President’s Address

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to our first newsletter for the year since the AGM; fresh look, fresh content, and most importantly, the president has got an exclusive section for himself! On a more serious note, this section will provide me with a chance to be transparent and keep you and the community posted about what we are working on.

As you may be aware, the WHO declared the first influenza pandemic in four decades last week and the number of Australians known to be infected hit 1800 on Monday night. The only consolation is, scale wise, the swine flu is not as serious as the bird flu, which does not have to infect to affect. While other people have to settle for less ducks and chickens if bird flu hits, the badminton addicts, like myself, have to settle for fewer birdies (shuttles) - something that some of you might have experienced lately in UNSWBC.

Worry not, the club will never let your hunger for fresh and warm birdies go unnoticed. However, based on our projection, the profits we gain from the club sessions (membership, fees) this year can barely cover the minimum expenditures (shuttles, court hire). This is one key issue that the committee is looking at seriously and a possible solution has been proposed. We will be trialing this in the club very soon and your help is necessary to make this a success. Nothing will be finalised until we hear from most of you and your feedback is vital for us to continually supply you with fresh and tasty birdies! Head to page 2 for more details on our plan.

While the committee is very grateful for your support at the AGM, we also need your continuous support by providing us with feedback so that we can shape the club to suit you. After all, the president looks best when his community is happy. So, to encourage feedback and suggestions, we will be giving out a prize each month for one lucky person who writes to us. (See last page).

Until then, I hope you all well and enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter.

P.S. For every one minute you spend reading this newsletter, one hour of effort was put in to write it.

Eric Permana
e(dot)permana(at)live(dot)com
Shuttle Usage & Conservation

The club has forecasted a 20% increase in shuttle price and a reduction in income due to lower membership fees (membership fee is something that we do not plan to change). So we would like you to help us help you; to make new shuttles available to everyone.

The committee has realised that there are a lot of semi-new shuttles discarded after games (Semi-new shuttles refer to shuttles which are discarded due to the conclusion of a game but not poor shuttle quality). These shuttles are extremely common when players ask for a change of shuttle during the last 4-5 points of the 2nd game and we hope that you help us maximise the use of them.

Here is what we propose to all of you, our beloved members:

1. **Everyone starts a match with a new shuttle**
2. If you decide to have a change at late-second-game with a few points (4-5) to go, please get a shuttle from the “semi-new” basket. You should get a new shuttle only if there was none in the “semi-new” basket.
3. At the end of the match, if you feel that the shuttle that you have just finished the game with is reusable, please return the shuttle to the “semi-new” basket instead of discarding it at the side of the courts.

We know that you are entitled to new shuttles as covered by your membership and we are not forcing you into using used shuttles. However, we hope you can help us conserve shuttles so that you can always get new shuttles for most of your games.

Rather than having semi-new shuttles for all matches in the last hour, all we ask for is to use semi-new shuttles for the last few points so that the use of semi-new shuttles can be spread throughout the session.

This system will be evaluated over a period of two months. If you have comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to write to badminton@unsw.edu.au

Social Events

The club has plans to organise a couple of social events for the upcoming year.

Other than our traditional Bowling night, we are looking to organize Yum Chas, BBQs, and even Intra Club Badminton team tournaments.

The next social event is Paintball and that is scheduled for the 8th of August.

If you have any particular events you are interested in, please send them in to

badminton@unsw.edu.au

Watch this space for updates in the next newsletter.
AUG Team for 2009

The UNSW Badminton Club is looking for UNSW students, male and female, who are interested in representing the Uni to participate in the Australian University Games (AUG).

The AUG will be held from 27 Sep to 2 Oct in Gold Coast, Queensland.

Any UNSW student members who are interested in trying out must attend the Uni Team training which is held every Sunday between 1-4pm.

Selection for AUG team will occur after the UNSW Badminton Winter Open held on 01 Aug and 02 Aug.

If you are keen to pit your badminton skills against the best of Australia’s Uni, see you all on Sunday.

Entertainment Book

“The book will cost $65 and all profits will be going to support our AUG team.”

The book is once again selling the Entertainment Book for 2009 as part of our fund raising activities for our AUG team.

The Entertainment Book is your guide to the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sports and leisure activities, all with 25% to 50% off or 2-for-1 offers.

3 books are on offer this year – Sydney, North Sydney and Parramatta.

The book will cost $65 and all profits will be going to support our AUG team.

For more info or to get your copy of the book, please approach any committee members.

Blues & Sports Awards and Dinner 2009

The 56th Annual Blues and Sports Awards and Dinner was held on Friday May 29, 2009 at The John Niland Scientia Building and was an outstanding success, with more than 250 guests in attendance to witness the presentation of the prestigious Blues and Sports Awards.

This event celebrated the 2008 sporting achievements at UNSW.

Members of the Badminton club, including 2 past Blues – Carolyn Toh and Kevin Koh, were present in support of Vincent Ng who was awarded the Sports Recognition Award.

To be nominated for this award, the nominee must have actively supported the nominating club for a minimum period of three years, either by consistent participation in the club’s sporting or recreational activity or by valuable service to the club’s organisation and administration.

The committee hopes that you will join us to congratulate Vincent on this achievement.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the help and service he has given to the club over the years and look forward to many more in the future.
Introducing your Committee Members

During the 2009 AGM, you have voted the following members onto the committee.

The new committee hopes to provide the best playing environment for our members to enjoy themselves playing the beautiful game of badminton.

Please feel free to approach any of us if you have any questions or suggestions.

We are always on the lookout for ways to improve the club.

Without further ado, presenting your 2009 Committee:

**President** – Mr Eric Permana

**Vice President** – Mr Dickson Wong

**Secretary** – Ms Gale Yeung

**Treasurer** – Ms Catherine Tjoa

**Committee Members:**

Ms Carolyn Toh

Ms Siuliana Gouw

Mr Vincent Ng

Mr Johan Ming Putra

Mr Sean Tan

Mr Song Hymn Ooi

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Eric Permana on your Weapon of choice

The badminton racket is the singular most expensive piece of equipment for a badminton player. AUG 08 team captain - Eric Permana shares his insight on the different types of racket and how to choose one for your battles:

I always have people asking me “Which racket must I use if I want to have a good smash like Lin Dan or good backhand like Taufik?”.

Buying the most expensive racket is sometimes not the best approach and it is a misconception that a racket makes the player because what you want may not be what you can handle.

For example, if you do not have the strength to handle a heavy and stiff racket like a Yonex Armortec 700, then don’t because you will probably hurt your shoulder and suffer an injury. Instead, settle for a more forgiving racket such as an Apacs Nano 900 Power.

On the other hand, if you are an avid smasher and have the strength of a bull, then do not go for a light racket as it will suppress the maximum power you may be able to achieve.

That said, the only way to know what works best for you is through racket testing. Follow your heart; you should not buy any racket if you have the slightest doubt or feeling that the racket is not suitable for you. When you feel good, chances are you will get everything over the net.

As a guide, you can try these rackets in the following order:

**Head Heavy Rackets**

- Yonex Armortec 700 ($170), Apacs Lethal 90 ($150), Yonex Arcsaber 10 ($260),

**Balanced Rackets**

- Apacs Nano 900 Power ($90), Yonex Muscle Power 27/29 ($80-$100),

**Head Light Rackets**

- Yonex Nanospeed 9900S ($240), Apacs Nano 9900 Power ($90).

“Buying the most expensive racket is sometimes not the best approach...”

Remember, it is important that a racket suits you and not vice versa; and do not be fooled by brand names or price tags.
What's happening internationally?

What's happening in the International Baddie Scene

This section will provide updates on events that's happening in the international badminton stage. Watch this space to find out what’s happening in the upcoming SuperSeries and find out if Malaysia’s Men Singles World Number 1 Lee Chong Wei can defeat Lin Dan of China and finally consolidate his position at the top of the pro echelon. We’ll be introducing you to the who’s who and what’s what on the world stage. So stay tune for more news.

Sudirman Cup 2009

The Sudirman cup is the only World Mixed team tournament on the international scene and takes place every 2 years. The 2009 Sudirman cup was competed in Guang Zhou China and finished on the 17th of May. This prestigious tournament offers no prize money and countries participate for the world ranking points on offer to their players as well as the prestige of being called World Champion.

China has won the tournament for the last 5 times and goes into the tournament as hot favourite. Led by their star studded contingent, they raised the cup for the 6th time by clean sweeping all their ties and defeating South Korea in the final. Malaysia and Indonesia will have to settle for 3rd/4th position.

Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines Open

After a long break from the Sudirman cup, players will head to Singapore to participate in back to back Super Series competition. The traditional warm up Philippines Open was rescheduled due to H1N1 flu to 30th of June.

Badminton fans can forget about another title showdown between world No. 1 Lee Chong Wei and China’s Lin Dan. Just two weeks ago, Lin Dan showed that he was still better than Chong Wei by beating the Malaysian in the semi-final tie of the Sudirman Cup in Guangzhou. Indonesia’s Taufik Hidayat is also missing from the lineup.

In the absence of these two players, Chong Wei will have to fend off challenges of a select few – Peter Gade-Christensen of Denmark; China’s Chen Jin and Bao Chunlai; Indonesia’s Sony Dwi Kuncoro and Simon Santoso; and South Korea Park Sung-hwan – as he seeks to defend the title.

The other events have attracted the world’s best players. Interesting to note, Li Ning has taken over from Yonex as the official equipment sponsor at the SG Open.

Players will head to Jakarta for the INA Open from June 16-21 where Lin Dan and Taufik are currently slated to play. We’ll bring you the results in the next newsletter.
UNSW Autumn Open 6th & 7th of June

Over 200 badminton enthusiasts competed in the UNSW Autumn Open held over the first weekend of June.

The Open Men’s Singles event saw a surprise entry of ex-New Zealand #1, John Moody. Being the clear favorite, John cruised through the competition and won the finals in style against Kenny Ng 21-15, 21-6.

The finals of the A-Grade Mixed Doubles was another exciting one to watch where our club members Michelle Teoh and Brianada Koentjoro were 18-20 down in Game One. As the crowd cheered on, the pair fought back and won the first game 21-20, before easily clinching the second game 21-15. Michelle also won the Open Ladies Doubles with partner Catherine Tjoa.

Other notables are Vincent and Catherine for coming runners up in Open Mix Doubles; Kevin Koh for coming runners up in Open Men Doubles; Vincent for coming runners up in A Men Doubles; Siuling and Eric Dharmawan for winning B Mixed Doubles and James Wang for coming runners up in C Men Singles.

Congratulations to the above club members for a job well done.

For detail results please visit our club website at: www.badminton.unsw.edu.au

We would like to thank everyone who has made this tournament possible by participating in the tournament or even just being there to cheer for our club members. We hope you enjoyed the tournament as much as we did organising it.

Think if something could be done in a better way or if someone is graded unfairly? Send an email to the President.

2009 NSW Open – 27th & 28th of June

The 2009 NSW Open is happening on 27-28 June at the Sydney Olympics Sports Halls in Homebush.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday 27/06/2009, 9:00am - 6:30pm Open, B and D Grades
Sunday 28/06/2009, 9:00am - 6:30pm A and C Grades

The NSW badminton association looks forward to your participation as a player, court official or event personnel. Please submit your entry form by the due date of Friday 19th June, 2009. The 2009 NSW Open entry form can be obtained during club sessions.

Please note that all registration have to be accompanied by payment or electronic fund transfer prior to 27th June, 2009 especially if the entries are emailed.

There will be no exceptions to this rule. Registrations without payment will be rejected without any further correspondence.
**Club T-Shirts**

The club T-shirts are now on Sale for only $10. You’ll have to be a member though to enjoy this special offer.

Manufactured with the latest VeryCOOL technology, these Yonex shirts will ensure you stay dry and cool during your games.

The T-Shirts come in 3 sizes (M, L, XL) and we have both Men’s and Ladies cut.

There are however, a limited amount of these shirts and they are sold on a first come first serve basis. So have a chat with Vincent as soon as you can to avoid missing out on this special deal!

**We would like to hear from you!**

Do you have a question on badminton techniques or want to provide some feedback regarding certain aspects of the club?

Tell us what you think or submit an article and be in the standing to win a fantastic prize each month.

Submit your piece to badminton@unsw.edu.au by the 10th of July to be in the competition.

The winner will be announced in July’s newsletter and stand to win a free, stringing service with Yonex BG65 worth up to $20.

All articles that are selected for publications will go into a draw in February. The winner gets to play for free at our club for 1 month!

That’s a total value of $60 so put on your thinking cap, pick up your writer’s pen and let your creative juice flow!

Questions will be replied in the “Inbox” section of next newsletter.

**About Our Club…**

UNSW Badminton club was formed in 1959.

It was popular with both men and women and particularly with Asian students. The club achieved great success in the 1960s.

The club was undefeated in both men's and women's competition in Sydney grade competition in 1966, winning both premierships.