

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 8.10pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Simon Carter	SC	
Paul Kempster	PK	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Colin Walker	CW	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Apologies for absence had been received from Angela Blowers; Ron Duckling (RD); Bob Green (BG); Brian Jackson (BJ), and Colin Jackson.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

The coaching sessions at Presdales had been widely advertised but there had been insufficient volume of interest so they were stopped at Christmas. The Regional Officer, Matthew Warren, and Badminton Development Officer (BDO), Lee Bent, had both expressed interest in re-starting these sessions and interested parties were to be referred to them. SC said that the Hertford Area League (HAL) would continue to be involved. MF had given a refund to most of the schools involved in the Centre Parcs tournament but this had not been straightforward due to lack of information from Badminton England (BE). A small amount of the £195 drawn on HBA funds would be returned and MF will prepare a reconciliation report for CW

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER.

PK was not yet in a position to report on the use of development funds in the Stevenage area and the action should be taken forward

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

HA said that SC would substitute for Bob Green, but there was no one available to substitute for Ron Duckling and therefore SW Herts League remained unrepresented when he was unable to attend.

MF reported that the Herts Wheelchair Championships had been held in January and had been successful and much appreciated. HBA had made a small profit. Courts had been booked for October for a repeat event, but this was dependent on a similar amount of external funding being made available.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

Badminton England (BE) matters.

MF had circulated the BE Chief Executive's Update. The All England Championships had been fairly well attended, but there had been some problems with the timing of matches. There were now only two Super Tournaments held in the west, the other being in Denmark, and pressure was being applied from the Far East with the result that there needed to be a huge increase in prize money to encourage players to enter. This would have to be addressed by increased sponsorship.

Treasurer

CW reported that the current balance of HBA funds was £16,000. Match fees were due to come in and expenditure on the current Newsletter would be around £800. There would also be expenses resulting from county matches.

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that the BE National Ranking System was causing problems with the order of play at county matches. He outlined the current system that combines both juniors and seniors and only takes account of tournament results, resulting in a misleading list of ranked players. There was also a knock on effect that players are less available to play for the county as they are expending time and effort travelling to tournaments with the aim of improving their ranking. MF suggested that PW table a motion on this topic for the BE AGM once it had been seconded by another county.

ACTION: PAUL WIDDICOMBE

Difficulty in getting players for the county teams had continued and the results of a questionnaire to all county players asking about availability for matches next season were imminent. Depending on the results the 4th team may have to be dropped but it was agreed by all that this would be a retrograde step. There was a continuing need for a selector for both the second and third teams. The decision to drop a team, or not, had to be made by 31st March and BE notified. CW said that he was always able to get players for the 4th team and that it would be a pity to lose that team.

PW expected the 1st, 3rd and 4th teams to stay in their respective divisions and that the 2nd team needed 1 point out of the remaining 2 matches to stay in their division.

PW also said that there was a pressing need for a County Match Secretary. He had been carrying this role since David Rowe resigned early in the season. This post will be advertised again in the Newsletter and raised at the AGM

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT & PAUL WIDDICOMBE

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK said that there were 19 matches still outstanding and he had sent out a request for clarification of the position. One mens team (Smash) had pulled out of division 3 during the season.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

SC reported that Colin Jackson was organising a tournament for the end of the season. He said that one team (Smash) had also dropped out. A change in format of the Mens and Ladies Fours matches had caused some confusion and it appeared that some clubs had followed the new format and others had not. This would be discussed at the HAL AGM on 14th May. He had heard that an East Herts CBN was muted and he requested that DB and/or MF attend the AGM to inform members of the latest position

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER/DAVE BARTLETT

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

SC reported on behalf of Bob Green. One tournament had been cancelled due to lack of entries and another one had not been all that well attended. There was competition from a lot of Saturday matches. They were also experiencing difficulties with dates and locations with their cup competition but they were maintaining 3 leagues.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

RD sent a written report stating that the South West Herts Independent Badminton League was proceeding well this season, with the minimum number of disputes, and fewer than normal cancellations and postponements. He expected the league to complete all fixtures by the middle of May, and final league positions would be published shortly thereafter. The AGM would be held on Tuesday 19th June 2012, and the Fixtures Meeting on Thursday 6th September, both at the Leverstock Green Guide HQ.

Note – with apologies to RD. This report was not read out at the meeting, but was circulated shortly afterwards

Tournament Secretary

EL had nothing specific to report.

Newsletter Editor

GB thanked contributors and MF for assisting with the latest edition of the Newsletter. MF congratulated her on another good issue. She reported more response this time, partly due to an error in the results given. The cost of postage was a concern and DB had liaised with Nick Goode who had offered assistance in this respect. It was agreed that this would be adopted. GB would also ask if members would be willing to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. She requested all committee members to check with their local vendors to see if they were still willing to maintain their offers. The list in the Newsletter could then be updated.

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HA suggested that help should be given to prepare Newsletters for posting once they have been printed, usually one week after the copy date. GB will notify the committee and suggest a suitable time and venue.

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

Development Co-ordinator

DB had circulated the minutes of the Badminton Herts. Development Committee meeting held on 23 January (available on the HBA website). Lee Bent (BDO) had reported the success of CBNs in the county in increasing interest in badminton, one of the best results in the country. DB reported on a successful Coaching week held in February. A ladies session at North Herts College had recently stopped due to low numbers but it was hoped that interest would revive, and BG or SC should liaise with DB to see if more players can be encouraged

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT, BOB GREEN/SIMON CARTER

DB said that expenses on the website this year would be £71 for the domain and £120 for support from FixturesLive. This expenditure was approved.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ sent a written report that he had assisted at the Centre Parcs Tournament and the Wheelchair competition and had also found a coach to go into Bushey Manor Primary School for 10 after-school sessions at the request of Sports for Schools.

HSBA Representative

No report.

3 AGM

The HBA AGM would be held on Tuesday 12 June 2012 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.45pm. The Sportman Room had been booked from 7 to 10pm. This was a larger room than the Wellfield Room with a kitchen, PowerPoint, screen and 50" TV if needed.

HA circulated a draft agenda for the meeting. It was agreed to provide drinks and light refreshments before the start of the meeting. Suggestions as to any sort of presentation, with a probable Olympic theme, should be circulated around the committee.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee proposed that there should be a small increase in the county affiliation fees. Subject to approval at the AGM they would be: Senior £3.70, Junior £1.85 and Individual £16.

There were no proposals for additional Vice Presidents. None of the current committee members had indicated that they would not stand for re-election. PK would ensure the return of the county trophies, ready for presentation at the AGM. Contact details for club secretaries would be supplied to HA by DB.

ACTION:DAVE BARTLETT

4. Revision of HBA Rules

This would be placed on the agenda of the first committee meeting after the AGM.

ACTION: HON SECRETARY

5. Record keeping within HBA

Each committee member outlined the records they were keeping and these appear comprehensive. This topic will be revisited at a later date.

6. Any Other Business

GB outlined the difficulties she had experienced with the PlayBadminton website. Contact details were incorrect. After complaint they were corrected but did not remain correct. She was aware that this had caused difficulties to others and felt that incorrect information was sometimes worse than no information at all. MF was collating a list of BE run initiatives that were not functioning properly and asked to be informed of any further difficulties.

DB reported on meetings with officials at Oaklands College where a new facility was to be built that may be useful as a venue for badminton. It was due for completion around autumn 2012 and he will continue to liaise with officials to see how it develops..

MF drew attention to a 17-21 event to be held on 16/17 April at the Herts Sports Village. Support and assistance would be appreciated.

The meeting closed with thanks to Paul for arranging the meeting.