

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
1 September 2005 (10.35am – 11.30am)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Conservative Group Peter Gardner (Chairman), Barry Oddy

Residents' Group Ivor Cameron

Evren Omer, a director of Knights Snooker Club,

PC D Leonard (police licensing officer), Graham Hopkins (Havering Licensing) Derron Jarell (Legal advisor to the Sub-Committee) and Grant Söderberg (Clerk) were also present.

The Chairman advised those present of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

KNIGHTS SNOOKER CLUB – APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE

The Committee received a report outlining the application.

The premises were currently permitted to open:

Monday to Saturday	10.00 hours to 23.00 hours,
Sunday & Good Friday	12.00 hours to 22.30 hours
Christmas day 1 st	12.00 hours to 15.00 hours
Christmas Day 2 nd	19.00 hours to 22.30 hours and
New Years Eve	10.00 hours to 24.00 hours New Years Day.

The Sub-Committee noted that there were no representations by members of the public who lived in the vicinity of the premises or on a transitory route from the venue.

The Licensing Officer presented his report to the Sub-Committee, drawing to their attention the fact that the premises in question was a private snooker club located close to Hornchurch town centre on the first floor, above shops, with a CCTV monitored entrance door opening onto the street. The Sub-Committee asked whether notification had been correctly advertised, which the Licensing Officer confirmed had been done.

The police representative was then invited to present his case, He expressed concerns about certain conditions relating to the operation of the club. In particular that:

- No one under the age of 16 years should be permitted into the club,
- Temporary event notices (tens) be limited to a maximum of 12 per year in line with ACPO guidelines,
- A register of club members be kept on the premises and available for inspection on demand by a police officer,
- The police also wished to have clarification as to the position of “guests” of club members: the number of guests a member could introduce and whether those guests could purchase alcohol.
- The CCTV be enhanced to a system that was a full 31 day record.

Mr Omer was invited to respond and he informed the Sub-Committee that the club sought to reassure the licensing authority and the police on the following points:

- He confirmed that children under the age of 16 years were not, and would not be, permitted on the premises at any time,
- With regards to young persons between the ages of 16 and 18, the club agreed to admit them only in the company of a responsible adult. In addition, they would not be admitted after 21.00 hours and all 16 and 17 year olds would have to vacate the premises by 23.00 hours,
- They accepted the restriction of tens to 12 in a year,
- The club had a sophisticated computer based membership data-base (that included photographs of members) and that a register of current member details would be readily available, on demand, for inspection by the police,
- The club had recently invested in a new digital CCTV system that had a 31 day recording facility,

Mr Omer then asked the Sub-Committee if they could remove the following conditions:

1. The requirement that a new member could not purchase alcohol for at least two days as this was out-moded,
2. The club be permitted to sell alcohol to members for consumption off the premises as members were responsible adults and this was a courtesy the club could provide,
3. That non-members who were guests of club members should be permitted to purchase alcohol as this was an antiquated practice,
4. The club’s committee should have the freedom and ability to vary the club’s rules without the prior agreement of the licensing authority.

Mr Omer further asked the Sub-Committee to remove the embedded restrictions.

The Sub-Committee put the following questions to Mr Omer:

1. With regard to the application in respect of indoor sporting events, Members sought clarification.

Mr Omer stated that the club organised snooker competitions on Monday evenings. These were restricted to members only (they were not open competitions or between clubs), but they were played for small monetary rewards (e.g. not having to pay for the use of the snooker tables for the evening) and trophies. He advised the Sub-Committee that it was normal for non-members not to participate in these competitions.

After further questioning, Mr Omer informed the Sub-Committee that these competitions could continue as late as 01.30 hours and that he was asking the licensing authority to permit the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment until that time. He added that there was a separate competition for 16/17 year olds

2. The Sub-Committee wished to know how and when membership was offered and what was the club practice in respect of the admittance or serving of alcohol to non-members/guests.

Mr Omer replied that new members had to be enrolled at the premises and that no new membership was created after 22.30 hours. With regard to non-members/guests: they were not permitted entry after 22.30 hours. Furthermore, non-members/guests could not be served alcohol after 22.30 hours.

3. Members asked for details concerning the seating capacity of the club.

Mr Omer answered that the majority of floor space was occupied by snooker tables, but that in the vicinity of the bar, 10 seats were arranged around two or three tables. This area was primarily used by members who were finishing their drinks prior to leaving the club, or who might prefer to sit whilst waiting for their table. Only those playing snooker could purchase alcohol. Mr Omer added that the establishment was first and foremost a club for promoting and the playing of snooker. The club's committee had no other mandate.

After deliberation, the Sub-Committee RESOLVED, that the application submitted by Knights Snooker Club. for a transfer of the existing licence be granted. The Sub-Committee also granted permission for the following variations:

1. That the premises may open for the following licensable activities;
 - a. Supply of alcohol:
 - i) Monday to Sunday: 11:00 hours until 00:30 hours of the morning following
 - ii) Only to a member of at least two days standing.
 - iii) No off sales of intoxicating liquor shall be made.
 - iv) Intoxicating liquor shall not be sold to non members

b. Hours premises open to members:

Monday to Sunday: 11:00 hours until 03:00 hours of the morning following

c. Hours for indoor sporting events (snooker competitions):

Monday only: 19:30 hours until 01:30 hours of the morning following

d. Membership Book:

A book or record of current membership of the club that should include the full name, date of birth and address, should be kept on the premises and produced on demand to a police officer and/or an authorised officer of the licensing department.

e. Club Rules

- i) A copy of the club rules is to be lodged with the licensing office.
- ii) There shall be no alteration to the club rules without the consent of the licensing authority

f. Entry to the club:

No non members shall be admitted to the club after 22:30 hours unless accompanied by a member of at least two days standing.

g. CCTV

The CCTV (with a 31 day recording facility), is to remain operational during all hours the club is open.

2. Non-standard timings

In addition to the use of Temporary Event Notices allowed under the Licensing Act 2003, the premises may open on 12 non-standard occasions, in line with the Association of Chief Police Officers guidelines; subject to a minimum of 10 working days' notice being given to licensing authority and the Police for each occasion. The prior written consent of the Police to be obtained and the police to have absolute right to refuse any occasion. A register to be kept at the premises available for inspection by the police or an Authorised Office of the Licensing Authority and details of each occasion to be recorded in it including the written consent of the police.

3. The Protection of Children from Harm

Children below the age of 16 years are not permitted on the Club premises. Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years are permitted on the premises for the purpose of playing snooker, but are not permitted in the bar area and they will be required to vacate the premises by 21:00 hours. Young people must always be accompanied by an adult who will be required to maintain constant supervision of them.

4. Removal of "Embedded restrictions"

As these were not identified by the applicant the request was denied.,

In making its decision the Sub-Committee took into account the relevant written and oral representations. In particular, the representations of the Police, Licensing Officer and the Licensee.

Chairman

Date