

Oxfordshire Badminton League–Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 18 May 2022-

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The AGM started at 7.35pm and was held virtually using MS Teams.

1. Chairman’s welcome

The Chairman welcomed club representatives and thanked them for attending the AGM. Judy Bendall said she hoped people had viewed the agenda for tonight and the minutes of last year’s AGM (in the OBL document library) and that comments from the clubs were welcome so please either use the hands icon or raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak.

The Secretary asked that, where there was more than one representative from a club, the club advise the name of the nominated person who would vote on behalf of the club.

2. Attendees and apologies for absence

Six of the nine Committee and seventeen of the twenty clubs attended so the meeting was quorate. Apologies were received from Windrush and Committee members Karina Lewis, Ian Ross and Ian Whitehead. Pegasus and Oxford Brookes were not in attendance (*Apologies from Pegasus were received after the AGM*).

Club/Committee	Club Attendee(s)	Club vote held by	No. of teams
Abingdon	Peter Browning & Matt Jackson	Peter Browning	8
Bicester	Duncan Soanes	Duncan Soanes	1
Blewbury	Penny Brassell & Debbie Ritson	Penny Brassell	1
Chilton	Peter Selby	Peter Selby	1
Deddington	Ian Cartledge	Ian Cartledge	2
Evenlode	Lillian Pallister & James Fisk	Lillian Palister	10 (11)
Feathers	Stuart Quick	Stuart Quick	4
Gosford Hill	James Welch	James Welch	5
Harwell Laboratories	Janet Atkins	Janet Atkins	4
The Leys	Norman Stewart & Rosanna Berrows	Norman Stewart	6
North Abingdon	David Ainsworth	David Ainsworth	6 (7)
Oxford	Alex Burns	Alex Burns	4
Oxford Brookes	-	-	2
Oxford University	Hannah Warren & Ashley Wong	Hannah Warren	2 (3)
The Park	Judith Ponsford	Judith Ponsford	1
Pegasus	-	-	2
St Clements	David Newman	David Newman	0 (2)
Thame	Rob Sutton	Rob Sutton	2
Wallingford	Christine Cherrington	Christine Cherrington	4
Windrush	Apologies from Vijay Desor	-	10
		29(30)M+14X+13(14)L+19 (22) 3D	75 (80)
Outgoing Committee			
Chairman (acting)	Judy Bendall	Casting vote only	
Treasurer	Ian Whitehead (apologies)	N/A	
Secretary	Janet Atkins	N/A	
League Fixtures Secretary	Charles Malyon	N/A	
Committee	Rosanna Berrows Peter Browning & Matt Jackson. Apologies from Karina Lewis & Ian Ross.	N/A	

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3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 14 July 2021 and matters arising

Evenlode proposed and Blewbury and The Leys seconded simultaneously that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Actions taken on the matters arising:

- a. Links for guidance on governance were circulated to clubs but the action relating to demonstrating compliance with equality and discrimination guidance is carried forward. **Action:** incoming Committee
- b. League Anniversary event deferred due to Covid concerns **Action:** incoming Committee
- c. BE and Azolve improvements, 2021/22 team entries – covered under League Fixtures Secretary report

4. Chairman's report

Judy Bendall, Chair of OBL, addressed the AGM. She provided an overview of the season and asked for help from clubs to ensure adherence to the OBL Rules, compliance with the guidance on how to input and verify data in Azolve/Just Go and to improve communication both between them and the League and internally within their clubs so that captains are aware of relevant communications from the League.

“On behalf of myself and the OBL Committee I just want to say thank you very much to everyone for attending. We do appreciate you all taking time out to attend our AGM and I really do welcome any feedback and contributions.

What a year this has been! It has been a very challenging and difficult year for everyone however it was great to see new and old faces throughout the year and actually be able to play badminton again. I also appreciate that for some clubs it has been a challenge finding new venues this season having played in the same place for a very long time and other clubs having to change club and match nights this year, so well done to those clubs for achieving this.

Since the concerns were raised with “Azolve/Just Go” we have continued our dialogue with Badminton England, raising ours and the clubs’ concerns regarding online reporting. Whilst some of these are being fixed, we recognise there are a few more outstanding issues and Charles will go into further details later. However, I would like to emphasise that we need everyone to adhere to the user guidance which will help reduce problems with the accuracy of input &/or verification. Sorting out issues invariably takes more time than help were sought at an earlier stage

I would like to talk about our Communications & Admin. Whilst I appreciate it has been very difficult this season with last minute changes due to illness and Covid and having courts cancelled at the last minute, please can you remind your teams to follow the rules. I need to emphasise that poor admin within some clubs this season has had a negative impact on both the amount of work within our Committee and others to sort out the errors and the accuracy of the league tables, it really has been a nightmare this season. I would like to say a special thank you to Charles, Pete and Ian for their support during this incredibly difficult year. They have spent many hours over several days, especially at the end of the season, reviewing all the score sheets, chasing clubs for outstanding score sheets, contacting clubs to notify them of apparent contraventions of the current rules and giving them the opportunity to appeal. It was surprising and frustrating that there were so many multiple contraventions of our long-standing rules. For example, there were 45-50 players that played for the first time for a specific team on the last two matches of the season but clubs didn't notify the League as required by Rule F5 which had a huge repercussion on the league tables.

So, my big ask and request this year is what can we do differently to avoid these issues? How can we communicate with the clubs and clubs, how can you improve communicate within your clubs to encourage your captains and players to all support us by adhering to the Rules and filling in the score sheets correctly (for example, using correct names rather than “unknown player” on the results sheet, sending result sheets back on time, not using non-registered players and not reporting issues early if the score sheet can't be completed

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properly)? Club Secretaries, how can you improve your internal communication with your club? What do you need from us to help support you? OBL Committee members can't continue to spend this amount of time on resolving issues in the future. Charles has suggested a Whatsapp group to improve communication which he will expand on later, plus the importance of getting the correct match sheet completed on Azolve.

So, with all this in mind we would like to propose a couple of changes to the rules this evening. One relates to clarifying how to score matches when a player becomes injured whilst the other is in response to several clubs contravening the long-standing rule regarding the last two matches of a season and the requirement to clear players in advance, irrespective of standard. Many of those contravening the rule stated that the players were of a lower standard than the more regular players so it has become apparent that this rule needs amending. The proposals tonight reflect the Committee's wish to revise these rules for next season.

I would welcome your views/feedback to support these issues – this is your league and we all have a voice. Although improvements are needed, I don't want to sound downbeat or end on a negative note as there are lots of positives to take away. We do have a great league, one of the biggest in the country, fantastic people playing in loads of teams across four disciplines, a very hard-working Committee together with Club Committees that have done a great job in a very difficult year.

I want to thank Matt Jackson who will be standing down this year from the Committee. Matt spent many years as the 3D secretary and then as a normal committee member, attending our Committee meetings. Matt has been a huge support and his contribution and himself will be missed. Thank you to Matt for your years of service, hard work and dedication to this Committee.

Finally, my thanks to my fellow committee members for their support and guidance, their huge contribution to keeping us going and for the resilience they have shown this year.

As you are aware we, like you, are volunteers giving up our time to support the league and we really need your help and support to continue this and provide the inter-club badminton for you. Thank you."

5. Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2021/22 were displayed on screen, consisting of an Income and Expenditure statement, Balance sheet and Treasurer's report. In the Treasurer's absence, Committee member Janet Atkins (who had reviewed the accounts), presented the accounts. As last year's AGM supported the Treasurer's suggestion of not charging team entry fees this season (as a one-off to acknowledge disruption in the previous season) income was consequently lower than usual although £70 was received from clubs for non attendance at that AGM and interest continued to be minimal Trophies have not been engraved for two seasons so no costs have been incurred other than for gifts to two long standing Committee members (one of which is here tonight) in recognition of their contribution to OBL The surplus for the year was £20.32 so a small increase and, as at 31 March 2022, the League had net funds of £5,284. Janet advised Ian Whitehead's proposal that entry fees of £5 per team be re-instated for the 2022/23 season. Questions were invited on the accounts. St Clements asked, in view of the apparently healthy balance sheet, what the £5k was intended to be used for. Janet replied that by next season we would have three years of engraving, the costs (not quantified) for potential changes to the reporting system and our website administration and for a larger than usual social function for the deferred anniversary event. She commented that in the past we had given bursaries to clubs and, whilst she was not aware of any imminent plans to do this, funds may be allocated in future. Abingdon proposed that the accounts be accepted and that the team entry fee be charged: this was seconded by Evenlode.

6. League Reports for the 2021/22 season

The Chair explained that Charles Malyon had taken on the role of League Fixtures Secretary this season but that Rosanna Berrows (previous Fixtures Secretary) had remained on the Committee and, together with Peter

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Browning, had provided support to Charles. Judy then handed over to Charles to present his report before passing onto Peter for the virtual presentation to division winners.

Charles used an on screen presentation to give clubs an overview of the season covering the highlights for him and what the main issues had been followed by key dates for next season. Positives were that we had been able to return to play (no lockdowns so the first full season since Covid), there had been a good level of competitive play, all matches were completed by 31 March and he had got to know Club Fixtures Secretaries.

Challenges included:

- Uneven division sizes due to late withdrawals, with Mixed and 3D disciplines hardest hit
- The impact of Covid on player and venue availability causing some matches to be rescheduled
- Late notification to clubs of the non availability of venues/significant changes in booking conditions
- Lack of adherence to Rules (especially re affiliation of players, nomination of players for the last two matches of the season, playing for more than one club in the same discipline, timeliness of results)
- Communication within clubs between Fixtures Secretaries and team captains
- Problems with completing scoresheets, entry of results and match verification
- The Azolve/Just Go reporting system (i.e. bugs/errors at the start of the season, users not following the issued user guidance, the inherently “clunky” system)

Charles explained the consequential impact was that increased intervention from the OBL Committee was required by email to monitor the Rules, administer/correct Azolve issues and chase overdue results. The League tables were not up to date and therefore not as useful to viewers. There were multiple issues to resolve at the end of the season, partly as some had not been pro-actively followed up during the season. The end of season checks to ensure play had been in line with OBL Rules resulted in rubbers being amended for several teams which in some cases did alter the relative position of teams within a division. These included:

- F.1 – A player, before representing that club, must be affiliated to BADMINTON England (or BUCS) and be a member of that club. (Oxford Brookes Mens A, Oxford Brookes Mixed A, Oxford Ladies A, Pegasus Mens A, Pegasus 3D A across various divisions)
- F.2 – A player shall not play for more than one club in a particular discipline. (Windrush Mens C & Leys Mens A in Mens Div 2 and Mens Div3)
- F.4 – No player shall play more than twice for a higher registered team or teams without becoming ineligible to play for the original lower team. (Windrush Mens E in Mens div 5)
- F.5 – During the last two matches of the season any player who has not played for that specific team earlier in the season must be cleared at least 24 hours beforehand. Abingdon 3D B, Abingdon Ladies A, Bicester Mens A, Deddington 3D A, Feathers Mens B, Leys Mens A, North Abingdon 3D A, Oxford Uni Mens A, Thame Mens A, Pegasus 3D A, Pegasus Mens A, Windrush Ladies A, Windrush 3D A, Windrush Mens A, B, C, D and E, Windrush Mixed A and , across various divisions)

Looking to the 2022/23 season, Azolve/Just Go will again be used as the scoring system. It is proposed that a WhatsApp group be set up to enhance communication between the League and Club Fixtures Secretaries and that the League Fixtures Secretary/Secretaries will monitor matches on a monthly basis and add various reports to the OBL website.

League Fixtures Secretary

The estimated timeline for what is anticipated to be a full season is:

- 1 June – entry forms issued by OBL to clubs
- 30 June – deadline for clubs to return team entries with payment
- 20 July – Committee to have allocated teams to divisions
- 25 July – divisions notified to clubs who will be asked to arrange fixtures
- 30 August – deadline for clubs to have input their home fixtures to Azolve/Just Go and submitted the proforma of all fixtures to the OBL Fixtures Secretary

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Charles said that it was important for clubs to submit realistic team entries (e.g. if you are struggling with the availability of players then please, out of consideration for other teams, be conservative with team entries to reduce withdrawals after teams have been allocated to divisions). Clubs need to ensure that team captains comply with the rules, are kept up to date with communications and that the club follows the guidance on using Azolve/Just GO is followed as this should reduce errors by users. He closed his presentation by thanking everyone, stating that OBL welcomed feedback on this season and how we can work better with clubs so please do email with comments or questions.

Peter thanked all teams for their participation this season and made a few general observations. He said that although an ideal division size was generally six, in the ladies there were two divisions of seven due to the number of teams. As a result of withdrawals at the start of the season some divisions were smaller than when teams were allocated to divisions (in particular 3D divisions 1 and 4 and mens division 4) so he thanked the remaining teams for their understanding of the difficult circumstances some clubs had found themselves in. He noted that Gosford Hill had returned to their winning ways in Mixed and that Windrush B (Ladies and Mens) had continued their history of yo-yoing between divisions. Peter said well done to all teams and congratulations to the division winners. He then revealed the final positions of teams within divisions, with the winning team's name flanked by a gold medal, and invited the attendees to applaud as each division was displayed. The results by division were:

Mixed	Division 1	Division 2
	Abingdon Mixed A Windrush Mixed A Oxford Uni Mixed A Feathers Mixed A Abingdon Mixed B North Abingdon Mixed A Windrush Mixed B	Gosford Hill Mixed A Evenlode Mixed A Leys Mixed A Evenlode Mixed B Gosford Hill Mixed B Leys Mixed B Oxford Brookes A Mixed

Ladies	Division 1	Division 2
	Abingdon Ladies A Feathers Ladies A North Abingdon Ladies A Windrush Ladies A Evenlode Ladies A Leys Ladies A	Windrush Ladies B Wallingford Ladies A Gosford Hill Ladies A Leys Ladies B Oxford Ladies A Evenlode Ladies B Harwell Ladies A

Mens	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	Division 5
	Windrush A Abingdon A Feathers A Evenlode A Thame A Abingdon B	Windrush B North Abingdon A Oxford Uni A Gosford Hill A Pegasus A Windrush C	Bicester A Thame B Leys A Abingdon C Feathers B Gosford Hill B	Wallingford s A Oxford A Evenlode B North Abingdon B Windrush D	Chilton A Evenlode C Windrush E Deddington A Oxford Brookes A Harwell A

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3D	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
	Abingdon 3D A Evenlode 3D A Windrush 3D A North Abingdon 3D A	Wallingford 3D A Oxford 3D A Evenlode 3D C Abingdon 3D B Leys 3D A Pegasus 3D A	North Abingdon 3D C Harwell 3D A Park 3D A Deddington 3D A Wallingford 3D B	Blewbury 3D A Oxford 3D B Harwell 3D B Evenlode 3DD

7. Proposals for changes to Rules or Constitution

No proposals were received from clubs. There were two proposals by the Committee (see Appendix). The reason for these had already been outlined by the Chair but attendees were asked to refer to the Appendix (which stated the reason, current wording and proposed wording) before discussion of the proposals.

Proposal 1 – amendment to Section K re Time constrained/unfinished matches

The proposal seeks to clarify how to score games that are started but not completed for reasons other than lack of time (e.g. injury) and to ensure consistency across all disciplines. Scores achieved when a game ceased would be preserved for the conceding team and the non-conceding team would be awarded full points for that game. No questions asked so a vote was taken and the proposal passed (17 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions).

Proposal 2 – amendment to Rule F5 in F re Qualification to play/nominations/restriction on players and teams

There have been particular issues this season with clubs unfortunately not realising that they needed to clear any player in advance for the last two matches of a team, irrespective of that player's standard, if they had not previously played for that team. Several clubs stated that the players they used in order to field a team were deemed to be of a lower or similar standard so questioned the continued relevance of the rule and said that administrative time (for both clubs and the League) could be reduced if it were removed. The Committee sympathised with this view but wished to preserve the spirit of not importing a player of a higher standard and also to extend this spirit to cover the use of a player of a significantly higher standard during the season. The proposal gave clubs the right to appeal to the Committee if they felt there had been a breach of the fair play policy and also explicitly stated that the OBL Committee, as part of its end of year review, could amend the results of a match deemed to have contravened the rule.

There was a request to vote but several attendees asked that there be an informed discussion first. North Abingdon said the proposed rule in its current wording could make fielding teams harder, especially for smaller clubs with a more limited choice of players, and also asked if the Committee's intention had been not to include a time period for any challenge by the opposing club. He felt the onus of proof was on the underdog. Peter said he hoped clubs would appreciate the predicament of small clubs who had a much smaller pool of players. HLBC stated that they would abstain as, although their Committee supported the principle of the proposal, they had reservations about the wording. Chilton asked who would police the rule and Judy acknowledged it could be difficult to assess a player's relative standard, especially if they were new, returning from injury or progressing from junior to senior play. Peter gave an example of how a local tennis league reduced the scores for a lower division team that fielded a player a few times where that player then progressed to playing the majority of the season in higher division team(s) as it was viewed as effectively manipulating the lower team's results by fielding an "above average strength" player early in the season. This practice is something the OBL Committee wishes to discourage, hence extending the rule to cover the season. In response to several comments from attendees, Peter believed that the OBL Committee would generally give

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more weight to appeals relating to matches in the later part of the season. He also said that whilst reducing administration would be a benefit of the new rule, the impact of amending points for teams (however unintentional the contravention of the current rule) was an important consideration as it can skew the results of a division (this season it altered which team won a division) and could potentially alter the relative positions of teams towards the bottom of a division, resulting in an innocent team being relegated. Evenlode wondered if it would help if players for all teams were nominated at the start of the season (the Secretary said this would require a change to the rules). Peter commented that an advantage of Azolve/Just Go is that reports can be run to view which teams specific players have played in (e.g. club, team, date, results) during the season.

Thame wondered if the Committee should consider if it is the spirit of the rule or its absolute application that is the issue. It did seem draconian and breaches of “the spirit” by attempting to assess a player’s standard could become messy. Matt commented that it currently applied to any player, not just those of a higher standard, if the admin of clearing a player in advance was not adhered to. Peter mentioned that whilst the Committee knew of many of the League’s players, we currently often asked clubs to provide an indication of a player’s relative standard if this was not included when they sought clearance. One of the aims of the rule change was to reduce the stress for clubs by removing the specific requirement for the last two matches. He asked Thame how they might amend the rule and they suggested consider “club” rather than “that team”.

Thame stated their view that surely it was up to a club how they managed their limited resource of players during a season in order to fulfil the agreed fixtures and to cope with unforeseen circumstances such as injury. Peter raised the use of students in some early season matches by clubs and how could we allow for this. Thame expressed concern about the introduction of wording that could be viewed as tentacles that could extend in unforeseen and unintended ways. Peter said that maybe different wording needed to be brought forward at a later AGM.

Deddington said that although the debate about the intention and wording was great, the key issue is the behaviour of clubs in their use of players and that, in his opinion, a rule can never be written to cover all behaviour. Whether it is the current rule or the proposed rule it can be abused and all of us can and should be the conscience of OBL and keep the issue in perspective. *(Rosanna, Committee, left the meeting)*

North Abingdon suggested that consideration be given to amending the wording of the existing rule to allow a player who has played in a lower division during the season to play in a higher division of the same discipline in the last two matches”. St Clements wondered if this may not give sufficient flexibility to clubs such as Oxford University or Oxford Brookes who traditionally have a wide range of playing ability amongst their players.

Judy thanked everyone for their comments and said that a vote would be taken on the proposed wording for the revised F5 Rule. If the proposal were rejected then the existing rule would remain for the coming season but that revised wording (from clubs or the Committee) would be welcome for a future AGM. The motion was passed by a majority (10 For, 4 Against and 2 Abstentions). *(Oxford Uni did not vote)*.

8. 2022/23 season

Azolve/Just Go

Charles advised the AGM that although some of the issues with the on-line reporting system have been addressed there remain several that BE has been asked to investigate and improve. They have been told it is frustrating to need to press the submit results button twice to record the result and to have to input all player names (rather than have an autofill facility based on the first input of player names) and that, if a manual input error is made partway through entering names, this also causes errors with which players have played which rubbers. The name search facility needs improving to try to make it less laborious and the “unknown player”

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field is misleading so a “dummy player” category is being considered (e.g. for where no player was fielded). Whilst we cannot promise how long these will take to resolve, partly as BE is quite slow for various reasons, do continue to let us know about glitches and concerns you have with the system.

Communication between clubs and OBL

This agenda item was covered earlier in the meeting.

9. Election of the Committee for 2022/23

The OBL Constitution requires a minimum of 8 and maximum of 10 members, including Chair, League Secretary and Treasurer, with the Committee able to co-opt additional members. No nominations had been received in advance from clubs and none were received at the AGM. All the existing Committee were willing to stand for re-election except Matthew Jackson. The acting Chairman passed control of the meeting to the League Secretary in the Treasurer’s absence. The Chair was returned unanimously and Judy resumed control. The Officers were proposed and seconded then elected as a group before the general Committee members were proposed, seconded and elected as a group.

- Chair – Judy Bendall was proposed by Blewbury and seconded by Bicester.
- Treasurer – Ian Whitehead was proposed by Abingdon and seconded by Deddington
- League Secretary – Janet Atkins was proposed by The Leys and seconded by Wallingford
- League Fixtures Secretary/Secretaries – Rosanna Berrows and Charles Malyon were proposed by Chilton and seconded by Blewbury
- General Committee members – Peter Browning (also Website Administrator), Karina Lewis and Ian Ross were proposed by The Leys and seconded by Bicester

Even though the elected Committee complied with the requirements of the OBL Constitution Judy asked again if there was anyone who wished to join the Committee but there were no volunteers.

10. Any Other Business

Judy asked people to raise their hand if they wished to speak.

David advised that St Clements (who lost the use of their previous long standing venue this season) currently have a two hour booking so envisaged that this may be an issue with completing some matches. Consequently he asked if any clubs knew of alternative venues or might be prepared to share courts to help them out. **All**

Matt observed that votes had been counted manually tonight and so wondered if an alternative voting system might be investigated for future AGMs (maybe automated in some way to hopefully simplify the process?).

Action: Committee

The Chair thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM and also Charles for organising the Zoom link and facilitating the meeting. Judy hoped that the coming season would have fewer issues. Judy and he Committee were thanked for running the League. Judy advised that the Committee would now hold a brief Committee meeting to discuss actions arising from the AGM. the coming season and the date of their next virtual meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.55 pm.

Janet Atkins

League Secretary, Oxfordshire Badminton League

28 July 2022

Appendix

2022 AGM – Proposed Rule Changes from the OBL Committee

Proposal 1 – Section K

Reason – to preserve the scores achieved in games that were started but not completed. The amendment seeks to recognise that, even if a game is truncated, those scores were earned and it should hopefully remove any pressure on players to continue playing if injured. It also seeks to treat unfinished games consistently across the disciplines.

K. TIME CONSTRAINED/UNFINISHED MATCHES

Current Section

1. The reason for game(s) being conceded is to be noted on the front of the scoresheet.
2. For 3D, unplayed or unfinished rubbers due to lack of time shall be scored 25-0/0-25. If a rubber is not completed for any other reason any completed game(s) score stands and the uncompleted game(s) are scored 25-0 to the non-conceding team.
3. For mixed and men's doubles if, after 6 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match shall concede any unplayed rubber(s) to their opponents.
4. For women's doubles if, after 4 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match shall concede any unplayed rubber(s) to their opponents.

Proposed Section

1. The reason for game(s) being conceded is to be noted on ~~the front of~~ the scoresheet and an email sent to the OBL League Fixtures Secretary within 10 days, copied to the away team Fixtures Secretary, containing details of the match (i.e. discipline/division, date, venue, teams, reason(s) for conceding and the score for the conceded games).
2. The score achieved in any started but uncompleted game will be preserved for the conceding side unless solely due to lack of time (see K3, K4, K5).
3. For 3D, unplayed or unfinished rubbers due to lack of time shall be scored 25-0/0-25. If a rubber is not completed for any other reason any completed game(s) score stands, unstarted game(s) are scored 25-0 to the non-conceding team and ~~the started but~~ uncompleted game(s) are scored 25-~~0~~ X to the non-conceding team, where X is the number of points scored by the conceding team prior to stopping the uncompleted game.
4. For mixed and men's doubles if, after 6 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being

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- best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match due to lack of time shall concede any unplayed or unfinished rubber(s) to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.
5. For women's doubles if, after 4 or more rubbers have been played, should it become obvious that the match cannot be completed under normal scoring conditions (rubber being best of 3 games to 21 points, with setting), the remaining rubber or rubbers shall be one game to 21 points, with setting, changing ends at 11. A club unable to complete a match due to lack of time shall concede any unplayed or unfinished rubber(s) to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.

Proposal 2 – Section F, in particular F5

Reason – some clubs have questioned if the Rule continues to serve the intended purpose (i.e. do the OBL League Fixtures Secretary/other Committee members know the relative abilities of all those playing in the OBL teams at any point in the season/when paired with particular players) and, if not, then can the administration (for both the OBL Committee and the clubs) be justified? If the default position is to allow the substitution then it could be viewed as undermining the purpose of the rule.

We want to preserve the spirit of not importing a player of a higher standard during the later stages of the season and wish to extend this to cover using a player of a significantly higher standard during the season (Rule F3 refers to the relative strength of teams within the same club and nominated players whilst Rule F4 covers the number of times a player may play up before not being able to play in the original lower team but neither rule currently limits or provides a retrospective review of players who progress upwards through those teams during the season).

F. QUALIFICATION TO PLAY/NOMINATIONS/RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYERS AND TEAMS

Current F5 -It is not in the spirit of the League to import a player of a higher standard to win. Therefore during the last two matches of the season any player who has not played for that specific team earlier in the season (regardless of standard) must be cleared at least 24 hours beforehand (or in exceptional circumstances before the match) with the appropriate League Fixtures Secretary or, if unavailable, with one of the other League Secretaries. Failure to observe this rule will mean that the offending player's rubbers will be awarded to the opposing team (ie in 3D and 5D, awarded 25-0/25-0 or, in doubles, 21-0/21-0).

Proposed F5 -It is not in the spirit of the League to import field a player of a higher standard to win at any point during the season. ~~Therefore, during the last two matches of the season any player who has not played for that specific team earlier in the season (regardless of standard) must be cleared at least 24 hours beforehand (or in exceptional circumstances before the match) with the appropriate League Fixtures Secretary or, if unavailable, with one of the other League Secretaries.~~ Failure to observe this rule will mean that a club is entitled to appeal to the OBL League Fixtures Secretary if they feel that there has been a significant breach of the fair play policy, asking that the offending player's rubbers ~~will~~ be awarded to the opposing non-offending team (i.e. in 3D and 5D, awarded 25-0/25-0 or, in doubles, 21-0/21-0).~~The OBL Committee may, as part of its end of season review, amend the results of matches deemed to have contravened the spirit of this rule, with the penalised club having a right of appeal.~~