

## **HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 14 March 2016 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, starting at 7.30pm and attended by:

<b>Paul Kempster</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Hilary Anderson</b>	<b>HA</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Nigel Abdullah</b>	<b>NA</b>	
<b>Dave Bartlett</b>	<b>DB</b>	
<b>Gill Bartlett</b>	<b>GB</b>	
<b>Brian Jackson</b>	<b>BJ</b>	
<b>Eddie Lintott</b>	<b>EL</b>	
<b>Pam Newman</b>	<b>PN</b>	
<b>Colin Walker</b>	<b>CW</b>	
<b>Steve Willis</b>	<b>SW</b>	
<b>Ken Winchester</b>	<b>KW</b>	

Apologies for absence received from Bob Green (BG) and Graham Cobb (GC).

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

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

PK had been in regular contact with Dave Brown, the U17 Squad Manager, and many of the younger players had been able to play in the Senior teams. He would check with GC whether a note explaining the insurance position had been drafted for club officials.

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

HA had prepared a version of the previous minutes and this had been included in the last Newsletter. Action on a dedicated Badminton Centre in the county was on hold until information regarding funding had been received.

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

#### **Chairman**

PK said that he had not been able to attend the last Badminton England (BE) Members Meeting but that the county had been represented by GB and DB. BE were awaiting news of the current government funding and it was noted that funding for sports and physical activity was under threat because of council cutbacks. DB will check that he is not due for re-election this year.

**ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT**

PK gave details of the 2017-24 Strategy draft, which would be available on the HBA website. BE had been made aware of problems with the current membership structure and a new one was proposed. Membership had been in decline since 2013 and BE were looking to double the current membership of 50,000. Membership structure would be broken down into four main packages: fan; play; compete and coach with attached advantages and incentives. BE planned to supply a Club Management Tool. The two Performance Centres in our area had been evaluated and one in Luton was having some problems.

#### **Secretary**

SW Herts League had not been represented at committee meetings throughout the season, but it was agreed to continue to show Steve Dibben as holding that position.

#### **Membership Secretary**

CW reported that 71 clubs had affiliated within the county and this was the same as last season. Membership was 1507 and this was up by around 40, mainly juniors. £3,800 had been received in affiliation fees and this was down on last season due to the reduction in fees.

### **Treasurer**

The current bank balance was around £18K but CW expected it to go up to £20K by the end of the season, once match fees had come in. The Ray Learney fund stood at £850 having been in receipt of a donation from the Barnet League. Overall 32 awards had been made from the fund to a total value of £3,250. It was agreed that the fund would be supplemented by £500 from HBA funds.

### **Chairman of Selectors**

*This position is still vacant*

PK reported that this had been a tough year for the County teams. The first team had come third in Division 1 and had just missed out on a play off and a chance to go back to the Premier Division. The second and the third teams had come last in their respective divisions and would be relegated. Player of the season in the first team was Natalie Barton; in the second team Laura Cousins and the third team Charlotte Willis. Overall Player of the Season was Zach Daniels. The county had fielded full teams on every occasion. Kelly Matthews and Kath Warden had achieved over 100 caps and Liz Austin over 150 caps. The new competition format had generally gone down well, especially with the third team playing at Harlow.

PK had a discussion recently with Liz Austin and Andy Walden about the Chairman of Selectors vacancy. They were content with their roles of team selection, and thought that the Chairman of Selectors role could be more in club liaison, by encouraging club players to try for a county place, and also in running the Restricted Tournament and more pre-season training. The Job Description should be amended to reflect this and it could be circulated to clubs with the information about the AGM

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER AND HILARY ANDERSON**

### **County Match Secretary**

NA said that, as matches were now arranged by BE, he no longer had a role and he therefore tendered his resignation. He was unsure whether he could attend the Fixtures meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> and someone else may wish to attend in his place although it was not strictly necessary.

PK thanked him for all the work he had put into the role.

### **Herts County League Secretary**

No report

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

PN said that there were no specific issues at HAL. Three teams had withdrawn from the League. HAL AGM would be held on 17 May at Allenburys Sports and Social Club starting at 8pm.

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

BG had sent a written report. Two junior school sessions were being run at the moment, coached by Anna Collins, with two more to start after Easter. The aim was to run an additional two in the Royston area, and use all the attendees to represent their town for badminton in the North Herts Games in June. Highfield Satellite club was proving difficult for various reasons, but discussions with the school had taken place and would hopefully be back on track shortly. The new local L1 coach was already helping out.

### **SW Herts League Representative**

No attendee yet again and no report

### **Tournament Secretary**

Nothing to report.

### **Masters Co-ordinator**

SW reported that, although results had not been so good, it had been a successful season in terms of engaging more players. The Over 55s had won all four of their four matches and would be in a playoff against Surrey. The Over 45s won the County Championships for third year running. Three National Champions came from Herts. He intended to have an end of season get together. Next year he would have more practices in September and possibly run a tournament. AGM would be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May at Milton Keynes.

### **Newsletter Editor**

*This post was still vacant.*

DB said that the last Newsletter had gone out to 1106 members, and he produced figures to show that there had been a reasonable take up. It was agreed that there should be another one before the AGM when there should be lots of results to report and also to encourage attendance at the AGM.

### **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), although the East Herts CBN report was verbal, and all were active.

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

BJ reported success in finding coaches on four occasions. There were four candidates so far for the Young Leaders Award. A Level 2 coaching course would be run shortly with more practical on court time and emphasis on feeding. The theory would be covered on line. Course material was being made generally available for the first time and would be useful for mentors in particular.

### **HSBA Representative**

KW said that a Primary Schools tournament held this past weekend had attracted 20 boys' teams and 7 girls' teams. There had been 172 entries to a recent U15 Tournament which had bolstered HSBA funds by £3.5K gross. He was not convinced as to the value of Babalat shuttles. The new age structures were causing difficulties.

### **3. Finance**

CW confirmed that the three year Birchwood contract would come to an end in August 2016. Meetings had been held and an option to have the possible use of 32 Sundays from 9am to 6pm and running from September to April would be best for HBA and HSBA. Up to 4 Sundays could be cancelled by 1 August. The expected cost per court hour, assuming usage of around 590 hours (ie. 60%), would be £7. This option was still to be confirmed.

With regard to county affiliation fees CW suggested that they remain the same as last season, that is £3.50 for Seniors and 50p for Juniors, and this was agreed by the committee..

PK proposed that a County Open Tournament be run for club players but excluding County team players. This should be financed by HBA and held later in June. It could be promoted together with the AGM.

### **4. Preparations for the AGM on Monday 6 June.**

HA had circulated a draft Agenda for the AGM prior to the meeting and no amendments were suggested. The arrangements would follow the usual pattern and consideration would be given as to whether a speaker would be invited. The BE affiliation fees were going up by £1 for Seniors to £16 and staying the same £5 for Juniors. HBA President had completed a further 3 years and PK would approach him to see if he would consider standing again.

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

KW proposed Dick Large as Vice President. Current committee vacancies were for Chairman of Selectors (with revised role); Newsletter/Social Media Editor and Publicity Officer.

GC would request the return of trophies prior to the AGM

**ACTION: GRAHAM COBB**

#### **5. BE County Engagement Strategy**

Following BE Chief Executive Adrian Christy's visits and the County Conference that took place last September, BE had prepared a Strategy for 2017-24 with the aim of getting more people playing badminton and getting more top players. Their focus was on the Primary age group. Julia Strong BE had been in contact with PK and Herts was in the second group for consultations, which would take place from September onwards. PK would circulate information as it came in.

#### **6. Local Talent Development Framework**

This was an initiative from Sport England, and Herts Sports Partnership (HSP), together with four other CSPs, had been selected to run a Sport England pilot on Local Talent Development with four sports. Badminton was one of the sports chosen. It was agreed that 4 representatives (PK, KW, DB and BJ) from HBA/HSBA would attend an HSP meeting to be held sometime during the week beginning 11 April to take this forward. As yet there was no funding.

#### **7. HBA Website and Facebook**

DB reported that HBA Facebook went live in February thanks to Ben Vranjkovic. The page had been announced in the Newsletter and on the website. The new HBA website based on WordPress was scheduled to be completed by Easter. DB circulated an example of the new look.

#### **8. Parabadminton Tournament**

It had not been feasible to arrange a Parabadminton tournament this season, but it was hoped that one could be run next season. DB would ask if HSP might be able to help with this, particularly as there was already funding available.

**ACTION:DAVE BARTLETT**

Post Meeting: DB spoke with Gobi who will investigate HSV for a parabadminton tournament end of July.

DB has emailed Ros Cramp for help in organising it.

There was no further business so the meeting concluded with thanks to HA for providing the refreshments.