

## HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 25 July 2016 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, starting at 7.35pm and attended by:

<b>Paul Kempster</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Hilary Anderson</b>	<b>HA</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Dave Bartlett</b>	<b>DB</b>	
<b>Gill Bartlett</b>	<b>GB</b>	
<b>Brian Jackson</b>	<b>BJ</b>	
<b>Pam Newman</b>	<b>PN</b>	
<b>Colin Walker</b>	<b>CW</b>	
<b>Ken Winchester</b>	<b>KW</b>	

Apologies for absence received from Bob Green (BG), Graham Cobb (GC), Eddie Lintott (EL) and Steve Willis (SW).

PK opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all committee members.

### **1. Action following the AGM.**

It was agreed that there was insufficient time to run a county wide tournament in the summer, and that it would be better to organise one, possibly in January 2017, when it is likely to attract more players.

### **2. Report on activities**

#### **Chairman**

PK had attended the Badminton England (BE) AGM at the end of June. It had been a routine business meeting with nothing particular to report. BE had released their 2017/24 Strategy and they were planning a series of meetings with County Badminton Associations (CBAs) for discussions. PK had settled on a meeting in the Autumn when less people would be on holiday. This should be on the Agenda for the committee meeting in September

#### **ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

Consideration was then given to the BE Membership and Pricing document, which was available to read on the HBA website. There were a number of issues that required clarification, not least whether the new fee structure makes things easier for clubs to administer and whether the cost to clubs would change. BE state that their income will be much the same, It was agreed that our comments and queries will be passed to BE by PK initially collated by HA

#### **ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON AND PAUL KEMPSTER**

#### **Secretary**

Nothing to report.

#### **Membership Secretary**

CW understood that one new club had joined the league. Otherwise there was nothing to report on membership.

#### **Treasurer**

The current bank balance remained broadly the same as reported at the AGM. Entry fees totalling £456 had been received from the Parabadminton Tournament held last Saturday and organised by EL. After the cost for hiring courts and sundry charges the net cost was around £160 and it appeared that funds would still be available to repeat this event next year.

#### **Senior County Coordinator**

*This position is still vacant*

PK reported that Ben Vranjkovic had joined Andy Walden and Liz Austin as team selectors and he would be mainly responsible for selecting the third county team. It

was agreed that positive steps needed to be taken to fill the Senior County Coordinator post and that, in view of the skill set required, it would be appropriate to canvass among county players in an attempt to recruit someone. PK will take this forward together with the team selectors

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

PK reported that county training would start on the first Tuesday in August for a total of 5 Tuesday sessions at Herts Sports Village (HSV) Thereafter it would be on Sundays at Birchwood until the beginning of October when it would revert to Tuesdays. The change in location and day was down to difficulty in getting court availability. Consideration was being given to hiring a coach for part of these sessions. A reduction in the fee for county training would only be viable if large numbers attended.

**Herts County League Secretary**

GC had updated the County League rules following agreement at the AGM, and these would be distributed to all clubs entering the league. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on **Monday 5 September** at Birchwood LC

**Hertford Area League Co-ordinator**

PN reported that entries to the league had been coming in slowly and, sadly, there appeared to be no interest in Mens and Ladies 6s. The tournament on 4 September had been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on

**Tuesday 6 September.**

**North Herts and Letchworth area representative**

BG had sent a written report saying that he was no longer Chairman of the Letchworth and District Badminton league and asking if the committee wished him to carry on as the representative on the HBA committee. It was unanimously agreed that he should do so. A new Chairman had not yet come forward but BG would continue his involvement with the North Herts CBN.

**SW Herts League Representative**

No attendee yet again and no report. HA will write to Steve Dibben to ensure that he is receiving all HBA notifications and to encourage attendance

**ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

DB reported that he had attended the SW Herts AGM and given the, around 30, attendees information about CBNs and relevant funding opportunities

**Tournament Secretary**

The Parabadminton tournament had been held on 23 July and had been a successful event attracting a reasonable number of entries. It was hoped to hold this again next year.

Entries for the Open Tournament, to be held on 3rd and 4th September were coming in.

**Masters Co-ordinator**

SW reported that he was in the process of sorting out fixtures.

**Newsletter Editor**

*This post was still vacant.*

It was agreed that it would be useful to get a further Newsletter out at the beginning of September. This could report on the Open and encourage entries to the Restricted Tournament to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. DB agreed to take charge of this.

**ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT**

He also reported that he was awaiting further work on the HBA website. Clubs should be encouraged to use the HBA FaceBook site to report successes and self promote.

### **Development Co-ordinator**

DB circulated a Development Report to the committee and this was available on the website. Reports were submitted under the different Community Badminton Networks (CBNs), and all were active. A bid to BE for funding for tournaments in each of the CBN areas had been successful. DB highlighted various issues particularly the shortage of coaches and possible ways of encouraging new coaches. A Young Leaders Award (YLA) Course had been held earlier this month with the badminton input supplied by BJ and DB as well as Becky White (HSBA).

Beaumont School and Onslow St Audrey would be opening new Sports Halls soon and DB would write to the Head teachers to see if they would like to have badminton input in their opening ceremonies such as a VIP badminton player, county squad demonstrations or taster sessions for children and the public from our coaches.

**ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT**

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

BJ reported success in finding coaches on the two occasions they had been requested. He had not been informed of the results of the recent L1 and L2 courses. He had been involved, with some difficulty, in arranging volunteers for the courses and as a result had been awarded five free places on a Continuous Professional Development course. Discussion followed as to who should attend.

### **HSBA Representative**

KW said that the HSBA AGM had been held shortly after the HBA AGM. Discussion about finances had been protracted. At a recent committee meeting Squad Managers had been appointed for each of the squads. Barbara Lewczynska would be running an U18 Tournament early in the season.

#### **3. HBA Plan including funding proposals.**

The committee looked at various proposals for spending in the current year. The potential centre at Birchwood would be covered under item 4. The Ray Learney Fund existed to help candidates for coaching qualifications pay for their courses and any other suggestions for encouraging more coaches would be considered. HSBA would be considering whether to fund a repeat YLA licence for 2017-18. More information was required to enable a decision to be made about the purchase of a Sony PJ40 Handycam with a built-in projector.

#### **4. Potential Sports Centre at Birchwood.**

The current plan involved knocking down Birchwood LC and building a housing estate on the land. The adjacent field could then be used to build a new Sports Centre, possibly a badminton centre. It was agreed that this was a long way off and it would not be a prudent use of finances to get involved at this stage.

#### **5. Committee Vacancies**

Action on the Senior County Coordinator had already been discussed. Vacancies still exist for a Newsletter/Social Media Editor, and a Publicity Officer.

#### **6. Sunday bookings at Birchwood**

Christine at HSBA had been most helpful in arranging their bookings and all the courts for junior matches had been booked. The Masters matches were also in hand. CW reported good take up of the courts. Under the agreement he had handed back 3 dates in April and was hoping to fill the remainder. Once it is firmed up he will circulate the schedule.

### **7. Any Other Business**

GB reported difficulties in booking courts for Comets at HSV. 13 days out of 39 were unavailable despite a deposit being paid. It was agreed that this was not acceptable. Birchwood might be an alternative.

BE had requested a contribution towards the BE Badminton Museum and it was agreed to send a cheque for £50

**ACTION: COLIN WALKER**

Following a suggestion made at the AGM it was agreed that the reports for next year's AGM would be prepared and sent out in advance of the meeting to enable more time for discussion and socialising.

### **8. Dates of future meetings**

Committee meetings would be held on:

**Monday 19 September**

**Monday 28 November**

**Monday 27 March 2017**

The AGM would be held on:

**Monday 5 June 2017**

***Please make a note in your diary***

Possible dates for the joint meeting with BE were 24/25/26 October. PK will liaise with BE

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**