

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION DEPARTMENT
Head of Public Protection & Development – John Hill



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Date: 05 February 2015

Dear Licensing Officer

LICENSING ACT 2003
THE ROYAL SURREY SNOOKER AND SOCIAL CLUB, 1-9 ABBOTSBURY
ROAD, MORDEN SM4 5LH

The Licensing Authority acting as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 wish to make the following representation regarding the application to vary the premises licence attached to the above premises.

We understand that the premises are run as a commercial club by The RS Snooker and Social Club Ltd.

We would ask that conditions be attached to the licence to support the licensing objectives as we have concerns relating to the plan and possible crime and disorder and protection of children from harm concerns.

The Police and Licensing Officers visited the premises in November 2014 following information notified to us and information received from the Gambling Commission regarding the limits at which poker was being played and the gaming machines that were sited on the premises. Poker was found to be being played above the limits allowed under the Gambling Act 2005 in a commercial club premises. The person running the poker at the premises stated that this was private gaming and therefore exempt under the Act. We do not believe this is the case as the persons playing poker were all members of a poker club, playing on commercial premises. We have received information over a long period of time regarding poker being played at the

premises above the strict limits that should have been adhered to and further controls are needed to avoid further possible breaches of the law. We know that the premises licence was transferred in February 2014, but Mr Frost, the Director of the Limited company was also a partner in the running of the club for several years before this transfer.

We also had issues with the gaming machines that were sited on the premises at the time of the visit. All issues that came to light at the premises were highlighted to the persons in control of the activities at the time of our visit.

There are two areas on the plan marked as "private". One of these areas is stipulated as a "private snooker room". Should the variation be granted, we would ask that a condition be placed on the licence that this room only be used for snooker and no gaming or betting be allowed at any time and children are only allowed in here when accompanied by an adult.

For the second "private room", it is again not stated in the operating schedule under what terms this room will be used and what supervision will be employed. We are therefore concerned that gaming may take place here without adequate controls to ensure that the strict rules regarding this are adhered to. If it is private we do not see a need for it to be authorised for the sale of alcohol. We would ask that a condition be placed on the licence that only employees of the premises licence holder be allowed use of this private room.

The operating schedule states "Members Only 24 hour delay on New Membership". The club benefits from a Club Machine Permit that allows a maximum of 3 gaming machines on the premises, the maximum prize of which is £400. It is a condition of this that there be a 48 hour delay from applying, nomination or becoming a member, before members can play the machines. The offered condition may therefore cause a breach of their permit condition. We would ask for a condition giving a 48 hour delay from membership to usage of the facilities.

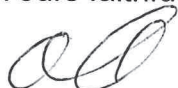
Under the gambling Act, a permit holder must comply with any relevant code of practice re siting and operation of gaming machines. On the plan, it appears that gaming machines are not in line of site of the bar where staff members can supervise, they would appear to be hidden out of easy sight. We would like this part of the plan refused and a condition that all gaming machines must be in clear line of sight of the bar area.

The variation applies to increase the hours for the sale of alcohol “to promote responsible consumption of alcohol”. The Licensing Authority fails to see how increasing the hours in which alcohol can be sold on the premises promotes responsible consumption and the operating schedule does not address this. It would seem to us that increasing the hours of sale and consumption would have a detrimental effect on the licensing objectives of prevention of public nuisance and crime and disorder as the longer people have been drinking alcohol, the more likely they are to exhibit loud drunken behaviour both within the premises and outside. Carrying the activity further into the evening/early morning could mean residents are disturbed later.

Therefore in conclusion, should the committee decide to grant the application in total or in part, we would suggest the following conditions be attached to the premises licence.

1. No poker to be played on the premises.
2. Only persons employed by the The RS Snooker and Social Club Ltd be allowed in the area marked “private room” on the plan. It cannot be used by members of the club or public.
3. The area marked as private snooker room only be used for snooker and no gaming or betting be allowed at any time. Children are only allowed in here when accompanied by an adult.
4. All gaming machines must be in line of sight of the bar area.
5. There must be a 48 hour delay between members joining the club and using the facilities.

Yours faithfully



Elizabeth Macdonald
Licensing Officer

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