

**NEWMARKET BADMINTON FEDERATION  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**At The Racing Centre (formerly New Astley Club), Fred Archer Way, Newmarket  
(followed by fixtures meeting)**

**1. Apologies for absence:**

None. There was no representative from Comberton (for the second year running).

**Clubs Represented:**

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

**2. Minutes of the 2013/14 AGM:**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014, were 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:**

The Chairman, Martin Little, thanked fellow committee members for running leagues, tournaments, handicapping Rushworth matches and dealing with any other issues that have arisen during the year.

He thanked all players who took part in the leagues and tournaments with congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers. The twenty second International team tournament (22 teams) again proving successful but we would like to see a better turnout at the Social (second year as a buffet) on the Saturday night, so particular thanks to Phil May for organising these.

We were disappointed to have to cancel planned NBF 40<sup>th</sup> bash to celebrate the league's 40 years, but thanks to those who did respond to support. We haven't given up hope of organizing some event so if anyone has any ideas then raise with the committee.

We would also like to remind players that there are some young players in the league so we would expect all to set an example with appropriate conduct and curbing any natural enthusiastic / colourful language.

**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 Treasurer, Sue McKeown presented the accounts to the meeting. The accounts 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 £366, up £128 from the previous year (mostly arising from the International) - see details below:

**Income:** Club entries at £231 are slightly up by £11 on last year, which represented 18 clubs (£5) entering 47 teams (£3), mainly CBA new to the league.

**Spend:** We didn't get an invoice for the AGM hall hire (so saving on last year's £45), although we did lose the £50 deposit (to the Racing Centre) after cancelling the 40th Bash so effectively these offset. We are currently not charged for Rushworth hall hire. The Rushworth final used just one tube of shuttles; Trophies/engraving similar cost to last year includes eight league cups & four International trophies (@£5); Secretary/general expenses are nil again, thanks to electronic communications! Internet costs were £17 up on the previous year (paying for a domain name, but this is for two years).

**October Tournament:** Entries (and therefore income) were up by £55 on last year, with 16 ladies and 14 men in each level doubles and 14 mixed double pairs, but the hall hire cost will be (when they get round to sending a VAT inclusive invoice which we have reserved as a creditor on the balance sheet) £17 more after a 40% discount so with expenses/prizes the same, a surplus of £18 this year, better than last year by £38.

**International Tournament:** Entries were one less team than last year, giving a total of 22 (at £80 per team) 4 teams in B1, 10 in two B2 leagues, 4 in C1 & 4 in C2 so income down by £80; The Dinner (& Raffle) was for the second year a hot buffet, but still made a loss of £145 (last year loss £97) so cost up by £48; Hall hire was up by just £20 the two venues (Littleport & Soham) costing £390 each for the whole weekend; Expenses/Prizes were down by £242 on last year as we didn't give prize money (and no-one complained) so the net income was £287, up by £95 over last year.

**Para** So well done to those who supported and many thanks again to Phil May for organising both tournaments.

Note that the balance sheet is looking reasonably healthy around £2,660 (after deducting creditors for the 2014 doubles hall hire and adjustment to the engraving costs both included in the year's costs), but this includes 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).

**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) and the doubles again has been set at £5 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 Little Shelford Penny Saich (& Sylvia Morton), have kindly volunteered. 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 (Little Shelford): Penny Saich (& Sylvia Morton), Rushworth handicap advisor: Gene Smith.

**Note 2: advance notice is given to Newmarket are due to provide a representative next year.**

**7. Amendment to Rules:**

No changes proposed this year. Note that the South Cambs League, after one season's trial, are continuing with a system of awarding points for match results whereby a 5-4 win is 2-1 and better than 5-4 is 3-0 but NBF is not considering any change at this stage (one difference being that in NBF the Men's and Ladies' can draw).

**8. Leagues for 2015/16 season:**

In the Ladies league three teams had withdrawn: Linton and Newmarket from Division One and CBA from Division Two, with Haverhill a new entry. There was useful discussion around whether the remaining 8 teams should play in one or two divisions (comments including that one division would provide more opposition, but this would mean more matches which some clubs may not be able to accommodate and the two divisions means teams competing more at their level which clubs felt was the best fit) so the meeting decided to keep at two divisions, playing home and away with an extra home or away match (the top two teams being at home).

In the Men's league Littleport B withdrew but there were re-entries from Linton and Haverhill. Some restructuring meant that as well as the usual one-up promotions and one-down relegations principle Crossways were not relegated from Division One, Abbeygate were promoted from Division Three and, despite finishing bottom again, Soham avoided relegation from Division Two for the umpteenth year. The Men's are now large divisions so if we get any more entries we will have to consider splitting into four divisions.

**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 Abbeygate, who beat a gallant Littleport in the 2014/15 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, Burwell, CBA, Linton, Little Shelford and St Edmunds. The remaining 12 teams were drawn so that clubs could arrange these fixtures following the AGM (in their absence Comberton were included in the draw).

**Note 3:** The committee asked that the first round fixture dates (on departure from the meeting) should be passed to the Secretary, 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (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) Badminton England and County Affiliations:**

Clubs are reminded that NBF is an affiliated league so, not least for insurance purposes, clubs must affiliate all their players. If anyone needs assistance with the BE wizard then please contact Sue McKeown.

### **b) Results and scorecards:**

**Texting results:** last season we trialled the home club texting the score to John Harvey straight after the match had been played (or conceded) so that a provisional result could be registered, followed up with sending the scorecard. Despite some who managed the process (and thanks to those few) this was, however, patchy at best and lead to more work and scanned cards jamming up an antique mobile phone, so...

**Submitting results:** we will go back to just results cards which can be sent by post or scanned / photographed (as long as they are readable) and emailed to [jhjohnharvey@aol.com](mailto:jhjohnharvey@aol.com).

As a reminder it is the home team that is responsible for submitting the result, not the winning team (which is a South Cambs requirement).

**Note 4: Fixtures lists:** please could clubs also send fixtures lists ASAP to John so that he can monitor matches.

**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
- Other...

**11. Presentation of Trophies for Leagues and Tournaments 2014/15:**

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

**12. Dates for your diaries:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Entries by</b>	<b>Where</b>
<b>Doubles Tournament (Level and Mixed)</b>	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b> Noon to 6pm (about 3 weeks later than last year)	<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015</b>	Newmarket Sports Centre
<b>International Team Tournament</b>	<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>	Littleport Leisure Centre and Soham Ross Peers Sports Centre
<b>Rushworth Final</b>	<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b> 7pm	<b>Team sheets Wed 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b>	Scaltback School, Newmarket

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

Signed ..... Chairman