

THAME BADMINTON CLUB

Thame Badminton Club was founded on 1st December 1936, as far as any records can show, with 17 members. A further 5 members joined in January 1937. A list of these founder members is at Annex A. The subscription was One guinea or £1-1s-0d or £1.05 decimalized. The club played in the Thame Town Hall, paid a rent of 10s-0d (50p) per night, and used feathered shuttlecocks. In those days, a shuttlecock cost 10d (4p) each. The following season (1938-38) saw the subscription increase to £1-12s-6d (£1.625). The subscription stayed at this level until the end of the 1945-46 season. Play continued in the Town Hall during the War. A bomb exploded in the high street with a brick ending up on court but no one was playing at the time. The end of the War, saw the subscription almost double for the 1946-47 season, but membership increased with people returning after doing their service.

After the War, the team used to travel to away matches by taxi and paid a match fee of 7s-6d (37.5p). The 50s and 60s saw the club membership fluctuate around 27 members but only survived because 2 or 3 committee members were active in running the club and raising extra funds. Funds were raised through whist drives, parties, Bar-B-Qs and rummage sales. In the mid 60s, the financial situation was dire. It was only through a cunning investment in premium bonds that produced 2 winning numbers that kept the club afloat. Financial difficulties continued into the 70s with extra rummage sales taking place and even resorting to asking some committee members to pay the next season's subscription early. As a cost-cutting measure, Thame had to abandon their policy of using feathered shuttlecocks and move to plastic shuttlecocks.

In January 1982, Thame Badminton Club moved its' club venue from the Town Hall to the Thame Sports and Arts Centre. The new venue saw an increase in membership and an improvement in the finances. Although the club venue changed, the club continued to play matches at the Town Hall. In 1986, the club celebrated its Golden Jubilee and the committee held a reunion in the Players Theatre with about 100 or so past and present players in attendance. In the spring of 1990, the club undertook a short playing tour to Wales. The end of the 1993-94 season saw Thame play their last match at the Thame Town Hall. The hall was refurbished and the Council thought that badminton might damage the floor. Within a week of the Town Hall reopening, the staff and the general public wearing outdoor shoes damaged the floor! Since then, Thame has used the Thames Sports and Arts Centre, now the Thame Leisure Centre, for both club and league play. A list of as many of the past and present Officers of the club that can be found in records is at Annex B.

The first competitive match Thame Badminton Club played was believed to be at home against Banbury on 29th October 1937. We do not have the result or how the Banbury team reached Thame but we hope Thame won. During the early and latter stages of the War, Thame played against the local teams such as Great Milton and Chinnor with players getting to matches on their bicycles.

In those early days of competitive badminton, Thame used to play friendly matches. However, in the 1946-47 season, Thame joined the Berks, Bucks and Oxon league. The 3 counties created their separate organizations at the end of the 50s but the combined league continued into the late 60s. Thame continued in the combined league and then in the Oxford County league. When the Aylesbury and District League was created in 1968, Thame became a founder member. Although an Oxford and District was also formed, Thame did not join at this time as the new league played with plastic shuttlecocks and Thame wanted to retain the feathered shuttlecocks for match play.

The club eventually joined the Oxford & District League for the 1984-85 season. At the same time, the club withdrew from the Oxford County league as they had been continually at the bottom and the playing strength was weak. From this low point in league playing standard, the club slowly raised the quality of the players. For the 1999-2000 season, the club entered a side in the Wycombe and District league and returned to play against the 3 original counties. At the end of the 2002-03 season, the club were established in Division 1 of the Oxford and District League with a core of high-quality club players. This was beginning to be reflected in the general playing standard of Club players. From this high, the club plunged to the depths

as 9 of the best men left, and more than half of the lady players also left. This left the club with a small membership and having to withdraw teams from leagues. A résumé of the club's league playing history is at Annex C.

Today, Thame Badminton Club is back playing in the Oxford and District and the Aylesbury and District leagues. The club is now looking to gain Clubmark accreditation. This is a formal recognition that the club meets the requirements of Badminton England. It helps assure newcomers, both adults and juniors, that the club has appropriate policies for the conduct of coaches, team managers and officials, child protection guidelines, equality, safety and finance. It also encourages the development of juniors and links to local organisations, including schools.

Annex A - Thame Badminton Club – Founder Members

Annex B - A List Of Past And Present Officers Of The Club

Annex C - Résumé of The Club's League Playing History

Thame Badminton Club – Founder Members

Miss G Adams
Mrs R Brand
Mr R Brand
Miss Betty Chapman
Mr Jack S Chapman
Mr Joseph Chapman
Miss D Crook
Miss M W Flintoff
Mrs Harrison
Mr N F Hedges
Mrs N J Hedges
Miss R Hedges
Miss Mary King
Mr M King
Mr R Lightfoot
M G Maule
Mrs H Shrimpton
Mr H Shrimpton
Miss S Spencer
Miss M Thomas
Mr R T Thomas
Mr H E Venables
Mrs Winkley
Mr F B Wood

A LIST OF PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CLUBChairpersons

Mr R H Ford	1944 – 54
Dr R H Farmer	1954 – ??
Mr E J Cadle	19?? – ??
Mr J G Sunley	19?? – 79
Mr F J Hulbert	1979 – 88
Mr L E S Adlam	1988 – 96
Mr T Walker	1996 – 2012
Mr R Sutton	2012 - 2017
Mr D Maldonado	2017 – present (co-chairperson)
Ms Kerry Eyre	2022 – present (co-chairperson)

Secretaries

Mr J S Chapman	1936 – 41
Miss J Arnold	1941 – 45
Mr J S Chapman	1945 – 60
Mrs M J Barton	1960 – 68
Mrs V Howell	1968 – 70
Mrs B Webb	1970 – 75
Mrs S Nagle	1975 – 80
Mrs S Halliwell	1980 – 87
Mrs L Merrell	1987 – 94
Mrs J Roots	1994 – 95
Mrs S Phebey	1995 – 98
Mr A Shelley	1998 – 00
Miss K Rossington	2000 – 03
Mr L E S Adlam	2003 – 05
Mr A Hilson	2005 – 2012
Mr R Sutton (Fixtures Officer)	2012 - present
Mr B North	2017 – present
Ms N Parry (social secretary)	2022 – present

Treasurers

Mr J S Chapman	1941
Mrs F M Pomeroy	1945 – 52
Mr K G Bailey	1952 – 2004
Mr N Puttick	2004 – ??
Mr T Walker	2012 – 2017
Mr L Davies	2017 - present

Mens Captain

Mr J N Banbury		Mr J G Sunley	
Mr E J Cadle		Mr K G Bailey	1975 – 82
Mr R Jones		Mr J Rayner	1984 – 87
Mr L E S Adlam	1982 – 84	Mr A P Scarlett	1988 – 90
Mr L E S Adlam	1987 – 88	Mr T Walker	1991 – 96
Mr A Hyde	1990 – 91	Mr D Hart	2000 – 04
Mr C Carpenter	1996 – 2000	Mr G Allingham	2005 – ??
Mr A P Scarlett	2004 – 05	Mr C Cammock	2016 - 2018
Mr M Ambrose		Mr T Walker	2016 - 2021
		Mr R Sutton	2016 - present
		Mr B North	2016 - present
		Mr A Rogers	2016 – present
		Mr D Maldonado	2021 - present

Women Captains

Miss D Waage-Mott	1948 – 51	Mrs M Turner	19?? – 74
Mrs B Hulbert	1976 – 78	Ms A Brophy	1978 – 79
Mrs B Gibbins	1979 – 81	Mrs R Evans	1981 – 83
Mrs M Baker	1983 – 85	Mrs J Clarke	1985 – 87
Mrs M Baker	1987 – 89	Mrs K Moorhead	1989 – 89
Miss C Midwinter	1989 – 90	Mrs H Baker	1990 – 92
Miss F Banham	1992 – 93	Mrs A Adlam	1993 – 96
Ms K Rossington	1996 – 99	Ms L Friend	1999 – 2000
Committee	2000 – 02	Mrs R Saunders	2002 – 04
Mrs J King	2004 – ??	Ms L Hipsey	2017 - 2020
		Ms K Eyre	2017 – present
		Ms N Parry	2022 - present

ANNEX C

RÉSUMÉ OF THE CLUB'S LEAGUE PLAYING HISTORY

Dates	League	Highest Position
1946 – 1968	Berks, Bucks and Oxon Inter County	Division 2
195? – 1984	Oxford County	Division 1
1968 – Current	Aylesbury & District	Division 1
1984 – 2003	Oxford & District	Division 1
2005 – ????	Oxford & District	Division 5
1999 – 2005	Wycombe & District	Division 3
2010 – 2011	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2011 - 2012	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2012 -2013	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2013 - 2014	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2014 - 2015	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2014 - 2015	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 5
2014 - 2015	Oxford County (Mens C)	Division 5
2015 - 2016	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2015 - 2016	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 5
2015 - 2016	Oxford County (Mens C)	Division 5
2015 - 2016	Aylesbury (Mens A)	Division 2
2016 - 2017	Aylesbury (Mens A)	Division 2
2016 - 2017	Aylesbury (Medley A)	Division 2
2016 - 2017	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2016 - 2017	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 4
2016 - 2017	Oxford County (Mens C)	Division 5
2017 – 2018	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2017 – 2018	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 4
2017 - 2018	Oxford County (Mens C)	Division 5
2017 - 2018	Aylesbury (Medley A)	Division 1
2017 - 2018	Aylesbury (Mens A)	Division 1
2018 - 2019	Oxford County (Men's A)	Division 2
2018 - 2019	Oxford County (Men's B)	Division 3
2018 - 2019	Oxford County (Men's C)	Division 4
2018 – 2019	Aylesbury District (Medley)	Division 2
2018 – 2019	Aylesbury District (Men's A)	Division 1
2019 - 2020	Oxford County (Men's A)	Division 2
2019 - 2020	Oxford County (Men's B)	Division 3
2019 - 2020	Oxford County (Men's C)	Division 4
2019 - 2020	Aylesbury District (Men's A)	Division 1
2019 - 2020	Aylesbury District (Medley)	Division 2
2020 – 2021	covid pandemic	n/a
2021 – 2022	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 1
2021 – 2022	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 2
2021 – 2022	Aylesbury (Mens A)	Division 1
2021 – 2022	Aylesbury (Mens B)	Division 3
2021 – 2022	Aylesbury (Medley A)	Division 1
2022 – 2023	Oxford County (Mens A)	Division 2
2022 – 2023	Oxford County (Mens B)	Division 2
2022 – 2023	Aylesbury (Mens A)	Division 1
2022 – 2023	Aylesbury (Mens B)	Division 2
2022 – 2023	Aylesbury (Medley A)	Division 2
2022 – 2023	Aylesbury (Mixed A)	Division 1