

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Report of Chairman/ Secretary and B.E.Representative

We are pleased to welcome Jenni Crisp as our new BE Development Officer and you will be hearing from her at the meeting, of plans for the forthcoming season.

As far as Badminton England is concerned you will know that there is a further change in the membership system with the introduction of 'Club England'. It is in my opinion largely a public relations exercise as, apart from the name the membership categories remain the same.

Improvements have been made in BE's Vision system but there are, in our opinion, still too many problems with the day to day operation. BE claim that they are responding to complaints, and we can not press BE for improvements unless you advise us of the problems you encounter, please keep us in the picture. A practical example of this is the random way that data is set out within Vision. You can change it to an alphabetical list and increase the number of items displayed per page, but as you will know, as soon as you move to another screen it reverts to a random display again. BE say they have had no complaints about this, but this is not true and we need to know how often this is the subject of a complaint.

As mentioned above government cuts have reduced the monies that BE have been granted, but this has not greatly affected operations very much and additional sponsorship has helped to counter this. For the past year or so the way that BE is governed has been investigated, government has said that it needs to be reformed and this process is largely completed. The only item that remains unresolved is the role of The Council where county representatives meet to set policy. This is largely a legal matter to ensure that 'The Council remains a body that has teeth and is not just a 'rubber stamping' committee.

Some of you may have seen correspondence concerning the way that international players have been treated. This has been the subject of an extensive review and what was a rather unsatisfactory situation has been resolved and set on a much better footing. This has also coincided with a poor set of international results. It has been accepted that there are not likely to be any medals in major championship until 2016.

HBA has had another successful season, with membership up again, and as you will learn from some of the other reports funds have increased and other activities continuing to fair well, if not thrive, especially in the difficult economic climate. The government cuts are bad enough as they stand, but as sport is not a statutory requirement of local authorities there may well be cuts affecting sports centres in the near future, that house most clubs these days.

One of the regrets this season is that we have not had enough information to produce 2 of our newsletters. We feel it important to communicate with our membership. We are always keen to hear about club activities and even complaints, so please try to respond to requests for information to put in the newsletter.

As ever the same few individuals work very hard to keep the association and I am sure you would all join me in thanking them for their hard work for another season, but we could still do with some new blood to spread the load, so anyone who has any time to spare would be very welcome.

Malcolm Fraser
Chairman and Council Representative