

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2011 at The Club Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield 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	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

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

1. Action following the previous meeting.

MF would raise the tax issue with Badminton England (BE) at the Council meeting on Thursday 22 September, and he would write to club secretaries about photos of winning teams for the website and Newsletter. He had written a report for the Newsletter on his experiences as a driver at the World Championships. A wedding gift for Jenni Crisp (JC) had been presented to her at the World Championships. Her surname is now Sheehan. PK would report on the use of development funds in the Stevenage area later in the meeting. (*This was not done and will be addressed at the next meeting*). The procedure for dealing with last minute Olympic tickets was listed on the agenda.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

MF had sent out the latest BE Chief Executive's Update. The World Championships had gone well, particularly with the winning of a Silver medal. A detailed letter of complaint about the failings of the Vision system had been sent to BE and they were prepared to come to the county for a meeting to discuss this. It would be necessary to have internet access wherever the meeting was to be held. MF would arrange a date and circulate details to the committee.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

Secretary

Nothing to report

Treasurer

CW had sent a written report. HBA funds currently stood at just under £13,500, down by £4,500 since the start of the financial year. This was due to costs incurred for court hire, shuttles, registration fees and Newsletter expenses, but no affiliation income or match fees which would not be received until later in the season. £500 had been paid out to both Letchworth & District and S W Herts Badminton leagues to assist with development of badminton in their respective areas. The Herts Open made an estimated profit of just over £700. This was down on last year as entry fees were down and expenses up, but still a valuable addition to county funds. He reported that Herts Sports Village (HSV) courts were less available to badminton this season and so courts at John F Kennedy School (JFK) and Birchwood had been booked for senior county matches. HSBA were in a similar position. HSV were holding Hall 1 from 11-5 on Sundays: 6 November (only from 1pm), 15 and 22 January; 5 and 12 February; and 11 March. It was unlikely that these courts would now be required and they will

be offered back 2 weeks prior to each date. Those interested in taking up the bookings should contact CW

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

He drew attention to the comparative costs of court hire: HSV £9.30 per court hour; Birchwood £6 and JFK £8.50

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK had taken on this role at the County League Fixtures Meeting. He reported that all the fixtures were now on the system and that matches would be starting soon. There were the same number of Mens teams as last year but the number of Mixed and Ladies teams, both 21, had increased. PW would like to be informed of any notable results that might indicate potential county players.

Hertford Area League (HAL) representative

CJ reported on lots of new initiatives following a vibrant AGM. The league rules and scoring system had been overhauled, and the FixturesLive system should be fully operational by Christmas. The closed tournament had not been held due to a last minute problem with the venue and would now be held in May at Goffs School. He was pleased to report the addition of several new enthusiastic committee members. MF reported that Presdales School Hall had been booked from Wednesday 5 October from 7-9pm for 10 weeks excluding half term. This was to develop badminton in the Hertford area and a coach had been hired. JC had prepared promotional material and MF would arrange for copies to be sent to CJ and PW.

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

No report.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that the Open Tournament had gone well although it had started badly with a player being disqualified in the first round. The standard had been high and Herts had been well represented in the singles and some doubles. Sadly about £300 had been lost in entry fees when players dropped out. He had prepared a report for the Newsletter. MF expressed his appreciation to EL for all his work and those who had helped.

PW said that the Herts Restricted Tournament had attracted a good entry. The doubles would be held on Saturday 1 October between 10am and 7pm (probably finishing earlier), and the singles on 2 October between 10am and 5pm, all at HSV.

He also reported on the Area League Challenge which was held on Sunday 18 September at Birchwood. A team from each of the area leagues (N Herts; SW Herts; and Hertford Area) as well as a team of Under 17 county juniors competed. After some well contested matches victory finally went to the U17 Juniors following a playoff against N Herts.

Newsletter Editor

GB had only received one article for the Newsletter so far and she asked for anything else to be sent to her soon. CJ would ensure that she received a report on the recent HAL changes.

ACTION: COLIN JACKSON

Publicity would also be given to the Herts. Wheelchair Badminton Championships 2012 (see item 4).

Development Co-ordinator

DB said that the Development Committee would meet next on 10 October when the focus would be on the 4 Community Badminton Networks in Herts. for whom funding from BE was available. He regretted to report that so much good progress with the schools was now in jeopardy with the loss of School Sports Co-ordinators.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ had sent a message advising the committee that a coach, John Stobo, had been recruited for the evening sessions at Presdales

HSBA Representative

No report had been received. DB reported that HSBA had held a meeting to discuss squad fees, but the difficulties had not been resolved, and this was causing some financial difficulties. PW noted from the minutes of the HSBA AGM that three past committee members had been elected as Vice Presidents of HSBA. He was unaware that HSBA had such positions and thought that HBA should establish who the HSBA President was, for future reference, and possible invitation to events.

ACTION: ANGELA BLOWERS

Chairman of Selectors

PW said that county matches would start on 16 October. Some players had been lost and he was hoping to recruit more players when the colleges went back. There was still a vacancy for a County Match Secretary and also for 2 independent selectors.

3. Procedure for dealing with possible last minute Olympic tickets

It was agreed that if 10 or less tickets became available then these would be distributed within the committee, but, if there were more than 10, they would be offered to all Herts affiliated clubs.

4. Herts Wheelchair Badminton Championships 2012

MF had agreed to run this tournament which would be held on Saturday 28 January from 9am at Queens School, Bushey. Entry forms were available from MF. Herts Sports Partnership had agreed to pay for the courts and BE would provide the shuttles. Gobi Ranganathan, who originally proposed the event, had already begun to publicise it.

5. Any Other Business

It was agreed by the committee to change the date of the AGM from 4 June to 11 June 2012.

DB referred to a passage in the BE CE report stating that 'extensive consultation with counties had already taken place' and this would be raised at the Council meeting on Thursday. GB also said that the information sent to her by BE as the county alternate was skimpy. MF would raise this and ask for the previous meeting's minutes as well as the agenda to be sent out.

2 ACTIONS: MALCOLM FRASER

6. Dates of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 November, to be held, if possible, at Birchwood.

The meeting closed with thanks to PW for hosting the meeting at Birchwood Leisure Centre.