

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 16 October 2017 at Birchwood Leisure Centre

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK	Chairman
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Doug Clark	DC	
Graham Cobb	GC	
Simon Gouldstone	SG	Acting Secretary
Pam Newman	PN	
Colin Walker	CW	
Steve Willis	SW	

Apologies for absence were received from Bob Green (BG), Brian Jackson (BJ) and Eddie Lintott (EL).

PK reflected on the recent and very sad loss of Hilary Anderson who would be greatly missed. The HBA had made a donation to her nominated charity. He welcomed Simon Gouldstone as the new Acting Secretary.

1. Actions from the previous committee meeting

DB reported that the County training sessions had been advertised on the HBA web site.

CW had prepared a draft HBA Plan for 2017-18 which had been circulated to the Committee and would be discussed later in the meeting.

CW confirmed that he had cancelled four Sunday bookings at Birchwood.

2. Reports on activities

Chairman

There had been no further meetings with Badminton England (BE) but PK was due to meet BE officials on 26 October 2017. His involvement with HSBA would be covered later in the meeting.

Secretary

Nothing to report.

Action: CW to try and recover secretarial files and papers from Norman Anderson.

Membership Secretary

CW reported his frustration at the lack of information available under the new BE system and that the information that was available was difficult to interpret. Nearly 60 payments had been received through two channels, Stripe and GoCardless. The main problem is that it is not easy and in some cases impossible to determine what all these payments are for or who they are from. This makes reconciling and controlling our bank

account virtually impossible. The situation is made worse due to the complicated pricing structure, the volume of payments and the inadequate reporting. For example it was difficult to separate out whether the fees were from clubs, direct members or coaches. To date, it appeared that 44 clubs had affiliated to the County and that 60% of the members had paid the affiliation fees. He was continuing to liaise with BE to resolve those problems and he asked PK to raise it with BE at the forthcoming meeting.

Action: CW to send list of problems with the new system to PK and DB prior to their meeting with BE on 26 October

Treasurer

The current bank balance was over £24,000 although an invoice for £2,000 was outstanding for entering the County teams.

Action: PK to request invoice from BE.

Senior County Coordinator

The position was still vacant. PK reported that County training sessions had taken place in August and September and that the normal training sessions would take place on Tuesday evenings. The first matches were in November and the fixtures appeared to be spread out better than in previous seasons. It was agreed that the HBA would continue to cover the travel costs of County players who were at university and living away from home.

Herts County League

GC reported that there were 48 teams, the fixture meeting had been well attended and that matches had started. One novel feature was a Ladies division of eight teams which necessitated 14 matches per team. Fixtures Live had proposed the introduction of charges but, after negotiation, it had now reverted to the previous system whereby use of the system was free.

Hertford Area League

PN reported that matches had started uneventfully. The League had experienced the same problem with Fixtures Live as had the County League but that was now resolved. Simon and Anne Carter, respectively the current Secretary and Treasurer, were moving out of the area and there was a meeting next month to hopefully fill both vacancies.

North Herts and Letchworth League

The Secretary had sent his apologies but submitted no report.

South West Herts League

No report.

Masters Coordinator

SW reported that there had been three well-attended practice sessions. In the county championship the 40s team had been withdrawn, a 65s team had been added and there was a new captain for the 60s team. There appeared to be a sufficient number of players to maintain all teams. Three matches had been played to date, two won and one lost. Herts had also entered five teams in the county challenge tournament to be held in January.

Action: SW to confirm with captains of each team that there was commitment to send five teams to the county challenge tournament.

Tournament Secretary

PK referred to notes provided by EL. The date of the Open Tournament had been brought forward to 19 and 20 August. There had been a good entry and 150 matches had been played. It had made a profit of £580. The entry for the Restricted Tournament had been similarly encouraging.

Development Coordinator

DB reported as follows:

- a) He was still trying to find a date for a Herts CBNs meeting.
- b) Racket Pack, the new replacement for Bisi, was being rolled out to coaches some of whom were implementing it in their sessions in schools and clubs.
- c) BE's new membership system did not provide sufficient detail for monitoring and planning (eg lack of club venues and their postcodes, lack of members' postcodes and lack of email addresses to send newsletters etc).
- d) The BE secondary schools championships was starting now in preparation for the county championships in December.
- e) Hatfield was still waiting for a decision from WH BC on the planning application for the county badminton facility at Birchwood. The HBA's interest in expanding the facility to six or eight courts and a viewing gallery was no further forward.
- f) The respective CBNs are implementing their plans presented to the HSBA committee following the HSBA/HBA grants of £288 to East Herts and £500 to Welwyn Hatfield.
- g) Following completion of the development plan for Welwyn Hatfield CBN, BE had provided a grant of £5,447 for six primary satellites and four clubs and a bid to Hatfield Community Sports Fund for Badminton Tots and Racket Pack (six hours coaching in five primary schools) was in a final phase for £1,650 [Post meeting correction: £3102]. Aleisha Challands at BE was discussing provision by Premier Sport where there were insufficient coaches to go into schools. DB said that she had been particularly helpful in leading the collation of the development plan and in drawing up the applications.

East Herts CBN

DC reported that there had been a problem with booking additional time at Ware Drill Hall. Two clubs already ran junior sessions there and the CBN wanted to book some training sessions for the under 14s tournament to be held at Birchwood in January. That was not possible as there were prior commitments to a gymnastic club and other users. He was now looking to book Woodson Park for those sessions at a much higher cost. The CBN intended to circulate a newsletter by email to get more support from adult and junior clubs.

Coaching Coordinator

BJ submitted a written report. Since the last meeting he had received one request for a coach from a club in Potters Bar and Ian Robinson had agreed to deliver six fortnightly sessions based on an abridged Essentials course. He had also contacted Lee Bent at BE to arrange a visit of the County's coaches to Milton Keynes.

Social Media/Publicity Officer

There was no report. The meeting agreed that Facebook could be used more, for example, to promote CBNs and that there could be better coverage of all activities by coordinating the various communication channels.

HSBA

No report

3. Appointment of HBA Secretary

PK welcomed SG to his first meeting as Hilary Anderson's replacement. It was agreed that he should fulfil the role as Acting Secretary pending ratification of his appointment at the next AGM.

Action: PK to inform BE of the change in Secretary.

4. HBA Plan 2017-18

PK thanked CW for producing the plan. The following amendments were proposed:

- a) Item 7 should include a reference to establishing and maintaining the Coaches Academy.
- b) Item 6 should be strengthened in terms of 'actively support' by, for example, mentioning that finance was provided.
- c) Item 4 should mention the possibility of non-county tournaments and their promotion within clubs.

Action: PK to amend and arrange for publication of the Plan.

5. Birchwood bookings

CW explained that the deal was the same as last year, namely 32 Sundays with an option to cancel four. He expected there to be a higher usage level than last season including a booking by BE for the South and East Masters play-offs on 8 April 2018. There were only two dates which had no bookings - 10 December and 14 January. He would be seeking a one year extension to the arrangement.

Action: CW to send latest schedule to SW to check that all masters matches were correctly shown

6. Development proposal

PK circulated a paper from Tracy Barnard (TB) which covered a wide range of suggestions for the promotion and development of badminton within Hertfordshire. It was agreed that Committee members would, within one week, submit their comments to PK who would respond to TB.

Action: Committee members to send their comments to PK within one week.

7. HSBA

PK, as the County's disciplinary officer, had been investigating issues arising from the HSBA AGM and complaints against certain individuals. The HSBA Chairman had declined to attend a disciplinary hearing and had now resigned. PK had liaised with BE whose advice had been to arrange an EGM, a course of action the HSBA Secretary was taking forward. PK had agreed to chair this meeting. A number of committee members asked that PK advise them of the date of this meeting and whether any alternative names will be put forward for HSBA Chair, as they would like to attend the meeting as representatives of a Herts Junior Club.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting would take place on 11 December 2017 with a further meeting in March 2018. The date of the AGM would remain 4 June 2018.

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