



NORTH DOWN PETANQUE CLUB

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT TO AGM – 2 APRIL 2009

GENERAL SITUATION

As with recent years, the Club has continued to function well in the year just past, with fairly regular attendance through a variety of weather, by the hardier or dafter among us.

CLUB NIGHTS/COMPETITIONS

Few, if any, nights were missed, and a substantial programme of competitions was completed. Honours in the competitions have continued to be shared across the membership and the 'open draw' nature of team composition has provided opportunities for all to compete and team up with a mix of members. As the organiser of most of the competitions, I want to record my thanks to the members who gave of their time to assist and compete. Thanks are also due to those who donated wine for the ballot, which was a feature of most of the competitions. Congratulations again to the various winners.

ILLNESS

Geniality this year has been tempered to a degree by the absence through illness of a number of our members. In particular, David McHenry and his loved ones are never far from our thoughts. With typical drive, David had continued to play and take an active interest in club matters until his serious illness made it impossible to do so. Our hearts go out to Brenda, John and Peggy and the family at this very difficult time. John and Peggy are also dealing with the serious illness of John's sister, who is currently undergoing treatment and we would all hope for a successful outcome from that treatment.

It is nice to see Wilma here tonight. Let's hope that the experts find an answer soon to the problems she has suffered with her sight over the last while, and that she will be back with us at some stage in a playing capacity.

Jim McAdam is currently hospitalised with a leg problem. The nature of his illness is still unclear to the local medical profession, but our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.

Gavin Walker suffered some health problems during the year, but is regaining strength gradually and has been playing occasionally over recent months. John Whitlaw too is currently below par, but continuing to play. We wish both a speedy recovery.

THE COMMITTEE

A Committee meeting on 8 April 2008 was the only one held this year. The main outcome of the meeting was the establishment of the Competition programme.

REPRESENTATION

The North Down flag continues to be flown outside the club environment. We are again well represented in the Irish team
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competing in the Celtic Challenge in Cork next weekend, where John Hennessy, George Davidson, Denis Nightingale and Humberto Tavares are part of the Ireland A team.

Gavin Walker and Denis Nightingale took second place in the IPA Doubles played in Sligo in September last. Humberto Tavares, George Davidson, and David and Brenda McHenry also participated. Humberto, John Hennessy, Denis Nightingale and David McHenry also competed in the IPA Singles in Sligo, without success.

Humberto and George competed in the 'Boule Blitz' Doubles competition in Cork in August, being beaten in the final of the secondary competition.

George won the Cork PC's 'turkey' competition in November last, partnered by Fayaz Sookharry, a newcomer to Ireland's petanque fraternity.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the interest and dedication of our membership, together with the competition activity and the continuing involvement and success of members at International and National level, give us every reason to look forward to another year of 'craic', camaraderie and success.

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