

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 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	
Angela Blowers	AB	
Bob Green	BG	
Paul Kempster	PK	
Ed Lintott	EL	
Colin Walker	CW	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Apologies for absence had been received from Ron Duckling; Brian Jackson, and Colin Jackson. Simon Carter (SC) attended as representative of Hertford Area League (HAL).

1. Action following the previous meeting.

A meeting with Badminton England (BE) about the Vision system had been held. Courts at Herts Sports Village (HSV) were still available during the first quarter of 2012. Coaching at Presdales School was going ahead. 4 sessions had already been held and there were a further 6 before Christmas. There were currently 8 attendees, and shuttles (plastic) and racquets were supplied by BE. HBA would pay for the courts and the coach. The numbers needed to increase to around 20 by Christmas to make it worthwhile, All parties to give additional publicity to the sessions

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An alternative would be to find a taker for 2 of the 4 courts, and SC would see if there was interest within the HAL

ACTION: SIMON CARTER

Items requested for the Newsletter had been supplied. HSBA did not have a President. The 'extensive consultation' referred to in a BE report was a Regional meeting, held a distance away, and clashing with the HBA AGM. BE were now supplying more information to the County Alternate.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

MF had sent out the latest BE Chief Executive's Update. The meeting to discuss the Vision system had been held in October and attended by DB and GB with MF attending later. The BE Chief Executive Adrian Christie and member of staff, Lauren Blake, were advised and given a practical demonstration of all the difficulties with the system. They agreed to look at it again but said there was no money to pay for changes. At a recent BE Council meeting MF had asked for a reduction to the School affiliation fee of £15 plus free entry to the Centre Parks tournament. This had not been agreed so he had decided that HBA should give a refund of £5 to schools in the county that had affiliated and entered the tournament. BE had announced good attendance figures for the World Championships held in August, well in excess of those for the All England Championships. TV coverage had reached 6 million homes.

Secretary

All relevant matters had been circulated to committee members.

Treasurer

CW reported that HBA funds currently stood at just under £14,000, and that affiliation fees were trickling in. The Restricted Tournament had made a small loss due to the low entry.

Chairman of Selectors

PW said that county matches had started on 16 October, and, of the three matches played, one had been won. Following one match Herts had lodged an objection to a player in the opposing team and a decision on this would be given on 25 November. The first team were due to play at Guildford this coming weekend. He was pleased to report that there were some good new county players.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK said that matches were well underway.

He hoped to report on the use of development funds in the Stevenage area by the next meeting.

ACTION:PAUL KEMPSTER

Hertford Area League (HAL) representative

SC reported that the FixturesLive system had been launched, and was 95% operational. A change to the rules relating to matches drawn was causing difficulties, but it was hoped that this would soon be rectified.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG said that options for spending the allocation of the development fund, such as encouraging inter Junior club involvement, were being investigated. Difficulties were being experienced in getting a venue with enough courts for an inter league competition.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

RD had sent a written report stating that the SW Independent Badminton League (SWIBL) had started well. The results and tables were being issued on a regular basis, but by e-mail as there were problems with the SWIBL website maintenance. There were no disputes to date. He had discussed with Queens School in Watford the possibility of running a junior club in their excellent 6 court facility, and this would be further considered at the next league committee meeting.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that the umpire's decision to disqualify a player at the Open Tournament had been upheld, although no action was to be taken against the player.

PW said that the Herts Restricted Tournament had been run by a committee. There were some interesting results caused by the success of some veteran players.

Newsletter Editor

MF congratulated GB on the quality of the latest issue of the Newsletter. GB was concerned at the escalating cost of postage, and various other options were discussed that she would take forward. CW said that, while increasing costs were a problem, the Newsletter was an important contact point with members and should not be curtailed.

Development Co-ordinator

DB said that the Badminton Herts Development Committee had met on 10 October. Development work was going on within the Community Badminton Networks (CBN) and a new CBN had started in Bishops Stortford. He reported on the Active Universities Programme. Full details of Development matters and the Regional Officer's report were available on the HBA website. DB drew the committee's attention to the recent news that the Olympic torch was to pass through the area early next July, and suggested that this should stimulate interest in sport and should be an opportunity to promote badminton.

Coaching Co-ordinator

DB reported that there was a Level 1 Coaches course going on at the moment. The Coaching Conference was to be held this coming Sunday 13 November. He regretted to report that the number of coaches in the county had dropped since BE had taken over the running of coaching courses in the county.

HSBA Representative

AB reported that the season was well underway. Several closed tournaments had been held but with reduced numbers entering. HSBA had conducted a big drive to publicise their activities, but going into schools did not appear to have paid off. Tournament software from BE was being used as it carried a financial incentive but she had experienced some difficulties, especially as the e-mail system had not been activated. Her complaint to BE had not helped. There was a very low entry into the league. A health check into HSBA's Premier Club status was ongoing.

3. Herts Wheelchair Badminton Championships 2012

Flyers for the Championships were shown to the committee. MF reported that the Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) automated payment system would be used and that he needed to investigate First Aid requirements.

Any Other Business

HA said that she had been selected as a Games Maker at the badminton event during the Olympic Games in 2012. AB said that her daughter Rhian had also been selected as a volunteer at the badminton event.

SC expressed his view that more and earlier communication about the allocation of development funds to the coaching at Presdales would have ensured a better result. MF responded that it was important that regional areas were always represented at the HBA committee meeting, to ensure that their views were heard before decisions were taken. Alternative representatives were always welcome and HA would obtain e-mail addresses of deputies and ensure that they were kept informed. GB stressed that it was important to have good attendance at the committee meetings.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

GB said that the meeting with BE over the Vision system had been helped by the provision of a screen for which she thanked PW. MF felt that it had been mainly a PR exercise for BE but they had accepted that there were problems. PK suggested that HBA could look at providing something within the county to assist club secretaries with using Vision. MF asked that he or GB continue to be advised of problems so that further action can be taken.

4. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 March 2012, to be held, if possible, at Birchwood.

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