

BADMINTON SOCIAL | Nottingham

Annual General Meeting 2016

7pm Monday, 12th September

at Nottingham University Samworth Academy

Attendees: Andrew S; Charlie M; Connor M; Dan M; Dan P; James N; James R; Malcolm W; Martyn B; Matt F; Paul D; Scott B; Shaun L; Tony W.

MINUTES:

1) Facilities & Capacity

1.1 Between April and July we held a 13-week trial-run of 3 hour sessions. These were poorly attended and cost the club over £240.

1.2 Whilst people enjoyed the earlier start time, it was agreed to discontinue the 3hr sessions.

1.3 Following an online poll, it was agreed that sessions should be run from 7:30-10pm with a new charge of £4 per head, to ensure costs were being met with an average attendance of 19 players.

1.4 During the school's Spring Term (Christmas to Easter) the school hall will not be available to us until 8pm, due to a prior booking.

1.5 It was agreed that the current facilities, location and number of courts was still appropriate to best meet the needs of the club.

2) Club Accounts

2.1 Tony presented the club's accounts for 2015-16, which showed a healthy overall annual profit of £444.

2.2 The hourly charge remained unchanged for the year, but with the additional half hour, sessions are now costing £68.75.

2.3 It was agreed to continue with the £4 charge for the remainder of 2016, and offer a reduced rate in the New Year (when hours would be reduced to 8-10pm) to £3.

2.4 The weekly charge would return to £3.50 after Easter at the return to the 2.5hr sessions.

2.5 A small profit of £15.30 had been made when hosting our first Manc 'v' Nottm Interclub challenge in October.

2.6 A dedicated club account had been opened with the TSB at the end of 2015, to ensure all the club's finances were centrally located. Players were encouraged to make payments directly into this account.

2.7 There had been limited uptake of the 10-week block-booked sessions, due in part to the inflexibility of the blocks of 10-weeks, and because people preferred the simplicity, convenience and reduced financial burden of paying on arrival.

3) County League

3.1 Following a direct invitation from the Notts Badminton Association via an email received back in April, Andrew has been liaising with Alison Bexon, the County Membership Secretary, to prepare for entering a team into the men's doubles County League for the 2016/17 season.

3.2 The Annual Fixtures meeting is to be held the following Tuesday, at which we will learn of the number of teams in our division, and the number of matches we will face this season.

3.3 Players wishing to take part in the League are invited to make themselves known before the end of the month. It was agreed a minimum of 6 players will be needed and a maximum of 10, to ensure there are sufficient spare players available on match nights, and to allow all players to have the chance to take part in matches. To help make the selection, a panel was established (including 2 existing league players), consisting of Roscoe, Stew and Dan P. It was proposed to rotate partnerships throughout the season to ensure a fair distribution of matches being played.

3.4 League Players will be expected to contribute financially to cover the addition cost of playing with feather shuttles, for the Badminton England Membership Fees (£16 per head) and for the affiliation fee to Notts BA (£40 for the club). It was agreed we should charge an annual membership fee of £35.

3.5 Roscoe, through his private business, pledged sponsorship to the League to the tune of £300 to part-fund shuttles and court hire through the season. Connor, through his father's business, pledged £100 to assist with hosting matches and for the provision of refreshments.

3.6 As part of the sponsorship, a new kit is to be sought specifically for League players to wear on match nights.

3.7 It was agreed that all funds would be handled through the new Badminton Social account, but that separate records should be kept, such that the club's Monday night income does not subsidise the League's expenses.

3.8 It is anticipated that we will host 3 League Match nights at the club, which will coincide with Monday sessions. Only half the courts will be available to our regular players, with the remaining two being used for League games. League players will be charged £5 for these sessions, and regular players will be asked to pay half the usual price.

4) Club Coaching

4.1 As a club we have a wide range of differing skills standards and abilities between our players. Presently it is anticipated that the circulation of players through mixed doubles games provides sufficient variety to expose players to varying standards of play and hopefully inspire and stimulate skills improvement. Something that we don't currently provide, and which is frequently commented on, is any structured or formalised on-court training, coaching sessions or practice drills.

4.2 It had been suggested by Kim that we might dedicate 15-30mins to focus on a specific skill, rather than always playing doubles games. This could be general movement and fitness, technique training or skills practise through the use of focused drills for repeated exercises.

4.3 It was agreed to consider seeking a coach to run occasional sessions, and that this could be financed using club funds.

4.4 Coaching would be made available to all members of the club, regardless of their standard. Paul suggested a poll be undertaken to garner the level of interested in this and who might like to take part.

5) Club Committee

5.1 Andrew confirmed the out-going Committee Members and their roles, as follows:

Chairperson - Andrew S.

Treasurer - Tony

Social Coordinator - Scott

Team Coordinator - Andy G.

5.2 Andrew proposed an additional member of the Committee be appointed specifically to oversee the running of the League practice sessions, and to coordinate team players for home and away matches.

5.3 Andrew proposed to refocus the role of the Team Coordinator to Skills Coordinator with a specific emphasis on introducing coached sessions, drill routines and seeking other opportunities to improve on-court skills to Monday night sessions.

5.4 Andrew proposed that the role of Social Coordinator be changed to Events Coordinator to oversee the coordination of all tournaments, although it is anticipated that all Committee Members will share in the role by taking on responsibility for delivering individual events.

5.5. No club member had made representations in advance of the AGM to suggest their inclusion on the Committee. The following individuals were put forward to take up the 5 Committee positions:

Chairperson - Andrew S.
Treasurer - Tony
Events Coordinator - Scott
Skills Coordinator - Roscoe
League Coordinator - Dan P.

5.6 Each Committee Member position was put before those present, and no objections were raised. The Committee were duly elected.

5.7 Tony proposed that Committee members be in posts for a maximum 2-year period, to allow for fresh ideas and inputs and ensure the role does not become too burdensome.

6) In-house League

6.1 Scott has been hosting an in-house league between participating partnerships throughout the summer. This is to be concluded on Sept 26th with the top 4-placed partnerships playing a Semi-Final match, before the winners go through to the Final that same evening. Medals are to be sourced to award to the winning partnerships.

6.2 For various reasons, there had been limited commitment and attendance from players, and not all League fixtures had been played.

6.3 Whilst the handicapping had worked successfully for some partnerships, it was difficult to get this right to ensure a level playing field for all.

6.4 Scott suggested that if this event were to be run again in future then it might be limited to selected invitation only. Andrew suggested this went against the ethos of the club.

7) Saturday Sessions

7.1 At the start of the year players attending the London tournament took part in additional training session on a Saturday morning at Carlton Leisure Centre. This was seen as an opportunity to have some more consistently challenging games than can be offered on Monday evenings.

7.2 Due to the success of these sessions, additional members were invited to attend. To ensure a fair balance was struck between inclusivity and selected invitation, all members who had previously taken part - or were planning on taking part - in a UK domestic or inter-club tournament were invited to attend.

7.3 These sessions had run fairly consistently from April to September with the run up to the Manchester tournament, and were seen as a good opportunity to allow for more focused practise time for partnerships in training for UK events.

7.4 Funds for these sessions are held independently by Scott, who keeps running accounts/profits, externally from the club's funds.

7.6 Andrew questioned the appetite for these sessions with the additional County League training sessions being proposed, but Scott intended to continue running these sessions consistently.

8) Socials & Tournaments

8.1 A Christmas social held in partnership with Outdoor Lads and The Lions (Football Team) was a success, and it was agreed such 'cross-over' events should be held again in future.

8.2 Our 10th Anniversary Year was celebrated with our Anniversary Meal held at Fothergills.

8.3 In March, 8 of our players joined us for the Gosling's tournament in London, and a whopping 18 players travelled up to Manchester in August for their UK-wide tournament. We hosted (and won) the second Manc 'v' Nottm Interclub challenge in October. The next scheduled tournament is Birmingham in Spring 2017.

8.4 In July we attended Notts Pride and participated in the march for the first time, followed by lunch and a ten-pin bowling session. This seemed very worthwhile and proved popular. It was agreed that this should be repeated in 2017.

9) Website / Promotion

9.1 The flyers circulated at Pride had resulted in the grand total of two people (a couple) attending a single session at the club.

9.2 It was agreed that new members should be offered their first session for free.

9.3 Most new members discover the club either through word of mouth or via the website. No action had been taken to update and refresh the website since the last AGM, and this was again raised as something in need of improvement. Connor volunteered his services to assist with this.

Post Meeting Note - Matt M also has web development skills and should be approached for assistance with this.

10) Club Constitution

10.1 In order to be able to attract external funding, the Club's Constitution needs amendment to demonstrate inclusivity, diversity and equality, and outline where funds will go should the organisation be wound up Andrew confirmed he had failed to redraft the Constitution as discussed at the previous AGM.

11) AOB

11.1 None

12) Next AGM

Suggested date: Monday 11th September 2017