

# **THAME BADMINTON CLUB**

## **CONSTITUTION**

(Revised at AGM 2022)

(Revised at AGM, 2018)

(Revised at AGM, 2007)

(Revised at AGM, 1991)

Rules Adopted at the AGM on 21 April 1983

### **1. Names and Objects**

The Club, founded in 1936, shall be named "Thame Badminton Club" that merged with "Thame Shuttles" in 2016 and is referred to as "the Club" throughout this document, and shall have its objectives as follows:

- Provision of community badminton and league play in Oxfordshire County and Aylesbury District
- Promote the general participation in the sport of badminton
- Offer badminton coaching/tutorial and competition opportunities to all members
- Provide duty of care and protection to all Club members
- Ensure that all Club members are treated equitably and with respect

### **2. Constitution**

The Club is constituted by the rules of a non-profit-making community members club. In no circumstances during the continuance of the Club, nor at, nor after its dissolution, shall any assets or surplus funds be distributed to any persons, or organisation, which is not itself either constituted as non-profit-making or as a charity, preferably in the area local to Thame.

- a) The Club will be governed by the Committee consisting of Chairperson(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Club Captains, Fixtures Officer, Social Secretary, and two other Committee Members; any four members shall form a quorum.
- b) A quorum is achieved either through a face-to-face meeting or any combination of virtual media attendance
- c) All Committee Members will retire at the AGM after the election but will be eligible for re-election if willing and available. The elected Committee has the power to co-opt further members during the season to replace a member resigning for personal reasons or to execute a specific Club duty that may arise.
- d) A Selection Committee consisting of the Club Captains and one other Committee Member appointed at the AGM; any two members form a quorum and can select Team Squads. Approval is finalised by the Treasurer's budgetary acceptance and compliance. Team Squad Captains will be appointed at the time of application.
- e) It is the responsibility of the Committee to maintain balanced books and adjust its income and overheads accordingly. Any changes to Subscription and Membership fees must be by Committee consensus in a quorum.
- f) An extraordinary General Meeting may be called if four or more Committee Members signify their desire. This shall be made known to all Committee Members in writing or through the Club's social media account(s). The Secretary will arrange a meeting within three weeks of receiving such a request, or sooner by mutual agreement. The Secretary will observe ten (10) clear days' notice of the meeting when announcing such a meeting to the Club members.
- g) Amendments to these Rules may be proposed in writing to the Secretary at least four weeks before the AGM. Each amendment must have a proposer and a seconder.

### **3. Affiliations**

The Club is affiliated with Badminton England via the District or County leagues. The Club abides by the rules of these Associations in so far as they should apply.

## 4. Club Fees

### Subscription Fee

- Senior Playing Members - £7 PAYG or £6 concession through our Commitment Card for a 2-hour session
  - Junior Playing Members (up to 18 years inclusive) - £5 per 2-hour session
  - Student Playing Member- £5 per 2-hour session
  - Retirement Players (65 years and above) - £5 per 2-hour session
  - League Player Match Fees - £7 per match at home and away
  - Affiliate Member (subject to the discretion of the Committee)
  - Annual Subscription and Early payment reduction to be determined at AGM
  - All members will be subject to the Constitution and codes of conduct adopted by the Club.
- a) The Subscription Rate and Match Fees shall be determined at each AGM for the following year unless said AGM provides specifically delegated power to the Club Committee.
- b) An annual **Membership Fee** shall be determined at the AGM for the following year unless said AGM provides specifically delegated power to the Club Committee to do this. All playing members must be registered with Badminton England. The Membership Fees shall be applied to individual Badminton England and the Badminton England Club registration fees. The Membership Fee is waived if the player is already registered for Badminton England for the year.
- c) If the Club is made liable for Value Added Tax (or any other Tax) on Members subscriptions, the subscription determined by the said AGM should be deemed inclusive (or exclusive as the case may be).
- d) Membership Fees are due on 30 September. Subscription fees are available in two ways:
- a. Pay As You Go, or
  - b. Quarterly in advance, which attracts a concession for all Subscription Fees except junior, student, retirement, and match players.
- e) For a new member, the Committee may, at their discretion, accept to carry forward unused pre-paid Subscription Fees to the next quarter. No further concession is permitted.

### 5. Finance and Accountancy Year

At least two authorised signatories shall sign payments drawn against Club funds except for subscriptions (see Rule 4, Note (c)). The Club's financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March. The accounts submitted to the AGM shall be prepared accordingly and be independently examined/audited.

### 6. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in May/June of each year, before summer badminton's commencement. At least 14 days' notice of the meeting will be given to Committee Members.

The Agenda will include but not be restricted to: -

- Report from the Committee/Chairman
- Treasurers report and presentation of the accounts
- Resignation of the current Committee
- Election of the Committee for the coming year

All members have the right to vote at the AGM, and decisions are made by majority vote.

### 7. Election of Members

Subject to vacancies, the Committee will be responsible for appointing new members.

### 8. Safeguarding and Child Protection

The Club agrees to adopt the Badminton England Child Protection Safeguarding Policy and implementation procedures accordingly.

- a. The Club has adopted GDPR as those interpreted by Badminton England (see GDPR Policy)
- b. Fourteen-year-olds and below are admitted by assessment by two or more Committee Members; their parent(s) or guardian must accompany them.

- c. The Club will not hold personal information about any junior player under 16 years old. All communications will be through their parent or guardian.
- d. All personal information held by the Club will be with the member's written consent, i.e. email, DOB, mobile phone number, Badminton England Membership number, and any known medical conditions that could affect their play.
- e. The Club will restrict joining social media for their members under 16 years, i.e. WhatsApp and Facebook

All individual members are deemed to have read, understood and assented to the Badminton England Code of Ethics & Conduct ("Code") and as such, recognise and adhere to the principles and responsibilities embodied in these documents.

#### **9. Size of Membership**

The size of the Club membership for the next season will be decided at each AGM. Should the limitation depend on information unavailable at the AGM, the decision may be referred to the Committee for execution within the parameters set by the AGM when the relevant information becomes available.

#### **10. Club Location**

The Club will be based at the Thame Leisure Centre (Oxfordshire) unless another more suitable venue becomes available within the Thame area. The Club may hire additional alternative accommodation to fulfil commitments during each playing season at the discretion of the Committee.

#### **11. Suspension or Expulsion**

The Committee shall have the power to terminate or suspend the membership of any Member or Visitor whom it considers guilty of a breach of these rules, or of the Club regulations, or of any misconduct, or offensive behaviour to any other Member, Visitor or Officer, whether on the Club's premises or elsewhere. (The term Employee includes the staff of the Thame Leisure Centre and those persons employed in similar capacities at any other playing facility utilised by the Club).

#### **12. League Competitions**

The AGM will decide which leagues to support each year, thereby defining the number and nature of teams to be provided. A Selection Committee appointed by the preceding AGM will be the sole arbiters on the make-up of the teams, subject to league rules concerning eligibility and any policy decisions on selection procedures taken at the preceding AGM.

#### **13. Match Fees**

Members selected for matches, either home or away, will pay a match fee, to be determined at the preceding AGM.

#### **14. Club Nights**

Times for the commencement of Club sessions, the venues and dates will be determined at preceding AGM's.

#### **15. Fixtures Officer Responsibilities**

The Fixtures Officer will be responsible for:-

- a) Distributing the fixture list and details of Club playing sessions at the earliest opportunity after the commencement of the playing season.
- b) Notifying the membership of any alterations to the fixture list as soon as possible.

#### **16. Visitors**

Visitors may be invited at the discretion of the Committee, and a current Member must sponsor each visitor. Before a visitor plays, an appropriate entry must be made on the visitor's register and the fee as determined at the previous AGM paid. No visitor may play more than three times in any playing season, and the number of visitors shall not exceed three per playing session, except with the special permission of the Committee. Visitors shall be responsible for paying their entry fees to the Thame Leisure Centre or any similar venue used by the Club, and such entrance fees will not constitute part of the Club visitors' fees.

#### **17. Risks to Property**

Members and visitors are expected to exercise reasonable care in protecting their property, and any Members or visitors leaving unattended vehicles, rackets, clothing or other property at a Club venue do so at their own risk. The Club shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to such property.

### **18. Risks to Players**

Members' and visitors' attention is drawn to the potential injury risk of playing badminton. In participating in a game, the players acknowledge these risks, and the Club accepts no responsibility for any injury to any player at any Club venue; however, it might be caused.

### **19. Rules for Play (Top 10 Rules)**

Rules for play will be those currently adopted by Badminton England and published in their current Handbook. These rules may be modified to suit the current rules of any league in which a team is entered and local rules to suit a playing venue.

1. The game starts with the toss of the shuttle
2. All double matches are to be played using the Clubs Grading/Handicap system unless otherwise agreed
  - a. The game starts with the net difference in handicaps centred as close to zero as possible to ensure that the teams get a full game.
3. A 'Let' is called when a shuttle land on the adjacent court and the point is replayed
  - a. The players who hit the shuttle onto the court should call a 'Let' immediately to avoid anyone tripping on the shuttle
4. A shuttle that strikes anything hanging from the ceiling is considered a 'Let', and the point is replayed.
5. It is the responsibility of the server to check & fix feathers or replace the shuttle before they serve. If the server decides to change the shuttle, they should make it known to the opposing team out of courtesy.
6. Players must never strike shuttles when they are lying on the floor. When picking up a shuttle with a racket, this must be done from the side of the shuttle and never from the back. This prevents breaking the feathers.
7. When playing Champions Court, the winner in a tie score goes to the team that reached the score first.
8. The service receiver must not move or make noise until the server strikes the shuttle. If they do, this is considered a foul.
9. The server must serve in one continuous motion and not strike the shuttle above their lowest rib, and the head of the racket must be below their hand. A false start or a stutter is considered a foul.
10. A match is finished when a team gets to 21 points and is clear by two points. Play continues until a team is not clear by two points. The first team declares the match to reach 29 points.

### **20. Code of Conduct**

The Club's Code of Conduct is currently those adopted by Badminton England. The expected minimum standards of behaviour and conduct for individuals involved in badminton are as follows.

1. Treat everyone fairly and equally regardless of their age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, background, or circumstances
2. Respect the spirit of fair play in badminton. This is more than playing within the rules. It also incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always participating with the right spirit
3. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
4. Conduct themselves in a manner that takes all reasonable measures to protect their own safety and the safety of others
5. Promote the reputation of the sport and take all possible steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute
6. Protect themselves and others involved in the game from verbal or physical abuse and threatening or intimidating behaviour
7. Abide by Badminton England policies, where applicable:
  - a. Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Badminton Policy
  - b. Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy
  - c. Equality Policy

## **21. Junior Sessions**

The Committee Members running the session take responsibility as Club Welfare Officers. They are responsible for reporting any concerns regarding the welfare of a young person in badminton. They may contact a Badminton England Safeguarding Coordinator. If they believe a child is in immediate danger, they are instructed to call the police and notify Badminton England afterwards.

We recognise that parents leave their children to play badminton. Under no circumstances are any of the Club's adults or Committee Members to chaperone a child to a locker room without more than one adult accompanying. Preferably one of the adults is a Committee Member or a TLC employee.

Juniors must be collected by their parent or guardian.

## **22. Dress Code**

As advised in the Badminton England Handbook, the appropriate dress should be worn, subject to any special requirements of any playing venue.

**Chairperson's Signature:**

**Chairperson's Signature:**

**Print Name:**

**Print Name:**

**Date:**

**Date:**