

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015 at 1, Valley Close, Hertford, starting at 7.40pm and attended by:

Paul Kempster	PK	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Nigel Abdullah	NA	
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Graham Cobb	GC	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Steve Willis	SW	
Ken Winchester	KW	

Apologies received from Bob Green (BG), Pam Newman (PN) and Colin Walker (CW). PK opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all committee members at the start of the season.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

Following contacts with SW Herts League it had been hoped that a representative from that area would attend the meeting. PK said that costs of hiring courts at Herts Sports Village (HSV) were being covered by the fee for county training, and there was no compelling reason for reducing the fee, which was, in any case, reduced for those not in work. As Herts no longer had a team in the Premier Division matching kit was no longer mandatory, but it was agreed that this was desirable and was encouraged by Badminton England (BE). Kit had been purchased last year for the 1st and 2nd teams. SW agreed that matching kit for the Masters teams would be desirable and he would investigate costs. A room at Birchwood had been booked on 5 October for the meeting with club members to discuss the BE County Conference on 31 October.

PK had met with Dave Brown the U17 Squad Manager and would liaise with him about encouraging this age group into the county training squad. Some young players had already been in attendance. PK would report on progress at the next committee meeting in November.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

DB had offered Paul Widdicombe a USB stick for his Chairman of Selectors archives.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

PK said that there had been no BE meetings and there was nothing else to report.

Secretary

Nothing to report.

Treasurer

CW sent a written report saying that he has paid out £1.3K to Birchwood for the first stage payment under the contract, and £1.4K for shuttles for the Herts Open and for senior training. Training fees had started to flow in together with Club County fees but overall funds are down to £12.5K. The Herts Open was likely to make a loss in the region of £150 to £270 depending on whether BE reduce their fees.

With regard to the Birchwood bookings, 26 Sundays had been retained between September and April next year. There are a reasonable number of bookings most Sundays but there are some slots available, as well as two Sundays, 17 and 31 January

when there are no bookings. A copy of his schedule had been circulated to all committee members and he would welcome ideas on the usage of these courts.

Membership Secretary

Nothing to report at this stage in the season.

Chairman of Selectors

This position is still vacant and was being covered by PK together with Andy Walden and Liz Austin. Training for the senior squad had started in August at Herts Sports Village. After the Restricted Tournament, being held on the weekend of 26/27 September, training would continue at Birchwood LC until the end of March. Training had been well attended. As teams would have to play over the same weekends there was no scope for covering any absences and there was a difficulty over shortage of lady players. Consideration had reluctantly been given to dropping a team but following a request for commitment a good response had ensured that all 3 teams would continue to be entered.

County Match Secretary

NA reported that matches would commence on the weekend of 8/9 November.

Herts County League Secretary

GC reported that the leagues had been set up and that clubs could input their own fixtures. There were some problems with this, which were being sorted out, and he would remind those clubs who had not yet commenced their input.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN had sent a written report saying that the Fixtures Meeting had been held on 1 September, and all club fixtures had been arranged. An Open Tournament on 6 September had been cancelled due to lack of entries.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

Nothing specific to report.

SW Herts League Representative

No report

Masters Co-ordinator

SW reported that one practice had been arranged and another organised. One of the 5 teams, the O45s, was without a captain and EL volunteered to take this on. Fixtures had been arranged avoiding the County match weekends. Generally all was going smoothly and he was keen to play matches and not always to ensure fielding the strongest players.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that, as expected due to the change of date, the entries for the Open had been down to 150 from 230 last year. The loss made would be whatever fees BE decided to charge and he was in negotiation with them. In all other respects it had been a successful tournament, with Herts player, Matt Widdicombe, reaching all three finals. The standard had been high and photos were displayed on the HBA website. The Restricted Tournament was arranged for the weekend of 26/27 September. Forms for entries had gone out to all clubs.

Newsletter Editor

This post was still vacant. It was agreed that the next Newsletter should go out before Christmas and copy date was **4 December**. DB and GB agreed to compile the reports and send the Newsletter out.

No more had been heard about the HBA FaceBook page and PK would chase up with Ben Vranjkovic

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

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). BJ reported for East Herts CBN that a Parents and Children Tournament had been organised for November at Ware Drill Hall and the next meeting for the CBN would be on 12 October. Herts West CBN would also meet on 12 October and various initiatives, such as No Strings, Battle and Smash UP were being promoted. There were opportunities for SW Herts Clubs needing players to visit and invite suitable participants to clubs. On behalf of North Herts CBN BG reported that coaches were still sought to help with school Sportivate projects. For the Welwyn Hatfield CBN DB reported on the large number of community badminton activities that had taken place over the summer and these can be seen on the HBA website.

DB said that a new volunteering initiative, the "Join In" programme, had been set up and this may prove useful in filling the various HBA vacancies.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ gave details of instances where he had been able to supply coaches when requested. However, new coaches at all levels were still sought and the next Level 1 coaching course would be in February and March 2016. Level 2 coaching courses would be held in February, March and May 2016. He had been advised by BE that a visit by Herts coaches to Milton Keynes would be best deferred until the 2016/17 season due to the extra workload caused by next year's Olympics.

HSBA Representative

KW said that a new invoicing system this season had been successful and only one fee was currently overdue. A U15 Bronze tournament last weekend, under a new format, had attracted 90 entries and he was pleased with the success of Herts players. Although hard work for the organisers, it has also proved successful financially. Babolat shuttles had been used and no problems experienced. All further tournaments were listed on the HSBA website.

3. BE County Conference, and HBA meeting on 5 October

Interest in attending the BE County Conference on 31 October in Loughborough had been expressed by PK, GB, DB and BJ and those names would be submitted to BE before the deadline of 30 September.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

Clubs had been notified of the conference at the HBA AGM and full details together with notification of the related HBA meeting on 5 October had also gone out. No interest in attending the conference had been expressed so far. The conference was a good opportunity for feedback to BE about what was required by clubs in the county and HA would send out a further email encouraging attendance on 5 October and seeking views on topics to be raised. It was agreed that, to encourage attendance at the meeting, attendees' names would go into a ballot for free tickets to the All England. Light refreshments would also be served at the meeting.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

4. Any Other Business

DB circulated details of a Display Board that he would like to purchase for the Association at a cost of £129 and it was agreed that he should go ahead with this. He would also circulate details of a new government initiative relating to Strategy in Sport. It was agreed that consideration should be given to putting forward a candidate for the HSP Awards.

5. The next meeting would be held on Monday 30 November.

The meeting closed with thanks to HA for her hospitality