

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12th JUNE 2012

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 8pm with 17 members attending.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Lee Bent; Angela Blowers; Fred & Pam Chinnery; Duncan & Marion Conway; Margaret Cooper; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Dawn Hockley (Hawthorn Indies); Brian Jackson; Penny Jones (All Saints); Elaine Meagher; Jenny Measham; Lynne Parker; Byron and Lesley Perry; Redbridge BC; Joan Walters and Heather Warne.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 6th June 2011

These, together with the post meeting correction, were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising from last AGM

As requested MF had raised with Badminton England (BE) the way in which an unsuccessful candidate for the Badminton Board had been treated. The point was taken on board but it was not considered that the letter of rejection had been stereotypical. The West Herts Community Badminton Network (CBN) now included Watford, where there was plenty of scope for development in badminton. The lack of progress with the BE Regional Tournament programme would be raised as soon as a Regional Meeting was convened.

4. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports

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

MF said that membership had continued to grow, albeit slowly, although many clubs were still struggling for members. Last season £500 had been given to each of the three area leagues to spend on development. For the Hertford Area League (HAL) badminton coaching sessions had been run at Presdales School but these had not attracted enough numbers to become self sufficient. A meeting had been held with the BE Membership Manager and the BE Chief Executive about the most annoying problems with the BE Vision system, and assurances were given that these would be addressed as soon as funds can be allocated. CBNs were proving to be a good way in which to develop badminton as they brought together representatives from schools, Local Authority, Sports Development and clubs at a more local level. There will be a focus on the Whole Sport Plan for 2013 onwards on how to retain 14-25 year olds who play at school, and bring them into clubs.

On the national front a very successful World Championships had been held last August at Wembley, with a silver medal in the mixed event helping BE meet its targets. The All England Tournament again had an increase in spectators. No Strings sessions had continued to grow and, once BE give counties access to these players, clubs should begin to benefit.

As a result of requirements by the Sports Council BE is changing its constitution and the makeup of its Board of Directors and committees. Sports Council is insisting upon Independent Directors who are not badminton oriented and this also applies to its committees.

MF reported that a very successful Wheelchair Tournament had been held in January with the help of sponsorship from the Herts Sports Partnership (HSP). Competitors came from around the country and the matches were closely and skillfully contested.

The tournament had proved popular with the competitors and will be repeated in October. In response to a question from Paul Kempster (PK) MF was unable to say how many disabled badminton players there were in the county, but Knebworth BC had the required facilities and actively encouraged disabled badminton players. Ken Winchester (KW) emphasised his satisfaction in coaching disabled players MF expressed his thanks to all club officials for the hard work that they put in to keep their clubs and the county in good order.

Chairman of Selectors

PW presented his report on the 2011/12 season, which was available on the HBA website. The final positions for the county teams were:

1st Team - 3rd in the Premier Division. Player of the season: Helena Lewczynska

2nd Team - 3rd in Division 1. Player of the Season: Liza Smith

3rd Team - 2nd in Division 2. Player of the Season: Kat Young

4th Team - 2nd in Division 4. Player of the Season: Helen Steer

Overall Herts Player of the Season was Conor Bambrick. Liza Smith broke through the 100 county appearances barrier and was presented with her award at Milton Keynes by BE CE Adrian Christie. Andy Walden was Herts most capped player having made 127 appearances for the county, a fine record. PW said that the ladies had won 74% of their matches, the men 32%. He was sad to report that, due to lack of helpers making administration very difficult, the 4th team had been dropped. Training sessions would start on Wednesday 1st August at Birchwood LC.

The Restricted Tournament would be held on 29/30 September. PW would continue as Tournament Secretary but volunteers were required to run it over the weekend.

The County Match Secretary post had still not been filled.

MF thanked PW for his considerable contribution to the county's success overall, and also expressed his thanks to all those who helped to run and manage the county teams.

Veterans

Jeff Armstrong, captain of the over 50s team, said that it had been the best season in the 12 years since he took on the captaincy, with Herts only just coming second to Essex in the overall league positions. Both the captains of the 40+ and the 45+ teams had resigned. Ronel Pieterse had sent a written report on the 40+ team saying that it had been a challenging year. Difficulties in fielding a team had meant that they could not enter the Yehlex Championship, and they had come 4th out of 5 in the Inter County League. The team had not been entered in the league for next season. The 45+ team was very strong and had good results, currently holding the Yehlex Title. The team had been re-entered in the Inter county league and the Yehlex team tournament, dependent on a captain coming forward.

MF expressed his thanks to Jeff, Elaine Meagher and Ronel Pieterse. He felt that it was sad to drop teams but it was up to the players to produce a captain.

Herts. Schools Badminton Association (HSBA)

HSBA Chairman, Ken Winchester (KW) reported on another successful and busy year for the juniors. The various squads had acquitted themselves well in both the Team Challenge and the Shires league competitions, in particular the under 17 team, managed by Pat Walker, had come 5th in the Shires League and 6th in the Team Challenge, a considerable achievement. He expressed his thanks to all HSBA volunteers who contributed to the success of the association. Despite worries HSBA's accounts had finished in the black last season. A move to Birchwood LC should also make savings. He said that there were some internal problems to be resolved and thanked MF for his support in this matter.

MF said that the current date for the HSBA AGM would be withdrawn and an Extra-Ordinary Meeting would be held in its place on 20 June, chaired by MF. It was to be hoped that these problems would then be resolved. MF thanked KW and his team for all their hard work with the juniors.

Development Co-ordinator

Dave Bartlett (DB) presented his report for the past season, which was available on the HBA website. He welcomed Lee Bent as the county's new Badminton Development Officer (BDO) who was already making an impact on development in Herts with improved participation and coaching. Nationally badminton, as one of the 9 funded sports, was the only one that has shown an increase in players and this was recognised as mostly due to BE CBN strategy, enthusiastically taken up in Herts where there were 4 CBNs covering most of the county. West Herts CBN now included Watford as mentioned earlier, and North Herts CBN incorporated Stevenage. Welwyn Hatfield CBN was now considered 'world leading'. The 2012 Olympic Games gave sport in general, and badminton in particular, a unique opportunity for development, and he introduced Matthew Warren (MW), BE Regional Manager who gave a presentation entitled "The Olympics/Paralympics and the Legacy"

This presentation is available on the HBA website and will be circulated with the minutes of the AGM

KW pointed out that BE funded Performance Centres were taking children away from counties and also having a detrimental effect on county funding. He said that there had been insufficient consultation with counties before the scheme had been set up.

MW agreed to attend the HSBA meeting on 20 June to discuss this further.

MF thanked DB and his development team for all the work they put in on behalf of the county. He also thanked MW for his presentation.

Coaching Co-ordinator

Brian Jackson (BJ) had sent a written report, saying that it had been a quiet year, with no requests for coaching in our schools. He had received a few requests for coaching from individuals that he had managed to fill. This included one for a coach for the East Herts squad for the Herts Youth Games. HSP had actively progressed coaching in the county with a Coach Education Week which included several badminton workshops; Coaches Conference; Coaches Breakfasts with an address from a guest speaker, and the recent establishment of Herts Coaches Association (HCA). The HCA will be working with the HSP to deliver the coach education and development programmes and courses. HSP is also moving the CoachMark system forward. This is a process of registering coaches who have completed a number of courses including child protection and first aid. It is from this register that schools can confidently select coaches to deliver sport to their students, when funding allows.

County League Secretary

PK reported that his first year supporting the county league had gone smoothly. The final matches had been completed in early May, and there had only been a couple of instances of short notice cancellations and costs had then been sorted out amicably. A decision made at the start of the season to have 3 mens leagues had meant that the third league had been left with only four teams when Smash had had to withdraw their team. They may go back to having two leagues next season depending on the number of entries. It was planned to hold the Fixtures Meeting on 29th August.

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

Mens	1 : Ware	Mixed 1	: Ware
	2 : Masters		2 : Asteroids
	3 : Ware 2		3 : Ware 3

Ladies 1 : Ware

Ladies 2: Boomerang Flying Feathers

MF thanked PK for taking on this role.

Tournament Secretary

Ed Lintott (EL) reported that the Herts Open Tournament which took place at HSV on 3/4th September had been oversubscribed with players coming from all over the country, although there were not so many entries from Herts players. The standard had been very high. Doubles matches had taken place on Sunday with 103 games played, completed just within the court time booked. Unfortunately one player had been disqualified due to ungentlemanly behaviour and this disqualification had been upheld by BE.

This year's Open Tournament would be held on 1/2nd September.

The Herts Restricted Tournament would be held on weekend of 29/30 September at Birchwood LC. PW would handle the administration but organisers were required for the weekend.

MF thanked EL for organising the Open Tournament which had established a good reputation and also earned income for HBA. He also thanked PW and the team of helpers for organising the Restricted Tournament.

Area League Representatives

Hertford: Simon Carter (SC) said that a competition had been held at Goffs Oak and had been well supported..

North Herts and Letchworth & SW Herts: No specific report

5. Presentation of Accounts

Colin Walker (CW) presented his report on the accounts for the year up to 30th April 2012. HBA remained in a healthy financial position with cumulative funds of £16,764. The majority of the funds were held in a savings or a current account. The profit for the year before extraordinary items amounted to £474 compared to over £2,300 in the previous year. During the year the committee agreed to donate £500 to each of the three area leagues within the county (SW Herts, Letchworth and Hertford) to assist with the development of badminton in their respective areas. This, together with a deduction of four awards from the Ray Learney Memorial Fund, and taking into account a new fund for the development of young officials, took the overall deficit to £1,076. Whilst the income for the year remained much in line with the previous year, the expenses rose by over £2,000. The main reasons for this were the increase in costs in producing the Newsletter; the increase in costs in running the senior county teams and higher tournament fees plus some increased miscellaneous costs. The 2011 Herts Open made a profit of £789. Although down on the previous year this was still a healthy contribution to funds and appreciation was due to Ed Lintott and his team. CW 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 2012-13 (BE and Herts. Badminton)

The committee proposed that there should be a small increase in the county fees, which would now be: Senior £3.70, Junior £1.85. This proposal was passed unanimously by the meeting. The fees set by BE are as follows:

Senior £11; Junior £5.50; Junior Club £53; Club Active England £19.10; Club England Supporter £9.60

Election of Vice Presidents

MF confirmed that Bob Welsh had a further year to run as President. The committee proposed the election of the current vice presidents and this was 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.

There was still an urgent need for a County Match Secretary.

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 30th June. 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.

Any Other Business

Gill Bartlett confirmed that the deadline for copy for the next issue of the Newsletter was 15th June. She would be grateful for copies of the reports given at the meeting. Simon Carter asked that HAL be informed when the sessions at Presdales were due to be re-started so that he could advise clubs and drum up interest. MW said that Lee Bent would be arranging these sessions and would advise SC of the details.

MF thanked all those present for attending, and the meeting closed at 9.45pm