



SUMMER 2014 MID-SEASON NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2014

CAPTAINS' MEETING

Following a successful and well attended Captains Meeting the following items will become active

NEXT SEASON:

- The SRPL will offer the option for teams to play Blackball rules. This is subject to sufficient demand to allow fixtures to work alongside the existing leagues. The committee will determine the exact structure required after all registrations are received.
- The 'D' will no longer be required on the table. Any reference to the 'D' becomes 'behind the baulk line'. ie. players break-off from anywhere within the baulk area.
- New players may not be registered for, or play in, the last 4 league matches.

It was also decided that the SRPL should start to record individual player statistics with a view to award trophies for the best player of the divisions. This is currently in discussions to confirm viability as with 600+ players to track, it's no easy task. If you are interested in helping out with this, please get in touch.

NEW TO THE COMMITTEE

The SRPL doesn't run itself and important decisions often need to be made (along with the mundane tasks of dropping packs to venues etc.).

At the captains meeting we handed out nomination forms for new members of the committee and we're proud to say that we now have a very knowledgeable and capable group of members.

SRPL Committee Officers:

Peter Elliott - Chairman

Fixtures secretary, webmaster and newsletter writer. The first point of contact for all captains and players.

Paul Reynolds - Vice-Chairman

Often found begging landlords to host Finals and Presentation Nights and climbing up the walls to hang cables in an attempt to live streaming our finals.

Steve Farrow - Secretary

The SRPL "Pool of pool knowledge" and often the Chairman's go-to guy when he gets confused. Also fixtures secretary for the Singles and Doubles competitions and coordinator of additional league competitions.

Hayley Fox - Treasurer

Rejoining the SRPL Committee after co-running the league with her husband Sean 3 years ago. She's got a tight hold of the purse strings and ensures your entry fees are well spent.

SRPL Committee Members

Ryan Watts, Paul Alders, Tony Adams, Mick Warner & Mike Smith. These guys chip in and help in any way they can but ultimately report to the officers.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

This season, Presentation Night is on Saturday 6th September at the The Peartree, Sholing from 7pm. We will have trophies, pot the lot, music, food and drinks promotions. Everyone is welcome, and we mean everyone. Just because you didn't win a division, doesn't mean you won't be awarded something...

REGISTRATION FOR THE WINTER 2014/15 SEASON

As voted for at the Captains' Meeting, the SRPL will be offering the option to play using Blackball rules next season in a new league on your usual day, subject to demand.

As discussed at length at the meeting, love'em or hate 'em, Blackball seems to be the direction mainstream pool is taking. Having brought the SRPL into the 21st Century with the website and live streaming, we are striving to keep the SRPL progressing with the game. We believe to ignore the trend towards Blackball would be damaging to the pool community in the south, especially the younger players who are joining our league and learning a defunct rule set.

If you would like a demonstration of the rules at **YOUR VENUE**, please contact the Committee and we will see what we can do.

Please be assured, should you decide that Blackball isn't for you and your team, the option to stick with the current rules and format will remain.

How will the Blackball League work?

The Committee will create the Southampton Blackball Pool League to run alongside the existing Southampton Regional Pool League on the usual day that a team currently plays (ie. Tuesday or Thursday). For the first season, the match format will remain the same (5 singles & 2 doubles). Blackball rules often allow for more frames to be played in one night and this will be addressed in due course. Teams will be split into divisions based on their final standings at the end of the SRPL Summer 2014 season. We will also run a separate Team Knockout Cup and Shield

competitions playing Blackball rules.

All Blackball League players will be issued with a membership card which will include an individual player number to compile statistics.

Why make a new Blackball League?

The SRPL has always been a fun pub league where players can enjoy having a social evening with their friends and game of pool on the side.

Some players want to take it more seriously and want the committee to get involved when something isn't perfect; such as asking us to change a result for a rule infringement that we didn't witness or to stringently ensure players don't change teams to 'fix' results etc.

If it's a fun league, players have to accept that sometimes players may be too drunk to play and some tables are uneven and don't have enough space around them.

The start of the Blackball league is an opportunity for a clean start; for those players that want to play pool a bit more seriously.

The SRPL isn't by any means dead, or even dying, it's merely outdated, but fine for those that want to drink and slap some balls around a table and it seems that most players desperately want it to remain like that.

A sweeping change was ruled out so the only alternative to keep everyone happy is to offer a new league with clean-cut rules, vetted venues, player stats and a stricter attitude to how it's run & controlled.

Hopefully people will make the decision that is right for their team, and the committee will run a league to support them either way.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 5PM SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST

Why not bring your paperwork and payment to the Singles & Doubles Finals? Sunday 20th July @ The Baizz

TEAM KNOCKOUT SHIELD COMPETITION

New in this season was the **Team Knockout Shield Competition**. All teams that didn't quite cut the mustard in the first rounds of the Team Cup got placed into the Shield Competition. It gave more teams more matches and more chances to win a trophy.

Although the competition was launched after the original fixtures were delivered to venues, **most** teams saw the update on the Facebook group, Twitter and website, and for that we are truly grateful; but it does raise an important point: Please join the Facebook group, follow us on Twitter and check the main home page of the website regularly. Sometimes things change very quickly in our league (pubs closing, teams folding, rearrangements being requested) and the easiest way for us to let you know as a group is via these methods.

The best communication tool we have is the Facebook group. Even if you don't want to follow the banter, please join it so we can tag you if there is something important that affects your team. Important information affecting multiple teams will often be 'pinned' to the top of the group too.



[facebook.com/groups/sotonpool](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sotonpool)



SOUTHAMPTON
BLACKBALL
POOL LEAGUE

BLACKBALL RULES DEMO

If you missed the demonstration evening at the Baizz on Monday 19th May, the SRPL are able to offer to host a demonstration evening at **YOUR VENUE**.

Contact the committee and we will arrange it for you.

WORLD CUP CLASHES

There's the potential for SRPL matches to clash with World Cup matches on a couple of dates this season.

Thursday 19th June - Uruguay v England at 8pm

Tuesday 24th June - Costa Rica v England at 5pm

If either of these cause a problem for your team, please rearrange the match as soon as possible, ensuring you notify the committee. Remember, Cup and Shield matches must be played **ON** or **BEFORE** the original schedule date and the last league match of the season for **ALL TEAMS** is week 28. Rearranging around England World Cup matches will **NOT** count as one of your two permitted rearrangements.

Thanks for reading, The SRPL Committee