

## **Oakbrook Badminton Club AGM 2011**

**Tuesday 3 May 2011, 1930, Fulwood Tennis Pavilion, Chorley Road, S10 3RL**

**Chaired by Dawn Pooley ; Minutes by Simon Taylor**

### **Present:**

Anne Bennett	Nick Finnigan	Joan Hadfield	Len Hadfield
Muhammad Aqib Jamil	Mark Jarvis	Ruth McKeachie	Willie McKeachie
Simon Owen	Sue Peace	David Pooley	Dawn Pooley
Dave Randall	Simon Taylor		

### **1. Apologies**

Ben Arscott	Andrew Bennett	Morag Denver	Barry Eke
Harry Langford	Linda McKeachie	Linda Pell	Mark Roberts

### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

David Pooley proposed the minutes of the last meeting to be a true and accurate record of the previous year's AGM.

This was seconded by Willie McKeachie and agreed by All Votes.

### **3. Chairperson's Report**

Dawn Pooley gave us her report of the season which included:

- her thanks to everyone for coming to the AGM
- her thanks to the committee for their work during the season
- letting us know that club t-shirts had been arranged. It would cost £35 for setting up the logo, and there was agreement for this cost to be covered by charging £3 extra per shirt than the cost of the shirts, leading to breaking even after 12 shirts had been sold, and making the club a small profit thereafter. Members would be offered mens and womens shirts with a choice of three designs for each, and a range of sizes.
- the information that from replies to her e-mails during the season, the current number of members (approx 52) would be likely to be nearer 33-37 in September due to many people leaving the club. As far as could be ascertained, none of these were leaving through being unhappy with the club, but through not being available or in Sheffield in order to attend.
- the influx of new members, mainly from our improved website, had been very good. Sadly few ladies had joined the club after visiting, and this was disappointing since the number of ladies was barely enough to sustain the club's teams.

Simon Taylor thanked Dawn for doing a much better job of Chairperson than he'd done as Acting Chairperson.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

In Morag Denver's absence, Joan Hadfield read the Treasurer's report, which included:

- that it had been a profitable year
- that we had had a good level of membership
- that the current balance of £1800 in the club's account was unnecessarily large
- that the discount offered to new members seemed to have been well received
- that she proposed membership fees to remain the same based on the financial position of the club
- that match fees should remain the same unless there was evidence that the feathers match fees should be changed

This led to a discussion about the feathers match fees. Simon Taylor mentioned that in previous years, the club had been keen to keep feathers finances separate from club finances so that the club weren't funding the feathers matches, but that in return, the feathers team shouldn't be overpaying and funding the club more than any other team. This principle met with general approval.

It was agreed by consensus of those present that this did not mean that the feathers finances needed to be kept strictly separated from the rest of the club finances. It was further agreed that the principle should be that the feathers teams and plastics teams' match fees both covered the same cost for refreshments, and for a contribution to club finances, and that the rest of the fee should cover the cost of shuttles. For the time being, it was agreed that the plastics fee was £1 per person per match, giving £12 for a home+away match combination. Of this, £2 was for refreshments for the home match, £6 went to the club's general finances, and £4 covered the cost of plastic shuttles. In comparison, for a feathers match with £3 fees per person per match, the total for a home+away combination would be £36, of which £2 would again go for refreshments, £6 would again go to general club finances, and the remaining £28 would cover the cost of the shuttles.

Simon mentioned that he had his doubts that the feathers team were using as much as £28 on average for shuttles, and that perhaps the feathers match fee should be reduced. He was unable to provide comprehensive figures to back this feeling, so agreed to return to it next year if it remained an issue. **It was agreed by all to keep the feathers fees at £3 per player per match but review this next year.**

#### 5. Match Secretary's Report

David Pooley provided the report, which included:

- that overall we'd won some and lost some
- that the ladies team would probably be relegated
- that the mens feathers would remain in their division
- that the mens plastics 1 team would probably remain in their division after more 4-5 losses
- that the mens plastics 2 team would be promoted
- that the combined plastics team would be relegated
- that the mixed plastics team would remain in the only mixed division
- that all the above was subject to final matches being played and Badminton Sheffield's verification
- that Willie McKeachie had provided an excellent club tournament in January
- that the snow had been a pain in disrupting the fixtures
- his thanks to all the team players for supporting the club

## 6. Teams

Dawn Pooley told us that she was missing some information from club members who hadn't replied to her e-mail about whether or not they were likely to want to play in teams next year. However, many had replied, and she had received information about:

- 14 men wanting to play in mens plastics teams
- 3 ladies wanting to play in ladies plastics teams
- 7 men wanting to play in mens feathers teams
- 6 men and 6 ladies wanting to play in mixed teams
- 6 men and 3 ladies wanting to play in combined teams

Dawn pointed out that we were struggling to get enough ladies for a ladies team. It was agreed that both from a club point of view, and likely from a league point of view, it was beneficial for us to try our very best to maintain a ladies team.

A suggestion was made by Dawn Pooley and Simon Taylor that the ladies might consider playing in the feathers league where only four players per team were needed. Anne Bennett explained that the standard of the feathers team was noticeably higher than the top division of the plastics league and that it would be too high for us to raise a competitive team.

As a result of the above discussion, **David Pooley proposed that we keep the same teams as we have had this last year, namely 1 Ladies Plastics, 1 Mens Feathers, 2 Mens Plastics, 1 Mixed Plastics, 1 Combined Plastics. This was seconded by Mark Jarvis and voted in favour by All present.**

It was suggested that the club formalise the players that would be reserves for the various teams. **Dawn Pooley proposed that the selection committee provide an official reserves list for each team in addition to picking the six team members. The official reserves list would not be ranked in order but would be a pool of viable reserves, from which the captain should pick if any of the six team members were not available. It would be up to the captain to select which of the reserves played in any particular match, and at very short notice (eg under 24hrs) it would be acceptable for the captain to pick from outside the list if contacting those on the reserve list was not possible in time. This was seconded by Simon Taylor and voted in favour by All present.**

**It was further proposed by Simon Taylor that any new club members who joined after team selection had been finished but were keen to play for a team, should be placed onto team reserve lists by the selection committee if they met the required standard. This was seconded by Simon Owen and voted in favour by All present.**

It was discussed that league rules about using nominated players in a team prevented us having a choice about whether new players could be put direct into teams in place of other team members, so any further discussion about whether this should be allowed was not possible.

## **7. Fees**

**It was proposed by Joan Hadfield that the membership and match fees should remain the same as currently, namely £120 adult membership, £80 student membership, £60 junior membership (all with discounts for joining later in the year), £20 discount for new adult/student members, £10 discount for new junior members, £3 visitor fees, £1 plastics match fees and £3 feathers match fees (with a review next year). This was seconded by Anne Bennett and voted in favour by All present.**

It was discussed that at the moment, the club spends approximately £13 (for adults) and £7 (for juniors) for Badminton England (BE) membership for each member each year. But for any member who is already a BE member, the club does not need to rejoin them. Currently, the club still charges the same to existing BE members even though it makes a saving by not having to rejoin them to BE.

**It was proposed by Dawn Pooley that the club give a discount of £10 (for adults) and £5 (for juniors) to those members who were existing BE members. This was seconded by Len Hadfield. It was simultaneously proposed by Simon Taylor that the club give a discount of the exact amount of the BE membership (a larger figure than the £10/£5) to those members who were existing BE members. This was seconded by Mark Jarvis.**

**Votes were:**

**Dawn's proposal: 8 votes**

**Simon's proposal: 4 votes**

**Abstentions: 1**

**Dawn's proposal was therefore carried.**

Joan Hadfield and Dawn Pooley mentioned that it had been hard getting the second half of the membership fees in January. A number of people had to be contacted numerous times both in person and by e-mail, and at least four committee members had had to get involved in chasing for money. There was general agreement that this wasn't acceptable.

There was discussion of charging a fee for any player who missed the payment deadline (or a discount for those that paid on time), but this met with criticism for its lack of flexibility and the possibility of charging extra to members who had a genuine reason for late payment but had tried their best to pay on time. It was also suggested that the club should not allow people to play if they had not paid their fees, but this gave rise to the problem of turning away team members from matches and the knock-on problems this caused. It was then suggested that the committee should use their discretion instead on such matters.

**David Pooley proposed that the committee should have the right to choose to charge extra and/or refuse play to anyone who had any outstanding membership fee after the payment deadline. This was seconded by Simon Taylor and voted in favour by All.**

The committee were asked to make it clearer what payment options (such as online banking) were available to members to make it easier for members to pay on time.

## **8. League Proposals**

Our club had proposed that the league adopt the 'York Scoring System' – of each team getting one league point for each of the 9 games played in a match, in addition to the 2 for winning the match. We still agreed with this, and **All were in favour of voting Yes to this at the League AGM.**

League rules say that non-availability of courts is the only acceptable reason for cancelling a match, and that failure to raise a team should not be accepted. Abbeydale proposed that this should only 'generally' be the case, and therefore that exceptions to this should be allowed. **All were in favour of voting No to this at the League AGM.**

Wisewood had proposed that match confirmations should be sent either 10 or 14 days in advance of a match instead of 7 days in advance. **All were in favour of voting No to this at the League AGM.**

Wisewood had further proposed that the away team should acknowledge receipt of the match confirmation from the home team. **All were in favour of voting No to this at the League AGM.**

Wisewood had further proposed that either both teams, or at least the away team, should be allowed to e-mail, rather than post, their match scorecards. The league committee had counter-proposed instead that the away team not be required to send in a scorecard at all, but that the home team should continue to post theirs. **12 were in favour of voting Yes to the league committee's counter-proposal at the League AGM. 1 was in favour of voting Yes instead to allowing all scorecards to be e-mailed. Therefore the club will vote Yes in favour of the league committee's counter-proposal.**

Brunswick had proposed that only clubs with feathers teams should be permitted to vote on league issues which affected only the feathers teams. It was discussed that a club without a feathers team might have reason to vote if they were considering entering one but needed to vote in changes first, and that this would lead to rifts in the league structure. **All were in favour of voting No to this at the League AGM.**

Brunswick further proposed that clubs should only need to nominate 4 of their 6 players at the start of a season, so that only 4 people needed to play 50% or more matches, allowing the third pair to be rotated and/or fight for its position in the team. The votes were split on this:

1 voted in favour

9 voted against

3 abstained

**Result that the club will vote No to this at the League AGM.**

The Drone proposed that the league should bring back their plastics tournament. Some were in favour of a tournament being reinstated; some suggested that Drone could hold their own tournament and hold the risk of a financial loss themselves. Votes were split:

3 voted in favour

6 voted against

4 abstained

**Result that the club will vote No to this at the League AGM.**

Wingfield proposed that newcomers to the league should hold a trial match against existing teams to put them in a suitable division rather than make them at the start. It was pointed out that most new teams were from far outside Sheffield and should be discouraged from being able to enter direct into the Sheffield league top divisions at the expense of a more local club who had earned that position via promotion. **All were in favour of voting No to this at the League AGM.**

## **9. Constitution**

Dawn Pooley had written a new constitution for the club. It was pointed out that this was required both by the bank for being allowed a club account with them, as well as for the benefit of the club. A draft had been issued, but a final copy (which Dawn explained was the same as the draft but with the addition only of corrections/suggestions she had received from club members after they had viewed the draft) had not been received by members due to technical issues.

**It was proposed by Dawn Pooley that the constitution be accepted, although it was noted that club members had not had time to fully review the final version. This was seconded by Simon Owen, and voted in favour by 11 votes for and 2 votes against.**

## **10. Club Rules**

Dawn Pooley explained that the club rules needed writing down, and that she was making progress with this but did not yet have a final copy ready for submission to the AGM.

## 11. Committee Selection

The current committee all stood down.

The following committee members were then nominated and voted for:

Position	Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions
Chairperson	Dawn Pooley	Dave Pooley	Joan Hadfield	11	0	0
Secretary	Simon Taylor	Len Hadfield	Dawn Pooley	11	0	0
Treasurer	Morag Denver	Joan Hadfield	Sue Peace	11	0	0
Assistant Treasurer	Joan Hadfield	Dawn Pooley	Willie McKeachie	11	0	0
Match Secretary	David Pooley	Simon Taylor	Mark Jarvis	11	0	0
Child Welfare Officer	Sue Peace	Dawn Pooley	Ruth McKeachie	11	0	0
Tournament Secretary	Dave Pooley	Willie McKeachie	Mark Jarvis	11	0	0
Head of Selection Committee	Len Hadfield	Ruth McKeachie	Mark Jarvis	11	0	0
Selection Committee	Mark Jarvis and Ruth McKeachie	Simon Taylor	Dawn Pooley	11	0	0
Purchasing Officer	No candidates were willing to stand					
Social Secretary	No candidates were willing to stand					

All those above were successfully voted in to be the committee for 2011-2012.

Willie McKeachie was also proposed as tournament secretary by Simon Taylor but declined to stand.

## 12. Any Other Business

The committee were asked to contact Interserve and ask about:

- the possibility of some members being permitted to park near the sports hall entrance where the caretaker often parks, to prevent them having to walk the longer distance down the side of the building to the car park. It was discussed that safety of members was important and that walking down the side of the school did not feel safe for all our members, especially with the presence of a group of teenagers who often wait around outside the sports centre.
- the requirement for the red badminton lines on the sports centre floor to be improved. One (using masking tape rather than red paint) was deemed unacceptable by a number of those present, and the other three were little better.
- the possibility of improved cleaning of both the sports centre hall floor and the changing rooms. It was acknowledged they have improved the sweeping of the hall floor, but that the chewing gum and other rubbish and marks were unpleasant.

Dawn Pooley suggested that the committee look into paying for a new peg board to replace the current one, based on a design used by Abbeydale. The committee were encouraged to do so, and Dawn agreed to look into this and find out prices.

Mark Jarvis raised the issue that Friday club sessions have been particularly badly supported, and wondered if anything could be done to improve this. There was discussion of meeting after the session for food/drinks either at a local pub or at the sports centre itself, but neither of these ideas were pursued. It was left to members to let the committee know if they can think of anything to help.

David Pooley was congratulated on the excellent website improvements, and it was noted that a lot of new members had commented on how instrumental it had been in them visiting the club.

Simon Taylor suggested that the £20 expenses that had been budgeted for the Secretary was too large in light of the improvements made by Badminton England to the renewals process and the reduction in cost to him as a result. He claimed instead for £3. David Pooley further suggested that the £10 budgeted for the Match Secretary was also too great and was encouraged to submit a more realistic figure to the treasurers. It was noted that Dawn Pooley, as chairperson, had some printing expenses during the year though had not had any expenses budgeted for, and although encouraged to claim back for these, she declined any expenses to her.

Dawn Pooley brought the meeting to a close at 2235.