

## HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.40pm and attended by:

<b>Malcolm Fraser</b>	<b>MF</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>Eddie Lintott</b>	<b>EL</b>	
<b>Colin Walker</b>	<b>CW</b>	
<b>Paul Widdicombe</b>	<b>PW</b>	

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Carter; Bob Green (BG); Brian Jackson (BJ); Colin Jackson; Paul Kempster (PK) and Ken Winchester.

### **1. Action following the previous meeting.**

With regard to funding for the Wheelchair Tournament MF reported that Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) had received nothing from their bid for funds from Disability Sport funding. MF had approached the Lottery Fund and the Asda Foundation to no avail and was contacting the CVS to find out where funds might be obtained. Funding was also needed for HSBA to promote badminton in primary schools and to get a badminton coach into every sports centre. A meeting with George Wood of Badminton England (BE) would be reported under Development. The latest issue of the Newsletter had been delayed but would include County League match results, and other topics referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting. DB reported that action on the progress of sessions at Presdales was ongoing and funding for this might be available from a BE underspend (see Treasurer's report). A draft revised HBA Constitution had been circulated. Herts Sports Village (HSV) would not decide on bookings until May so no progress had been made in efforts to concentrate all HSBA coaching into one evening of the week. The bid to host an International match had been unsuccessful.

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

#### **Chairman**

MF reported on the BE meeting on 31 January where proposals for next season's affiliation fees had been put forward. The principle proposal was the removal of the Junior Club one lump sum payment to be replaced by a payment of £3 for each junior member. MF said that, at the least, the reasons for this change should be given to clubs and that there should be an opportunity for discussion. As well as the financial implications for clubs with a large junior section there was the administrative difficulty of registering juniors coming, or leaving, part way through the season. It is also not clear if this is definite, or subject to approval at the BE AGM in June.

The All England Championships had been held last week and attendance figure were not yet known.

#### **Treasurer**

CW reported that the current balance of HBA funds was £17,800. He anticipated that HBA would record either a small profit for the season, or break even. Matthew Warren (MW) had offered up the balance on the Community Badminton Networks (CBN) underspend in the region of £1500. The Ray Learney fund had been supplemented by a further £500 from the family; £500 from HBA funds, and a donation of £200 from Hertford Badminton Club. Expressions of appreciation would be sent by DB and GB

**ACTION: DAVID & GILL BARTLETT**

### **Chairman of Selectors**

The county 1<sup>st</sup> team were currently in 9<sup>th</sup> place with the final weekend of matches to be held on 23/24 March. They could go down next season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team were secure in their division, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> team needed a further win to stay in Division 3. PW was not prepared to remain as County Match Secretary and it was imperative that someone else should take this on for next season. MF would contact possible candidates, suggested by PW, initially by e-mail and then by personal contact.

### **ACTION: PAUL WIDDICOMBE & MALCOLM FRASER**

PW reported that he was running sessions at Birchwood LC for invited county players not currently attached to a club.

### **Herts County League Co-ordinator**

PK had sent in a written report stating that there were some outstanding fixture results from this year, so he would be sending out further chase emails to the secretaries concerned, asking for the result to be posted or the revised date to be provided, so that he could update fixtures live. Unfortunately Cobra had to withdraw its Ladies team from Division 1 due to the loss of a number of players through injury or attrition. A team could not be sustained for the rest of the season so the fixtures and results for any matches that were played had been removed.

EL reported that, in the Veterans League, the Over 40s team had completed all their matches and had won 3 and lost 2. The Over 45s team, who were not entered in the County Competition, had recently won the National Masters Inter-county Championships.

### **Hertford Area League Co-ordinator**

No report had been received.

### **North Herts and Letchworth area representative**

Bob Green had sent in a written report that there was nothing specific to raise except his annoyance at the removal of the Junior Club option by BE. He anticipated that there would have to be an increase in the membership fee to allow for the change.

### **S.W. Herts League Representative.**

No report had been received.

### **Tournament Secretary**

EL reported that the regular tournament referee was unable to attend this year. However he would do the draw and seeding, and had provided a replacement referee. The Open Tournament would be held over the weekend of 31st August/1st September.

### **Newsletter Editor**

GB apologised for the late issue of the Newsletter and confirmed that it would go out shortly.

### **Development Co-ordinator**

DB circulated his report which would be made available on the HBA website. He reported on the meeting with George Wood in early February, when the point was made that BE were not consulting counties enough before announcing various initiatives. BE were working on a whole plan which could not be released to County Badminton Associations (CBAs) until targets and agreements had been signed off with Sport England. The next Badminton Herts Development Committee (BHDC) meeting had been scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> April when it was expected that the plan would have been published. DB reported on sundry other initiatives that are taking place in

the county. Due to Local Council's lack of funding the BHDC would have to ask local clubs to take the lead in finding volunteers to run the Herts Youth Games district Teams.

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

BJ sent a written report that he had visited the level 2 coaching course at Hitchin last month and had told candidates about the benefits of being on the coaching register and the CoachMark system run by HSP. He planned to go to the assessment day for this course on 17 April. It was disappointing that only 2 of the candidates were from Herts. He also reported that David Brown was coaching at a club for new students at Oaklands College.

#### **HSBA Representative**

KW had sent his apologies as he was due to have heart surgery on the day of this meeting. **The committee wishes him a speedy recovery.**

MF reported that HSBA had held a successful open tournament and that other activities were going well. A new project to get badminton in primary schools is proposed. A school in Potters Bar had asked for assistance in marking out a court and MF and KW were willing to do this if the committee approved the purchase of marking tape. Approval was given. GB said that she had written a report on the Primary Schools Tournament for the Newsletter but there was nothing about it on HSBA website. MF would follow this up. HSBA should also be complemented on their new Newsletter.

**ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER**

### **3 AGM**

The HBA AGM would be held on Tuesday 4 June 2013 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.45pm. The Sportsman Room had been booked from 7.30 to 10pm. HA circulated a draft agenda for the meeting. It was agreed to provide drinks and light refreshments before the start of the meeting. A representative of BE would be asked to give a brief presentation on BE's Future Plan, and it was hoped that this would stimulate interest within the clubs.

**ACTION: DAVID BARTLETT**

A sub committee comprised of MF;CW; DB and GB would meet to consider the fees for next season, and whether junior members should receive the HBA or the HSBA Newsletter. It was agreed that Bob Welsh be asked to continue as HBA President for a further 3 years, and that Ron Duckling be invited to become a Vice President.

**ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER**

DB would obtain current contact details of club secretaries and pass them to HA

**ACTION: DAVID BARTLETT**

PK had sent in a note about trophies saying:

*As usual we should request that the trophies are returned no later than the AGM meeting so that they can be presented to this season's league winners (subject to the continuation below). These would then be engraved and distributed at the fixture meeting in August and I would propose the date for that is set as Wednesday 28th August at Birchwood.*

#### **Engraving of trophies**

*As raised at the previous meeting I think it is worthwhile getting feedback from clubs on whether they still wish to have a league shield presented each year. I am happy to send out an email over the coming weeks to the club secretaries and contacts to obtain feedback from their captains if the committee agrees on this action?*

*Pros:*

*- Reflects the achievement of the club and is a token ceremony to recognise their results.*

*Cons:*

*- Cost to HBA to get the shields engraved each year, approx £50 in total (that could be donated or deposited to the Ray Learney fund?).*

*- Administration involved in distributing them - having them returned at AGM or in between fixture meeting.*

*- Typically they remain with the same person in the club for the year and then are passed back so don't actually do the rounds.*

#### **Revision of HBA Rules**

A revised HBA Constitution had been circulated and was further amended at the meeting. HA would circulate the revised draft and, if it was agreed, would be included in the AGM Agenda, for approval at the meeting.

**ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

#### **4. Any Other Business**

PW outlined an offer from the manager of Birchwood LC made to both HBA and HSBA concerning court bookings. CW and MF undertook to consider this in conjunction with HSBA. The offer remained open until 1<sup>st</sup> June  
The meeting closed with thanks to PW for arranging the meeting.