

## Court Etiquette

Here's one to get the blood pressure up and steam coming out of ears. This is bound to be an article that will get added to as the season goes on and people encounter spectacles or behaviour that either incense or embarrass!

One of the first and most obvious is:

**Do NOT walk across the back of a court (or even worse – on a court!) whilst a rally is in progress.**

Primarily because it is DANGEROUS for you and the people playing. (Although it is also quite distracting.)

**When passing the shuttle back at the end of a rally DON'T knock it across the floor to the opposition.**

This is plain bad manners – not to mention a sure-fired way to render the shuttle useless – at £1+ per bird that's not funny. This should be a 'To You' moment. Pick or scoop the shuttle up (easier for some than others!) and either give, throw, or *gently* bat it to the server (not to the other side of the court or aerially out of the back of the court) with a sweet smile, regardless of the 'circumstances' under which you lost the point!

### Dress Code

These days pretty much anything goes, including those brilliantly coloured Yonex trainers trimmed with what looks like copious amounts of precious metal! Thank goodness the days of 'Whites' have gone – what a stoopid colour when the shuttle matches it nicely! But actually we do still need to observe points of etiquette for a variety of reasons.

- Non-marking soles is one of the most important of all of these.
- We no longer have to wear predominantly white – but have a care! Dazzling, fluorescent colours can be quite off putting
- Please wear something that was designed to be worn on a court – not in a gym or on a beach!
- Girls : a modicum of modesty doesn't go amiss – baring boobs and bottoms plays havoc for both sides in a mixed game!

### Language Please!

An increasing problem actually. It may seem old fashioned but it just isn't badminton to F & Blind (never did know where that saying came from – if you do let us know) on court. 99% of the time expletives are aimed at ourselves but it really isn't pleasant for the other players, whether in Mixed company or not (and girls this is addressed to you as much as the boys!). As for the 1% of the time when it is directed at the opposition: this is an absolute NO NO – and totally contrary to:

### The Spirit of the Game.

Lest we forget!

More than anything else: be fair. OK so All's Fair in Love and War, BUT:

If it's In : call it In

If you touched the shuttle as it shot past you at 1000 mph – own up

No matter how badly you get thrashed, shake hands (even if they did 'cheat'!)

Be gracious in victory and magnanimous in defeat

And remember:

According to the rules there is now no such thing as a foul shot! It is everyone's prerogative to exercise this to it's most extreme extent. Smile 😊 and move on.