



April 2024 Newsletter

Club Update:

Welcome everyone to the first Priory Badminton Club newsletter of the year! Since our last newsletter, there have been some changes to the committee. Our former club secretary, James, has sadly decided to move on and we wish him all the best. Liam Stimpson has taken on the role of club treasurer, James Middlemass is now our Badminton England lead and Simon Ormerod (beaver) is our new club secretary. A huge thank you to all the individuals volunteering their free time to enable the club to operate and grow. We know the club means a lot to its members and we're really proud to provide an inclusive environment that gives everyone a healthy escape from the challenges of the outside world.

You may all be aware; the club has taken the decision to only accept over 18s on both nights from the 1st February. After a period of allowing under 18s, we have made the decision to revert back to over 18s only.

Hopefully, you will have spotted that the club has provided new benefit options, to ensure you get the best experience possible. A summary of the options has been included below, if you need further information, please feel free to contact a member of the committee:

Option 1: Badminton England Membership only £15 p/year (after being with the club for 12 months)

Option 2: Coaching, minimum of 2 sessions a quarter, £10 p/quarter

Option 3: Coaching & feather shuttles, £15 p/quarter for one club night, £20 p/quarter for both

We hope these options allow you to get the most out of the club whilst helping the club to remain sustainable, as a non-profit social badminton club. In addition, all league players will pay £5 subsidies for each league game to ensure the clubs costs are split fairly across our members.

Chairman's Corner:

After the success of the first ever chairman's corner, I have decided that it will become a regular feature of the club's newsletters.

It is unfortunate that there was no newsletter before the end of 2023, but the unexpected resignation of the last club secretary and the busy festive period put paid to that.

I think this an opportune moment to review 2023. What a year for the club and we have certainly not stopped still! Some of the highlights:

- New night – we introduced a new night, when we were given the opportunity to have the school sports hall on a Wednesday. Initially we welcomed 16-18 year olds but after the old club secretary left, we have reverted to over 18s only. The additional requirements of having under 18s was too onerous and didn't align with the direction we wanted to take the club. A special thank you to Simon (aka Mr Beaver) for stepping in and taking over the running of Wednesdays.
- League – not only have we got a new night, we also entered league badminton for the first time. We entered the Newark and District league in division 3. Whilst the results have not been the best, for the club, the experience has been amazing. Personally, I have enjoyed it and cannot wait for the second season. We get to meet other clubs and also show other clubs what a fantastic club we are. Well done to Ben for organising, who thought you had it in you!!
- Feathers – we have started to use feather shuttles. Predominantly used by league players, but other players can use them. If you would like to try, please speak to Gary in the first instance.
- Membership – We have managed to retain the majority of our members during 2023. Retaining membership makes for a healthy club and thank you to everyone that has stayed committed to the club. A special thanks to James M and Joanne for your support with new members. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and without your dedication, we would not be the club we are.
- Funding – we have managed to source funding from the Co-op and Badminton England. This funding has been vital in growing the club. A special thanks to Liam Smalley for obtaining the funding from the Co-op and Simon for obtaining funding from Badminton England. We have achieved a lot with these vital funds.
- Coaching – as a club we are very lucky to have a level 3 coach. Pete is very enthusiastic about badminton and he continues to support our club. He also organised our first Christmas competition. Well done to Matt and Colin, who won it.

As you can see, 2023 was a busy year for our club. 2024 is set to be another busy year. We will have completed our first league season and we will hopefully enter a team in the mixed league. As a club we will continue to evolve and I think our big challenge of 2024, is how we become a club for all members. Watch this space!

I will end my first corner of 2024, by thanking all the members of the committee that give up their time to support this club. Without this, the club would not be the success it is.

Gary – Club Chairman

Moving forward:

- We have concluded our first season in the Newark and District Badminton Men's division 3 league and although we did not win a night outright, we are extremely proud of all the players that contributed towards the season. We won several games and even the odd match which surpassed the club (and our coach's) expectations. Congratulations again to all of the individuals that took on this challenge and a huge thank you to all those that supported the club. We are confident that as we will build our experience and continue to collaborate with our level 3 coach, we will see further progress in the coming season.
- If you are interested in joining the league please contact Gary or Ben in the first instance. We are really keen to enlist female players so we can consider entering mixed / female doubles league.
- Matt Jelly continues to sponsor our club via his business Jelplumb Plumbing and Heating. We would like to extend our gratitude to Matt for his sponsorship.



We're not stopping there:

- We have been successful in receiving funding from Badminton England to the tune of £500. This money has allowed the club to subsidise the cost of coaching during Q1 of 2024.
- We are always looking for funding opportunities so if you know of any, please get in contact with a member of the clubs committee.
- Liam Smalley will now be taking a lead on club social events, please get involved and help him to shape our next get together.

Health and Safety Notices:

- Players helping clear away at the end of the night is GREATLY APPRECIATED - we all want to get home! A couple of asks - if your court runs past or very close to the end of the session, please DO help clear away at the end (I think most do anyway). Secondly, if you are moving posts around the Hall, please DO NOT MOVE POSTS BEHIND AN ACTIVE COURT - a player moving at speed colliding with these posts could cause serious injury.
- Please be aware of stepping on or near courts where there are games in progress - keep to single file behind courts as close to the wall as possible.
- Be mindful of your positioning when at the net - keep your racket up so you are able to return a shuttle, this will in turn protect your face and eyes.
- Please ensure you are wearing clothing appropriate to play badminton in, paying particular attention to footwear - if in doubt, please speak to a Committee Member.
- Can all players please do their utmost to arrive on time - late arrivals often means other players are not able to begin their games, thank you.
- Please can players respond to messages - keeping in touch helps us run the Club smoothly and keep everyone in the loop

Dates for your Diaries:

- 17/04/2024 – Next committee meeting
- 08/05/2024 - Club Annual General Meeting (AGM), location & time TBC

Other Notes:

- As a club, we have recently introduced adult Badminton England membership (club affiliated). For those of you that have been with the club prior to the January price changes, you will become a member 12 months after joining the club, or September 2024, whichever comes first. For those that have joined January onwards, you become a member after three months. Membership benefits include: discounts on certain restaurants (such as 20% off your food bill at Turtle Bay), cinema tickets and much more. Checkout the clubs website for more details or alternatively have a chat with Liam Stimpson during a club night.