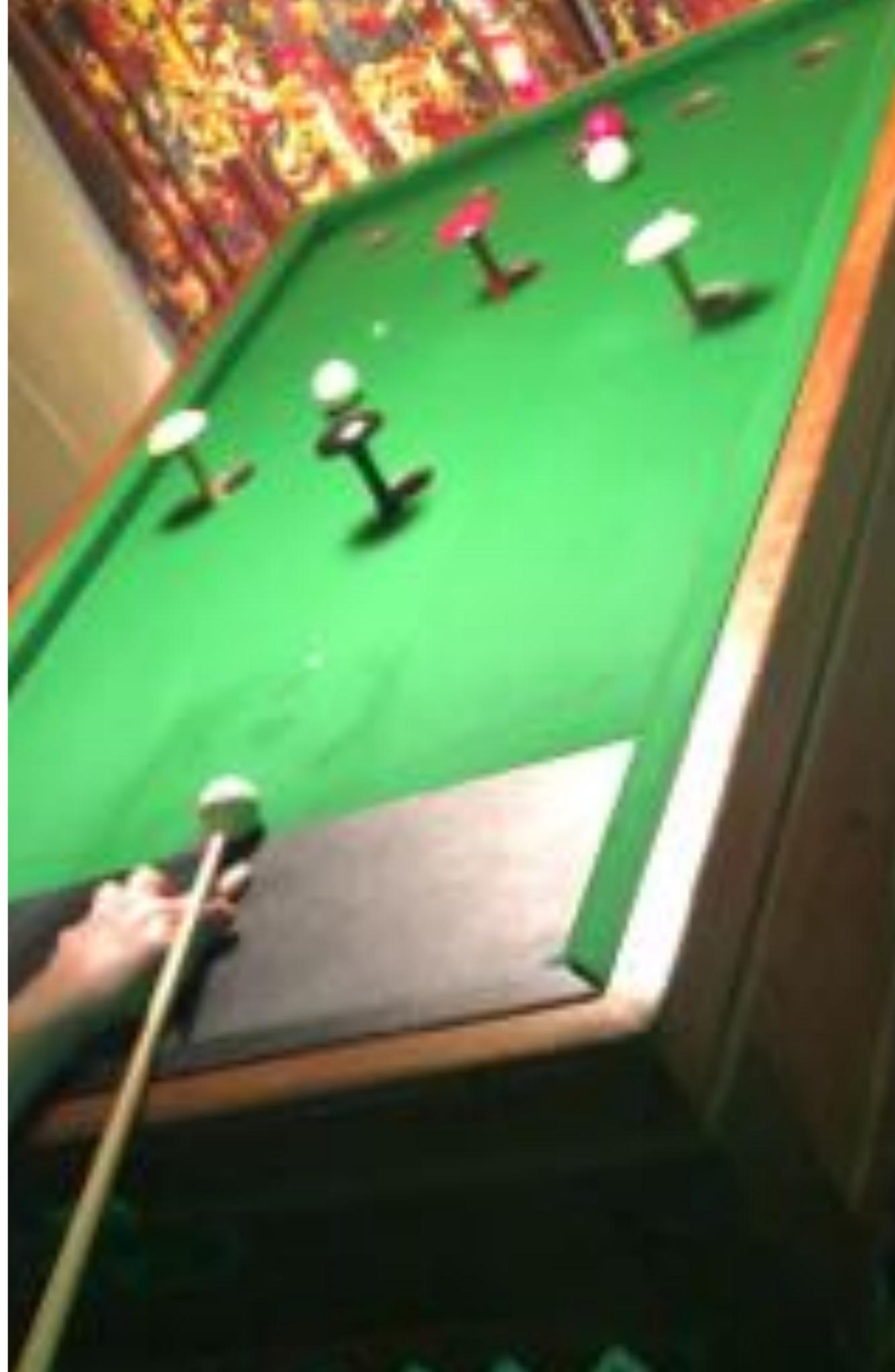
For 2019 we shall present a revised calendar which will ensure we continue to meet our

obligations to support league and county events through table hire as well as to spread some of the events throughout the year a little more evenly.

We are also thrilled to introduce a brand new 'challenger' event in the 2019 calendar. This event will do much to support our newest leagues in the midlands and north of England by offering an opportunity to play a prestigious All England event. It is right that we should do all we can to support leagues all across the country and a new event will help us deliver against that objective.

The event will be held in Nottingham and will be open to all players who are either unranked or are outside 250 in the 2018 national rankings. To support this a new 'Challenger' ranking list will also be created and administered to encourage players to continue to play.

It is anticipated that this will be the start of a number of events to support the growth of the game across the country and we will be looking for your support.



COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Our committee has operated well in the last year with valuable contributions from all. All players were invited to stand for election to serve on the committee although we intend to keep the number relatively stable.

Sadly, Chrissie Newson will be standing down from the role of Treasurer and therefore the committee too, and so we invite a replacement. Chrissie has served her role, the committee and the association with distinction and has helped to deliver some outstanding results. Without her herculean efforts we would certainly not be in our current position and may have even ceased to function. We owe Chrissie a sincere debt of gratitude, our lasting thanks and we offer her our very heartfelt best wishes for the future. Thank you Chrissie!

Those who are not currently committee members and who have expressed a willingness to stand for a committee role are listed below:

Role	Name	Proposer	Seconded by
Treasurer	Gerry Fitzjohn	Lorin Clough	Curt Driver

Votes for:

Votes against:



Given that no other notifications were received of people wishing to contest existing Committee roles this year, it is proposed that those standing for committee posts shall be elected en bloc.

Proposal Accepted Yes/No

PROPOSALS TO THE AGM

PROPOSAL 1 (Committee Proposal) - Committee Roles & Responsibilities

In order to clarify the accountability of each Committee Role - the following shall be inserted:

- A. The Officers of the AEBBA shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director and England Captain. The committee shall comprise further two of co-opted members from the Bar Billiards community. All committee members shall have full voting powers with the exception of the Chairman who shall preside and have the casting vote where necessary.
- B. All officers of the AEBBA are required to act in a manner that is not injurious or likely to be injurious to the interests of the association.
- C. All officers of the AEBBA are expected to attend committee meetings wherever reasonably possible and to transact business and decision making in the best interests of the association.
- D. The Roles & Responsibilities of the officers of the AEBBA Committee are as follows:

CHAIRMAN - The role of the Chairman shall be to stand as figurehead to the organisation and to oversee the continuing operations of the AEBBA. The Chairman is responsible for the leadership of the association and management of the association committee.

VICE CHAIRMAN - The Vice Chairman role is to act as deputy to the Chairman and to assume the role of Chairman in the absence of the same. The Vice Chairman shall be responsible for oversight of the game at an elite level ensuring the continual growth of elite events and identifying areas of development.

TREASURER - The role of the Treasurer shall be to manage the financial activity of the organisation and to ensure ongoing solvency as well as to ensure the security of AEBBA assets. The Treasurer shall supply ongoing information pertaining to the financial position of the association at each committee meeting and will prepare full and detailed accounts for acceptance at the A.G.M. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the day to day management of AEBBA finances, subscriptions and sponsorship as well as for allocating budget for expenditure.

SECRETARY - The role of Secretary shall be to oversee and administer the key activities of the organisation. The Secretary shall maintain all records pertaining to committee and association activity, publish information as required and act as the conduit of communication for committee and affiliated association members. It is expected that the Secretary shall be responsible for overall strategy with regard to public communication (including the AEBBA website and social media), sustainability - both financial and personnel, growth and event development. The Secretary shall prepare all documentation for committee meetings and the A.G.M.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR - The role of Tournament Director shall be to ensure adequate focus is given to the playing success of the association through events and competitions. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for the management, administration and logistics of playing event competitions and shall maintain necessary documentation in order to conduct draws and formats for each competition. Additionally, the Tournament Director shall manage all logistics functions of the AEBBA Table Hire operation and manage delivery and collection. The Tournament Director shall maintain documentation pertaining to table hire in order to support the Treasurer in accurate accounting and financial forecasting.

ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR - The role of Assistant Tournament Director shall be to provide support to the Tournament Director across the full range of responsibilities of that role. This shall include event planning and logistics as well as competition formats and draws. Additionally, the Assistant Tournament Director shall be responsible for the management and administration of the AEBBA Ranking Points system and shall be the conduit between the association and the Ranking Points committee. The Ranking Points committee shall have oversight of the system and may make recommendations for change to the AEBBA committee for approval. Ranking Points shall be updated following each AEBBA or eligible event as a minimum and shall be made available via the AEBBA Website. This shall include managing qualification for restricted events such as the AEBBA Grand Prix.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 2 (Committee Proposal) - Amendment to Rule 7 (c)

In recognition of the dispersed nature of the committee - which is a desirable characteristic but to prevent the progress of operations due to unavailability the rule should be amended to reduce the number of committee members required to form a quorum from five members to four.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 3 (Committee Proposal) - Change to Rule 11

The Committee Member responsible for event logistics, table hire and event management shall be paid an honorarium the amount of which shall be determined each year at the Annual General Meeting following a recommendation from the AEBBA Committee.

The proposed change to this rule will accurately reflect the effort and costs incurred in the pursuit of AEBBA Logistics and Operations.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 4 (Committee Proposal) - Change to Rule 40 (a)

Amendment: 'All Counties must confirm their attendance no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled event.' This amendment is to enable flexibility in the calendar when.if required.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 5 (Committee Proposal) - Removal of Rule 61

This rule is inflexible and does not take into account the number of participants in an event. The AEBBA Committee and tournament organisers should have authority to determine start times for events according to a range of factors. This rule, put simply, is needless bureaucracy.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 6 (Committee Proposal) - Addendum to Rule 112

This Rule should include: where a player commits two fouls in a single shot - such as: one ball mounting the cushion or leaving the table and a second ball knocking over a peg - it is the first foul that is incurred that shall apply.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 7 (Committee Proposal) - Removal of Rule 62(d)

All event rewards need to be determined by event entry numbers and sponsorship received. Flexibility needs to be given to the AEBBA committee and Tournament organisers to this effect.

Proposed by: Committee

Seconded by: Committee

Votes for:

Votes against:

PROPOSAL 7 - Change to Rule 62 (c)

To Agree that the 4-pin rules on wide tables should be agreed by the Northants organisers/committee and all entrants be notified in good time and be adopted by AEBBA. To Agree that the 4 pin rules on narrow tables should be agreed by the Sudbury organisers/committee and all entrants be notified in good time and be adopted by AEBBA. Rule Changes made by either committee at their respective AGM's should be notified to AEBBA and amendments made accordingly, this is to ensure that rule changes cannot be forced onto either party by "outsiders".

Reason

As we cant seem to get convergence with the appropriate rules for 4 Pin in Suffolk and Northants we shouldn't try, there are several things wrong with the Sudbury rules and as we have seen with my previous attempts to make things fairer for the betterment of the game without success. As some have commented, its not good to be continually arguing over the same things each year.

Proposed by: Colin Southouse

Seconded by: Simon Coleman

Votes for:

Votes against:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING REMARKS

AOB items discussed:

Affiliation Fees

Rule 18 - Bournemouth

Life Vice Presidencies - Chrissie Newson, Chris Saville

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

We wish you an enjoyable and successful year ahead!

