

Date: **11 November 2009**

To: **The Faber Shield Committee**

Ref: **Tom Wilson playing twice in one night for Fulford A and Fulford B on Wednesday 09/09/09**

The Faber Shield Committee

All of us recognise the hard work that the Faber Shield does, very often giving up their own valuable time to ensure that the league runs smoothly and that anyone taking up a position on the Faber Shield cares passionately about the game. The role of the Faber Shield is to take decisions, not only on matters affecting their own clubs; but also taking into account the wider interests of the League and of all the players who take part. We believe the current situation was reached without full consideration been given to both sides of the debate.

Background

Tom Wilson was nominated as Fulford B player for the 2009/10 season. On Wednesday 09 September Fulford A found themselves one player short. Richard Stroughair (Faber Shield Secretary) phoned Colin Robinson (Faber Shield Chairman) and sought clarification if Tom could be selected for both sides on the same night. The response from Colin was that 'it was not technically against the rules but ethically wrong'. This was relayed to Mike Walsh (Fulford A Captain), given the lack of a better alternative it was decided by Fulford A to play Tom Wilson who won both matches played on the same night.

Timeline

09/09/09	Tom Wilson played for Fulford A and Fulford B on same night
02/10/09	Fulford B docked 1 point at Faber Shield Meeting
30/10/09	Decision to dock 1 point overturned by the Faber Shield Committee, Fulford B awarded a 5-2 win and Tom Wilson credited with his win over Colin Robinson

Current Situation

As a result of this decision we now find ourselves in a farcical situation where Tom is top of the Willsden Steel Player of the Year leader board on the fact that he has played one more match than anybody else and having not lost a game (7 out of 7). There is the very real possibility that somebody in the league could fail to win (or at least share) the Willsden Steel trophy with a perfect seasonal record by the fact that Tom has played an extra game which cannot be right. Anybody who plays in this league must recognise that this is both morally and ethically wrong and is not in keeping with the core values that this league stands for. We do recognise that this outcome may not have been foreseen, but it still does not make it right.

Teams with only 6 players

The vast majority of us have found ourselves at some time or another in a situation where we do not have the full 7 players. In these situations we would look to see if there was a 'B' Team or 'C' Team player spare, if this was not an option we would then scope any member of the club who could hold a cue! In the worst case we would have to turn out with only 6 players, which most of us have done on more than one occasion. None of us has ever considered asking any player to play twice on the same night as we all recognise that this is not ethical or in the spirit of the game.

We also find it difficult to understand that why, on the night in question the Faber Shield Secretary (Richard Stroughair) had actually spoken with the Faber Shield Chairman (Colin Robinson). Richard has been advised by Colin that although the decision to play Tom would be 'not technically against the rules it was ethically wrong', but has still taken the decision to proceed and play Tom twice! We cannot understand the thought process that was going on in the Faber Shield Secretary's mind and his decision to proceed directly contradicts the core values of the post of League Secretary that he currently holds. We also have the opinion that Mike Walsh the Fulford 'A' captain, who is a relatively new to the post has not been given the right guidance by the Faber Shield Secretary, and if put in the same position again would with hindsight take a different decision. What would have happened if it had been Fulford A v B?

One thing that has also not passed us buy is the attributes of the player Fulford 'A' asked to stand in for Fulford 'A'. Tom is playing well, is playing off a 'good' handicap and has so far not lost a game and there appears to us that there has been 'a win at all costs' approach in the decision making process.

Appeal Letter of Fulford Club

When you read the appeal letter put forward by Fulford Club the main thrust of their argument is that 'no published Faber Shield rule was broken'

We would like to put forward an example for consideration:

During the 2008/9 season 2 players from Heworth entered the pairs KO; they were drawn against a couple of players from Fulford. The match was arranged and when the Heworth pair turned up to play one of them explained that his original partner was not able to play due to work commitments. As a result of this he would be playing with another Heworth player for as long as they remained in the competition. The Fulford players were asked if this was ok, which was confirmed, hands were shaken and the match was played which the Heworth pair won. Following the game an appeal was received from the Fulford Club to the Faber Shield Committee. The matter was discussed and a decision was taken that the match should be re-played which the Fulford pair duly won and they went through to the next round instead.

The point been made here is that no written Faber Shield Rule was broken, ie that you cannot change double partners, from who you originally put your name down with. However this matter was discussed at the Faber Shield and voted on – no different to what should take place in the current Fulford 'A' Team case

It is our opinion that the Faber Shield Rules will never, and cannot possibly cover all situations. That is 'why you have a committee to discuss matters and situations that arise. A decision is then taken by the Faber Shield on the outcome.

We are also sure that Colin Robinson would be able to give numerous examples of where decisions have been taken by the Faber Shield committee where no written Faber Shield Rule has been broken.

Fulford B

It is our opinion that Fulford 'B' have done nothing wrong and we believe that they should not be penalised in any way.

Summary

- The current situation is completely unacceptable and goes against all the values that the league stands for including fairness, integrity and is morally and ethically wrong
- We believe that the Faber Shield Committee has the authority to take decisions on matters that are not included in the Faber Shield Rules and an example has been put forward.

Conclusion

Taking into account the content of this letter we would like to see the decision taken at the last Faber Shield meeting on Fulford's appeal to be overturned. In addition we would like the issue of Fulford A deciding to play Tom Wilson twice in one night be re-visited, and discussed in more detail taking into consideration all sides of the debate and the contents of this letter.

Following this we would like to see the following motions voted on by the Faber Shield Representatives of Acomb, Bootham, Heworth and Malton only:

- Tom Wilson's game for Fulford A v Malton A to be declared void and the point won not to be counted to towards the Willsden Steel player of the year.
- Phil Hart to be awarded a walkover for his game for Malton A playing against Tom Wilson who was standing in for Fulford A. (Originally Tom Wilson won)

- One point to be removed from Fulford 'A' as a result of them taking the decision to play Tom Wilson twice in one night against the advice of the Faber Shield chairman.
- Fulford 'A' to be awarded a 4-3 win against Malton 'A' instead of the original 5-2 result.

Signed,

The Players, York Carlsberg UK snooker league

J. DARLEY.
 J. Dalry
 B. RANKIN
 B. Rankin
 NICK DYSON
 Nies
 MARK WINDSHILL
 Mr. Windhill
 TONY BROEN
 Tony Brook
 G. ROBINSON
 G. Robinson
 N
 NEIL WOOD

O White
 Olive White
 J MILNER
 J. Milner
 S. BURDETT
 S. Burdett
 Wickker
 A. Scaife
 ADAM SCAIFE

MALTON 'A'

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D. COULTHARD.

R.A.W.

R. WILLIAMS.

[Handwritten signature]
S. WATKINS

P. HART
S. WATKINS

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R. WARD

[Handwritten signature]
T. EGAN

CLAY MEAD

T. EGAN