

Newmarket Badminton Federation (NBF) 2023/4 Season Report for SBA AGM 17 July 2024

Leagues: (stabilised) After the reduction in clubs, teams and fixtures during the Covid period new entries this season more than offset any recent losses so the leagues have stabilised at about 75% of pre-Covid levels, although for the second season sadly no ladies league. One legacy though from the extended 2021/22 season was fixtures running past the end of the April deadline and well into May with still a number of rearrangements and matches conceded. Also had to chase for results not input online or score cards not emailed through so this will all need to be tightened up for next season and the possibility (although undesirable) of penalties considered. All results and tables are on the league web site (link below).

Competitions (some not held): Again this year numbers were insufficient to run our Rushworth Knockout trophy and NBF Doubles (Level and Mixed) competitions and the NBF vs BDBL challenge has yet to restart since 2019.

NBF International Team Tournament 17/18 Feb 2024 - 30th year! As usual Teams of 2 men and 2 ladies played level and mixed doubles in 3 groups (based on the Belgian categories B1, B2 and a C1/C2 combined) at Newmarket, Soham, Burwell and Mildenhall. So 108 players (mercifully we only needed 2 subs) in 26 teams (up from 24 last year but still short of our 38 team peak of 2020) played 25,600 points in 762 games (93 matches) with total games per player ranging from 24 to 34 games, making for a busy weekend with a Saturday night social on the top floor of Wildwood in Newmarket and 30th year memento mugs for all players. Disappointingly for only the second year running since starting this event we were without any of our Belgian friends (which was the original "reason d'être"), but great to see players from around the country and the coach loads from Southend plus a new entry from the UK Armed Forces (UKAF).

On a personal note it was lovely to see "old faces" and new over the weekend and it's been great to meet so many wonderful people over the years, but having been involved with this event since its inception 31 years ago (Covid scuppered 2021) and having played in the first 27, it is time for me to "retire" so many thanks for all the messages and generous contributions, although as secretary of the NBF, it's likely that i will still be involved in some capacity.

PLAYERS NOTE that this tournament is a great fun / competitive weekend, attracting a high standard from all over the Country and usually from Belgium, so IT WOULD BE GOOD TO SEE SOME ENTRIES FROM THE REST OF SUFFOLK! Date for next year 15/16 Feb 2025.

Belgium: maintaining over thirty years of entering Belgium tournaments more success this year including St Phillips Newmarket ABC players in Ypres winning B2 Men's, C1 Ladies' and R/up in B2 mixed.

NBF AGM (via Zoom): scheduled for Wednesday 21st August 2024.

For details and all the news see web site newmarketbadmintonfederation.org.uk

(temporary site: <https://sites.google.com/view/nbfsite/home>) or click on



John Harvey, NBF League secretary.