

12th July 2006

Annex 2

Ref. Hook Norton Sports & Social Club
Notice of Variation under Section 84
of the Licensing Act 2003.



Dear Sir or Madam.

A. Public nuisance - Re Amplified Music and/or Speech outside the Clubhouse

From my bungalow I can hear the shouting and cheering by spectators when they are watching cricket, football etc. and even, at times, the actual words shouted - none of this is amplified sound and I'm happy to live with it.

However, having read the club's application very carefully, it appears to me that if this application is granted as requested I and other villagers could, at worst, be subjected to amplified music/speech on the field outside the clubhouse from 8am in the morning until 11:30 pm at night on 7 days per week and for 52 weeks of the year.

N.B. A, E, F, G, H, I & K may all involve amplified music/speech and all are requested both indoors and outdoors and all are required from 8:00 to 23:30 on 7 days of the week.

The club's suggestion to avoid public nuisance is to close the clubhouse doors and windows - this might reduce the noise for those drinking at the bar inside the clubhouse but it will do nothing to reduce the noise for villagers if the amplified music/speech is outside the clubhouse as it could be in A, E, F, G, H, I or K.

I, personally, would be opposed to any amplified music/speech at any time on Sunday. Not on religious grounds, but because I remember when I was working ~~how~~ ^{how} wonderful it was, after a busy stressful week, to return to the relative peace and quiet of village life on a Sunday. Very little traffic movement or noise, an extra hour or so in bed, chance to unwind, relax and be with ones family. I have lived in the village all my life but many of those here now have come out of towns to enjoy that same quiet, peaceful relaxed atmosphere that exists on a Sunday. To be subjected to amplified music/speech from 8:00 to 23:30 on Sunday would be more like antisocial behaviour than simply a public nuisance.

Because the club's land and buildings, are on the elevated side of the village any amplified sound outside of the clubhouse will probably be transmitted ~~over~~ ^{over} most of the village.

Again, because of the club's ⁽²⁾ elevated position I would suggest that any amplified music/speech outside on Mon. to Sat. should not commence before 1pm (13.00hrs) and be restricted to no more than a total of 6 occasions per annum.

B. Amplified and unamplified music/speech ^{inside} the clubhouse.

If the club wishes to subject its members to loud music in relatively low ceilinged rooms with no air conditioning and with the windows and doors closed that is up to them.

In reality it is unlikely that windows and doors will be kept closed, especially in the summer months. The doors will be frequently opened to cool the rooms and for smokers to go outside for a cigarette (It is a no smoking clubhouse).

For the sake of those living nearer to the clubhouse than myself I would again suggest no music at all on Sunday. Also,

I doubt if this old clubhouse is capable of retaining much sound (if amplified) and it certainly won't prevent the thump, thump beat of much of the modern music played now-a-days.

Perhaps music lead events could be restricted to ~~not~~ occur on ^{NOT} more than 2 consecutive days and again not before 1pm.

C. Unamplified music/speech outside the clubhouse.

Again I would suggest not before 1pm and not on more than 2 consecutive days and not on Sunday.

To sum up ~~and~~ ^{To} avoid public nuisance but to allow more events than at present :-

1. No music at all on SUNDAY
2. No music at all before 1pm MON. - SAT.
3. AMPLIFIED Music/speech OUTSIDE restricted to no more than 6 occasions per year.
4. ^{Frequency of} Music lead events restricted to not more than on 2 consecutive days.

D. Consumption of Alcohol.

Am I correct in thinking "on the premises" means inside the clubhouse and anywhere on the 2 fields outside the clubhouse? Does "off the premises" mean e.g. buy alcohol to take out into other parts of the village etc.?

Can alcohol be consumed whenever the club is open i.e.

8.00 - 24.00 Friday and Saturday 8.00 - 23.30 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs + Sunday, ?

(3)

This club is primarily a sports club. Many youngsters take part in the various sporting activities. It is possible that the club may have more members under the age of 18 than over 18.

Many sporting activities for the younger members seem to take place at the weekends before lunch, during the winter and in summer months at weekends (am+pm) and after school during the week, plus school holiday periods am+pm.

Therefore there are frequently many under 18's around during the daytime.

I hope that the adult members are not permitted to over indulge in front of these younger members.

I would prefer that members and guests do not take alcohol off the premises. I am sure that the club will do its utmost to ensure that alcohol is neither sold to nor consumed by under 18's whilst on the premises. However they have no control over who drinks the alcohol once it is off their premises.

Unfortunately the village has a problem with a few apparently underage youngsters illegally drinking in public places within the village. This alcohol may have been bought legally by youngsters ~~at~~ over 18 but that does not stop it being drunk by under 18's.

If the club is permitted to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises it could make this situation worse.

When your department has reached a decision on this application would it be possible to have or see a copy of the final outcome. I enclose a stamped, addressed, envelope.

Yours faithfully
(E.A. WHITE)