

**HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**6th JUNE 2016**

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.40pm with 22 attending.

Chairman, Paul Kempster (PK) welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Alison Alcock; Natalie Barton; Mark Bayliss; Graham Cobb; Margaret Cooper; Tim Francis; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Eddie Lintott; Pam Newman; Lynne Parker; Mark Shore; Joan Walters; Pat and Colin Walker.

**2. Minutes of AGM held on 8th June 2015**

It was agreed unanimously that the minutes were an accurate record of the previous AGM. There was one action on the committee put forward by Bob Welsh that the fee for county training sessions be reduced. After careful consideration of the attendance record at these sessions and the costs involved, which were not covered by the income from the current fees, it was regretted that a reduction would not be feasible.

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

**Chairman and BE Representative.**

Badminton England (BE) held a County Conference in October to discuss ideas for the development of a new strategy for the future of English Badminton. Prior to this Herts BA had organised a meeting in order to hear and record any views and ideas from within our county, and, although member interest was disappointing, a maximum number of delegates were sent to the Conference. Out of this came the 2017-2024 Badminton England Strategy which centres on growing badminton in schools; the development of clubs; a new Membership proposal, and focus on major events and competitions. BE would be engaging in the second phase of the CBA engagement tour with a meeting with our county to be held later in the year. The details of this meeting will be communicated and involvement by members would be warmly welcomed. Details of the BE Membership review would be made available once they are known. Plans for a new Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes had been abandoned due to the cost. Great Britain would be represented in every discipline in the Olympics in Rio this summer.

The Senior Inter County Competition (ICC) operated under a new format and structure, with centralised venues and ring fenced match days to help reduce travel and costs and clashes with other events. The availability of some of our key players was restricted by the French Association ruling that prevented players in their league from playing in the ICC. HBA is continuing with the Birchwood Leisure Centre contract which is proving of great benefit. The Herts Parabadminton Open Tournament would be held on 23 July. HBA now had a FaceBook page.

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 up by 4 since last season and that Registered Members had gone up by 10 (Seniors) and 82 (Juniors). This was bucking the trend around the country and was most encouraging.

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

### **Chairman of Selectors**

This had been a tough season for all three teams and both teams 2 and 3 had finished last in their respective divisions and would be relegated for next season. The 1<sup>st</sup> team had finished third, but had finished close in points to the top two teams. The team selectors PK, Andy Walden and Liz Austin were to be congratulated in always fielding a full team despite many difficulties. The post of Chairman of Selectors, which was still vacant, had been renamed Senior County Coordinator and the revised job description had been circulated.

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

Graham Cobb (GC) had presented a written report. The final league positions would be posted on the website. HBA President, Bob Welsh presented trophies to those club representatives present. Team nominations were required by the beginning of August. GC had outlined various rule changes relating to the timescale for reporting results (7 days); nomination of players and consistency of shuttles. These were agreed at the meeting and the revised rules would be made available at the Fixtures Meeting. There was some discussion about the practice of tipping shuttles and it was agreed that this should only be done with the agreement of both teams.

### **Area League representatives**

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

Pam Newman (PN) had submitted a written report. 21 clubs joined the leagues last season and no issues had been raised. Medals were presented at the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May and full results would be available on the website. The new HAL Chairman was Mark Bayliss and the Fixtures Meeting would be held on 6 September.

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

Bob Green (BG) reported on a trouble free season with no matches conceded. All results were on the website.

PK thanked both representatives for their contribution which was valued by the Association.

### **Masters Coordinator**

Steve Willis (SW) had circulated the minutes from the Masters AGM. Five teams had competed throughout the season and four of the five had entered the County Challenge to be held over the weekend 14/15 January 2017. There was a very low number of ladies coming into O40s. He urged club representatives to encourage all their more senior club members to come along to the trials on 11 and 18 September (*see report on website for more details*)

PK thanked SW for all his work in this role.

### **Tournament Secretary**

Ed Lintott (EL) had sent a written report on both the 2015 Herts Open and the Herts County Championships (Restricted) and these were available on the website. The Open took place on the Bank Holiday weekend which resulted in a drop in the number of entries, However it was still a successful event with players entering from all over the country. This year's event would take place on 3/ 4 September at the Herts Sports Village. The Restricted was held at Birchwood Leisure Centre and is fully described in the report. This year it will be held on 1/2 October at the same venue. EL recorded his thanks to all those who had helped with both events, particularly Bob Welsh for his unfailing support. EL was thanked by PK for his hard work in running these tournaments.

### **Development Co-ordinator**

Dave Bartlett (DB) explained that the HBA development areas are divided into 4 Community Badminton Network (CBN) areas: East Herts; Herts West; North Herts,

and Welwyn Hatfield. He had drawn up a report to cover these areas, all of which were active in varying degrees, and had funding to take projects forward. Various schemes were being run through BE such as No Strings and Smash Up sessions and full details were available in the Development Co-ordinator's Report on the website. 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. The increase in participation in badminton in the county, particularly by juniors, was due in no small measure to his contribution.

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

Brian Jackson (BJ) confirmed that there had been around twenty requests for coaches this past season, almost exclusively for 1-to-1 coaching. Thanks to a small number of keen and eager coaches in the county he had been successful in satisfying almost all of them. He was hoping to arrange a tour of Milton Keynes Badminton Centre after the summer Olympics. His full report was available on the website.

PK congratulated him on his success in finding coaches on request and thanked him for his efforts. Members were reminded that financial assistance was available to any young player considering qualification as a coach, at all levels, through the Ray Learney Fund. Details could be obtained from CW and were also available on the website.

#### **HSBA**

Ken Winchester (KW) reported on a successful season for the Schools Association. There had been a full programme for each age group in every discipline. He was sad to report that two of the squad managers, Jo Goode and David Brown, were retiring after a very successful season and it was hoped that new appointments would be made on or after the AGM on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June. He was looking for nominations for the Young Volunteer Awards and DB would be able to assist. He congratulated PK on a second successful year as HBA Chairman and said that HSBA very much appreciated all the work put in by PK and the committee. PK in turn thanked KW for attending the HBA committee meetings so regularly and keeping HBA informed of all their activities. The two organisations had worked well together in ensuring a smooth transition of older juniors into the senior squad.

#### **4. Presentation of Accounts**

Colin Walker (CW) had presented a written report together with the Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2016. HBA remained in a healthy financial position with cumulative funds of £21,410. The profit for the year amounted to £873, down on the previous year. Income is mostly from three sources:- club subscriptions, tournaments and fees from county matches and training. Income from club subscriptions was down some £513 reflecting the 50p reduction in junior member county affiliation fee.

However the number of junior members increased by 45 to 593. Income and expenses from tournaments were significantly down on the previous year. During the year six awards were made from the Ray Learney Fund to subsidise young people going on coaching courses. The funds received a £320 donation from the Barnet League and £500 from HBA's general reserves. HBA and HSBA continued to benefit from the 3 year Birchwood agreement signed in 2013 as the court cost per court hour during the year worked out at only £5.41. For 2016/7 HBA has agreed a new annual agreement with Birchwood whereby HBA has exclusive use of the courts between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, up to a maximum of 32 Sundays and a minimum of 28.

Following a query raised as to the need for such a large balance PK said that HBA needed to ensure funds were readily available to cover unexpected costs and DB gave an example of this that had incurred during the season. Consideration might be given

to running a county wide tournament during the summer for club players if there was sufficient interest and this could be entirely at county expense. PK reiterated that any suggestions regarding expenditure would be welcome and given full consideration by the committee.

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 remain at £3.50 and the Junior Fee remain at 50p. This proposal was passed unanimously.

#### **6. Election of President and Vice Presidents**

Bob Welsh was willing to stand again as President for a further 3 years and he was elected unanimously. PK paid tribute to the work put in by Bob and expressed his appreciation for all his unfailing support.

It was also proposed that Dick Large be elected as Vice President in appreciation for the work he had put into supporting HSBA, and he was elected unanimously, as were the Vice Presidents listed in the Notes.

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

There was still a vacancy for a Newsletter/Social Media Editor and a job description for this role had been circulated. PK expressed his appreciation to DB for sending out three electronic versions throughout the year. There was also a requirement for a Publicity Officer.

The Executive Committee, as listed on the Agenda, 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 2017/18.

PK repeated that there was an urgent need for someone to come forward to take on the role of Chairman of Selectors, now renamed Senior County Coordinator, and the job description had been widely circulated.

#### **8. Election of Auditor**

Albert Nicholas was willing to stand and was again elected as auditor.

#### **9. Review of BE Agenda**

PK outlined the agenda of the BE AGM to be held at Milton Keynes on Saturday 25 June which he, and hopefully Dave and Gill Bartlett, would attend. The main items were reports on activities, the change of name of the Treasurer, the accounts and various resolutions regarding auditors, elected members etc. He was willing to raise any issues that were suggested to him by the meeting.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

BE had issued their revised Disciplinary Regulations and requested that HBA make them available on the website and adopt these in full. A Disciplinary Officer should also be nominated. PK indicated that he was willing to take on this role and this was agreed by the meeting. Some reservation was expressed about not having read the regulations but they were adopted by the meeting in good faith.

PK expressed his appreciation of the work done by Nigel Abdullah as County Match Secretary. This role had almost disappeared with the reorganisation and NA had resigned at the last committee meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm with thanks to all those attending.