

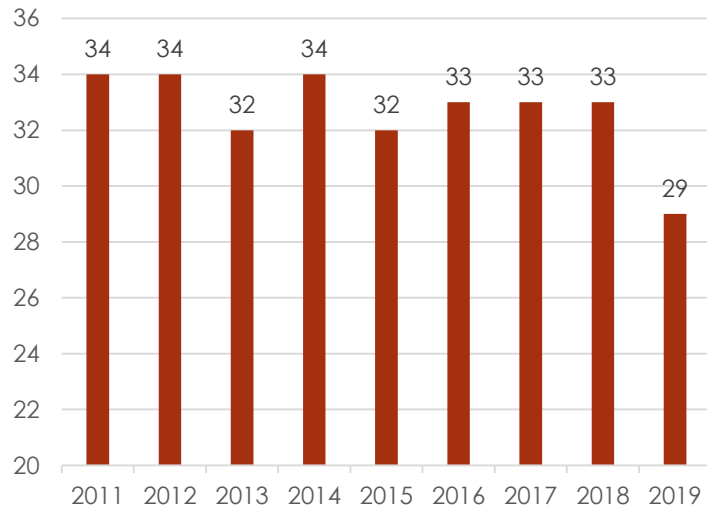


Proposal for the Chester Badminton League

Prepared by Christleton BC

Background

Number of Teams in the League



- Over the last ten years the number of teams registered in the league has shown a steady decline. There was a steep fall in 2019 when a net loss of 4 teams occurred.
- When the League Committee last met in October 2019 they were concerned that there would be more teams withdrawing.
- A meeting of the League in Oct '19 recognised and recorded the need to change the structure and/or format.

- The recent league surveys indicated that there is an appetite for change to the format of the mixed league matches.
- Anecdotally, it has been reported that some clubs will struggle to put teams out if the format remains unchanged.
- Christleton survey of members clearly showed a desire for a strong return to badminton post COVID and a desire for more competitive play.
- The increasing gap between the number of men and women in the league creates the need to revise the structures to allow competitive badminton for all.

A survey of Christleton members carried out in early 2020 gave the following results:

- The majority of Christleton members would like to play more competitive badminton (74% of men and 33% of ladies)
- 77% of respondents want to play in both a mixed and a levels team

We consider these views are probably representative of the majority of league players.

It is our understanding that the majority of clubs in the league have more male than female players.

The men's league as it is currently constituted is not competitive

We believe that change is essential if the league is to continue to be viable and provide a platform for future growth and development.



Objectives of the Proposals



1. To provide a competition framework within the league which ensures all the existing affiliated clubs can continue to exist
2. To adopt league and match formats which are widely used in other leagues around the UK and are proven to be popular and successful
3. To enable all clubs to field at least the same number of teams in the mixed league as they did in the 2019/20 season
4. To provide as far as possible for all registered players to have the opportunity to play competitive badminton and to increase the opportunity for the majority of players who wish to play more competitive badminton
5. To provide the league and its constituent clubs with a platform which can both enable and accommodate future growth

Proposal 1 – Mixed League

- ▶ A team shall comprise 6 players made up of 3 men and 3 women
- ▶ A match shall comprise of 9 events

Mens – 1&2	Ladies – 1&2	Mixed – 1 st
Mens – 1&3	Ladies - 1&3	Mixed - 2 nd
Mens - 2&3	Ladies – 2&3	Mixed - 3 rd

- ▶ The benefits of this approach are:
 - ▶ None of the smaller clubs should have to withdraw a team from the league
 - ▶ Some of the larger clubs may elect to field more teams than previously
 - ▶ All players will be guaranteed 6 sets each match
 - ▶ Each player plays more levels than mixed (which is the preference of most players)
- ▶ It should enable all clubs to field at least as many teams as they did in 19/20
- ▶ It would enable a structure of 4 divisions of equal size
- ▶ This format is widely used by other leagues throughout the UK



Proposal 2 – Men's League

- The men's league opens to all clubs and all male players
- It is no longer restricted to men who do not play for their club's mixed teams
- Team comprises 6 men in three pairs ranked according to playing merit
- A match shall comprise 9 events with each pair playing all pairs in the opposition

This format is more cost effective than the current format as the court and shuttle costs are spread between 6 players.

The format is highly competitive

Improves the quality of the Men's league and encourages "better" players to participate

This format is widely used by other leagues around the UK

Proposal 3 – Ladies League

- It is proposed that a new Ladies league is established
- The ladies league shall be open to all clubs and all female players
- Team comprises 4 ladies ranked according to playing merit
- A match shall comprise 6 events with each pairing playing the corresponding pair in the opposition

1 + 2	1 + 3	1 + 4
2 + 3	2 + 4	3 + 4

Teams comprise 4 players reflecting the lower demand for increased competitive badminton amongst ladies and that there are fewer ladies registered



Phased Implementation Proposal

- ▶ Phase 1
 - ▶ Implement Proposal 1 and change the structure of the Mixed League
 - ▶ Maximise the potential for all existing clubs and teams to continue
- ▶ Phase 2
 - ▶ Implement Proposal 2 and change the structure of the Men's league
 - ▶ Open up the Men's league to all male players
- ▶ Phase 3
 - ▶ Implement Proposal 3 and set up the Ladies league

Adopting a phased approach over 2 seasons enables clubs to evaluate how many teams they will field in each league. It also enables The League to determine appropriate division sizes and enable clubs to resolve fixture requirements.



Next Steps

1. That this proposal and any other proposals submitted from other clubs are reviewed by the League Committee and put forward at the League AGM where they are voted on.

Should this proposal be accepted by the Chester & District Badminton League AGM, we would suggest the following actions should be then be considered:

1. Canvas all clubs in the league to determine how many teams they intend to field in the restructured Mixed league
2. Determine the appropriate number of teams per division in the Mixed league
3. Agree the detail of the match formats in the Mixed league (scoring, setting, number of sets, results sheets, etc.)
4. Review and agree options for the timing of the implementation of Proposals 2 and 3 relating to the Men's and Ladies leagues