

EVENLODE B.C. Newsletter

Hello everyone

Firstly, welcome to our newer members, both seniors and juniors. It's been a busy season so far. Being about half-way through the season now, our 13 teams have already played almost 70 matches. Well done to our Ladies' and Men's "B" teams who are currently top of their leagues. Our juniors have also been doing well, and there is more on this from James below. On the non-playing side, half a dozen of us, plus some guests, made the annual trip to our local brewery in November and then on Saturday 10th we had our Christmas Meal at ASK. We have our regular New Year quiz planned for Wednesday 11th Jan and the following Monday evening at club night, we have a visit from the UK Yonex representatives when you will be able to try out their latest racquets on court. We will also have "topsport" of Abingdon with us who will have a "pop-up shop" with a range of clothing and various accessories available. Wishing you all happiness and success in 2017! Steve V, Club Chair

Fixtures & Matches

A full list of matches can be found on Evenlode BC website. Fixtures are updated regularly and can be viewed on our website.

<http://www.evenlode-badminton.org>

Quiz Night

Wednesday 11 January
7.30 pm at Prince of Wales.

Maximum 6 per team, cost £3 per person to include light refreshments. Please come along even if you haven't got a team as we can make teams on the night.

St Helen's

We are gradually settling into our new hall, despite a number of teething problems which we hope will soon be sorted.

Our first session back after Christmas is Monday 9 January. We will only have 3 courts for club night on 9, 16 January due to exams.

Yonex Demo Evening + Top Sport

Monday 16 January

A chance to try new Yonex gear, and view and try a range of stock from Top Sport.

Junior News

U15 Bronze Maddy Cook (and Charlie Driver) won the Mixed Doubled Gold Medal beating some strong opposition in the semi-final and final.

Also Maddy Cook and Rebecca Norkett won a Bronze Medal in the Girls Doubles, narrowly losing out in the semi-final.



Ten Questions Time

Maddy Cook - aged 13 born in Oxford and lives in Eynsham. Goes to Bartholomew School, Eynsham.

1. Who got you into playing Badminton? *Started playing with Dad and brother in back garden and first started in county u11s with Dave Bolus.*
2. Badminton highlight/achievement to date? *Gold medal in XD, two bronze medals at doubles and a Gold medal in the plate competition at U15 bronze tournament. Part of team that made Shires national finals at U13*
3. Which discipline do you prefer, singles or doubles. *No preference - enjoys both!*
4. Favourite school lesson and why? *German because of the nice teacher!*
5. What other hobbies do you have? *Baking and Cooking.*
6. Favourite food and drink? *Sushi and Coke*
7. Best/favourite TV programme? *The Simpsons*
8. What job would you like to do in the future? *Doctor or Vet*
9. What badminton racket do you use (make and name)? *Forza Ti-3000*
10. Best biscuits to eat at a Badminton match? *Digestives!!*

Pierre Dumortier - Active in the club as Mens B captain, Mixed B player, committee member since last general assembly. I've started badminton quite late at the university club in my fifth and last year of university back in 1991 in Belgium where I studied engineering. When I think about it, this was last century, long before all juniors were born! This was rather casual playing with no coaching, about the level you could expect when going to play at the leisure centre on a Sunday afternoon. It nevertheless gave me the opportunity to take part to my first tournament: an open university tournament in Paris. Needless to say I was trashed as I only barely knew how to hold my racket or count the points but the most important was to have an opportunity to exchange with students from all over Europe. I enjoyed playing and eventually joined a club the next year where I started to progress (although still without coaching unfortunately) and a bit later started to play league matches and tournaments. I joined Evenlode in the summer 2014 after moving to the UK.

1. Best and worst venue played in?

The best venue around is probably our new sport's hall ! Best feeling ever was to play on competition badminton court carpets. But mind that if you are the organiser of the event they are a pain to install ! Worst venue ever was a club in St-Gilles (Brussels), where they played in a community hall with slippery floor, low ceiling and where you had these old-fashioned curly lamp posts hanging over the back of the court where you could more than easily lose your racket. Well, this venue fortunately didn't last very long !

2. Badminton highlight/achievement to date?

My best memories are related to the organisation of my club's tournament in Belgium for about 15 years: about 200-240 players of five different ranking levels meeting and playing a whole week-end in the five disciplines, that's about 350-370 matches played in about 24 hours of play on 9 courts. And this was a rather small tournament ! Every player could play 3 disciplines in different ranking categories. Scheduling the matches having all of the players not waiting too long between matches but respecting the rest time was quite a challenge ! In this country having at times some political tension between the different language communities I was particularly proud to organise the only tournament organised by a French-speaking club on a Flemish territory and where the matches were announced in French, Dutch and/or English depending on the players that were called ! This also made the tournament much appreciated and there was a truly nice atmosphere. I've also participated several times to the national championships. Well, OK, this was only as a referee but still an achievement though !

3. Which discipline do you prefer?

All of them. I appreciate playing singles when I have the opportunity but that doesn't seem the most popular discipline amongst the senior players in the UK !

4. What is the best and worst things about being a captain?

Best thing: having a team with a good spirit, reliable players warning you pro-actively and timely when they can't make a fixture and where all players truly enjoy playing and give the best of themselves. I'm a happy captain this season !

Worst thing: the opposite !

5. What other hobbies do you have?

I'm so lucky that I may consider my job as my main hobby ! Apart from that I like hiking, watching movies, reading and occasionally running.

6. Favourite food and drink?

Food: almost everything that you can eat. I certainly can't resist a good chocolate.

Drink: Belgian beers of course (nothing beats a good Rochefort as some senior members know) but I appreciate a good wine as well. Moderately of course !

7. Best film watched so far?

One of my favorites is the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

8. Car you would like to own.

A flying car to beat the traffic jams.

9. Which club do you like playing against and why?

Evenlode, definitely ! A home-home match always has a particular taste.

10. Best biscuits to eat at a Badminton match?

Home-made cookies. But with about the same ingredients I definitely would rather go for a good beer after the match !

Evenlode Website: <http://www.evenlode-badminton.org> (website administrator - Andrew W)

Committee: Chair – Steve V, Secretary – Lilian, Treasurer – Claire T/Steve R, Match Secretary – James

Ordinary members – Claire, Pierre, Judy, Jordan, Anna

Child Welfare Officer – Stella A

First Aiders – Lee, Judy, James, Anna, Stella