

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 11 December 2017 at Birchwood Leisure Centre

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK	Chairman
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Simon Gouldstone	SG	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	

Apologies for absence were received from Graham Cobb (GC), Bob Green (BG), Pam Newman (PN), Colin Walker (CW) and Steve Willis (SW).

PK had contacted the Secretary of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association (HSBA) to ask if its committee had decided on a nominee to attend HBA meetings; to date, it had not done so.

1. Actions from the previous committee meeting

- a) CW had recovered the electronic and paper files from Norman Anderson and passed them on to SG.
- b) CW had provided PK and DB with a list of problems he had encountered with the new BE system.
- c) The invoice from BE in respect of County teams had been received.
- d) SW had confirmed that three teams had been entered in the Masters county challenge.
- e) PK had informed BE of the change in Secretary.
- f) PK had updated the HBA Plan 2017-18 and would circulate it and arrange for it to be added to the web site.
- g) SW had confirmed to CW that the Masters matches were correctly shown on the Birchwood schedule.
- h) PK had received the comments of Committee members on the Tracy Barnard proposal. He would report on developments later in the meeting.

2. Reports on activities

Chairman

PK had been unable to attend the BE Council Meeting on 26 October 2017 but DB had produced a report for the Committee, the main points of which were as follows:

- a) BE would be implementing a new Digital Engagement Strategy, the drivers for that being reduced income from government, the need to provide members and

potential members with the best environment for their interests and to facilitate future membership growth.

- b) The Digital Blueprint would use the new Azolve system (part of GoMembership) to maximise information capture about everyone who made contact with BE. It would allow BE and Counties to notify members and potential members of 'products' in which they might be interested. The success of the system, for both BE and Counties, was dependent upon a mechanism being in place to address Data Protection considerations.
- c) There were a number of potential benefits for Counties. Those included closer integration of BE and County web sites, the ability to communicate directly with members (through mobile and other channels) and to send targeted messages, and to allow members to choose the frequency with which they received communications.
- d) The intended timescale was to move and consolidate the database into GoMembership by the end of November and to have the main components of the County facilities in place by January/February 2018.
- e) BE stated that the problems with Stripe and GoCardless, raised by CW and mirrored by other Counties, were 'being resolved'.
- f) DB raised the issue of Counties being unable to communicate with members to provide newsletters or invitations to tournaments and BE responded that mechanisms would be put in place to allow Counties to communicate as part of the implementation of the Digital Blueprint, perhaps by January 2018. There appeared to be an unresolved difference of view between BE and some Counties about the impact of the revised Data Protection requirements, in particular whether members who had paid a county fee were entitled to receive information despite BE's reluctance to pass on, for example, email addresses.
- g) There were also a number of discussion points unrelated to the new membership system. In summary, those were:
 - (i) BE would look again at the current registration deadline of the end of September.
 - (ii) BE was gradually resolving the issue of there having been registration problems at tournaments owing to participants not having their affiliation recorded.
 - (iii) BE was developing a mobile app to allow access to its policies and procedures to address the problem of dead links on the web site.
 - (iv) A BE committee was addressing the concerns about top players playing abroad, with perhaps a change in 2018-19.
 - (v) There was a debate about changing the serving height which might be trialled at international tournaments.
- h) Owing to the new Data Protection Act (May 2018) strictly requiring opt-in to communications from Head Office and the County, county members will need to opt-in individually or they will receive no further communications from either.

PK echoed the concerns about needing to contact individual members, in particular U16s where players' dates of birth and parents' email addresses were necessary.

Secretary

SG had been through Hilary Anderson's documents, which mostly related to past committee meetings and AGMs. He had not come across any issues that needed to be raised at the meeting.

The meeting agreed that, in future, the minutes would be circulated as soon as they were finalised and that committee members would be asked for agenda items two weeks before the next meeting.

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

CW submitted a written report:

- a) According to the BE report there were 56 active clubs compared with 69 affiliated clubs last year. CW would chase up the outstanding clubs.
- b) There had been some improvements to the BE payments report. It now showed the type of payment, for example whether someone was a coach or 'play' member and size of club, and there were some groupings and sub totals by club. However, there was no grouping by bank account amount, and different ids, which made it difficult to reconcile with the bank account.
- c) To date there had been over 100 Stripe and GoCardless payments but there was a significant discrepancy between the amount received in the HBA bank account and the amount given in the BE report. CW would investigate further.
- d) CW had advised all affiliated clubs that their members needed to indicate their email preferences to ensure they continued to receive communications from BE and had also sent the instructions on how to do this.
- e) There was currently over £23k in the HBA bank account with an outstanding invoice for £1950 from BE in respect of County teams.

Senior County Coordinator

PK reported that the County had enjoyed a relatively successful first weekend.

Herts County League

GC submitted a written report. There was nothing significant to report as matches were mostly running to the arranged fixture dates with two or three rearranged into the New Year. GC would find it helpful if CW could run off a report showing all BE registered players so that he could check that against the names of those who had played matches so far.

Hertford Area League

PN submitted a written report. The League was running well and there were no issues to report. Simon and Anne Carter, respectively the current Secretary and Treasurer, were moving to Somerset in December and would be replaced by Lynne Burrell of Allenburys BC as Secretary and Fiona Forth of Bishop's Stortford BC as Treasurer.

North Herts and Letchworth League

The Secretary had sent his apologies but had nothing to report.

South West Herts League

No report.

Masters Coordinator

SW submitted a written report. An update on the season was as follows:

Masters County Championship

Over 45s - 2 x 6 - 6 losing draws; 1 game against Essex postponed due to snow

Over 50s - 4 defeats but 2 of those were against Essex

Over 55s - 1 win v Bucks, 1 loss v Suffolk, 1 game postponed due to snow

Over 60s - 1 defeat v Kent

Over 65s - 1 win v Bucks, 1 loss v Leicestershire

Masters Challenge - various venues on 14th/15th January

Over 45s at Milton Keynes

Over 50s at Bournemouth

Over 55s at Wolverhampton

Unfortunately he was struggling to get a team out for this age group.

Tournament Secretary

EL reported that the Restricted Tournament had made a small profit. He had attempted to maintain the entry fee at a reasonable £10.00 but the cost of shuttles had risen as had the cost of HSV.

Development Coordinator

DB reported on the CBNs meeting on 18 October 2017:

- a) East Herts CBN: There was a good networking meeting of clubs with a focus on juniors. It planned to send a team to the Herts Junior Badminton League on 28 January 2018; players born in or after 2005 who are not members of the Herts County Squad are eligible to play. Social gatherings were also planned, a Christmas party and parent and children tournaments. Clubs were doing well but there was not much involvement with schools. It was OK for coaches.
- b) North Herts CBN: Ana Collins does a number of coaching sessions. It was hoping to get Royston School engaged. Royston Sports Centre junior sessions has no coach. Hitchin Town BC had 13 senior members but no juniors. Satellite Club was run for two years at Highfield (Letchworth) and last year was shared between Fearnhill (Letchworth) and Priory (Hitchin). It was attempting to start a ladies session.
- c) South West Herts CBN: Phil Adams has a junior session with 50 members at Woodside. There was potential for affiliation.

- d) Welwyn Hatfield CBN: DB distributed the current Development Plan. It has funding from:
- (i) BE £5,448 for four clubs (one senior) and six satellites
 - (ii) a bid is being presented to Hatfield Community Fund for £2,480 for junior schools and transition to clubs.

Local coaches are delivering the plan but the shortfall is made up from the Premier Education agency, which had held a Racket Pack workshop on 27 October 2017 which DB had attended. The CBN is planning to produce a banner stand of all the local badminton. These can be obtained from Instantprint for £40 including VAT and postage.

DB also provided the links to further information about Racket Pack:

<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/landingpage.asp?section=5749§ionTitle=Bisi>
www.hivelearning.com

Email: racketpack@badmintonengland.co.uk

Coaching Coordinator

BJ reported that there had been no requests for coaches. The coaching page on the web site was up-to-date. The social media strategy was work in progress. BJ was still trying to arrange for coaches to visit BE but had been told that that was not possible at present.

Social Media/Publicity Officer

There was no report. The meeting agreed that Facebook could also be used for information about County matches and other forthcoming events.

HSBA

No report

3. Update on HBA Centre at Birchwood LC

The current proposal included four badminton courts and an additional two courts would facilitate the creation of an HBA 'hub'. DB understood, informally, that the Council was looking for a contribution of £1m. Nick Goode (NG) had provided some figures (not reproduced in detail in these minutes) on the basis of an estimated cost of £500k. That would be paid back by way of an annual surplus calculated on the basis of all the courts being used for two weekdays and Sundays. All events would need to be run at that location.

The meeting had serious reservations about the feasibility of the proposal. There were concerns about whether a loan of such magnitude could be sourced, whether it was practicable to envisage such an extensive use of court time and whether the HBA had the time commitment to administer the arrangements.

As the Treasurer was not at the meeting, GB suggested that he should be asked to speak to NG about his costings.

4. Development proposal

PK explained that he had responded to the proposal from Tracy McLeod Hawkins (TMH), discussed at the last meeting, for an adult development club. In short, she was seeking funding to match what might be available from BE. That was in the order of £1500. Although, given the HBA's current bank balance, it would be possible for the HBA to make such a contribution, the meeting considered that she should be asked to provide further information such as:

- a) more detailed costings (namely income and expenditure)
- b) the number of courts she intended to use
- c) whether she would commit to working through the CBN.

Action: PK to respond further to TMH

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting would take place on 26 March 2018. The date of the AGM would remain 4 June 2018.

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