

NEWMARKET BADMINTON FEDERATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday 18th August 2016
At Tesco "Your Community Space", Fordham Road, Newmarket
(followed by fixtures meeting)

1. Apologies for absence:

Con Club and Comberton (no representative for third year running).

Clubs Represented:

All bar two of the league's 18 clubs were therefore represented: Abbeygate, Borders, Brandon, Burwell, Cambridge Badminton Academy (CBA), Crossways, Ely Victoria, Haverhill, Impington, Linton, Littleport, Little Shelford, Newmarket, St. Edmunds, St. Phillips and Soham. Check to list

2. Minutes of the 2015/16 AGM:

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 20th August 2015, will be approved and signed by the Chairman, Martin Little.

3. Matters Arising:

No matters were arising that were not to be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report:

As the Chairman had a prior engagement and the Treasurer was on holiday John Harvey presented a combined report covering the season's highlights courtesy of Sue McKeown's comprehensive Treasurer's report (see below).

We are sure that the Chairman, Martin Little, would wish to record his thanks to fellow committee members for running leagues, tournaments, handicapping Rushworth matches and dealing with any other issues that have arisen during the year.

Note 1: further details of the season's events can be found on the web site or on our Facebook pages.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The accounts were presented to the meeting. The format includes a comparison to last year to show where there were movements in spend / income item.

The total net income for the year was £492, up £146 from the previous year (mostly arising from the International) - see details below:

Income: Club entries at £222 are slightly down on last year (by £9), which represents 18 clubs (@ £5) entering 44 teams (@ £3).

Spend: AGM hall hire was expensive for last year's meeting at the Racing Centre (£60) therefore we are trying out the new free Community Space at Tesco's (every little helps ☺).

Rushworth hall hire is for Scaltback (not previously charged). The Rushworth shuttles are two tubes of shuttles used for the final. Trophies/engraving includes eight league cups & four International trophies. Secretary/general expenses are nil again, thanks to electronic communications! Internet costs were slightly down on the previous year.

October Tournament: Entries (and therefore income) were down on last year with five men's pairs & four ladies pairs, which then made up nine mixed doubles pairs. The hall hire was the same as last year's (Abbeycroft Leisure have finally invoiced us for the last two year's hall hire of Newmarket Leisure Centre). Expenses/Prizes decreased due to the reduction in entries. So an overall loss of £71.68, but a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon which we need to encourage more players to enter!

International Tournament: Entries increased to a record number of 28 teams (from 22 last year) at £80 per team, which was split with 6 teams in each of the B groups and 8 teams in the C groups. Dinner & Raffle thankfully covered the cost this year, mainly helped by Penny (from Little Shelford) selling tickets! Hall hire increased to three venues this year (Littleport, Soham & Burwell) with a total cost of £1,030. Expenses/Prizes down by just under £130 as we decided not to give cash winnings this year (just engraved glasses).

Many thanks again to Phil May for organising both tournaments & good luck with his retirement from Tournament Organising!

NBF & BDBL League Challenge: This is a new initiative from the CBN (Community Badminton Network) which involves two teams from each of the NBF & BDBL (Bury & District Badminton League) playing in a Challenge Cup (held this year on Sunday 10th April 2016). We will take it in turns to fund & host this event (this first year was part funded by a £50 contribution from the CBN and £20 from each league). This year it was hosted by us, but after a closely fought afternoon, it was won by the BDBL and their turn to host the event next year.

Balance sheet: is looking reasonably healthy around £2,795 plus the Badminton England Grant of £355, which we would like to use in the future on a project to encourage badminton and is a contingency for things like replacement of trophies (13 at £100 would eat into this).

Note 2: NBF affiliation fees (see below) were, as usual, collected at the meeting and any clubs outstanding have been given NBF bank details so please email Sue at suemckeown@hotmail.co.uk to confirm payments have been made. Also a reminder that NBF is an affiliated league so, not least for insurance purposes, so clubs must affiliate all their players to their County Association and Badminton England - if anyone needs assistance with the BE wizard then please contact Sue McKeown.

League affiliation fees: the meeting approved remaining the same as they have been for a number of years i.e. for each club £5 and for each team £3. The International fees will stay at £80 (per team of 4) but the doubles will increase by £1 to £6 per person per event.

6. Election of Officers:

In the absence of any other nominations the meeting proposed and approved the full committee as shown below, noting that there are two official vacancies so anyone who would be interested in assisting the committee would be most welcome. In addition, club rep (following alphabetical order) from Newmarket

Many thanks to last year's club reps from Little Shelford Penny Saich (& Sylvia Morton), for their help during last season. So the committee for the coming season are:

Chairman: Martin Little, Vice Chairman: **vacant**, Secretary: Laura Neaves, Treasurer: Sue McKeown, Assistant Treasurer / committee: **vacant**, League Results Co-ordinator: John Harvey, then additional assistance for: Tournament Organiser (International and others): Phil May, Club Rep (Newmarket): Malcolm Simmons, Rushworth handicap advisor: Gene Smith.

Note 3: advance notice is given to St Edmunds are due to provide a representative next year.

7. Amendment to Rules:

Following some significant misunderstandings last season the committee proposed an amendment, which the meeting fully endorsed, so rule 7 has been updated for the following wording: *"All communications regarding cancellations and rearrangements must be acknowledged in writing (e.g. email or text) to ensure that the recipient has received the message. Should any dispute arise regarding the details of a cancelled or rearranged match then clubs will need to notify the committee at the earliest opportunity for adjudication, which may require them to provide such written evidence.*

8. Leagues for 2016/17 season:

The Ladies league had one new entry, Littleport. So, after promoting Little Shelford and relegating Impington, Division One has 4 teams so will play home and away with an extra home or away home (as last year). As Division Two now has 5 teams they will play just home and away (with no extra fixture).

The Mixed First Division has 7 teams but the Second Division only had 5 following CBA's withdrawal during last season. However with new entries from Burwell and also Linton (a late entry, after the AGM) there was no need for any restructuring with Impington being promoted and Abbeygate being relegated.

The Men's league lost Brandon B (who were to be relegated to the Second Division) but gained Ely Victoria B and CBA B. As the Third Division had 9 teams Newmarket B were promoted to the Second Division to make 3 leagues of 8 teams.

Note 4: advance notice is given that the men's leagues may be restructured for next season meaning that some division winners (whilst still winning the trophies) may not be promoted and there may be some extra relegations required from teams above bottom place in the divisions.

The committee consider that these leagues are probably now too large (the number of fixtures may prove problematic for some clubs and there was a possibility of another entry this year) so did consider restructuring this year but felt clubs would need a season's notice. The proposal is likely to suggest four Divisions of 6 teams (a First, Second the 2 Third Divisions so in future 2 teams would be relegated from Division Two and one promoted from each of Divisions 3A and 3B). This would enable teams to find their level and "mix it up a bit" at the lower end of the league. Any restructuring proposals would be sent to clubs ahead of next year's AGM.

9. Tournaments (International, Doubles, Rushworth and Other):

International and Doubles: See web site and Facebook pages for reports and photos.

Entry forms for the coming season's tournaments will be on the NBF web site and clubs are asked to actively promote these events with their members.

Rushworth Knockout trophy - discussion and draw:

Well done to St Phillips, although commiserations to Littleport again just missing out in the final.

A reminder that all affiliated clubs are eligible for this event unless they are unable or prefer not to field a side. Clubs that declined this year are Borders, Brandon, Little Shelford and St Edmunds. The remaining 14 teams were drawn so that clubs could arrange these fixtures following the AGM (in their absence Comberton were included in the draw).

Note 5: Please can clubs notify John Harvey of their first round fixture dates so that the committee can discuss the handicaps before the matches are due to be played. Also...

Clubs are again asked to nominate the players in their team as best they can ASAP but at the latest 30th September 2016 (nil return will mean handicaps will be based on the strongest team that the club can put out or last year's team). Also please notify the committee of any changes, which would significantly affect their team's strength, with notifications ideally coming from the club secretaries rather than the team captains.

10. Any Other Business:

a) League Fixtures:

We are planning on maintaining a complete list of all league fixtures so that matches can be monitored (this is linked to the amendment to rule 7) so please can clubs send fixtures to John Harvey once these has been sorted (ideally early September).

Submitting results: please do not sent results to John's mobile number but other acceptable returns include by post or scanned / photographed (as long as they are readable) and emailed to jhjohnharvey@aol.com.

As a reminder it is the home team that is responsible for submitting the result (not to be confused with South Cambs who require both teams to submit an agreed result).

Note 6: fixtures lists to be sent please ASAP to John and let him know of any subsequent cancellations of rearrangements so that we can monitor matches and maintain a complete list of all league fixtures, which will be on the website.

Score cards: note that if you run out of score cards (for Men's/Ladies', Mixed or Rushworth) then these can be downloaded from the website <http://www.newmarketbadmintonfederation.org.uk/> which will also have the latest...

Club contacts and details, Results and league tables, Reports on leagues / Rushworth / International / season, NBF AGM minutes / league rules, The International, doubles and other entry forms, Links to clubs / associations / Badminton England, etc.

11. Presentation of Trophies for Leagues and Tournaments 2015/16:

Trophies were awarded to winners of leagues and Rushworth Knockout, so congratulations to all the winners.

12. Dates for your diaries:

Event	When	Entries by	Where
Doubles Tournament (Level and Mixed)	Sunday 13th November 2016 Noon to 6pm (not 6 th as mentioned at the AGM as this date not available)	Saturday 5th November 2016	Newmarket Leisure Centre
International Team Tournament	Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th February 2017 (not 25/26th as mentioned at the AGM)	Monday 23rd January 2017	Littleport Leisure Centre, Soham Ross Peers Sports Centre, Burwell Community Sports Centre
Rushworth Final	Tuesday 18th April 2017 7.30pm	Team sheets Fri 30th September 2016	Scaltback School, Newmarket
NBF vs BDBL League Challenge	<i>Details to be confirmed</i>	<i>NBF Committee selection</i>	<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>

Tournament entry forms for the Doubles and International will be on the NBF web site.

Signed Chairman