



Report on the Badminton Premier League – 2018/2019

The Badminton Premier League continued into its 4th season with the principal aims remaining as before.

- To provide a more structured league for our top Premier Players to compete in.
- To create an Event within our Centre to showcase our (and other Provinces) top players.
- To use these events to promote and generate more interest in badminton
- To use these events to increase footfall and revenue in Leinster Badminton Centres.

The season saw the league increase to its largest size yet of 6 teams composed of:

- Ailesbury Falcons
- Dynamite 21 – New Franchise Team composed of players from the Leinster U21 Squad managed by Pat Marron
- Mount Pleasant Mavericks
- Pembroke Panthers (Champions from the previous season)
- Racket Raptors – New Franchise team mainly composed of players outside of the greater Dublin area so as to give a more regional balance to the league. The team was managed by Azhar Syed.
- South Dublin Spartans

The now 6 Premier Clubs embraced the same Mixed Format of 9 matches and the season kicked off on Friday, 26th October, 2018.

The format of Matches in the BPL remained as was in the previous season - all aimed to generate excitement and interest, which included

- Clubs able to bring in "Invitation" Players.
- Use of a hybrid scoring system of 5 games to 11 points
- Use of a "Power-Play Shuttles" (with a slight rule change to encourage them to be used in a more dramatic fashion)

After 5 nights of jam packed, dramatic, closely fought BPL league nights, the Mount Pleasant Mavericks and the Ailesbury Falcons topped the table. They will now go head-to-head for an end-of-season finale on Friday, 10th May 2019 to decide who is this season's BPL Winner.

Due to wizardry of BPL Committee member Philip McKeown, the BPL again used leading edge technology to provide umpires with an electronic touchpad umpiring system to manage the matches along with large real-time scoreboard screens to add to the experience to both players and spectators alike. Thank you to Badminton Ireland for some of the equipment to facilitate this service to the BPL.

Again, BPL Committee member Philip McKeown expanded our video streaming services of the BPL by simultaneously streaming the matches on all 4 courts on YouTube. Thank you again to Badminton Ireland for the supply of new video cameras and equipment to facilitate such coverage of all the matches.

Up to the week prior to the BPL Finals scheduled for Friday, May 10th, 2019, the BPL YouTube channel received the following viewership figures for this season:

- 11,265 Views
- 85,000 Minutes Watched
- Extra +159 Channel Subscribers

The last round of the league also included a live commentary aspect from Bryan Hendy and Craig McCourtney. Due to its success it will be extended to this year's BPL Final.

Thank you again to our as ever professional and reliable umpires who add that element of professionalism to the night's proceedings.

We were also extremely delighted to have maintained the Sponsorship from Turkish Airlines, OSCAR Travel, and shuttles provided by Yonex Ireland.

Season 4 of The BPL is almost over, but plans are already being formulating for next season to keep things fresh and vibrant as ever.

Finally, I would really like to thank all the members of the BPL committee who worked extremely hard before, during and after each BPL event night to help deliver a great spectacle. – Dave Murphy, Joe Byrne, Philip McKeown, Veronica Farrelly and Vinod Pillai. I would also like to thanks others that have assisted when required.

Thomas Bohan,
BPL Chairperson 2018/2019

May 8 2019