

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6th JUNE 2011

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.50pm with 25 members attending.

Malcolm Fraser (MF), Chairman, welcomed all present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Alison Alcock; Sue Barker; Joyce Barton; Margaret Cooper; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Highbury BC; Ed Lintott; Elaine Meagher; Jenny Measham; Natalie Munt; Lynne Parker; Byron and Lesley Perry; Julia Strong; Heather Warne and Matthew Warren`.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 7th June 2010

These were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising from last AGM

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports

The Chairman reported on behalf of the **Badminton England (BE) Representative, Registration Secretary and Secretary.**

Malcolm Fraser (MF) welcomed Jenni Crisp as the new BE Development Officer for Herts. BE had introduced a change in the membership system with the introduction of 'Club England', but there was little difference in practice. Improvements had been made to BE's Vision system but there were still too many problems in the day-to-day operation. He asked for feedback from club officials so that BE could be given specific examples of the problems. BE had experienced cuts in government funding, but additional sponsorship had helped to mitigate the effects. The problems relating to the country's international players, which had led to some poor results recently, had been resolved. The World Championships to be held at Wembley this August would be well worth attending.

HBA had another successful season with membership up again, increased funds, and most other activities going well. However, cuts in government spending were likely to affect sports centres that house most clubs nowadays. He regretted that, for various reasons, two Newsletters had not been produced this year. Communication to and from clubs was vital to the association and he urged club officials to send in reports, requests or complaints! He thanked those individuals who work hard to keep the association going and said that new recruits to the committee would be welcomed. In response to a question from Paul Widdicombe (PW) MF confirmed that BE had been undergoing a review of governance, in line with other sports governing bodies. As a result the structure of the committees below the board of directors had been changed. There was now a Badminton Board that supervised all playing activities, as well as Finance, Sponsorship and Audit Boards. PW referred to the stereotypical reply that had been sent to one well qualified but unsuccessful candidate for the Badminton Board. MF would raise this at BE. In response to a question from Gill Bartlett (GB) MF said that he understood that only the best qualified candidates for the Boards had been chosen and this had not been affected by any gender/ethnic/location issues.

Chairman of Selectors

PW presented his report on the 2010/11 season. The county had a very good squad of players making Herts one of the top counties. It was particularly gratifying to have so many young players. Six of the squad representing the Senior County 1st team were under 19 and he paid tribute to the hard work of the Schools Association (HSBA) in

bringing forward so many talented young players. The senior 3rd team had picked up the only title of the season, winning division 3 in convincing style, but the other teams had all done well. He expressed his thanks to the managers of the teams, two of whom were players in their teams.

MF thanked PW and his team of managers for all their hard work and repeated that more offers of help, particularly in managing two of the teams, would be gratefully received. He also stressed the role played by HSBA in this success.

Veterans

Jeff Armstrong, captain of the over 50's team, said that it had been an average season and that the team had come third this year. There was no report on the over 40s team.

MF expressed his thanks to Jeff, and to Elaine Meagher, captain of the over 40s.

Herts. Schools Badminton Association (HSBA)

HSBA Chairman, Ken Winchester (KW) reported on another successful and busy year for the juniors. He said, with regret, that two stalwarts of the association were retiring this season. Megan Lumb had been in charge of the Newsletter for over 20 years as well as running tournaments and taking on administrative duties. Marion Conway had been involved with HSBA since the 1970s and had recently been assisting with coaching the U13 team. He expressed his thanks to them for their many years of hard work. He also thanked Pat Walker who was manager of the U17s and had done an excellent job over the year. He reported that the association was still thriving despite competition from performance centres and private coaches, and he expressed pleasure at the continuing success of those who had passed through HSBA and were now playing in the senior teams. He thanked MF and HBA for their continuing support.

MF expressed his thanks to KW, Angela Blowers, and all the other HSBA volunteers, for the tremendous job they do, for which HBA reap the benefit.

Development Co-ordinator

Dave Bartlett (DB) presented his report for the past season, which is available on the HBA website. Development continued to be driven through the Badminton Herts Development Committee (BHDC) comprising of members not only of HBA and HSBA but other county-wide partners, who he thanked for their involvement and hard work. He also thanked Malcolm Jellows for the productive time he spent as Herts Badminton Development Officer (BDO), and extended a warm welcome to Jenni Crisp (JC) our new BDO. He outlined the many and varied activities undertaken by BHDC aimed at increasing, and developing involvement in badminton, and stressed that increased participants meant increased funding. All coaching courses were now run by BE and administered from Milton Keynes (MK) and through the Regional Officers. This had caused some difficulties. The scrapping of Schools Sports Partnerships (SSPs) by the government was a serious blow. The 2012 Olympics would be a great opportunity for the further development of badminton and he looked forward to JC's presentation.

JC gave an update on current development activities. Herts had been benefitting directly from the work of the BE Disability Manager in his involvement with Knebworth BC. The appointment of a University BDO had been particularly productive in increasing involvement in badminton amongst university students. While there was a focus on Community Badminton Networks (CBNs) other areas were not forgotten. In response to a question from Michael Wong about support in South Herts. DB said that the lack of contact in that area resulted from their de-affiliating some time ago. There were only 2 affiliated clubs in Watford and there would be more BE involvement once more clubs affiliated. MF said that the ultimate

plan was to have ten CBNs, one for each area in Herts but this would not happen for some time as it was too much for one BDO to support. He was prepared to discuss problems in the South Herts area outside of the meeting. In response to a question from PW about the lack of progress with the BE Regional Tournament programme MF would raise this at the next Regional Meeting.

JC's presentation on the 'Opportunities for Clubs and Coaches in Olympic and Paralympic Year' can be found on the HBA website.

MF thanked JC for her report and presentation and wished her well in her new post.

Coaching Co-ordinator

Brian Jackson (BJ) reported that Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) was establishing a register of coaches and their qualifications so that those going into schools have CRB checks, insurance and had completed a number of workshops including those relating to child protection. This was to ensure that the best coaching standards were delivered and maintained. About a dozen coaches went to MK in November and had been most impressed by the standard of coaching. They had a tour of the building and were able to discuss coaching techniques and related issues before watching an agility training session in the afternoon. BE also organised a speed and agility workshop at Herts Sports Village (HSV) which had been instructive as well as enjoyable. He reported that there had been fewer requests for coaches this year. Most of them had been from private individuals and very few from schools.

MF thanked BJ for his report. He stressed that it was important to encourage coaches willing to work after school hours when there was a very definite need.

County League Secretary

MF reported on another successful season despite the bad weather before Christmas, which, surprisingly, did not lead to many cancelled matches. The FixturesLive electronic system worked well. New champions emerged in all three leagues and the full results are available on FixturesLive and the HBA website.

HBA President, Bob Welsh then presented the trophies to the winning clubs:

Ladies 1 : Cobra	Mens 1 : Ware 1	Mixed 1 : Ware 1
“ 2 : Ware 1	“ 2 : Wizard	“ 2 : Ware 2
	“ 3 : Hadley	“ 3 : Asteroids

MF would circulate the date of the Fixtures Meeting once it was confirmed. He said that the league was now easy to run thanks to the FixturesLive system and he would like a volunteer to take over this role.

Tournament Secretary

Ed Lintott (EL) had presented a written report on the Herts Open Tournament which took place at HSV on 4/5th September. It had been well supported with over 200 players coming from all over the country. Herts was well represented with both juniors and seniors. There were 90 entries in the mens singles, reduced to 72 in the draw following a qualifying event. The Ladies singles attracted 44 entries with Herts player Emily Westwood getting to the final. The next day was devoted to doubles. Overall it was another successful Herts Open tournament, played in fantastic spirit with lots of excellent badminton and a good profit for HBA. EL expressed his thanks to his many helpers. The 2011 Open was scheduled for 3/4th September and he encouraged others to come and watch, and maybe even help.

The Herts Restricted Tournament had also been successful and it was planned to hold the 2011 tournament on 1/2nd October.

Area League Representatives

Hertford Colin Jackson had sent in a written report on the Hertford Area League confirming that they would be using the FixturesLive online results service next season and also be redesigning the website.

North Herts and Letchworth *Bob Green sent his apologies for absence. He reported that lack of lady players was making it difficult for some clubs to raise a team, and the situation with regard to league insurance was still unresolved as he was awaiting a response from BE. (Note: This report was received after the AGM had taken place)*

SW Herts No report

5. Presentation of Accounts

Colin Walker (CW) had presented a written report on the accounts for the year up to 30th April 2011 which was circulated at the meeting. HBA remained in a healthy financial position recording a profit for the year, before extraordinary items, of £2,328 and cumulative funds of £17,940. Most of the profit came from the Open Tournament which made a surplus of £1,400 and CW expressed his thanks to EL and his helpers for running such a successful tournament. He confirmed that last year's accounts had been audited.

The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the accounts, and CW was thanked by MF for his assiduous work on behalf of the Association.

6. Subscriptions for Season 2009-10 (BE and Herts. Badminton)

There would be no increase in either the county or BE fees.

Election of President and Vice Presidents

MF confirmed that Bob Welsh had already stood for two terms of three years as president and he was prepared to take on a further term. He was a most active, helpful president and the committee proposed that he be elected for a further period. The committee also proposed the election of the current vice presidents. These proposals were passed unanimously by the meeting.

7. Election of Executive Committee and BE Representative(s)

The Executive committee, all of whom were prepared to stand for a further year, and the BE Representatives, as listed on the Notes to the Agenda, were elected unanimously. MF thanked everyone who served on the committee, and helped to make Herts one of the most successful badminton counties.

Election of Auditor

Albert Nicholas was again elected as auditor.

8. Review of BE Agenda

MF outlined the agenda of the BE AGM to be held at Milton Keynes on Saturday 25th June at 2pm. All were welcome to attend. He was not aware of any item that would affect Herts directly but was willing to raise any issues brought to his attention. George Wood was to make a presentation before the meeting on 'BE Aspiration to Increase Participation'.

Any Other Business

GB apologised for the disruption to the Newsletters. The deadline for the next issue was 15th June and she would welcome input from clubs. In particular she wanted feedback on Vision, which was frustrating and inefficient in her view, particularly to those involved with Junior Clubs. Input from club officials would make interesting reading, help others and provide grounds for an approach to BE. MF stressed that it was vital for there to be two way communication between HBA and clubs and the Newsletter was one of the best vehicles for this contact.

Steve Willis raised the question of the number of teams in a league required to make it viable. It was generally agreed to be 5. Last season's attempts to play 2 home and 2 away matches against the same club had not worked.

Michael Wong raised the question of providing refreshments for away teams. MF confirmed that there was nothing in the rules and it was left to clubs to decide. HSV would allow water bottles courtside but no other drink or food. The bottles could be refilled from drinking stations.

MF thanked all those present for attending, and the meeting closed at 9.35pm