

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2011 at 27, Mardley Hill, Welwyn starting at 8pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Angela Blowers	AB	
Bob Green	BG	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Apologies for absence had been received from Colin Jackson and Colin Walker (CW)

1. Action following the previous meeting.

MF had circulated an e-mail from Kevin Baker, expressing disquiet over the treatment of elite players, to the committee. DB had been in contact with the Hertford Area League (HAL) secretary about the HBA website. The Men's Singles Ladder had been widely promoted. The other actions would be covered under agenda items.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

Badminton England (BE) matters. MF reported that a new governance structure for BE was being drawn up and would be taken to the AGM for approval. The aim was to bring the organisation up to date and make it more relevant to young people. BE had indicated that ticket sales for the Yonex All England Tournament had been good, but this was not fully borne out by those attending. The performance of our players had been a disappointment, and it was acknowledged that difficulties among the elite players and the departure of Head Coach, Andy Wood, had caused a problem. The event had been covered on Sky over the final 3 days. BE had been successful in attracting more sponsors. At the BE Council meeting MF had outlined the difficulties that had been experienced within the county with the Vision system that recorded details of affiliated clubs. He complained that it was difficult and time consuming to extract the information needed by the county to contact club secretaries, and DB fully endorsed his complaint. GB had received no response to her Newsletter request for information about difficulties experienced by club secretaries. The problem was not acknowledged by BE and did not appear to be experienced by other counties, so no progress had been made. MF had also raised, once again, the issue of insurance cover for leagues where non affiliated clubs played. His understanding was that the leagues in this position were not covered, but there seemed to be conflicting information about this, and BG agreed to copy written information he had received from BE to MF

ACTION: BOB GREEN

Ron Duckling (RD) had been asked to write to Adrian Christie CEO BE about the insurance problem and MF would contact him to request a copy of the letter and any response received.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

Secretary

HA had contacted BE about the late offer of complimentary All England tickets, and had received an apology. Tickets requested by a coach at her club had been requested in November 2010 and had been received the Friday before the Tournament began. Most had not been used as those wishing to attend had insufficient time to make the

necessary arrangements. AB reported a similar problem at her club. MF would raise this with BE.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

Treasurer

CW had sent a written report confirming that HBA funds stood at just under £14,900, which was, for various reasons, down by about £700 since the start of the financial year. While it was difficult to be sure he expected to end the year with a small profit. Consideration was being given to looking at alternative playing venues for next season and considerable savings could be made if the county moved to either JFK or Glaxo's. As well as the cost there were other considerations such as the provision of facilities; first aid provision; location, as well as the impact on HSBA. There was also discussion about the continued use of Ashaway shuttles and this had a financial impact as HBA had a sponsorship deal with Ashaway. Hall and shuttles would be covered under the Chairman of Selectors report.

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that the fourth team had done well and were runners up in their division. The third team would definitely go up. The second team should come either second or third but the outcome for the first team was uncertain. He was preparing a questionnaire for all county players to complete asking their views about Herts Sports Village (HSV) and a possible change of venue, as well as their views on the shuttles; match fees; team selection, and volunteers. MF also suggested that they be asked if they could find sponsors to help defray costs. PW was requested to expedite the issue and return of this questionnaire as, depending on the response, there could be quite a number of issues to manage. AB confirmed that any changes to venue and shuttles would have an impact on HSBA and it was important to have the results quickly. PW would publish the results as soon as possible and CW would be requested to keep HSBA fully informed and consulted.

ACTION: PAUL WIDDICOMBE AND COLIN WALKER

PW reported that the team managers were all prepared to stand for next season, despite the difficulties experienced this year combining play with the manager's role.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

The bad weather before Christmas appeared to have had little effect on the fixtures and there were no problems to report.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

No report. DB said that HAL were planning to put their fixtures on the HBA website.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG reported that the League was running smoothly. A non-team players tournament had been held recently and a pairs tournament was coming up. The insurance problem outlined in the Chairman's report was ongoing.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report

Tournament Secretary

EL said that the entry forms for the Herts Open would be sent out in June.

Newsletter Editor

GB confirmed that the Christmas edition of the Newsletter had not been issued because there was insufficient copy. This position continued so she proposed to send out a 4 page issue, only to club secretaries, before the AGM, provided the committee agreed. She asked for any further copy by 23 March. This proposal was agreed by all in view of the shortage of copy. Once issued the Newsletter would be available on the HBA website for all to see.

Development Co-ordinator

DB said the Badminton Herts. Development Committee meeting had been delayed pending the arrival of Jenni Crisp, Malcolm Jellows' replacement as Badminton Development Officer for the area. She commenced work on 13 March and the meeting had been arranged for 11 April. An update on the Development report was awaited from Malcolm Jellows. DB reported that JFK were planning to increase badminton usage and had produced a flyer advertising the facilities.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ reported on an excellent Coaches Day last November at Milton Keynes. The display of feeding shuttles to 4 top ladies had been phenomenal; the importance of strength and conditioning had been emphasised, and the agility session in the afternoon had inspired them all. He had no information on any BE organised coaching courses. DB drew attention to a BE coaching resource 'Kicking up a Racket' which was aimed at starters to the game and could be a resource for Level 1 coaches. Information was available on the HBA website.

HSBA Representative

AB said that the Junior Open Tournament had been badly affected by the weather. The U17 team had done well recently in York, coming fourth, but in contention for a higher position. Stephen George has been given the Good Sportsmanship Award. The U15 team had done well in a recent Team Challenge. There was plenty coming up culminating in the final tournament of the season on 27th March.

Young Officials Co-ordinator

AB had been in regular contact with the Young Officials Co-ordinator at BE, and she had sent out a tick list to all the volunteers. Very little has been returned and she felt that it was far too ambitious in scope. There was also too much paper work. This was confirmed by PW who had 3 Young Officials working at the Herts Closed Tournament, for which payment had been made by BE.

3 AGM

The HBA AGM would be held on Monday 6 June 2011 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, starting at 7.45pm. The Wellfield Room had been booked from 7 to 10pm. HA circulated a draft agenda for the meeting and various amendments were suggested. The new Herts BDO Jenni Crisp would be introduced to the meeting. It was agreed to provide drinks and light refreshments before the start of the meeting. The committee proposed that no increase should be made to the county affiliation fees. It was agreed that MF would ask Bob Welsh if he would be prepared to stand as President for a further 3 years in view of the continued interest and involvement he has shown in badminton in the county.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

There were no proposals for additional Vice Presidents. All current committee members agreed to stand for re-election. MF would ensure the return of the county trophies, ready for presentation at the AGM. Contact details for club secretaries were supplied by DB.

4. New Membership proposals from BE: Affiliation fees for Junior Clubs

The new BE membership scheme, Club England, was presented to Council in January and was approved with the exception of the proposal relating to Junior Clubs. The position would remain that Junior Clubs can affiliate as previously. MF asked for any suggestions, as to how HBA can encourage Junior Clubs to affiliate, to be sent to him. It was felt that the cost of affiliation to BE was prohibitive to a small club.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

5. County Restricted Tournament

The tournament was fixed for 1st/2nd October and last year's organisers were not available on those dates. It was not feasible to change the date so a new organiser was sought.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

6. HBA Website

DB had given a demonstration of the newly revamped website prior to the meeting. It was mainly completed apart from a few glitches. Those who wanted to be able to input direct should contact him to arrange access. MF thanked him for all the work that he had put in to ensure such a clear and pleasing website.

Any Other Business

GB reported that she had attended a 'Keeping Safe from the Taxman' seminar at the coaches conference and had been worried by what she had heard. There were tax implications both to a coach and to the club using them if certain conditions were not met, such as having clear self employed status. She had obtained some information from BE that she would circulate to all committee members.

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

MF felt that, given that the Inland Revenue was seriously understaffed, he doubted that checks would be made on badminton clubs and their coaches. However it was important to give clear guidance to clubs where necessary and he would take this matter up with BE.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

The meeting closed with thanks to Gill and Dave for their hospitality.