



November 2024 Newsletter

Club Update:

Welcome everyone to the autumn Priory Badminton Club newsletter! Please welcome Liam back as our social night organiser, and Sarah/Mel as our welfare officers.

We opened our membership to new players in October. I am pleased to inform everyone we have a healthy wait list! We have signed up 6 new members, Stephan, Helen, Rufus, Sohaib, Sam and Ben.

Welfare Officers (Sarah and Mel)

Unfortunately, Mel has injured herself playing badminton, so she is having to look after her own welfare at the moment and won't be back at badminton for at least a couple of months.

Here is a quick reminder of our role:

- Be available to discuss any concerns (in confidence) and seek signposting for any issues to do with wellbeing and/or safeguarding within or outside of the club.
- To promote general wellbeing and safer sports culture.
- To pass on awareness of BE and national campaigns around mental health and safeguarding.

We will be doing some specific welfare officer training related to adult safeguarding in sports later this year. We are also in the process of getting our DBS checks done.

As always, feel free to catch one of us (Sarah at this time) for a chat if you need us or send us a what's app message.

Chairman's Corner:

This is the last newsletter of the year. Like most years for the club, this has been no different and has certainly been eventful. As always, the club has not stood still.

This year we had the climax of our first league season and the start of our second. Whilst we finished last in our first season, experiencing league for the first time was a great experience for the club, and one that will not be forgotten. It has also helped us attract players, who want to experience league badminton for themselves. We have high hopes for our second season, and we hope to get some wins under our belt! Thank you to all members that have either participated in the team or supported the team in our first season, much appreciated.

We now have a welfare officer, Sarah Leyland and a deputy Mel Kirk. From next year it is a requirement for every Badminton England affiliated club to have a welfare officer. We have taken the decision to fill this important role this year.

Whilst it is nearly the end of the year, we have a lot packed in before we break up for the festive break. We have the club competition (Monday 9th December), games/award ceremony (16th and 18th December) and Christmas night out (21st December)

January will bring some changes to the payment structure. Currently we have a tier system and whilst it has been successful, it has overcomplicated the payment structure and made it difficult to manage. As you can all appreciate, the vast majority of people involved in running this amazing club are volunteers and we want to make their role(s) as simple as possible. We are also having our first financial review of the club's expenses, to ensure our books balance. Costs have increased significantly, including increase in sports hall hire, cost of feather shuttles and Badminton England membership fees to name a few. We need to make sure we our value for money and financially viable. Therefore, from January the tier system will go and instead the tier payments will be absorbed into the regular direct debit payments made by members, to simplify things for the club.

We will be looking into the cost model for coaching. As a coaching club, we will subsidise the cost of coaching, as we think it should be available to all members. From January, it is looking like the club will pay 50% and members wanting coaching will pay the rest. We envisage the cost to be around £4 a session and members will be charged for the number of sessions they have. We think this is the fairest way of members that want coaching to have the coaching they want, without members paying an additional amount for something they don't want. We believe £4 a session is fantastic value for money.

We are reviewing the way league members pay for playing league badminton. Currently only players that play league matches contribute, when they pay their subs. The subs pay for the feathers used during the match but also contribute towards coaching etc. for league players. As there are more members that benefit from coaching and playing more competitive games than just the match players, the subs per game will be reduced and all members interested in league badminton will pay an additional amount a month, probably £3 or £4. This additional payment will help fund the additional coaching and also provide them with competitive games. Any member can show an interest in league badminton and can be included in the pool of league players.

It is looking likely that the club will become an all feather club, with the exception of 1 or 2 courts on a Wednesday for those members that want to remain social. It is important that we cater for the social members as well. For those that don't know, we bulk buy feather shuttles and Pete Dixon kindly stores them. By bulk buying, we can save significantly on cost, but even so one feather shuttle costs £1.66! Feathers cost a lot more and need replacing more often. With that said, they offer members a better experience. In reality both nights will pretty much run as they are and players that want to play with plastic shuttles will pay a reduced amount. The new pricing structure will be out in due course. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

I will finish this chairman's corner by thanking every single member of the committee and other members that contribute to the running of this club. The club would not be the club it is without the hard work of all of them.

Gary Jacobs

Chairman

Moving forward:

- 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.

Health and Safety Notices:

- Players helping to tie nets up at the start of the evening and 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:

- We have the club competition (Monday 9th December)
- Games/award ceremony (16th and 18th December)
- Christmas night out (21st December)

Other Notes: Big thank you to everyone who has helped me organise both nights while Gary has been off. Beaver.