

**HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**8th JUNE 2015**

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.30pm with 29 attending.

Chairman, Paul Kempster (PK) welcomed all present, particularly Adrian Christy (AC), Chief Executive of Badminton England (BE) who would be addressing the meeting at the conclusion of the AGM.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Alison Alcock; Neil and Sue Clarke; Margaret Cooper; Elaine Drury; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Byron and Lesley Perry; Roger Simmons and Joan Walters.

**2. Minutes of AGM held on 2nd June 2014**

Item 6 should be amended to read *Malcolm Fraser to be made Vice President* instead of *Vice Chairman*. The minutes were then approved. PK confirmed that the increase in BE fees had been raised at their AGM. This would be covered under Item 3.

**3. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports**

All reports had been circulated to members and were available on the HBA website. Committee members highlighted various issues in their reports, when appropriate.

**Chairman and BE Representative.**

PK reported that Leah Singleton had replaced Rhiannon Smith as BE East Region Partnerships Manager. Leah had worked for BE since 2010. BE membership fees were due to rise again and this issue had been raised at their AGM last year when the financial constraints facing the governing body had been explained. AC would cover this later in his presentation. BE planned to hold a county conference later in the year to garner views on the future of English badminton. The Senior Inter County Competition (ICC) would see the introduction of a new format and structure next season with centralised venues and ring-fenced match days to reduce travel times, costs, and clashes with other events. HBA would be continuing with the Birchwood Leisure Centre contract with exclusive use of the 4 court hall from 9am to 6pm every Sunday through the year at very favourable rates. A successful Herts Parabadminton Open Tournament was run in April and it was hoped to run a similar event next year. PK thanked the committee members for their support and dedication, as well as all those who give up their valuable time to run badminton clubs and help make Hertfordshire Badminton so successful. He was sure that, with all working together, HBA can continue to develop and grow.

Colin Walker (CW) congratulated PK on his successful running of the Parabadminton Tournament, which had been a real success.

**Membership Secretary**

CW outlined the current membership position. The number of registered clubs had gone down by 2 and the number of registered members had gone down by 15, although the number of juniors had increased by 45, which was a positive sign. PK thanked CW for his work as Membership Secretary.

**Chairman of Selectors**

This post was still vacant and had been covered during the season by PK aided by the team captains Andy Walden and Liz Austin. A full report had been published in the latest Newsletter. The first team, captained by Gail Emms, had suffered loss of players through injury and a French ruling which prevented their players also playing in the French leagues. That team had been relegated and would be in the same, new

format, division as the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, who had been promoted, after a successful season. The third team would remain in their division having finished a comfortable 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next season would see the new format with all three teams playing on the same day. All clubs were asked to refer any promising players to one of the team captains or PK so that they could be considered for inclusion in training for the various squads.

He congratulated the team captains on their ability to always turn out a team in spite of the many problems experienced during the year and he thanked them for their help and support in covering the Chairman of Selectors role. He also expressed his thanks to HBA President, Bob Welsh, who had been present at all possible matches, managing the shuttles and rendering support to the players and captains. His commitment to county badminton was phenomenal.

### **County League Secretary and Presentation of the trophies**

The full league results were posted on the HBA website.

HBA President, Bob Welsh presented trophies to the following club representatives (where present):

Ladies 1-Asteroids; 2-Comets;

Mens 1- Asteroids; 2-Sunnyside; 3-Bishops Stortford

Mixed 1 Ware; 2-Asteroids; 3-Comets

The County League Fixtures Meeting would be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Birchwood starting at 7.30pm.

In view of his other commitments PK was not able to continue in this role and a new County League Secretary was required. A job description was available from him or on the website, and full support would be given to whoever took on this role.

### **Area League representatives**

Full reports from each of the representatives had been circulated and were available on the website. PK thanked them for their contribution which was valued by the Association.

### **Veterans**

Masters Co-ordinator, Steve Willis (SW), thanked Ed Lintott (O40s) and Jeff Armstrong (O55s) for running their teams so efficiently. The O40s had played 6 games and won 2, and the O55s had played, and won, 6 games. The O45s successfully defended their National Premier Title. There was a tremendous response from club members to trials held at Birchwood in April and, as a result, Herts will have 5 teams in the Championships next season, although only 3 teams (O40; O55; O60) will be entered in the Challenge. Fixtures will be arranged in the coming weeks and there will be 2 further trials in September to finalise the squads.

PK thanked SW for taking on this role, and the number of new teams and the success rate was evidence of the success he was having.

### **Tournament Secretary**

Ed Lintott (EL)'s report had been circulated and full results were available on the website. He confirmed that the Open Tournament, held at the start of last season, had been successful although the number of entries was down. The Restricted Tournament had also been held successfully. Next season's Open had been scheduled by BE over the August Bank Holiday weekend and he was hoping that this would not be a problem, The Herts Restricted would again be held at the end of September. EL was thanked by PK for his hard work in running these tournaments.

### **Development Co-ordinator**

Dave Bartlett (DB) explained that the HBA development areas are divided into 4 Community Badminton Network (CBN) areas: East Herts; Herts West; North Herts, and Welwyn Hatfield. Clubs and other badminton stakeholders are represented at each

of their CBN committees. Two CBNs had produced Development Plans that had been approved by BE and attracted funding. This process required time and considerable effort. Various schemes were being run through BE such as No Strings and Smash Up sessions and full details were available in the Development Co-ordinator's Report on the website.

PK expressed thanks to DB on behalf of HBA for his considerable, and successful, contribution to the development of badminton within the county over many years.

#### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

Brian Jackson (BJ) confirmed that there had been around twenty requests for coaches this past season and, thanks to keen and eager coaches in the county, he had been successful in satisfying almost all of them. His full report was available on the website.

PK congratulated him on his success in finding coaches on request and thanked him for his efforts. Members were reminded that financial assistance was available to any young player considering qualification as a coach, at all levels, through the Ray Learney Fund. Details could be obtained from CW and were also available on the website.

#### **HSBA**

Ken Winchester (KW) presented his report on behalf of the Schools Association. He began by paying tribute to the contribution made by Malcolm Fraser in helping to steer the Association through a rocky patch in 2010. It was mainly down to him that HSBA had come through that period and was now stronger, if leaner. He was pleased to report that all four squads were now able to train on the same evening at a single venue, to the benefit of all. The Herts Youth Games were no longer being held and HSBA had stepped in with an Inter-district event. He thanked all of the squad managers and their assistant coaches for their hard work, and he also congratulated PK on successfully completing his first year as Chairman of HBA and thanked the Association for their continuing support.

PK expressed gratitude for all the work done at HSBA in developing and passing on good players to enhance the County squad.

#### **4. Presentation of Accounts**

Colin Walker (CW) presented his Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015. HBA was in a very healthy financial position with cumulative funds of £20,134.

The profit for the year amounted to £1,320, marginally down on the previous year. Income is mostly from three sources:- club subscriptions, tournaments and fees from county matches and training. Income from all of these was a little down. Total expenses were also lower, mainly because the Newsletter was now produced on line, saving on printing and postage. During the year seven awards totalling £800 were made from the Ray Learney Fund to subsidise young people going on coaching courses. Since the Fund was set up in 2007 the county has made 25 awards totalling £2,500. HBA ran another very successful parabadminton tournament which cost £438, leaving £534 in this fund for a future tournament. This coming season will be the third year of a three year contract signed with Birchwood Leisure Centre for the exclusive use of its four courts every Sunday. There were an increased number of unused court hours over the past season which meant that the hourly rate worked out at £7.33, more than in the previous season, but still a very competitive rate. Next season the hours have been reduced to 9am to 6pm and anyone interested in booking courts at Birchwood should contact CW.

A question was again asked as to what was going to be done with such a large balance. CW said that it was necessary to carry a reasonable balance forward as the

heavy expenditure at the start of the season was not matched by income, which arrived later. The committee was proposing a reduction in fees (see item 5); had given financial support to CBNs, and had also agreed to subsidise to cost of new nets for clubs. Any further suggestions for expenditure within the county would be considered by the committee.

PK said that the new inter county match arrangements set up by BE were very likely to cost more and HBA needed to ensure funds were readily available to cover these. Otherwise he reiterated that any suggestions regarding expenditure would be welcome and given full consideration by the committee.

The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the accounts and appreciation was expressed to CW for all his work over the year.

#### **5. Subscriptions for Season 2015-16**

The committee proposed that the HBA Senior Fee be reduced to £3.50 and the Junior Fee be reduced to 50p. This proposal was passed unanimously.

#### **6. Election of Vice Presidents**

To show appreciation for all the hard work they had put into badminton in the county the committee proposed that Angela Blowers; Pat Walker; Phil Westwood and Paul Widdicombe be made Vice Presidents and they had all agreed to this proposal. This was passed unanimously by the meeting as well as the re-election of all the previous Vice Presidents.

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

Gill Bartlett (GB) had resigned as Newsletter Editor. PK paid tribute to her dedication in fulfilling this role over a long period of time. This was endorsed by those at the meeting. GB said that the post of Newsletter Editor was not onerous now that it was sent out electronically, and mainly involved getting articles in on time and collating them. As well as a vacancy for a Newsletter Editor there was currently a vacancy for a Publicity Officer and a suggestion had been made about giving the Association more of a social media presence, perhaps going on Facebook. Discussions were ongoing and a job description would be drawn up. The other vacancy, already mentioned, was for a County League Secretary.

The Executive Committee, as listed on the Agenda, were elected unanimously to stand for a further year. The BE Representatives, Paul Kempster as Council Representative and Gill Bartlett as alternate, were also elected unanimously for the year 2016/17.

PK repeated that there was an urgent need for someone to come forward to take on the role of Chairman of Selectors. The job description was available on the HBA website.

#### **8. Election of Auditor**

Albert Nicholas was willing to stand and was again elected as auditor.

#### **9. Review of BE Agenda**

PK outlined the agenda of the BE AGM to be held at Milton Keynes on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June which he would attend. The main items were reports on activities, the accounts and various resolutions regarding auditors, elected members etc. He was willing to raise any issues that were suggested to him by the meeting. The question of the increase of BE fees was again raised and would be covered in Adrian Christy's presentation after the meeting.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

The late cancellation of matches and the subsequent costs were again raised. One club had 8 rearranged matches and 4 conceded during the season, resulting in heavy financial penalties as well as disappointment for the players. PK reiterated that league rules state that costs should be shared in these circumstances, and he was of the

opinion that a match should still be played even if one of the teams is short of players. In the Hertford Area League there was a penalty for any team that conceded more than once. It was agreed that this was a sensible disincentive and the penalty should be loss of points. Each league needs to consider this and issue any new rules/proposals at the start at the season.

Bob Welsh proposed that the fee for the county training sessions be reduced from £7 to £6 and this would be considered by the committee.

**ACTION: HBA COMMITTEE**

PK expressed his appreciation to Hilary Anderson for arranging the AGM and for providing refreshments. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to all those attending.