

# Ellesmere Port Badminton Club

September 2016

## New Season

It has been good to see so many members at club night, all fired up for the new season. The matches start next week with the C team at home on Monday followed by the A team away at DLCO on Wednesday and the D team at home on Thursday.

The team captains remain the same as last season – thank you. Please help them by informing them in plenty of time about non-availability. They are all very busy people and deserve to be given as much help as possible.

We have decided to carry on for this season with the 4 teams in the Chester league and the Wirral team but are seriously short of players for the D team and Wirral team, especially women. If you know of anyone who would like to play, please encourage them down. I know Jackie and Joan would be very pleased and it would make their job a lot easier.

## Subs/shuttles

The subs this year are £90 for the season (much cheaper than most clubs) but, if you pay promptly, before the end of October, not only will you make Debbie's life a lot easier but only have to pay £85 – surely a win-win situation!

However, the shuttles have jumped up in price to over £19 a dozen. Now you know why it was necessary to use up all the odds and sods that we had floating around. We have just ordered 30 dozen and this cost us over £500 and will last us less than half a season. So... we need to be careful with shuttles and will need to do some fund raising to help out. Any ideas???

Andy will continue with the clothes collection so please update your wardrobe and rifle through your family's drawers (?) and help us with this painless way of making money.

## Parker and Capper Trophy

Ben P and Richie have again agreed to captain the cup teams so thank you to them. I think we have won something each year under their excellent leadership, although not both teams at the same time. That is the challenge for this year. No pressure then, Ben and Richie!!

Please let them know if you would like to play. It is a really good format, with everybody getting plenty of games.

## Non Team Players

We have had many requests over the last few years from people who have not played for a long time or not very much, and some of these people have found their way down to us. It is a tricky situation as we all want the best games possible and not to be accommodating near beginners. However, there seems to be a shortage of opportunities for this level of player and,

looking at the bigger picture, the more we encourage people to take up badminton, the better it is for a sport which has taken a dive at club level as we all know. There is always the possibility that a player will improve enough to play in a team, as happened recently, and it also contributes to our income which has to be a good thing.

Having chatted to various members about the situation, we will suggest that anyone who falls into this category comes down on a Thursday when we often have courts free, **not** necessarily to play in games but to play with other players of a similar standard, and maybe benefit from our members' expertise. This already happens and a very big thank you to all those members who have been prepared to spend time, playing and coaching.

We will monitor the situation this season and discuss it at the AGM.

It was fantastic that we won a bronze medal in the men's doubles at Rio and very encouraging to hear Chris Langridge promoting the sport at grass roots level so enthusiastically, and for his partner, Marcus Ellis, to be involved in an "I Am Team GB" event at Coronation Street, encouraging participation, alongside the Badminton England coach, our own Richard Morrissey. If they can encourage participation at grass roots level, then surely, so can we.

## **Secretary**

We still have no secretary. Paula has kindly agreed to do the registrations so thank you to her, but we really do need to have someone to take over from her. At the moment, all badminton info will be forwarded to myself and Andy but this is a TEMPORARY measure as Ellesmere Port Badminton Club sometimes seems to take over our lives. Please help!!!

## **Reminders**

We are responsible for putting out the nets and clearing up afterwards. I know most members do this but it should be **all** members. If you are unsure where the nets etc go at the end of the evening, please ask.

Please arrive **promptly** for matches and get the games going as quickly as possible. The chatting can wait!

At club nights, please get the games on as quickly as possible. We often seem to have more people off the court than on it. When you have picked your game, pass the board on to the next person.

## **Congratulations...**

to Ben and Sam on the birth of Isaac Benjamin. Looking forwards to seeing him with a racquet in his hand.

to Bob Kemp on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. You are an inspiration to us all and a great advertisement for playing sport.

Good luck to all teams this season but, more importantly, have fun!

**Fliss**