

To all OBL Club Chairs, Fixtures Secretaries and Secretaries

We held a scheduled Committee meeting on 15 March. The majority of the meeting concentrated on discussing the impact of the Coronavirus on OBL. We agreed the following based on what was currently in the public domain:

- AGM on 6 May – postponed
- Social/Presentation evening on 15 May – cancelled
- 20/21 League season – team entries by 30 June
- Quiz & Fizz evening on 11 September – unchanged

On Sunday, the view of the Committee was that we saw no merit in extending the season beyond 31 March (as the possible disruption to people and venues could last for a prolonged period) but were not averse to clubs choosing to continue playing if players were happy to do so and clubs still had access to venues. The letter to clubs was about to be issued when the Monday evening news update happened.

The government announcement on 16 March that “all unnecessary social contact and travel should be avoided” altered the situation so, in common with the majority of sports, we have suspended the season. The OBL website was updated late on 16 March to advise this suspension.

As the League has been suspended we do not expect clubs to play matches with effect from Tuesday 17 March and will not be accepting any results for matches played after 16 March.

Once the season ends, the Committee will arbitrate on all unplayed matches and inform clubs of their decisions. Please be aware that this communication is unlikely to be in the next few weeks.

With regard to the practicalities of completing this season:

- Fixtures Secretaries are asked to review the list of overdue results (see link on the Tables tab of the OBL website) and those scheduled in the previous ten days and ask the appropriate person to either input (home club) or verify (away club) these matches. If there are reasons why the match has not been input or verified then Rosie (League Fixtures Secretary) must be informed in writing. Some clubs have been asked before so, if overdue matches are not verified by 22 March, the intention is to verify them on your behalf to enable the League tables to show more up to date results than has been happening.

- Some results include “unknown player” so please provide Rosie with details of who played as a matter of urgency. If you accidentally submitted input with a typo then please contact Rosie so it can be reset for you to amend.
- If a match was conceded for whatever reason then Rosie must be provided with written details and the opposing club’s Fixtures Secretary included in that email. For matches with dates of 17 March onwards, the match will be identified by OBL so you do not need to submit a “non played as a result of league suspension due to Corona virus” email.
- If you could ask your captains to review the league tables (at the top of the Azolve section for each division) and check that the results are correct (ie depending on the discipline, rubbers, games, points for and against) that would be helpful. If there are any oddities please inform Rosie or Peter.
- If you haven’t already returned trophies from last season then please contact Peter Browning to discuss how best to do this.

Thank you to those who completed the Azolve questionnaire. We will review the detail before next season but it was encouraging to receive your useful feedback.

Personal safety is a priority which is why we urge you to refer your members to expert guidance in deciding what they do or do not do. Please see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

As volunteers we are trying our best to run the League on your behalf, especially under what may be difficult circumstances in the coming months, so please assist us by helping sort currently outstanding match results.

Thank you and Best Wishes from the OBL Committee.

Janet Atkins
OBL League Secretary
17 March 2020

Contacts:

Rosie, League Fixtures Secretary (fixtures@oxfordshirebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Peter, Website Support (doubles@oxfordshirebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Janet, League Secretary (secretary@oxfordshirebadmintonleague.co.uk)