

APFSCIL DARTS LEAGUE AGM 2018

The Horseshoe, Clerkenwell Green, Monday 16 July 2018, 7.40pm

1 Attendees;

Tina Robertson (Man City) – chair, Chris Turner (Rotherham United) – secretary, Phil Loy (Ipswich Town), Rick Goby (Chester), David Golya (Sheffield Wednesday), Ian Lamey (Exeter City), Nick Brooks (Burnley), Ant Summers (Blackpool), John Walsh (Blackpool), Matt Stephens (Nottingham Forest), Rob Madigan (Everton), Steve O'Brien (Manchester United), Martin Clubb (Newcastle United), Chris Vaughan (Scunthorpe United),

2 Apologies;

Pete Reynolds (Blackpool), Paul Bradley (Rotherham United), Andrew Plummer (Gillingham), Nick Head (Southampton), Keith Adamson (Sunderland), Kari Mawhood (Newcastle), Ian Wood (Burnley)

3 Minutes from 2017 meeting

The minutes were formally approved – proposed by Rob Madigan (Everton) and seconded by Martin Clubb (Newcastle)

4 Matters Arising from 2017 minutes

Under item 3, Tina agreed to take forward the proposal that photos from the presentation evening be posted on to the APFSCIL website. **ACTION – Tina.**

5 Season 2017/18 secretary's report

The report was circulated to member clubs prior to the meeting.

The main points were the withdrawal of Sheffield Wednesday part way through the season, and Burnley's intention not to enter the league for the 2018/19 season. Both teams citing a lack of available players for their decision. Burnley did however suggest that they would be entering the cup competition.

The situation in Division 2 where not all matches had been completed by the cut off date., was also raised. This clearly has an impact on promotion and relegation places and was discussed in more detail under item 6a.

The other point to note was the delay to the cup competition, which also occurred in 2016/17. This was discussed in more detail later under AOB, particularly the delay affecting Ipswich Town.

The Secretary thanked all club captains for their hard work in arranging matches over the season, the divisional reps, Rob Madigan for hosting a number of teams as well as organising and hosting the pairs and singles competitions, and Tina Robertson for her valuable support during the season.

He also congratulated all the winners and runners-up of the leagues, as well as the pairs and singles winners and runners-up.

6 Season 2018/19

a) Composition of leagues

In view of Sheffield Wednesday and Burnley pulling out of the league, it leaves 16 teams for the 2018/19 season. We are not aware of any other teams suggesting they will withdraw.

A proposal was put forward prior to the meeting by Nick Head (Southampton) that the league consist of two divisions. Division 1 would be made up of 6 teams, playing each other twice, home and away. Division 2 would consist of the remaining 10 teams, playing each other one, home or away. This proposal was seconded by Ian Lamey (Exeter City).

Following discussion and a vote, this proposal was rejected.

A vote was then taken to keep the current three divisional structure with Division 1 comprising of six teams and divisions 2 and 3 each comprising five teams. This was proposed by Chris Vaughan (Scunthorpe United) and seconded by Rick Goby (Chester). This proposal was carried.

There was also a vote on the Rule change proposed by Chris Turner (Rotherham United) to add "where a team officially withdraws from the league during the season and they have not fulfilled all their league fixtures, the results from those league games they had played up to their withdrawal will be expunged". This was seconded by Martin Clubb (Newcastle United) and was carried. **ACTION – Chris Turner to updated the Rules for the 2018/19 season.**

In view of these decisions, and taking account of Rule 3 which states; "All fixtures for the season are to be completed by the date specified in the fixture list (29 June in season 17/18). Any matches outstanding after that date will be declared null and void and no points awarded to either team, and that there would be no exception to this rule.", the situation is as follows.

Nottingham Forest are confirmed as champions of Division 1, with Chester runners-up. No teams would be relegated as Burnley and Sheffield Wednesday would not be competing next season.

Rotherham United are champions of Division 2, with Scunthorpe United runners-up. Both these teams are promoted to Division 1. Bolton Wanderers would be relegated to Division 3.

In Division 3, Newcastle are champions, and Blackpool finish as runners-up. Both these teams are promoted to Division 2.

This therefore means the teams in each Division for 2018/19 are as follows;
Division 1; Nottingham Forest, Chester, Sunderland, Leicester City, Rotherham United and Scunthorpe United.

Division 2; Plymouth Argyle, Gillingham, Manchester United, Newcastle United and Blackpool.

Division 3; Bolton Wanderers, Everton, Exeter City, Southampton and Manchester City.

b) Proposed dates

The proposed dates will be similar to recent seasons with the league season proper to start late September. Matches must be completed by Friday 28 June 2019. Other dates, eg: singles and pairs knockouts, and the cup competition will be circulated by the Secretary.

ACTION – Chris to send out the fixture dates and proposed dates for the singles competition, and the presentation evening and pairs competition.

c) Subscriptions for 2018/19

It was proposed by Steve O'Brien (Manchester United) and seconded by Rob Madigan (Everton) that the subscriptions remain at £16 for entry to the league and £12 for entry to the cup. Steve also asked whether the number of medals given out before a charge is made for additional medals should be increased to eight. Up to seven medals are currently awarded to teams that win or are runners up in each division, or win or are runners up in the cup.

ACTION – Chris to raise with the APFSCIL committee at August's meeting.

7 Election of Officers

The following officers were re-elected/elected following Matt Stephens' (Nottingham Forest) proposal. This was seconded by John Walsh (Blackpool).

Tina Robertson – Chair
Chris Turner – Secretary
Andre Maxwell – Trophies
Rob Madigan – Competitions organiser
Division 1 rep: Rick Goby (Chester)
Division 2 rep: Steve O'Brien (Manchester United)
Division 3 rep: Rob Madigan (Everton)

The meeting voted unanimously to elect the officials listed above.

8 Any other business

Phil Loy (Ipswich Town) raised the issue about the delays in the 2017/18 cup competition. Ipswich Town are in the semi-finals but have had to wait a number of months before earlier rounds have concluded. The quarter final between Leicester City and Newcastle United, with the winners to face Ipswich, is being played on 24 July.

The meeting discussed possible options about prioritising the cup and that matches should be completed before the next round is due to be played. Where teams did not play a fixture before the next round is due to be played, the team waiting for them in the next round would receive a bye. However, it was proposed by Chris Vaughan (Scunthorpe United) and seconded by Tina Robertson (Manchester City) that we should see how this season's competition goes and review at next year's AGM. This was carried noting that teams should prioritise cup fixtures this season.

There was also a discussion around playing 'double headers, ie; two teams playing each other 'home' and 'away' on the same evening. This happened a couple of times in Division 3 towards the end of last season.

Rick Goby (Chester) said this had the potential to be unfair on other teams in the league and also kills the spirit of the social aspect of APFSCIL darts. Others agreed with this sentiment while suggesting that it might sometimes be the best option when the season is coming to an end and matches still have to be played. It must also be the case that if a double header was played, then the pub must have more than one available dartboard.

It was agreed that double headers should not be encouraged, particularly in the early part of the season, but understood that they might be necessary in some circumstances towards the end of the season.

Steve O'Brien mentioned start times, particularly in view of players travelling some distance to and from games. Rule 4 states that matches should begin at 7.45pm unless decided otherwise by captains.

Ant Summers (Blackpool) suggested more should be done through social media to promote APFSCIL and the darts league. He has raised this at a general APFSCIL meeting but nothing seems to have happened. **ACTION – Chris to raise with Neil Le Milliere at August's APFSCIL meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9.13pm