

New Bexley, New Eagles and New Sidcup Badminton Club



PLAYER ROTATION POLICY

Introduction

When the first club was created in 2003, the original members agreed a playing rotation policy designed to give equal playing time and a variation of partners both male and female, and with a different skill mix. The benefit of this policy was that little maintenance and regulating was required.

The policy initially worked well when numbers were low, but as membership has grown. The policy framework based on players goodwill and cooperation has shown that it is not robust enough to ensure equity of play and to successfully manage large groups of players.

In the past we have seen an increasing level of discontent amongst members regarding the rotation policy. Complaints have included unfair opportunity and allocation of playing time, members playing only preferred partners and the need to reduce the points scoring system down to 15.

For this reason a review was conducted of the current policy.

Aims

The primary aim of this review was to create a system which ensures equal playing time, a variation in playing partners and opponents; whilst promoting a fluent mix of sexes and skills. Furthermore, the review should also establish if any new system could address the reduction in the points scoring system when member numbers reach 25.

Methodology

- Contact other clubs to investigate their rotation systems
- Identify best practice from other clubs
- Converse with members who have used any other rotation systems
- If any new policy is agreed, trial for 3 months and then decide how to progress

Summary of findings

- All contacted clubs operate a pegboard system with slight variations on the theme
- Several clubs looked into hiring a coordinator but this was ruled out on the grounds of cost
- The pegboard system can operate in two ways, someone controlling the board or moving it from member to member when the next 4 players are being selected
- Clubs stated that very few problems arose but it was acknowledged that the system is not perfect and players can still be biased in their selection
- With equal play the need to reduce games down to 15 on busy evenings could be avoided

The future

Based on the findings, it is recommended that we trial the pegboard system as New Sidcup from Monday 7th December 2008 with a decision made in late April 2008. Initially, committee members will assist players in moving pegs around the board but after several evenings players are expected to take responsibility for the new system.