



2008 SOUTHERN OPEN – JULY 24-26, 2008

The 2008 Southern Open was originally scheduled to be held at the University of Oklahoma – however, due to several unforeseen circumstances, the Oklahoma club was not able to arrange the tournament. Charlotte Badminton Club offered to hold this prestigious event at fairly short notice.

The tournament was held from July 24-26th at the Hickory Grove Elementary School gymnasium. This is a new facility for the Charlotte club tournaments and has the advantage of high ceilings, excellent lighting, wood floor and indirect air conditioning. We had a total of 87 players attending, and the only disappointing number was the lack of junior players. We did have a partial excuse in that the Texas State Games were held the same weekend and this drained our junior resources to a large extent.

Thursday evening was restricted to the more senior events from Masters to Grand Masters – on Friday we started the open and senior events, continuing on through Saturday with junior and the balance of master and grand master matches.

On Friday evening we had a hospitality room at the host hotel supplying soft drinks, beers and various appetizers.

On Saturday evening we had an after-tournament dinner at the host hotel. This event was very well attended and the awards for the tournament were given out at this time.

Southern President Mike Gamez gave an update of what was happening in the SBA with particular reference to coaching and juniors.

Our former SBA treasurer Richard Juday gave us his annual review of the “Best of” categories, much to the chagrin of several recipients. He also did the annual presentation of the Ebenezer Award, which was graciously accepted by Margaret Hewitt of Davidson. The match schedule was handled very effectively as always by Chris Lawrence. We also had Louisville Badminton Supply as the official stringer and supplier of racquets, shoes, shuttles and anything else that the badminton player needs. Louisville Badminton also donated several wonderful prizes for the traditional raffle held at our tournaments each year.

The dinner on Saturday was organized by our very own Azi Ibrahim – thanks Azi.