

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 17 November 2014 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, starting at 7.30pm and attended by:

Paul Kempster	PK	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Nigel Abdullah	NA	
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Bob Green	BG	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Colin Walker	CW	
Steve Willis	SW	
Ken Winchester	KW	

Apologies had been received from Pam Newman (PN)

1. Action following the previous meeting

GB had been advised of matters that needed to be raised at the BE General Meeting. The donation from HBA funds to the Ray Learney Fund had been publicised on the HBA website, where the fees scale had also been updated. Following reminders to all county squad players about affiliation PK was sure that they were all now affiliated. HA had sent a card to the Conways conveying the committees' condolences following the death of their son. The remaining actions would be covered later in the agenda.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

PK thanked GB for attending the last BE General Meeting as alternate and DB for attending with her. GB would cover the points raised on behalf of HBA under items 5 and 7 on the agenda. Following consultation with relevant committee members PK had decided not to renew the subscription to the Centre for Voluntary Service (CVS). Approaches made to see if Birchwood Leisure Centre would be a suitable venue for the proposed Parabadminton Tournament had been favourable and there appeared to be a suitable gap in the BE Events Calendar in February/March 2015, so PK would write to Gobi Ranganathan to see if he agreed that this would be viable.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

DB agreed to go to the first meeting as he held the previous organiser's (Malcolm Fraser (MF)) papers and he would investigate the level of assistance that would be available from Welwyn/Hatfield CBN.

Secretary

All correspondence received had been circulated.

Treasurer

CW reported that the balance at the bank, currently £18K, had gone up since the last meeting because affiliation fees were starting to come in.

Membership Secretary

CW said that the renewal deadline for clubs to affiliate to BE was 1st November, which was later this year. Clubs that had not affiliated by 31st December would lose their insurance cover and they should be advised of this in the next edition of the Newsletter and also via the HBA website.

ACTION: DAVE & GILL BARTLETT

Affiliation fees for 26 clubs and 7 individuals had been received so far.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that the County Leagues matches were progressing satisfactorily and without problems so far.

Chairman of Selectors

This position is still vacant. PK read out a report from Gail Emms on the matches played by the first team on 8/9th November and this would be published in the Newsletter. There was a possible issue with 2 players who also played in the French league. Reports on the other matches played would also be published in the Newsletter and on the website.

County Match Secretary

NA reported that he had been informed by BE of the next session of coaching courses which were Level 1 on 20/21 February and 7 March; Level 2 on 18/19 February and 2/30 April 2015. Further information would be available on the website. It was unclear why this information had not been sent to the HBA Coaching Co-Ordinator but, as all the arrangements are now made by BE, this was not a big issue. EL reported on a Masters match against Bedfordshire which had been very close despite recording a good win of 9-3.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN had sent in a written report that the Area League was proceeding smoothly with no problems so far. One team had dropped out of the Men 4 but another had replaced them. Stanstead Abbots BC would be celebrating 60 years next year and a celebration was being organised.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG reported that the league was ticking over satisfactorily and the format of having 2 ladies and 2 men per team was popular. Progress was being made in using the development donation of £500 given by HBA to help out with badminton initiatives at schools

Tournament Secretary

EL had prepared a report on the Open Tournament for the Newsletter. A profit of £8.58 had been made and this was way down on last year and would be discussed under item 7 on the agenda.

Vets Co-ordinator

Steve Willis reported that the Over 55s team had beaten Middlesex 8-4 and had a match against Essex coming up. The Over 45s team had entered the County Challenge Tournament but it was not certain if there would be a further entry in another age group.

Newsletter Editor

GB hoped to get a Newsletter out before Christmas and a copy date of **1st December** was agreed.

ACTION: ALL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Development Co-ordinator

DB had circulated a brief report to the committee and he asked the various representatives at the meeting if they had anything to add. GB reported that Herts West CBN had held a meeting on 7 November and all attending had agreed to progress the Development Plan by January in order to receive Head Office funding. Sadly, only 2 clubs were represented and more were needed to become involved and to benefit. GB was co-ordinating the Development Plan and this was proving difficult as it was in a new format. BJ reported that East Herts CBN was progressing a number of projects using a loose confederation of coaches and linking clubs together. BG said that more volunteers were needed for the North Herts CBN to be more active. DB said

that Welwyn/Hatfield CBN had received Head Office funding for the 'Summer of badminton' and the Development Plan. A number of projects were on the go. Herts Sports Partnership were organising badminton courses for 'Coach Ed' week in February.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ reported that he had been very busy and was pleased to report that he had been successful in providing coaches on request, often very speedily. He would be attending a Safeguarding Conference at Milton Keynes on Saturday.

HSBA Representative

KW said that all was progressing as usual mid tournament season. A successful Under 13 and Under 18 tournament had been held yesterday, although usually closer age ranges were preferred. The tournaments were very demanding on volunteers so they were spaced out to avoid exhaustion. An U17 Bronze tournament was coming up. Tournament entry fees had been adjusted to help support the Association's funds.

3. Birchwood contract

CW said that he had received further court bookings since the last meeting. However there was still plenty of court space available, and this should be advertised in the Newsletter.

ACTION; GILL BARTLETT

He was able to cancel bookings if given enough notice. MF had been unable to find the HBA copy of the Birchwood contract and CW would contact PW to obtain a copy.

ACTION: COLIN WALKER

CW repeated that the contract could be terminated with 3 months' notice so the position will have to be carefully evaluated in June 2015 or earlier.

4. Visit of Adrian Christy to Herts CBA

After discussion it was agreed that PK would invite Adrian Christy to the HBA AGM on 8th June 2015 to address the meeting. If that date was not convenient a further date in June would be considered.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

5. Data Protection Act and contacting members

A presentation had been given at the last BE General Meeting and it was now clear that BE affiliated members over 16 years of age could be approached by e mail, post and phone using information on Vision. Members can continue to opt out if they do not want to receive copies of the Newsletter.

6. HBA Newsletter revised date

This was covered under the Newsletter Editor's report

7. Tournament costs and review

EL said that there were various reasons why such a small profit on the Open Tournament had been recorded. The costs of using PayPal had been large and BE had increased their fees. Overall there was an extra £550 in fees. He had increased the entry fees in an attempt to cover this but, in view of the decline in entries, this did not make up the required difference. It is not clear whether players were put off by the increase in fees or whether there were other reasons for the decline in entries. BE had been advised of the problems and the Events Manager had replied at length but had not been willing to reduce their charges. The position was discussed at the BE General Meeting, and EL will write to BE later in the season, after more tournaments have been played, to see how they have fared. It was agreed that more Herts county players should be encouraged to enter the Open.

8. Committee vacancy(ies) and increasing volunteering within the county

PK confirmed that the post of Chairman of Selectors was still not filled, and he had agreed with both current county team managers that it could only be filled by someone from within the squads of county players. So far the position had been covered by the two team managers and himself, but this was not an ideal position. He proposed drawing up a full list of challenges and issues and ensuring that they are sorted, so that they were better placed if the vacancy continued for a further season. There was discussion as to how to use social media to communicate with, and attract, younger members. It was agreed that this was necessary but that someone from the younger generation would be required to operate this on a daily basis. An appeal for a volunteer should be made in the Newsletter

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

9. Any Other Business

DB reported on the “2015 Year of Sport” within the Welwyn/Hatfield area and a sponsor, Finesse Leisure, had agreed to produce a diary and posters of events held between 21 March and 31 August. This would be a good opportunity to promote badminton.

10. Dates of future meetings

The next committee meeting would be held on **Monday 9 March 2015**
The AGM would be on **Monday 8 June 2015.**