

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2012 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 8pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Colin Jackson	CJ	
Paul Kempster	PK	
Colin Walker	CW	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Ken Winchester (KW) attended on behalf of HSBA

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Carter; Brian Jackson (BJ); Ed Lintott (EL) and Martin Winstone (MW). An apology was received later from Bob Green (BG).

1. Action following the previous meeting.

DB said that plans were in place with the Community Badminton Network (CBN) to encourage more lady players in North Herts.

The County League form had been placed on the website.

Two people had come forward to referee at the Restricted Tournament.

MF had e-mailed all Junior Clubs about a Junior League and had received two responses. GB felt that it was too early in the season for clubs to know what players they had, and MF agreed to re-send the e-mail. GB and Marion Conway were also progressing this through CBN members.

Milton Keynes referee training courses had been advertised on the HBA website.

Action on DB to follow up an approach from a potential newsletter promotional organisation was ongoing.

DB had met with Bryn Clark, Head of Sports Development, University of Herts. The new building at Oaklands was delayed and completion was expected by November.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

Badminton England (BE) matters.

MF reported that, under the new governance, Badminton England Council had been abolished. Instead there would be four General Meetings a year attended by County Badminton representatives. It was agreed at the meeting that MF should attend as the HBA Voting Delegate and GB as the Non-Voting Delegate. HA would inform BE accordingly

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

MF would ask Simon Carter to be the alternate for BE meetings

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

MF confirmed that, whereas the Council had been policy forming, the General Meetings would be advisory.

Secretary

HA thanked MF for raising the issue of AGM attendance at the last BE Council meeting. It was agreed that possible measures to stimulate attendance would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Treasurer

CW reported that the current balance of HBA funds was just under £13,000. The main expenditure had been on court hire at Birchwood LC for the season and there had

been little income. Affiliation fees from clubs would not start to come in until November at the earliest. The Herts Open tournament had made a much reduced profit, expected to be under £300, due to reduced entries. It was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made to the Umpires Association.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that all county league entrants were fully paid up and he was entering the fixtures on the website, which should be up and running by the end of the week. One club had dropped out just before the Fixtures Meeting, and this had caused considerable change to the divisions resulting in more fixtures for clubs. Instructions for the league should be placed on the HBA website and PK would send them to DB for this purpose.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER AND DAVE BARTLETT

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that details of the county fixtures had been placed on the website. The season had begun on the first Wednesday in August and squads were playing on Sundays in September and Tuesdays from September through to December. The county were running three teams and the selectors were Liz Austin, Andy Walden and himself. More help would be appreciated. The county had lost some players and two in particular due to a ban on those playing in the more lucrative German league from playing county matches. It was hoped that this ruling would be changed in 2013/14. The loss of the fourth team made it difficult to bring in young inexperienced players directly to the third team and playing at a high level.

The current status of the veterans' teams was unclear and MF would check the position

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

Hertford Area League (HAL) Co-ordinator

CJ reported that he was very pleased with the progress made with the HAL modernisation plan and the work put in by Simon Carter. The rules had been revamped and were now on the website. Fixtures had also been posted on the league website with instructions to clubs as to how to enter results. There were two new clubs but the same number of entries overall. A closed tournament had been held in May and had attracted 70 entries despite being so late in the season. He was concerned that information from the league did not always reach club players. MF said that this was an ongoing problem and the main reason for the HBA Newsletter which was sent to every club member.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

Bob Green sent in a report, received after the meeting, thanking PW for organising another great Area League Challenge

S.W. Herts League Representative.

MW had sent in apologies from the SWH league for having to pull out of the Area League Challenge

Tournament Secretary

EL had circulated a report on the Herts Open held on the first weekend of September. The tournament had been well supported with over 200 players from all over the country taking part. Hertfordshire was well represented with both juniors and seniors looking to get tournament practice early on in the season. Mens and Ladies Singles were played on Saturday and a qualifying event had to be held for the men as there were more than 72 entries. On Sunday there was a full day of doubles play. EL expressed his thanks to all those who assisted in running of the tournament.

PW reported that the Area League Challenge had been held last weekend and had been greatly enjoyed by the competitors. It was unfortunate that SW Herts had dropped out. HAL had been to overall winner. The County Championships were due to be held this weekend and the entry was disappointing.

Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the next Newsletter was 5 October

Development Co-ordinator

DB had circulated the minutes of the Badminton Herts. Development Committee meeting held on 10 September and Lee Bent's update of the same date. Both documents were available on the HBA website. Db reported that all was going well and that the Welwyn Hatfield CBN had been particularly active with a Sportivate Secondary Schools project started and due to run for 8 weeks. KW raised the issue of the Luton Performance Centre taking priority over junior county play and that Herts previous BDO, Malcolm Jellows, was actively supporting the PC to the detriment of junior county squads. A Herts representative had been invited to sit on the proposed committee of the Luton PC and HSBA had declined due to the possibility of becoming compromised. MF suggested that a meeting with the Luton PC be arranged to discuss the position and it was agreed that DB and GB should be the HBA representatives and would explore the position.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ sent a written report informing the meeting that a coaches conference was to be held on Sunday 7 October at Herts Sports Village. A Level 1 coaching course would start on 21 February 2013 and a Level 2 course on 16 February. Both courses would be held at North Herts College, Hitchin.

HSBA Representative

KW said that he was sad to lose Angela Blowers from the HSBA committee and that she would no longer be representing HSBA on the HBA committee. He reported that all the junior squads had started off well. A new manager, David Brown, had been appointed for the U17 squad to replace Pat Walker, who had done an excellent job. HSBA was currently a bit light on committee members and were having to be very selective following the difficulties experienced in the summer. An Open Tournament would be held on 1 December and this was a good source of income. They currently had no referee without Angela.

He expressed his appreciation of the help given by MF over the recent difficulties.

3 Revision of HBA Rules

It was agreed that all committee members would look at the current set of rules, with particular regard to their own areas, and submit revisions to the Secretary.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

4. HSBA

This had been fully covered earlier in the meeting.

5. Ray Learney Fund

The fund was now down to £230. There was a real need for this funding given the shortage of coaches, and it was agreed that the family be approached to see if they would be willing to fund it further, and also that £500 would be transferred in from HBA funds.

6. Any Other Business

MF reported that information and application forms for the Wheelchair Tournament on 27 October were available on the HBA website.

DB will circulate details of a Funding Fair to be held on 17 October and a request for someone to attend.

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was changed to Tuesday 27 November.
The meeting closed with thanks to Paul for arranging the meeting.