

# Oxfordshire Badminton League–Minutes of the 2017 AGM held on 10 May 2017

The AGM was held at 7.30pm in the Dining Hall of The Manor Preparatory School, Abingdon.

## 1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Judy said the League was grateful to those who had made the effort to attend as this enabled them to contribute to how the League is run and influence the decisions that are made. She then invited people to enjoy the refreshments.

## 2. Attendees and apologies for absence

Twenty of the twenty three clubs and all Committee members attended. No apologies were received.

Club/Committee	Club Attendee(s)	Club vote held by	No. of teams
Abingdon	Matt Jackson & Peter Browning	Peter Browning	12
Bicester	Duncan Soanes & Lisa Elliott	Duncan Soanes	3
Blewbury	Penny Brassell	Penny Brassell	1
Breakaway	-	-	1
Deddington	Mark Tyler	Mark Tyler	2
Evenlode	Anna Wareing	Anna Wareing	13
Feathers	Stuart Quick	Stuart Quick	2
Gosford Hill	Ian Whitehead	Ian Whitehead	6
Harwell Laboratories	Janet Atkins	Janet Atkins	4
Headington	-	-	4
The Leys	Norman Stewart	Norman Stewart	8
Long Crendon	Marjorie Morris	Marjorie Morris	1
North Abingdon	Richard King	Richard King	6
Oxford	Tom Hager	Tom Hager	3
Oxford Academy	Val Pomeroy	Val Pomeroy	1
Oxford University	-	-	3
The Park	John Boyd	John Boyd	3
Pegasus	Laura Huang & Jo Simpson	Laura Huang	5
St Clements	Stephen Hurt	Stephen Hurt	4
Thame	Oliver Graydon	Oliver Graydon	3
Wallingford	Karina Lewis	Karina Lewis	4
Wantage	Wendy Hall	Wendy Hall	4
Windrush	Julie Viney	Julie Viney	12
			105
Outgoing Committee			
Chairman (acting)	Judy Bendall	Casting vote only	
Treasurer	Ian Whitehead	N/A	
Secretary	Janet Atkins	N/A	
League Fixtures Secretary	Peter Browning	N/A	
Committee	James Fisk, Matt Jackson, Karina Lewis, Jo Simpson & Julie Viney	N/A	

The Secretary advised clubs that they each had a named voting card to more easily identify designated voters.

## 3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM held on 11 May 2016 and matters arising

The AGM minutes were emailed to the notified Club Secretaries and were also available in the document section of the League website. It was proposed by The Leys, seconded by Evenlode, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposal carried.

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Deddington expressed disappointment that the promised communication from the County re obtaining shuttles had not materialised. All other actions were completed.

### **4. Chairman's report**

Judy said: "This has been an interesting and at times a challenging year. However, with the support from the Committee I believe we have managed to help resolve most of the issues and generally we have had a good year. I would like to thank the Committee for their input and hard work, from running the Fixtures process and manual reporting of results to communicating with clubs and the many tasks to ensure the Social and AGM happen.

The Committee believes there are too many conceded matches and hopes that in the coming season clubs will try much harder to reschedule matches in a timely manner, keeping the League Fixtures Secretary informed of progress. By not playing a fixture, clubs ought to be aware of the indirect impact of their action on other clubs as it is not just the result between the two clubs that should have played that is affected. Although not desirable, please consider playing with a less than complete team rather than conceding.

I would as always please ask all clubs to read the Rules as they have changed quite a bit over the years. As a Committee we are going to re look at the Rules during next season.

If any of your club details change ie Chairman, Secretary please update your details and inform our Secretary (Janet) as this is the information the League uses to communicate with clubs.

We are seeking new blood on the Committee so please do ask if any of your club members wish to volunteer as we believe it is in the interest of the League to have as wide a representation of clubs on the Committee as possible.

The Presentation and Social evening was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. . We hope that those who came enjoyed it – I won't forget the sight of people constructing balloon towers! Thank you to everyone who supported the event, whether by attending, providing raffle prizes or helping on the night (running the bar, setting up and clearing away). In particular, our thanks go to The Manor Preparatory School for the use of their hall and facilities and Dave, the bar "staff" (Ian and Janet), to Peter for organising the trophies and to James, Jo, Matt and Karina for volunteering on the night. We had a good attendance and I will look at other options for next year's end of season so any proposals and ideas are all very welcome. Please do use the nomination sheet (next to the attendance sheet) for charities to benefit from the raffle proceeds as this will be discussed later.

As we look forward to next season, please ask your Fixtures Secretaries to organise your club's fixtures and to ensure that all matches are scheduled within the season ending on 31 March.

Thank you."

### **5. Treasurer's report**

Ian presented the accounts for 2016/17. These showed a profit of £693.04 (up from £241.24 for 2015/16) resulting from income of £1,181.20 and costs of £488.16, both figures include the raffle proceeds of £360 (up from £238 the previous year). The bank balance was £4,731.32. Affiliation fees were £22 higher, the 2016 Social made a surplus of £150 and league costs were £36 lower in total, mainly due to not giving bursaries this season and lower postage costs. As in previous seasons, Ian recorded the League's gratitude to The Manor Preparatory School for allowing us to use the hall free of charge. He invited questions on the accounts. Park asked how we planned to gain more interest from League funds. Ian explained that most Community accounts currently paid no interest. The Secretary commented that her club had not found a Club account that paid other than pitiful interest. Ian anticipated that costs were likely to be incurred when the website was revised

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in addition to an ongoing admin fee and the expectation that up to ten trophies would need replacing in the near future. The Committee would keep the balance under review and he assured the AGM that there was no intention to generate a profit but that the League needed to retain a working balance, both as a contingency (eg if the social was cancelled and liabilities still had to be paid) and to cover the timing of when income and costs (especially engraving) arose.

Ian proposed the entry fee remain at £6 per team. This was seconded by Abingdon and carried unanimously.

### 6. League Reports

The League Fixtures Secretary thanked clubs for sending in results in reasonable time and on the correct pre-printed scoresheets as this meant the divisional tables on the website were up to date. Full and legible names must be shown on the results scoresheets. Peter reminded clubs that he must be kept informed of all changes to the fixture list as soon as a club becomes aware that a match will not be played on the scheduled date. Clubs are expected to be proactive in rescheduling postponed matches and to try to avoid conceding matches. Four teams withdrew in the season (Leys B from 3D and Headington, Pegasus B and Wantage B from Mens).

Peter advised that the final positions were shown in the tables section of the OBL website. There had been 21 conceded matches out of over 560 matches and this has indirectly impacted the relative positions of teams. The 5 Discipline did not run as there were four entries but it is hoped it will be better supported in 2017/18.

Winners for 2016/17 were:

#### 3 Discipline

Division 1	Abingdon A
Division 2	Abingdon C
Division 3	North Abingdon B
Division 4	St Clements A

#### Mens Doubles

Division 1	Windrush A
Division 2	Feathers A
Division 3	Evenlode B
Division 4	Abingdon C
Division 5	Deddington A

#### Ladies Doubles

Division 1	Windrush A
Division 2	North Abingdon A
Division 3	Deddington A

#### Mixed Doubles

Division 1	Abingdon A
Division 2	Feathers A
Division 3	Windrush C
Division 4	Pegasus A

During the season the Committee addressed issues of player ineligibility that arose in a couple of teams and in a few clubs. This resulted in amended scores as rubber scores were amended. The reasons varied from a

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player playing in the same discipline for more than one club to players playing in a higher nominated team more than the permitted number of times. An unplayed match had an arbitrated result recorded.

### On-line Reporting system

Peter provided an update on the intended introduction of the on-line reporting system. As mentioned at last year's AGM, the League wants to use the Badminton England Tournament Software for reporting results and updating league tables. For various reasons, predominately due to the cut in funding for Badminton England which has had a detrimental impact on BE, the availability and level of support has been less effective than anticipated. As the Committee believes the benefits of using the BE system are considerable Peter will continue trying to discover if, for the majority of our disciplines, the software can be enhanced to cope with our unique formats of 3D, 5D and Ladies. Linking to the BE database should make it much easier to check that players are affiliated, both to comply with our Rules and also for insurance purposes. **Action PB**

Evenlode commented that some other sports clubs have set up their own system rather than wait for the governing body to assist.

### 4 Discipline format

Peter advised that consideration may be given to running a 4D event in 2018/19, even if on a one-off or trial basis. This may depend on how viable the 5D format is for 2017/18. **Action 18/19 Committee**

### Change in BE Affiliation for 2017/18 season

BE are changing the affiliation system for 2017/18. Details are still being released but it is already known that there will be a separate charge for the club and for its members so this information may alter what clubs decide to charge their members. The membership year will now start on 1 September, with clubs paying an affiliation fee depending on the number of members (there will be three bands) and members have a choice of three categories to reflect the range of those wishing to play tournaments, club/local league or social member.

*Post meeting note – in June the League Secretary emailed Club Secretaries with a link to the BE website details.*

## **7. 2017/18 season**

League entries are due by 30 June 2017. This consists of the entry form and full payment, including any £10 surcharge for non attendance at the AGM. The entry form will be available soon in the OBL document library.

The working assumption for clubs should be that two teams will be promoted and two relegated from each division. The final allocation of teams to divisions will depend on the number of entries received, the impact of any withdrawals or new teams on potential division size and the application of the League Rules by the Committee. Peter said that some clubs have found organising fixtures for divisions of eight teams challenging due to the availability of courts and so warned clubs that the Committee may review the size of divisions and restructure the allocation of teams to divisions (after ranking them) for the upcoming season.

The Fixtures meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm on 29 August in The Manor Preparatory School dining room and all clubs are expected to send a representative. However, they do not have to attend if the spreadsheet containing their fully completed fixtures is submitted by 11.59pm on 27 August. Peter advised the process would be similar to recent years ie team entries would be allocated to divisions at a Committee meeting, the leagues would be published on the website (expect these from mid July), fixtures are to be agreed between clubs (at the Fixture meeting and, if they wish, earlier). The excel proforma will be available to clubs, pre-populated with match references for each fixture, so clubs just need to complete the dates and venue. Finalised fixtures in the required format must be submitted by the close of the Fixture meeting. These will be verified and clubs contacted to resolve any mismatches. The team packs containing scoresheets and rules will

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then be collated and issued before the start of the season. Nomination forms (for those clubs having more than one team in a discipline) will be in the document library and must be submitted before the first match is played by any of the teams in that discipline.

### **8. Proposals to be voted on at the AGM**

There were no proposals from the Committee.  
No proposals were received from clubs.

### **9. Election of Committee for 2017/18**

The acting Chairman passed control of the meeting to the Treasurer.

Chairman – Gosford Hill proposed Judy Bendall, seconded by Long Crendon. There were no other nominations so Judy was re-elected and resumed control of the meeting.

Treasurer – The Leys proposed Ian Whitehead, seconded by Park. There were no other nominations so Ian was re-elected.

Secretary – Wantage proposed Janet Atkins, seconded by The Leys. There were no other nominations so Janet was re-elected.

Judy asked if there were any nominations for the non-officer posts. There were no nominations so, as all existing Committee members were willing to stand, she suggested that the Committee be re-elected en masse. This was supported by Bicester and seconded by Wantage. Peter Browning, Matt Jackson, James Fisk, Karina Lewis, Jo Simpson and Julie Viney were unanimously elected. Peter will continue as League Fixtures Secretary.

### **10. Presentation and Social evening**

The event last Friday, 5 May, seemed to be enjoyed by those who attended and it covered costs. Tiffins apologised for the late arrival of the buffet which was due to them catering for two events that night. Judy asked clubs to provide feedback on the event to the Committee so they are aware of views when organising future events. It will also review the financial and catering/bar details during the year. **Action Committee**

The raffle proceeds will be allocated equally to the charities nominated by clubs and agreed at the AGM. The 2017 proceeds will be shared between HelpThomas2Dance (to fund an operation for an Oxfordshire boy), nominated by Pegasus, Blue Skye Thinking (an Abingdon based charity which OBL has supported in the past and which wrote to express their gratitude), nominated by Gosford Hill and The Balsam Family Project (a Didcot based charity to help families), nominated by Blewbury.

The Treasurer will issue cheques to the charities.

**Action IW**

### **11. Any Other Business**

#### Summer Clubs

Wallingford mentioned they will be running a summer club on Tuesday and Thursday 8-10pm to the end of August but excluding the week of 19 June. Their website has more details.

Clubs were asked to notify the League Secretary if they wanted details of their summer clubs publicised on the OBL website (in a similar way to last summer). **Action - clubs**

#### Shuttle quality

Deddington commented that the Aerosenso they tried were very bad whereas Babolat No1 were more durable. Windrush agreed that Aerosenso were not good value for money. Evenlode's James Fisk advised that

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he can supply Yehlex/Magnum shuttles and Abingdon's Peter Browning said he can again source Snowpeak shuttles and is checking prices.

### Match times

The Leys advised a trial 7.45pm start had received adverse comment so they will revert to their previous time.

### OBL website

It was suggested that the OBL website could maybe have a "news" page for clubs to leave comments on topics thought to be of general interest to other clubs. If so, this should be accessible after a club has logged in and not visible to the general public.

**Action - Committee**

Deddington asked that the OBL website pages be reviewed to ensure the information was current. **Action-PB**

### Cost of conceded matches

The Leys expressed their concern about the adverse financial impact on clubs of matches being conceded. They are paying £75-£90 a night and, now the school has academy status, have to pay in advance. This is a significant cost for them and, they presume, many other clubs.

The Secretary said that the issue had arisen in Committee meetings in recent years and that our Rules (Rule 14) do allow clubs to claim expenses from opposing clubs in some circumstances and that this has happened.

The League Fixtures Secretary expressed his view that he felt some clubs fielded more teams than they had players for and that clubs should allow for some player unavailability during the season. The season end date of 31 March is set so clubs should include some contingency for rescheduled matches (eg postponement due to bad weather) when deciding the number and type of teams to field and how much court time is needed.

The Chairman, who had commented on the number of conceded matches earlier in the meeting, wondered if reminding clubs that they may be charged might encourage clubs to consider if they might be able to field a non full team on the agreed date rather than concede. She also said that exam periods are known down time for home clubs so maybe they can try to arrange away fixtures then.

### Venue availability

The League Fixtures Secretary commented on the unreliability of some hirers (eg St Helens) both this season and last season when regular bookings have been cancelled, in many cases at short notice. When this happens towards the end of the season then clubs have minimal options to reschedule matches.

### Late results

Deddington asked if any clubs had been fined for the late submission of scoresheets. The Secretary advised that she had written to several clubs that were shown as "late" to request that either the rescheduled date be advised or the results be sent in by return to the League Fixtures Secretary who had already nudged the clubs. In the majority of cases this had the desired result but one club was very close to being fined.

Evenlode commented that both clubs ought to notify the League Fixtures Secretary of changed match dates as these demonstrates that they both agree the new date.

Peter advised that whilst he wants timely results he does prefer .JPG to .PDF file format.

Blewbury and Long Crendon thanked the Committee for running the League on behalf of the clubs.

The meeting finished about 9.00pm.

Janet Atkins

Oxfordshire Badminton League Secretary

14 March 2018