

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 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	

Apologies for absence had been received from Bob Green and Brian Jackson.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

GB reported a problem with the distribution of the HBA Newsletter, to be covered later, and so none of the actions regarding the Newsletter contents had been taken. All relevant information was placed on the website. The National Badminton League was covered in the Chairman's report. Suggestions for expenditure and the Parabadminton Tournament had been placed on the agenda.

PK would raise the issue of the imposition of team shirts at the next BE Council meeting.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

Malcolm Fraser had been contacted. He had severed his ties with badminton and was not interested in any further connection or in being taken out for a meal by the committee. PK had explained that the committee had fully supported him in the letter to BE but had not received a satisfactory response. All clubs had been informed of his resignation.

2. Report on activities

Acting Chairman

PK welcomed those present and circulated his report. He had attended a BE Council meeting on 30th January together with DB. The BE Affiliation fees were going up by £2 for a senior member to £14 and other fees by a similar amount. Proposals for a reorganisation of the Inter County Competition for 2015/16 season were put forward. There would be one National league of 12 teams, compared to two leagues of 10 currently. The competition would be regionalised into leagues of 8 (Premier with North/South divisions below) and players would come principally through Performance Centres. Matches could include 4 mens singles. The motivation behind this proposal was to try and reduce clashes between the National Badminton League and International competition.

There was a delay in the construction of the National Badminton Arena due to the need to address a "wildlife corridor" on the site. The first match in the National Badminton league was due to be played in October. A privacy issue regarding members' addresses was raised. BE considered that data supplied by members on affiliation was not to be used by CBAs for example using addresses for delivery of HBA Newsletters. CBA delegates were not satisfied with this as it severed communication between members and the CBAs, and BE agreed to take this back to their Membership team to audit the process by which members are affiliated with BE.

Secretary

Nothing outstanding to report.

Membership

CW reported that he received weekly schedules from BE listing clubs that had affiliated and paid. To date in Herts 73 clubs had affiliated and there were 4 outstanding that he was following up. In total there were 994 Senior members and 489 Juniors. A total of £4200 had been received. The rebate to former JJC Clubs of 50p per junior amounted to just under £200.

Treasurer

Balance at the bank was £21K and expected significant expenditure would probably reduce this to £18K by the end of the current financial year. CW had rationalised four of the funds that had been ring fenced within the accounts:

£1K in Herts Community Badminton Networks (CBNs) fund to be distributed to the 4 CBNs

£431 held in the Stevenage Development Fund to be passed to N Herts CBN

£300 in the Young Officials fund and £45 in the Barbara Stevens fund to go to the Ray Learney fund.

He expressed appreciation for the donation of £208 to the Ray Learney fund following the demise of Lingwood BC, which was to be much regretted. There was £972 left in the Parabadminton Tournament fund.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that fixtures were ongoing.

County League Secretary

NA reported that the first team was currently 7th out of 10 in the Premier Division; the second team was 2nd out of 5 in Division 2 and the third team was 3rd out of 5 in Division 3. The final weekend for the Premier division was 5/6th April. The Match Secretaries meeting would be held on 10 May and a decision should be made before then as to whether there would still be 3 Herts teams.

Chairman of Selectors

PW said that there had been the usual difficulty in getting teams out and there was an urgent need for more young players coming through. The final Premier Division weekend on 5th/6th April should produce some excellent matches and Herts would be fielding a strong team. PW confirmed his earlier decision to resign at the AGM. PK expressed regret at this decision and thanked PW, on behalf of the committee, for his time and dedication over the past twenty plus years. It was agreed that the 2 captains of the second and third teams needed to be informed of this decision and urgent consideration be given to finding a successor.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

SC reported that teams and clubs had been dropping out of the league and that, sadly, there was a general lack of friendliness between clubs.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

SC said this league was also in trouble. There were currently 12 teams representing 8 clubs. A presentation evening with Stevenage was due to be held but no meetings had been arranged to discuss this..

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report yet again.

Tournament Secretary

Nothing to report on the Open Tournament as preparations would not start until April. On the Veterans leagues he said that the Over 40s had won 4 and lost 4, and the Over 50s and 55s teams were both mid table. More players were required. He raised the

issue of the £4 fee to be paid by players to BE when registering interest in a tournament. It was not clear whether this was per event or for the season and PK would check this with BE.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

Newsletter Editor

No Newsletters had been sent out because of the problem described earlier. The information due to go in the Newsletter could be placed on the website and Club Secretaries could be asked to distribute to their members.. It was suggested that Facebook could be a useful tool in distributing information and DB would go ahead with this.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated his report which was available on the HBA website. Welwyn Hatfield CBN was very active in supporting 4 primary schools whose pupils were receiving regular coaching. Their interest was further enhanced by a trip to the All England Championships. On 8th March badminton dignitaries attended the opening of the WH BC Lead on Public Health initiative and this would be covered by the local press. The CBN would be involved when the Women's International Cycling Tour finished at the Fountain on 11th May. Herts West CBN committee would meet on 12th March. A development plan was being drawn up and would need to be submitted to BE by the deadline of 5th April. No progress reported on North Herts CBN and East Herts CBN have decided not to draw up a plan to gain funding but to have networking meetings.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ had submitted a written report confirming that requests for coaches and interest in coaching courses had increased recently. There was a level 2 course running at the moment that will finish next month. The level 1 course due to start last month was cancelled as there were insufficient candidates. Lee Bent was looking at rescheduling this course for June/July this year. BJ had a number of requests for coaches which he have been able to fill, though the one to coach some Duke of Edinburgh award candidates was finally filled from Middlesex. He had just started an after-school club at Furneux Pelham Junior School through Clubs Complete – an organisation that provides a very wide range of after-school clubs. It was a very good group with some potentially good hitters. The BISI racquets DB lent for this session are proving to be very useful as a few of the players are rather small.

HSBA Representative

KW was pleased to report that further volunteers had come forward. A new Fixtures Secretary was in post and a new Treasurer would start in her role after the AGM. The coaching team was stronger than ever with the addition of Suzanne Rayappan. Following an agreement with HSV all squads would be able to meet on the same night. Trials for the squads were due to be held on 22 and 29 June and the AGM would also be held in June.

3 AGM

It was agreed that the AGM on 2nd June would, if possible, be held at Birchwood Leisure Centre and start at 7.45pm. *PW has since confirmed this.* Wine and nibbles would be supplied and DB would ask Rhiannon Smith to give a brief presentation. It was agreed that county fees would remain unchanged. It was proposed and agreed that Malcolm Fraser's name be put forward as a Vice President. In the AGM notification letter to club secretaries HA would ask for any nominations to be submitted for the vacant posts on the committee.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

The presentation of trophies would continue to be done at the AGM. After discussion it was agreed that the clubs represented at the AGM would be rewarded with a £10 donation, in an effort to encourage attendance.

4 Sunday Bookings at Birchwood

CW outlined the current bookings at Birchwood. There were currently 333 hours unused, and the 9am slot proved particularly unpopular. The overall usage by both HBA and HSBA worked out at £5.50 per court, a considerable saving over other locations such as HSV. CW said that the administration over the past season had been messy but it was hoped that, with one person as the contact at HSBA, this would improve. He confirmed that a three year deal had been signed with Birchwood and this might become difficult with the proposed changes in County fixtures in 2015/16

5 Suggestions for expenditure.

DB would investigate the use of Facebook. The provision of nets to clubs in need of new ones could also be considered and perhaps taken forward to the AGM.

6 Parabadminton tournament

A volunteer was required to run this tournament and DB would approach Rhannon Smith to see if she would be willing.

7 Any Other Business

In view of the shortage of discussion time it was suggested that the next committee meeting should start promptly at 7.30pm and that any papers that required consideration and discussion should be circulated before the meeting.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The next meeting would be the AGM on Monday 2nd June 2014