

Haringey Snooker Club

1-5, Salisbury Parade,

London, N8 0RX

Representations To The London Borough Of Haringey

Review Of Premises Licence

S.51 and S.87 of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. General Background And Current Position

i. The current licensee of the The Haringey Snooker Club has held a licence permitting the sale of alcohol subject to the relevant conditions since the 24th November 2005. The licensee and DPS is Mr Bahattin Huseyin Dag. Mr Bahattin Huseyin Dag is the son of the owner of the club Mr Bahattin Dag. Mr Bahattin Dag senior is described as the owner of the club on the basis that he is the sole shareholder and director of Haringey London Snooker Ltd which was incorporated on the 20th December 2017. The Club premises are held by virtue of a 20 year lease from Lazari Investments Ltd. It must be emphasized that it is Mr Bahattin Dag senior who has been prosecuted and cautioned in the past for permitting illegal gaming machines on the Club`s premises.

ii. The Club occupies prominent first floor premises in Green Lanes Haringey . Facilities in the club include the following; 7 snooker tables, 1 3 ball table, 3 American Pool tables, 4 English Pool tables , 2 table tennis tables and 4 tables

for miscellaneous board games. There is bar and food is served during opening hours. The Club is open 7 days a week as per the licensing hours and entry and playing is restricted to members and their guests . There are normally 6 staff employed at the Club.

iii. The Club has obviously been closed since the start of “ lockdown” and remains closed until the Government Covid restrictions for indoor sports venues are lifted. However during lockdown the club has undergone extensive redecoration and refurbishment and the premises will enjoy an enhanced environment as a consequence of this refurbishment upon re-opening which hopefully will be possible in the not too distant future. Like so many businesses the Club has suffered severe financial hardship as a consequence of the covid 19 pandemic and the aspiration of the owner and management is to reopen at the first available opportunity and continue to provide the normal facilities for the members and their guests.

2. Serving The Community

i. The membership of the Club clearly reflects the diversity of the community which it serves. Both Mr Bahattin Dag senior and his son are of Turkish background and origins. Over the past 15 years or so the Club has gained the status of a genuine community hub and meeting place. The premises are large and now decorated to an extremely high standard.

The letters and emails of support which have already been forwarded to the L.B. Haringey demonstrate the pleasure derived from members and how they would be genuinely disappointed if the Club was forced to close as a consequence of the present review of the licence. It will be noted in particular that the letters and emails of support have been sent by those representing local businesses and also individuals. In particular the following sections from those letters and emails include the following : “
..... *it`s a safe environment for the young generation*”. “
..... *it has increased our children`s mental health greatly*”.
“..... *I have never experienced any trouble*”. “ *It`s a good environment for teenagers and all ages*”. “..... *I strongly believe it is a safe place and will be very disappointed if anything was to happen*”. “
Haringey Snooker Club has always been at the heart of Green Lanes. It has been a role model for many establishments”.” And can confidently inform the community that the staff deals with every customer with the same satisfaction criteria ensuring the gender equality criteria are met”. “ *As an engineer with 2 university degrees I can strongly and ethically say that the establishment is a cultural place for the community as it welcomes everyone form every background*”.
..... “ *Mr dag has always been a helpful and trusted person to plenty of other businesses around the local area.....he is a pillar of this community and this is a feeling shared by many other*

businesses around the local area including myself”. “ We are all a family in Haringey Green Lanes , these bonds are built with trust over the years and Mr Dag has played a huge role in being part of that”. “ The team at Haringey Snooker Club helps also supporting local public b y having many wonderful offers such as happy hours and a lot of other different discounts.....” I`m kind of surprised that our local authorities are even considering applying such a severe measure against our snooker club whatever the offence. ”..... “ Haringey needs places like this “” I have known Mr Dag for so many years and I know how important it is for him to keep his customers safe”..... “ I would like it to be noted that most of our community visits Haringey Snooker Club regularly due to it being a safe environment where people could engage recreational activity to relieve stress.”..... “ Haringey Snooker Club is most definitely one of the safest thanks to management resolving any issues without letting it grow it is not only a safe place it is also one that brings people together by resolving disputes”. “ As Haringey community we believe Haringey Snooker is a respectful and friendly centre”..... “ The snooker club has helped trouble youth to stay out of common trouble and to ensure them to follow correct paths in staying safe and not being encouraged by illegal activity”.

- ii. Apart from serving the community to provide a popular sport the club sponsors a youth football team based in the Haringey area.
- iii. The above glowing testimonials clearly establish the importance of the club in the local community and as will be noted many of the authors of the letters emphasise the very safe environment which prevails at the premises. Against that background of support it would be an extremely drastic and disproportionate measure to deprive the club of its alcohol licence.

3. Reasons For Review

- i. The reasons for a review of the current licence are clearly set out in the Review Application served on the club on the 9th June 2020. On 4 occasions , February 2020, 11th October 2019 , 13th November 2014 and the 17th February 2012 unlicensed gaming machines were discovered in the club by officers of the L.B. of Haringey. These findings have resulted in a formal caution and a prosecution of Mr Bahattin Dag the owner and at relevant times the licensee and DPS.
- ii. On behalf of the Haringey Snooker Club it is accepted that these breaches of the law are in direct conflict with the first licensing objective which is to “ reduce crime and disorder”. However , the Committee are

specifically requested to take into account the fact that the review is not precipitated by any of the following :-

Illegal sales of alcohol

Use of or availability of controlled drugs in the premises.

Disorderly conduct or situations in which police presence is required to break up or put a stop to unruly conduct. In fact on at least one occasion the management of the club provided the police voluntarily with CCTV footage which captured a violent fight which took place in Green Lanes.

Instances of fighting or other anti-social or violent behavior.

4. Going Forward

- i. As stated in this document the current licensee is the son of the owner. He is a young man of 22 years of age and has successfully completed a recognized course on the subject of alcohol licensing. However in view of his close relationship with the owner, the club now considers that it will be more appropriate to apply for the licence to be transferred to a person not closely connected to the who holds the necessary qualifications and experience to ensure , with no exceptions that the premises are managed strictly in accordance with the licence and the relevant law and objectives. Details of this proposed person will be made known to the

Licensing Committee and other interested parties before the sitting of the committee.

- ii. The Haringey Snooker club has played a pivotal role in serving the local community and it is the desire of the club`s owner for this role to continue on the basis that the strict letter of the law is obeyed at all times. The Club realizes that the repeated presence of unlicensed gaming machines has place the licence in jeopardy and is prepared to take measures to prevent situations of this nature occurring in the future.

6th July 2020