

# **MINUTES OF**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Newtown Football Club, Newtown - 8pm Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2008**

1. List of those present circulated for signatures and teams.

*There were 50 people in attendance and all completed the register (Attached)*

2. Minutes of 2007 AGM read out.

*These were read out by the Secretary and proposed by Alan Jones and seconded by Johnny Jerman that they were accurate.*

3. Matters arising from those minutes.

*There were no matters arising.*

4. Chairman's Report.

*Phil said he was pleased to see 42 teams starting the league last season although one dropped out half way through which we are taking steps to prevent occurring this season. He congratulated the Bellenders who won Division Three with Queens Head second and Buccaneers in third. Division Two winners, Herbert Chirbury were excellent champions although they were pushed hard by Squashed Grapes in second and Dolau in third. The Premiership was the tightest for many years with three sides locked together but the Elite were the Champions with the Grapes second and Lion third.*

*Phil said he was delighted with the Youth League last season with it attracted 52 entries aged between 7yrs and 18yrs. Excellent quality nights of pool with the league stages. He thanked Alan and Louisa Davies for their help and also to Jason Bright for his chart production and help in running events. The youngsters all behaved themselves impeccably throughout and were a credit.*

*Finals Day was a lot of work but the Elephant stepped in at the last minute to stage the event and we had a very successful day. Congratulations to all the winners and it was nice to see some new faces appearing. Thanks must go to the helpers although it ws the same ones every year - a few more would have been helpful.*

*The County side are not having their best season so far. 36 frames are played in each match and it is always a matter of two or three frames going the other way standing between defeat and victory. We are in a very competitive division and are often up against semi-professional players. There was a very successful fundraising event staged last year with the Jimmy White exhibition which was a sell out and enable us to raise funds to totally cover all the County travelling expenses. A lot of work went into it and not a bad word was said by anyone who attended. Looking to try to get John Parrott in November who should be a little more entertaining. Many Thanks to Wayne Smith who stole the show at the exhibition with his trickshots show which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. He thanked Mike Williams for his help in running the County team.*

*Lastly, many thanks to Owen for his work in running the League making us the best run league in Wales. The Pool Press is getting very entertaining with the*

*mickey taking that is going into it and it makes for a very amusing read each week.*

#### 5. Secretary's Report.

*Owen said it was an exceptionally close season last year with all three divisions very competitively balanced and goes to show that the standards continue to rise as the rest of the League catch up with the top performers. Rather than duplicate what the Chairman had reported, Owen said that he too congratulated the winners in all the divisions and praised Argae Hall B for an excellent first premiership season and also to the Football Robins who saved themselves from relegation and at the same time defeated the championship chasing Lion team in the last match; all goes to show there is little between the top and the bottom teams in the Premiership other than consistency. He looked forward to seeing Chirbury come up to the Premiership this season.*

*There were too many cancellation of fixtures last season, often for little reason other than one player away. We have to be mindful that fixtures can only be cancelled with the full permission of the opponents and also bear in mind that we are disrupting a team's night out when fixtures are postponed.*

*Owen said he would like to put a stop to rude team names this season as it was difficult to write a professional account both on the website and to newspapers each week when teams had names which were a little unsavoury.*

*Finals Day was a little chaotic on the lead up with the Football Club letting us down badly. Owen thanked the Elephant for stepping in at short notice to stage it and it proved to be an excellent venue and was probably the smoothest final so far. There was however, an horrendous amount of work and expense to staging the event there as we had to rig up all the tables, lighting stands and install extra cabling etc. He went on to thank those loyal few who help every year and said they all had to work extra hard this time.*

*Lastly, thanks to all the team Captains whose hard work ensures the League continues to run smoothly.*

#### 6. Presentation of Balance Sheet.

*The Balance sheet was distributed amongst the meeting and the Treasurer explained that the League currently had a large stock of cues and cases for sale and that contributed to a loss of about £400 last season, although we are very healthy in the bank with £3500.*

*Proposed by Terry Marshall and seconded by Terry Grisdale that the balance sheet be accepted.*

#### 7. Election of Officials: a) CHAIRMAN b) SECRETARY/TREASURER:

*Proposed by Phil Fage and seconded by Alan Davies that the officials be re-elected en bloc. This was accepted.*

#### 8. Provisional teams for new season. Does anyone know of any teams actually dropping out - or new teams wishing to enter?

*It was established that the relegated Lion B side had disbanded, as had Bettws with nobody present from Sarn to establish if they were still in. Several sides were moving with Queens A going to Abermule, Upper House A going to the Courthouse, Waggon possibly going to Kerry Lamb, Football Bucks going to the*

*Waggon, Herbert Chirbury going to Cock Hotel Forden and Bucanneers going to the Lion.*

*New teams had been indicated from Upper House, Buck Inn (2), Flying Shuttle (2), Red Dragon and Waterloo.*

*Owen said that we may have to do some headscratching at the next meeting as the numbers of teams look as though they may rise to 48 at which point we will have to decide whether to extend the season to cover 16 teams per league which will mean an extra month on the season, or to make the season much shorter and have four divisions which would disappoint at least two teams from the Premiership and Division Two who would have to be relegated without the requisite regulations having been changed in readiness.*

9. Registration forms and Team Details forms to be taken with each team's representative here tonight and brought back by next the meeting which is on Sunday 31st August, 2008 at 8pm, meaning two weeks to sign up your squads.

*Entry forms were handed out to every team present.*

10. Entry Fees - currently stand at £15 - propose it remains the same.

*It was agreed they remain the same*

11. Weekly match subscriptions - propose it remain at £1 per frame for all divisions.

*It was agreed they remain the same*

12. Trophies / Prize Money. Do members want to retain the system of paying out prize money for all competitions instead of trophies?

*It was agreed they remain the same*

13. Day, time and format of matches. Do we leave it alone?

*Owen then raised a proposal that we should change things a little to stop us getting stale and suggested increasing the playing members to at least 6 and have twelve frames. This was heavily defeated as members felt that five a side assisted with travelling arrangements. Owen asked for other suggestions to alter the league slightly and it was proposed to have two doubles frames. A vote was taken on this and the meeting was heavily in favour of adding two more frames but a proposal was made that we should drop the Captains Cups instead. A vote was again heavily in favour of this. Another suggestion was that the doubles would have to be drawn with at least five names going into the draw for those two frames. The finer points would be dealt with at the next meeting after we have all had time to consider it, but it was also suggested that these two frames should be played at the start of the match and they should feature the new doubles rules of one shot per partner. Also suggested was that any number (over 5) could be placed into the doubles draw, giving substitutes the chance to take part also.*

14. Membership of WPA and County programme?

*It was agreed they remain the same*

15. Playing rules – propose they remain unaltered.

There was a discussion on the time some games took and how certain sides were more at fault when the Secretary reminded teams that the one minute rule is not there just for Finals Day and that it should be used all the time as it is for the benefit of the League it was introduced to stop certain players taking advantage of others by taking far too long to play shots. Terry Marshall suggested that all the sides should be provided with one minute egg timers as they would be visible for all to see and when the sand had run out, it was clearly time to take the shot. Owen said he would look into purchasing a stock of them.

16. League Regulations - any changes necessary.

*None necessary*

17. An Executive Committee will be chosen at the next meeting. Eight members will be asked for - please decide who you would like to nominate, or whether you wish to nominate yourselves.

*Members asked to consider nominating themselves or others for the committee.*

18. 7-ballers - suggest we continue as at present.

*There was much debate on the subject of 7-ballers as many definitions were being spread around when our rules clearly state the definition we have always followed. Owen emphasised these rules to the membership and pointed out they were introduced about twenty years ago in an effort to make the game more attractive which is why the rule is not restricted to just off the break.*

19. Start of season - Sunday 14/9/08, with everything to be handed out at a meeting on Thursday 11/9/06.

20. Any other business.

*Mark Borland proposed that two should be relegated from the Premiership and two promoted from the Second Division. This was very popular and was heavily in favour with the meeting. Owen explained that already the rules were three up and three down in the second and third divisions, and the reason it had been left at one up to the Premiership was that nobody wanted to come up originally as they saw it as too hard. This was not now the case though.*

*There was a request that town centre pubs found it difficult to play the Knockouts on a Friday night as it was so busy. Owen explained that he used the Friday as a default in favour of people who worked away in the week or worked shifts which ended on a Friday. This had evolved over the years, but there was usually a month's notice of such knockouts and teams were quite welcome to alter dates to suit themselves provided they were before the scheduled date.*