

**Whitehorse Badminton Club AGM Meeting Minutes
– Thursday May 25th 2006**

Present	Apologies
Brenda Bartlett	Richard Gill
Nigel Jobbins	Ali Mainstone
Stuart Higgins	Anthea Lynch
Dave Channer	Roy Dinsmore
John Willis	Ali Frisk
Simon Footner	Paul Frisk
Helen Dent	Jason Jackson
Ali Fail	Jenny Bradley
Anne Wilson	Rob Coleman
Wendy Thomas	
Jeremy Tibbles	
Sue Short	
Nic Newland	
Eddie Larkin	
Mike Brewser	
Sally Westwood	

Chairmans Report – Mike Brewser

The club has had another successful season. We now have 50 registered members (up again on last year), and have had good turnout for club nights and matches, and another successful season in the leagues.

We have two key areas to focus on:

- Balancing the needs of players of different abilities as the club is growing
- Encouraging more ladies to join to help the balance of the club.

We have had 33 responses to the questionnaire, with 31 people saying that they would be joining next year (2 said they may be leaving because they are moving house) and the majority of people saying they wanted to play during the summer.

We have also identified a possible additional venue for the club, as we can book courts at the Oasis 7:45pm – 10:00pm on Thursday nights to help cater for the increased size of the club, to counter the loss of our 7pm – 8pm slot on Wednesday nights, and give more people the opportunity to play matches. This was discussed in more detail later in the evening

Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Tibbles

Jeremy presented the accounts for the year, including a comparison with last year's accounts, and a forecast for next year's accounts. Jeremy noted that the average cost per person per club night is over £4, rather than the £2.50 that we charge per evening.

Our annual fees increased last year, however this has largely been balanced out by a similar increase in court fees and shuttle costs, so the nett result has been that there is very little change in our cash position at the end of the year. As court fees will be increasing again soon, and shuttle costs are expected to rise dramatically as a result of bird flu, it was recommended that we should increase the fees to ensure that we can remain financially stable.

The following motions were proposed and agreed:

- Guest fees will increase to £5 to cover the cost of the evening

- Annual fees will increase to £90 to cover the additional forecast costs (see also Court Play – Additional Venues).
- Annual fees will become due by the end of September. Any members who do not pay their fees by the end of September will be treated as guests until they pay their annual membership fees, i.e. they will be asked to pay guest fees and will not be asked to play in matches.

A further motion to also increase the club and match attendance fees to £3 to cover the potential cost of shuttles was voted down, but it was agreed that we will continue to monitor these costs, and if necessary the committee could call an EGM to agree an increase in charges.

The club also agreed that the committee should produce a Welcome pack to be held in the club box for new members.

Match Secretary's Report – Mike Brewser (for Jason Jackson)

Mike reported that our teams had done very well again this season, with no teams relegated, and all teams fielding full teams throughout the season.

- Ladies A came second in their division. Unfortunately only one team is promoted to Division 1, so they will not be promoted this season.
- Mixed A came second so should be promoted to Division 2 next season
- Mixed B came second so should be promoted to Division 4 next season
- Mixed C came second so should be promoted to Division 5 next season
- Mens A came second so should be promoted to Division 3 next season

We are looking at entering another Mixed and Mens team next season.

Social Secretary – Helen Dent

Helen gave a brief update on social events during the year including a very enjoyable Christmas night out at La Dolce Vita, a celebration for John's 60th birthday, and attendance at the Swindon and District Dance.

Wendy volunteered to host a summer barbecue at her home on Saturday 8th July, starting at 3pm.

Juniors Update – Anne Wilson

We now have 22 junior members, of which about 16 are active, with a steady trickle of new members. They have had one friendly match, and intend to organise more of these next season. The age range is currently 7 – 11 years. There was some discussion about expanding the age range to include 11 – 15 year olds: it was agreed that this would be helpful as it would form more of a feeder for the seniors club, however this would need to be run as a separate session, and we currently are struggling with resource to support this.

Seniors Development Update – Dave Channer

Seniors coaching has been sporadic this season, partially due to availability of coaches but also because the coaching sessions and team practice sessions that have been organised have been very poorly attended. A number of options were discussed, including setting up separate workshop sessions on a night other than club night, individual coaching sessions and sessions on match play.

No conclusions were reached on the subject, but Dave asked club members to contact him directly if they had any ideas or requirements for coaching.

Tournament Update

The winners of our first club tournament were:

- Section 1 – Helen and Barry

- Section 2 – Ali and Simon

The two pairs then had a play-off, with Ali and Simon winning overall. Overall feedback on the event was very encouraging, and the intention is to arrange another tournament next season.

Team Selection

Team selection was completed too late this season, with teams only finalised as the season started, giving pairs no opportunity to practice before matches started. Mike will arrange a team selection meeting with this year's team captains to agree the teams for next season in early July.

Mike also noted that any objections to team selections should be directed to him in the first instance for review with the Selection Committee.

Constitution

A draft constitution was presented to the club for review. A few minor changes were made to the constitution (see separate document) and the constitution was approved.

New Scoring Update

A new method of scoring is being introduced, as seen in this year's Commonwealth Games. A Swindon and District EGM has been arranged in July to discuss the options, but it is expected that the new scoring (i.e. one serve per side with every rally scoring a point) in some form.

The club agreed to introduce the new scoring for club nights with immediate effect in order to give people the opportunity to get used to the system before next season. Initially we will play one game to 21 points, until the final scoring mechanism is agreed by Swindon & District.

Court Play

Concerns have been raised by some members of the club regarding the general standard of club play. As we now have a wide range of ability in the club, it makes it difficult for the higher level players to get sufficient practice with players of a similar standard, and for any team players to get regular practice with the rest of their team. A number of suggestions have been made to resolve this, which were discussed by the club as follows:

- Additional venue. Part of the problem this season has been caused by the lack of availability of Tuesday night sessions for team practice/additional club play. In order to address this, we could set up Thursday night sessions at the Oasis and make this available for some matches, additional club play, team practice and coaching.
- We could instigate some form of ladder to be played during the season. The actual format would need to be determined but could potentially be played after 9pm on Wednesdays, on a dedicated court 8 – 10pm on Wednesdays, or once a month on Wednesday nights. Dave volunteered to run this if required.
- Assign one or two courts 9 – 10pm on Wednesday for team practice/coaching.
- Instigate an open peg board system after 9pm on Wednesday (i.e. first peg on the board picks anyone else on the board to make up a game).
- Continue with the existing peg board system, but emphasising that players could ask someone else to pick a game if they are first peg, or alternatively ask the first peg not to pick them for a game.

There was some lively discussion and a number of votes on various options, and the club finally agreed the following points:

1. Wednesday play will continue in its current format, using the peg board.
2. The club will take on an additional two courts at the Oasis for Thursday nights, starting in September. These courts will partially be used to cover matches for any additional teams that are entered in the league, but will also be available for club play and/or team practice.

3. Voting was tied as to whether club play on Thursday nights would be run with the existing peg board system or an open peg board system, so it was agreed that we will trial an open peg board system for any club play on Thursdays.

Election of Committee

Mike thanked this year's committee for all of their hard work during the season. The committee then stood down and the following people were elected for the 06/07 season

Chairman	Mike Brewser
Treasurer	Jeremy Tibbles
Secretary	Sally Westwood
Match Secretary	Wendy Thomas
Social Secretary	Sue Short
Consumables	Simon Footner
Seniors Dev Officer	Dave Channer
Juniors Dev Officer	Anne Wilson

AOB

Coaching Training. Last season we subsidised a number of people to be trained as badminton coaches. There is another coaching course scheduled for July, and Anne asked whether the club would be willing to subsidise any more coaches. There was some discussion regarding this, and general agreement that the coaches that were trained last year have been invaluable for the Juniors club, but has had less of an impact for the Seniors club. It was agreed that if anyone was interested in the coaching, and asked to be subsidised in return for committing to providing coaching to the club, this would be at the discretion of the committee.

Summer Play. It was agreed that we will continue with Tuesday night play during the summer season.