



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Snooker

Ordinary Meeting

1200, 25 February 2020, Portcullis House

Minutes

The Chairman welcomed attendees noting increased interest in the Group after the General Election. The Group's remit to support the sport of snooker was confirmed, as were Officers. Details of all Members are listed on the Group's website: www.parliamentarysnooker.org.

Attendees

Members

Karl McCartney MP (Chairman, in the Chair); Greg Smith MP; Craig Mackinlay MP; Julian Knight MP; Neil Gray MP

Other

James Cleverley (Office of Gill Furniss MP); Nigel Mawer (WPBSA); Chris Hornby (WPBSA); Mark Ramsdale (Secretariat)

Apologies

Conor McGinn MP; Eddie Hughes MP (now a whip and removed as a Member of the Group).

World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association

Speaking to a presentation, focus began on the perception of snooker before moving to the realities of the game, specifically that it can be enjoyed by all irrespective of background, gender, age, race, faiths, or abilities. It can support people who are otherwise hard to reach and has many programmes addressing mental and physical health issues, as well as the likes of loneliness and other social challenges. It captures people other sports do not.

Action: Group to arrange, where agreeable, joint meetings with other APPGs.

On the history of the games, specifically its foundations in the British forces' officers' mess, the perception remains in other parts of the world is that snooker is for only the upper class. This is the opposite in the UK.

Snooker was a founding sport in the Stoke Mandeville Games, precursor to the Paralympics. In recent redevelopments of Stoke Mandeville, snooker tables and related equipment paid for by WPBSA have been removed and not replaced.

Action: Group to write to Stoke Mandeville and other stakeholders.

Funding remains an issue in snooker in the UK as the EPBSA has not been able to secure Sport England recognition as a governing body and the associated access to funding. Research highlights positively the benefits of snooker when compared against other similar sports yet there remains disparity in the support received by the respective governing bodies.

Action: Group to write to Sport England on their assessment and status of snooker.

Our Supporters:



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Betting plays a role in many sports and is of interest to Members. WPBSA's position is that a levy should be placed on betting firms to support the organisations on which betting firms generate profits. In addition, given its reach and those interest, there are moves to source and secure blue-chip sponsorship.

To encourage more Members to join the Group, several activities were agreed:

Action: Tournament to be organised.

Action: Members would ask The Speaker if place could be found within Parliament for a table.

Action: Group to see if an exhibition could be secured in the Upper Committee Corridor.

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