

**HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**5th JUNE 2017**

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.45pm with 22 attending.

Chairman, Paul Kempster (PK) welcomed all present and thanked them for attending, especially Aleisha Challands (AC) and Mike Piggford (MP) from Badminton England (BE) who would be giving a presentation later in the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Natalie Barton; Neil and Sue Clarke; Graham Cobb; Duncan and Marion Conway; Margaret Cooper; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Bob Green; Lynne Parker; Pat and Colin Walker; Andy Walden; Paul Widdicombe, and Sarah Collins (later)

**2. Minutes of AGM held on 6th June 2016**

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the previous AGM. There were no outstanding actions.

**3. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports**

To save time at the AGM most reports had been placed on the HBA website and had been available to read prior to the meeting. It was intended that only highlights would be raised at the meeting.

**Chairman and BE Representative.**

PK reported on another busy and successful year for clubs and badminton in the county highlighting the County Tour meeting with BE representatives, the Yonex Badminton Tour in December and the Herts.Parabadminton Open Tournament in July in particular. He paid tribute to the work done by MP in the county and welcomed his successor as BE Relationship Manager AC. The withdrawal of funding for badminton for the next Olympics cycle was having a major impact and the new BE strategy would be discussed under item 9. PK concluded by thanking the committee for their support, and club secretaries and volunteers for all the work done to run their clubs and to help make Hertfordshire Badminton so successful.

**Membership Secretary**

Colin Walker had submitted a written report showing that the number of Herts Registered clubs had gone down by 2 since last season (one senior and one junior club) and that Registered Members had gone down by 20 (Seniors) and 21 (Juniors).

PK expressed his appreciation of the work done by CW as Membership Secretary.

**Senior County Co-ordinator**

This post, previously Chairman of Selectors, had not yet been filled. The three team captains Andy Walden, Liz Austin and Ben Vranjkovic had covered the vacancy but a replacement was still sought. It had been a successful year for the three teams with the third team gaining promotion into Division 2 alongside the second team who also did well winning all matches, apart from one losing to the eventual winners. The first team did well to remain unbeaten up to the play-off weekend, where they were less successful. The team selectors were to be congratulated in always fielding a full team. The President's unstinting support at every training session and all the matches was very much appreciated.

**County League Secretary and Presentation of the trophies**

Graham Cobb (GC) had presented a written report confirming that the 2016/7 season had gone well overall, and the new and amended rules had been adhered to by clubs. The final league positions had been notified to clubs and would be posted on the

website. HBA President, Bob Welsh presented trophies to those club representatives present. Promotion and relegation would be finalised when all the team entries had been received for the 2017/18 season in early August. He reminded clubs that getting results entered on Fixtures Live in a timely manner was important.

#### **Area League representatives**

##### **Hertford Area League (HAL)**

Pam Newman (PN) reported that it had been an uneventful season. The league was comprised of three divisions of Mens 4, two divisions of Ladies 4, and three divisions of Medley with Wizard and Stevenage clubs taking the honours. The Fixtures Meeting was to be held on Tuesday 5 September.

##### **North Herts and Letchworth**

Report incorporated in the Development Report.

##### **Masters Coordinator**

Steve Willis (SW) said that five teams had again competed throughout the season with a good deal of success, although it had been difficult to run both the over 40s and the over 45s teams. For next season the over 40s had been dropped and an over 65s added. He urged club representatives to encourage all their more senior club members to come along to the trials in September – dates still to be confirmed.

PK thanked SW for all his work in this role.

##### **Tournament Secretary**

Ed Lintott (EL) had previously reported on the Open and Restricted Tournaments held last autumn. The regular dates had been adhered to and both tournaments attracted good entries. The date for this coming Open had again been changed by BE and would be held far earlier, on 19/20 August. It remained to see whether this would affect entry numbers being still in the holiday season. The Restricted would be held as usual at the end of September.. He thanked Bob Welsh for his regular help.

PK expressed his appreciation to EL for running the tournaments especially the Parabadminton Tournament.

##### **Social Media/Publicity Officer**

Ben Vranjkovic had agreed to take on this role and PK expressed his thanks. He was already managing the Facebook page and anyone wishing to promote badminton activities should pass the relevant information to BV.

##### **Development Co-ordinator**

Dave Bartlett (DB) explained that some of the events and programmes covered in the Development Report, which was available on the HBA website, were countywide and some are local to the Community Badminton Network (CBN), Local Authority or Schools Sports Partnership. HBA development areas are divided into 4 CBN areas: East Herts; Herts West; North Herts, and Welwyn Hatfield. All of the CBNs were active in varying degrees, and had funding to take projects forward. Amongst the countywide projects he highlighted the Young Leaders Award Course that had been run in July 2016. He had maintained an active interest in the plans for a potential County Badminton Facility at Birchwood where the results of a revised outline planning bid were awaited. The report covered all the activities in the four areas of the county and showed that badminton was being actively promoted in the county.

PK expressed thanks to DB on behalf of HBA for his considerable, and successful, contribution to the development of badminton within the county over many years.

##### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

Brian Jackson (BJ) reported that there had been a similar number of requests for coaches this year as in the previous year but that there had been many more groups and clubs wanting a coach rather than individuals. He had been able to satisfy nearly

all these requests thanks to a few active coaches and he paid tribute to them. There were 57 registered coaches in the county, 18 Level 1s; 38 Level 2s and 1 Level 3. Thanks to assistance from MP he now had the contact details of all coaches in the county bar one, and their agreement as to availability. In response to a question BJ agreed that an analysis of coaching needs and requirements expressed in the county so far should be made available. He would take this forward

**ACTION: BRIAN JACKSON**

MP mentioned that the BE website had a 'Find A Coach' page which could be a further reference point. The proposed coaches' visit to the National Badminton Centre at Milton Keynes had been postponed yet again but BJ will continue to try to arrange this, previously worthwhile, visit. Following the County Tour workshop with BE, mentioned in the Chairman's Report, concerns raised relating to the recruitment and retention of coaches were discussed and it was agreed that a Herts Coaching Academy should be established. The aim of the Academy would be to recruit, support, develop and retain coaches in the county and one option being considered to promote this would be to develop a Facebook forum to improve communication.

PK congratulated BJ on his success in finding coaches on request and thanked him for his efforts.

**HSBA**

Ken Winchester (KW) reported on a most successful season for the Schools Association, and acknowledged his debt of gratitude to the Squad Managers, Coaches and Committee members who so freely give their time to help both county and non-county players. The under 18 squad came a highly notable fifth in the Inter County Tournament, and HSBA was exploring the possibility of running an under 20s squad to retain interest in the sport at a critical stage.

He paid a moving tribute to Joan Walters a stalwart of the Association who had died during the season.

PK thanked KW for attending the HBA committee meetings so regularly and keeping HBA informed of all their activities.

**4. Presentation of Accounts**

Colin Walker (CW) had presented a written report together with the Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2017. HBA remained in a healthy financial position with cumulative funds of £21,760. The profit for the year amounted to £350, down on the previous year. Total income amounted to £17,114 an increase of £2,610 over the previous year. During the year HBA received a £1,000 donation from BE for work force development. This money would be spent over the next few years primarily aimed at developing our coaches. A £500 donation was received from HSBA to top up the Ray Learney Fund, and HBA also transferred £1,000 into the Fund from general reserves. Some of the increased income was from higher tournament fees from the tournaments. Fees from matches and training sessions was also up. However, expenditure increased from £13,228 to £16,764. The Ray Learney Fund made 12 awards during the year totalling £1,480. HBA also donated £843 to the four Herts CBNs mainly to help with their programme to increase the participation of young people in badminton. There was also increased expenditure on running the 3 tournaments but overall a small profit of £51 was made on running the tournaments. It cost more to run the senior county and masters teams with higher expenditure on courts and shuttles. He reported that HBA and HSBA continued to benefit from using the courts at Birchwood and for 2017/18 HBA had agreed an extension to the annual agreement.

The meeting voted to adopt the accounts and appreciation was expressed to CW for all his work over the year in keeping the accounts in good order.

**5. Subscriptions for Season 2016-17**

The committee proposed that the HBA Senior Fee should be reduced by 50p to £3 and the Junior Fee, previously 50p, be abolished. This proposal was passed unanimously.

**6. Election of Vice Presidents**

All the Vice Presidents listed in the Notes were re-elected unanimously.

**7. Election of Executive Committee and BE Representative(s)**

The Executive Committee, as listed on the Agenda, together with the two co-opted members, Doug Clark and Ben Vranjkovic, were elected unanimously to stand for a further year. The BE Representatives, PK as Council Representative and Gill Bartlett as alternate, were also elected unanimously for the year 2018/19.

PK repeated that there was an urgent need for someone to come forward to take on the role of Senior County Coordinator.

**8. Election of Auditor**

Albert Nicholas was again elected as auditor.

**9. BE Restructuring and review of BE Agenda**

MP and AC gave a presentation updating members on the BE Team Structure; Strategy from 2017 to 2015; Membership structure, and finishing with Development in Herts. Copies of their slides would be available on the HBA website together with a booklet on the Strategy entitled Discover Badminton 2017-2025.

PK thanked them for their informative presentation.

**10. Any Other Business**

KW congratulated PK on his third year as Chairman of HBA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm with thanks to all those attending.