



*2011-12 Season - Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Newsletter No. 2 - November 2011*

*To all players of the DMC Leisure Saffron Walden & District Snooker League*

The Committee would firstly like to say we hope you are enjoying the season, and wish you all the best of luck, whether that be in individual events, or as a team.

### **COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Sadly, Ian Croxford has stepped down from the Committee as he felt he was unable to give the amount of time he felt the role required. We wish him all the best for the remainder of the season. However, we are pleased to announce that Stuart Turner has stepped forward, and has been co-opted onto the Committee until the A.G.M. when we hope he will take on a permanent role.

We still need more assistance on the Committee, especially with such a big season for the League. If you think you might be able to help, please contact either Cathy, Nigel, Peter or Adam.

### **HEXAGON INVITATIONAL**

As you are all no doubt aware, a lot has happened since the last Newsletter in August. One of the most interesting events was running the Hexagon Invitational which took place at Saffron Snooker Club.

Many of the League's top players took part with varying degree of success, however it was a new player to our League who had the best result on the day with Harlow War Memorial's Jason Pegram reaching the final, before losing to England Amateur Captain Martin O'Donnell 3-0. Jason had been involved in some tough matches leading up to the final. In the semi final, Jason played Adam Ingram and the match went all the way to the final black ball in the deciding frame, which Adam skilfully potted but then went in off handing a place in the final to Jason. The match was played in great spirit, and one which both players enjoyed.

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## TOURNAMENT ROUND UP

Most of the first round matches in all the tournaments went off without any problems, however 12 byes had to be awarded, this mainly in part to players either not checking the draws, or forgetting to organise the match.

There are some very interesting matches across the tournaments in the second rounds – in the handicap singles (sponsored by A.Lamb Associates), the pick of the bunch looks to be Jason Pegram away to Kevin Rule at Newport Club. Will an 82 head start be enough for Kevin? Well, with a home advantage he must take confidence, another tough one to call involves another two players from the Harlow team, Jack Bothwell vs. Hammad Miah, Jack has shown signs this season of his game going up another level, so a tough match for Hammad?

In the Handicap doubles (sponsored by M.J.Halls Builders), the match of the round has to be the all Newport clash of Webb/Willis vs. Rule/Clark, no one will want to lose this match, as bragging rights could go on for some time!

This season, as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Season celebrations, the Tournament Secretary asked the Committee to bring back the Handicap Singles Plate for the first time since 2006/2007. As fate would have it, the champion of that last Plate Tournament is back in the Plate this season, so the pressure is on the defending champion, Richard Livings of the Snooker Swifts.

In the Scratch Plus (sponsored by Hexagon Consulting), the match of the round has to be the first on the sheet, the fast improving Mark Cooper from the Snooker Cavaliers taking on the number one seed Chris Clark at Newport. Chris would have hoped with his seeding for an easier draw, but instead will have to be at the top of his game.

In the League Cup (sponsored by N.M.Ginn Electrics) there were no big surprises in the preliminary round, apart from the reigning champions the Tornados going out; mind you playing the Pockets at the snooker club is no easy task. The match up of the second round looks to be the match between Dunmow Club and the Legion Rogues – both are doing well in the League so Home advantage for Dunmow Club could be the crucial factor.



Don't forget for those of you who didn't enter the Scratch Singles, there is still time, and there are some big name players, so if you have had a change of heart, or now find you might have the time to play in the event, contact the Tournament Secretary.

### **LEAGUE TABLE**

Well, what an interesting start to the campaign, Harlow War Memorial haven't lost a match, and the three champions the Bandits are yet to win. Dunmow Club look like they have the fight in them to try and give their all to defend their title, while both the British Legion teams have started the season well, but don't count out the Snooker Cavaliers just yet, history shows they have a habit of going win crazy in the second half of the season, maybe they are the Manchester United of the snooker League!

The 4 Player Division is shaping up nicely, with three teams showing early promise. After a torrid campaign last season, the Newport ex-Cons have started well, as have Widdington after a baptism of fire in the 3 Player Division last time round, but it is great to see one of the longest running teams in the League playing so well this season, and currently top of the table, the Sawston Flyers.

### **MEMORIAL CUP**

The day seemed to be a success from the playing aspect, with indications that people liked the round-robin format and good value for money (as the League had paid half of the entry fee as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations).

After the early rounds had been completed, the semi-final line up led to Dunmow Club taking on the Legion Rebels, and Whittlesford taking on Harlow War Memorial, Both matches were played in a great spirit, with Dunmow Club beating the Rebels 4-3 (after a play off) and Whittlesford surprising themselves and the League leaders, Harlow, by winning 4-2.

The final was another close affair, but it was the closest of margins that decided the match, with Dunmow Club winning 4-3 in the final frame shoot out.

The other noteworthy piece of news from the event happened in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of group games, when Adam Ingram broke the League's highest recorded break, with a 132.



The League would like to thank all the staff at Saffron Snooker Club for all their help on the day, and for preparing the tables for the event.

### **WEBSITE**

As you may know, Peter Saville has been working hard creating a new League website. Since the last Newsletter, pages highlighting tournaments, Captain's list, League table and a Twitter feed have been added and are being regularly updated.

A Facebook page has also been included and we would welcome more League players to join up, or 'LIKE' the group page! Once Cathy has produced this season's Hot Shots Table it will be made available online, however we can tell you that the current leader is Jack Moules from the Widdington team, with a very impressive played 7 won 7. Congratulations to Jack, make sure you keep checking out the site to see all the new pages, [www.swdsl.co.uk](http://www.swdsl.co.uk)

### **REFEREES COURSE**

Yet again this season there is interest from some of the players in the course taking place again. Dan Lewis has agreed that he will once again run the course details of which will be available soon. If you wish to take part in the course, or to find out further details then please contact either Cathy, Dan or Adam.

### **EASB**

Once again this season the League's players have shown they want to play in the big events on the national stage. With players from the League entering the English Club Players Championship (7 entries), the Seniors (over 40's), Championship (1 entry), and the biggest and hardest tournament to win, the English Amateur Championship, (5 entries). We wish all of our League players the best of luck in these events. We will keep you updated on their progress as doing well in these events can lead to a place on the English Amateur Team that takes part in the Home Internationals.

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## **SEEDING AND WALDEN CHALLENGE**

As many of you know the Scratch Singles and the Scratch Plus tournaments are seeded. In the past this has been done purely on handicaps. This is no longer the case, and it has been the same with the team selection for the Walden Challenge. Again this has changed and seeding is now based on handicap form (taken from league results) and the player's previous result in the corresponding tournament (Scratch or Scratch Plus). A player must have played in a League match in the first half of the season to be allowed to play in the Scratch Singles. In the case of the Walden Challenge this is the same, but with availability also being taken into account, this will be done by a three person Sub Committee to ensure fair play.

Also in this year's Walden Challenge we hope to have another new side taking part, along with the our own team. We normally welcome Ipswich, Milton Keynes, Chelmsford, Cambridge, Braintree and South Beds, but this season we also hope to have a side from Peterborough.

## **A FITTING REMEMBRANCE**

As many of you will know, the League sadly lost one of its longest serving players, Joe Crawley. Joe was passionate about the League and loved his snooker and had spent the last few seasons as Captain of the Snooker Swifts. His Vice Captain Kevin Starr, came to the Committee wanting to do something in memory of Joe. Therefore, it gives us pleasure to announce that at the end of the season there will be a scratch tournament for past and present players of the League who are 50 years old or over. There will be some other stipulations, which will be announced when the finer details are decided and we hope this will be a great day's play for all concerned. We are also in the process of contacting past players from the League, inviting them to take part and we also hope that current League players will come along to support this event in memory of Joe.



## **CAPTAINS MEETING**

Again this season the Committee are hoping to hold a Captain's meeting. If your Team Captain is unable to attend, then the Vice Captain or a team delegate is more than welcome to come along, although we would ask it is kept to one member per team.

We hope this season every team will be able to send a representative for the meeting which is to be held on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at the Saffron Snooker Club, 7.30pm start. At the meeting you can discuss any issues you feel have arisen during the season, as well as giving your thoughts on the 50<sup>th</sup> season celebrations and also looking at the second half handicaps list.

## **LEAGUE CONTACTS**

If you have any queries during the League season, please ensure that you contact the relevant League Officer. Primarily this will be either:-

### ***League Secretary - Cathy O'Neill***

All matters concerning the general running of the League on a day-to-day basis, League match results, player registrations and handicaps, cancellation and/or re-arranging of League matches. Any queries concerning League rules and regulations etc.

### ***Tournament Secretary – Adam Ingram***

All matters relating to all tournament and competition entries, results and draw sheets. Also any matters relating to the President's Cup, Memorial Cup, Saffron Walden Challenge or League Cup. Any matters relating to the EASB.

### ***Treasurer / Website Administrator – Peter Saville***

All matters relating to the finances of the League and the website.

Best wishes,

*The Committee*