

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, starting at 7.45pm and attended by:

Paul Kempster	PK	Acting Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Colin Walker	CW	Treasurer
Nigel Abdullah	NA	
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Simon Carter	SC	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	
Ken Winchester	KW	

An apology for absence had been received from Bob Green.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

A letter to Badminton England (BE) concerning Malcolm Fraser's (MF) resignation had been prepared and sent to BE. BE had also been informed that PK, as Acting Chairman, was now the delegate for Herts with GB remaining as alternate; and that CW was now the Registration Secretary for the county. The current affiliation fees had been circulated to the committee and details placed on the HBA website. The action, to include details of the affiliation fees in the next Newsletter, was carried forward.

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

2. Report on activities

Acting Chairman

PK welcomed those present and said that he welcomed feedback as he was new to the Chairman's role. He confirmed that BE had responded to the letter about MF's resignation and this would be discussed under Item 3. Unfortunately, due to the short notice following MF's resignation, no one had been able to represent the county at the BE Council meeting last month. However he passed on details from the minutes. The Grand Prix held at the Copper Box had made a worse than expected loss of £250K (rather than £150K!) and attendance by members had been low. Horror at this loss was expressed. A National Badminton League was being organised and PK agreed to circulate all the information that he had about this, as it had not been made widely available.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

Secretary

Nothing outstanding to report.

Membership

CW had met with MF and received the relevant papers. He had simplified the wording on the forms. So far subscriptions had been received from 47 out of 75 clubs. He confirmed that HBA was officially registered for the coming season for insurance purposes.

Treasurer

Balance at the bank was £18K of which £14K was held in general funds. £10K should be reserved for regular outgoings and contingencies. Consideration as to the best use of the remaining £4K should be an agenda item for the next committee meeting

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

The use of courts at Birchwood was proving to be more economical, but there was still some free time available. He had not had much response from coaches and it was not clear if they had all received the relevant information. DB would ensure that the website was fully updated with details of the agreement with Birchwood Leisure Centre, and court availability, giving CW as the contact.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

The Parabadminton Tournament run by MF had used £748 of the sponsorship funds leaving £1K for a similar event next year, provided someone agreed to run it.(see AOB)

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that fixtures were being played and a few changes were being updated on FixturesLive.

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that the invitation only Tuesday evening sessions were going well and would continue until the end of March. All three county teams were likely to be involved in relegation battles towards the end of the season. Four of the best county players were playing abroad for money and this was affecting the overall standard. The new imposition of team shirts was proving to be a problem. Despite the fact that 30 shirts had been bought it was still necessary for the used ones to be washed on the Saturday night to ensure that there were sufficient in the appropriate sizes for the next day. The problems caused by the imposition of this uniform by BE should be raised at the next Council meeting

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

County League Secretary

All issues covered by the preceding report

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

SC reported that he had introduced an extension into FixturesLive, whereby he set up the leagues and clubs enter dates of matches, and this was proceeding satisfactorily. He reported a few minor problems but was also sad to report little enthusiasm being shown for matches. There was some discussion about this and regret was expressed that, generally, leagues were reducing in size. Sometimes the venue was a problem. The value of insurance cover as a result of affiliating to BE was stressed and a reminder of this should be given in the next Newsletter and also on the HBA website

ACTION: GILL & DAVE BARTLETT

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

SC said that the league now consisted of two divisions of 6 teams each. No tournaments were being run as they were not supported.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report yet again.

Tournament Secretary

Nothing to report.

Newsletter Editor

GB was hoping to get a Newsletter out in the next couple of months. Copy was requested by 20th December.

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated his report which was available on the HBA website. The Development Plan for Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network (CBN) for 2012-13 had been approved and funding of £1250 had been received. Two Higher Education Badminton Officers had been recruited from the University and they were helping to promote badminton amongst fellow students. Rhian Blowers was running popular

Smash Up sessions as well as a Tournament Training session for leaders, and an inter-schools tournament. GB had agreed to become Chair of the Herts West CBN and a volunteer secretary was in place. North Herts CBN had met in September with good representative attendance, but East Herts CBN had not met for many months. The next meeting of the Badminton Herts Development Committee would be held on 16th December.

Coaching Co-ordinator

No report.

HSBA Representative

KW reported that Suzanne Rayappan had been recruited as coach to the U15 squad. A tournament held at JFK School last weekend had not attracted entries from the club resident there, but had otherwise proved worthwhile as the venue was so good. A Bronze Open Tournament would be run this coming weekend. A decision from Herts Sports Village (HSV) was still awaited about the use of one evening for all the squad training sessions

3 Response from BE

A letter had been sent to BE asking them to investigate the circumstances leading up to MF's resignation and asking for their full support for HBA. Although the latter had been given it was agreed that their letter of response was unsatisfactory. The issue of a written response to MF's repeated requests for information was ignored. The view was expressed that further action should be taken, in an attempt to reflect the strength of feeling felt among committee members, but the overall view was that progress was unlikely to be made.

4. Use of Yehlex Shuttles

A letter had been received from BE asking for county support in developing a commercial partnership with Yehlex. Where the county was required to purchase Yehlex shuttles it was agreed that this would be done, but otherwise the arrangements currently in hand would continue.

5. Further action following Malcolm's resignation.

Clubs should be notified of Malcolm's resignation and PK's appointment.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

PK would contact MF and advise him that his actions had been fully supported by the committee. Discussion followed as to how Malcolm's contribution to badminton should be recognised. PK would approach MF with our suggestion.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

GB would prepare a profile of MF for the Newsletter and any information held by committee members should be sent to her as soon as possible.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DB would also prepare something similar for the website

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

6. Any Other Business

EL reported on the Vets teams. The over 40s had won all three of their matches; the over 50s had won one. He had received a request from BE that an overall organiser /co-ordinator for the 3 teams be appointed, but, as the teams managed well with the individual captains organising the fixtures, it was agreed that this would not work. It was agreed that the attention of all mature players in the county should be drawn to the existence of these teams via the Newsletter.

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

CW had looked into getting interest on the bank balance but concluded there was little to be gained for a lot of upheaval.

PK said that the question of who would run the Parabadminton Tournament in 2014 should be an agenda item for the next committee meeting

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

7. Dates of Further Meetings

The next committee meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 and the AGM on Monday 2 June 2014