



Leinster Badminton Premier League 2022/2023 Season Chairpersons Report

The Badminton Premier League (BPL) returned to Terenure Badminton Centre on Friday 25th November 2022.

The BPL 2022/2023 Season kicked off after 1009-day hiatus caused by the Covid-19 Emergency.

The BPL purpose is to:

- a) Provide a premium level highly competitive well run badminton league wrapped in a competitive night for the best players in the country to compete against each other in a unique team game format.
- b) Give younger upcoming players the opportunity to gain experience in a pressure cooker atmosphere.
- c) Provide an entertaining social night for fans of the game in Terenure Badminton Centre.
- d) Use an alternative exciting match format of best of 5 games to 11 points, with special "Power Play" shuttles.
- e) Stream on internet via YouTube, to let badminton fans outside the Dublin area watch top-class badminton (where this year we extended the commentary team to most match nights).
- f) Promote the game of badminton.

This season kicked off with 6 teams including two teams based outside of the Leinster Provincial Branch.

The teams this year were:

- Mount Pleasant Marauders
- Mount Pleasant Mavericks
- Pembroke Panthers
- Smash Bandits
- Western Warriors
- South Dublin Spartans

The league format was held over a series of Friday night fixtures in Terenure Badminton Centre culminating in the top 2 team qualifying for a grand finale.

The match nights were as follows:

- Match Night 1: Friday 25th November 2022
- Match Night 2: Friday 27th January 2023
- Match Night 3: Friday 24th February 2023
- Match Night 4: Friday 21st April 2023 (originally scheduled for 31st March but deferred due to David Gannon's funeral)

- Match Night 5: Friday 6th May 2023 (original date for the final)
- BPL 2022/2023 Final: Friday 19th May (new date added to schedule)

Obviously with the delayed end to the Season, this year's BPL League is not completed prior to the Leinster Branch AGM, but the BPL committee considers this year a success based on the following factors:

- The interest of top badminton players wanting to play in the BPL. While some players may not have returned to top-level badminton post Covid, we've had a huge uptake in experienced players wanting to be in a BPL team along with a brilliant wave of exciting young players coming from the various high-performance programmes. Some of the players are also travelling large distances to play in the BPL.
- The standard of badminton on show has been phenomenal, where players are obviously giving it their all and responding to the overall occasion on show.
- A very loyal but significantly sized regular crowd come each night to support the BPL proves there is a market for such high-quality entertainment. However, we must not take them for granted and always strive to improve and keep fresh the spectacle on offer.
- A busy atmosphere in the bar upstairs
- An engaging social media environment.
- Strong viewing figures on our YouTube Channel.
- Additional sponsorship secured (€1000 from Asian Supermarket)

Our thanks to others who help the BPL Committee with this year's league (in no particular order):

- The respective clubs, teams' managers and players who put on a great show every time.
- Our brilliant umpires of course who helps us run the matches in a most professional manner.
- Betty and the bar team in Terenure Badminton Centre.
- Our commentating team of Michael O'Meara, Bryan Hendy and Craig McCourtney

As the BPL 2022/2023 comes to a close on Friday 19th May, the BPL Committee is delighted that the competition is back up and running, looking forward to planning the next season soon after.

The BPL Committee this year are:

- Thomas Bohan, Chairperson
- David Murphy
- Joe Byrne
- Philip McKeown
- Veronica Clare
- Vinod Pillai

Thomas Bohan
BPL Chairperson
10th May 2023