

NEWMARKET BADMINTON FEDERATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 20th August 2014
At The Racing Centre (formerly New Astley Club), Fred Archer Way, Newmarket
(followed by fixtures meeting)

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Sue McKeown, Treasurer. There were no representatives from Comberton or Linton.

Clubs Represented:

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

2. Minutes of the 2012/13 AGM:

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 28th August 2013, 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 and particular thanks to Gene Smith for her useful input and support during last season as Impington's club representative.

He thanked all and congratulated winners who took part in the leagues and tournaments with the doubles (particularly Crossways for providing over half the entries) and the twenty first International team tournament (23 teams) again proving successful but would like to see a better turnout at the Social (this year a buffet) on the Saturday night. so particular thanks to Phil May for organising these.

He welcomed Cambridge Badminton Academy (CBA) to the leagues.

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:

On behalf of the Treasurer, Sue McKeown (who sends her apologies), John Harvey presented the accounts and Sue's comments 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 £237.66 (mostly arising from the International) – see details below:

Income; Club entries at £220 are slightly up by £11 on last year, which represented 17 clubs (£5) entering 45 teams (£3)

Spend: The AGM hall hire has doubled in cost (due to refurbishment) but is most suitable for our needs. We are currently not charged for Rushworth hall hire. The Rushworth final used just one tube of shuttles; Trophies/engraving includes eight league cups & four International trophies, with a new marble base on the C1 trophy; Secretary/general expenses are nil again, thanks to electronic

communications! Internet costs were slightly down on the previous year (as renewing biannually rather than annually).

October Tournament: Entries (and therefore income) were slightly down on last year, with six in each level doubles and eleven mixed double pairs, but the hall hire cost was less as we were granted a 40% discount this year, compared to 30% the previous year; Expenses/prizes remain the same, so overall a slight loss of £19.40, but a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon!

International Tournament: Entries were one less team than last year, giving a total of 23 (at £80 per team) 6 teams in B1, C1 & C2; and 5 teams in B2; The Dinner & Raffle changed from a Hog Roast to a hot buffet, but still made a loss of £97, as disappointingly only 51 dinner tickets sold; Hall hire was down as we only used two venues this year (Littleport & Soham) costing £380 each for the whole weekend; Expenses/Prizes were down by £90 on last year as last year's included "goodies" for the twentieth anniversary celebrations, so a net surplus of around £190.

Many thanks again to Phil May for organising both tournaments.

Note that the balance sheet is looking reasonably healthy around £2,200, 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). Also....

Note 2: 2015 is the 40th anniversary of the NBF, so we are proposing to subsidise a celebration in May/June - any suggestions will be gratefully received and we will circulate proposals nearer the time.

Post script: there was no specific proposal regarding league affiliation fees so they will remain the same as has 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 is one (now two) official vacancies so anyone who would be interested in assisting the committee would be most welcome. In addition, club rep (following alphabetical order) is from Linton and Kelly Harries has 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 (Linton): Kelly Harries, Rushworth handicap advisors: Paul Van de bulk and Gene Smith.

Note 3: advance notice is given to Little Shelford (as Littleport already represented by Laura) are due to provide a representative next year.

7. Amendment to Rules:

No changes proposed this year.

8. Leagues for 2014/15 season:

In the Ladies, new to the league are CBA who replace Littleport who have withdrawn; Impington are not relegated from the first division. In the Men's league Linton have withdrawn from the second division, but we have two new teams from Abbeygate and CBA so Soham are not relegated from the second division. The Men's are now large divisions so if we get any more entries we will have to consider splitting into four divisions. In the Mixed there are three new teams: St Phillips B re-entering plus Abbeygate and CBA, so Haverhill have been promoted from the second division to balance the two divisions.

The meeting attendees were happy with the league proposal including the modifications to the usual one-up promotions and one-down relegations principle.

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

International:

We were just one team down from last year so this is still proving popular, with 23 teams in 2014. Again a good standard and probably the first time ever no team scored a maximum in any match. Decent numbers travelled from Birmingham, the Wirral and 20 from Belgium. One modification this year was, in addition to the usual C2 category, splitting the B and C1 over three categories: B1, B2 and C1 so that the higher performing C1 teams could compete in a group below the B's. We didn't use Ely Paradise this year, just Littleport and Soham, which cut costs and helped with the logistics. Next year's event is already booked for 21/22nd February 2015.

Doubles tournament:

Again a good turnout last year for the fourth year's event so have already booked this year's event for Sunday 19th October 2014. Again we are probably looking at individuals being drawn into level doubles pairs then mixed, playing in groups with play-offs.

Note 4: Entry forms for the 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 Soham for a winning performance against Ely (playing of a very tough handicap) in last year's final.

The meeting was reminded 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 St Edmunds, Little Shelford and Borders. The remaining 15 teams were drawn so that clubs could arrange these fixtures following the AGM (in their absence Linton and Comberton were included in the draw)

Note 5: 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 30th September 2013 (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:

Note 6: Results and scorecards - new two stage process: due to a lot of late results submissions last year we are trying a new process:

Firstly: the home club to text the score to John Harvey straight after the match has been played (or conceded) so that a provisional result can be registered.

Secondly: we ask that you send in the scorecard, whether by post, email or again by text (a scan or photo of the scorecard is fine as long as it's readable) at which point the score will be confirmed. As a reminder **it is the home team that is responsible for the sending submitting the result not the winning team** (which is a South Cambs requirement).

Note 7: 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 2013/14:

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

12. Dates for your diaries:

- Tournament - Doubles * - Sunday 19th October 2014
(Newmarket Sports Centre, noon to 6pm)**
- International * - Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2015
(Littleport Leisure Centre and
Soham Ross Peers Sports Centre)**
- Rushworth Final - Tuesday 15th April 2015
(7pm at Scaltback School, Newmarket)**

** Tournament entry forms will be on the NBF web site.*

Signed Chairman