

## HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 19 September 2016 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, starting at 7.35pm and attended by:

<b>Paul Kempster</b>	<b>PK</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>Graham Cobb</b>	<b>GC</b>	
<b>Bob Green</b>	<b>BG</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>	

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

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

Feedback from committee members on the BE Membership and Pricing document had been passed to BE early in August. As there had been no response PK would contact BE to ensure that the feedback had been given due consideration.

#### **ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

It was agreed that the role of Senior County Coordinator could only be filled by someone who was involved with the county teams, and had a good knowledge of the players. It was therefore not likely that a suitable candidate could be found by the committee. This should be emphasised to the team captains.

Despite two further reminders there had been no response from the SW Herts League representative. It was agreed to continue to keep him informed.

Due to pressure of other activities a Newsletter had not been sent out. DB also stressed the difficulty of accessing and correcting the BE mailing list.

CW had sent a cheque of £50 towards the BE Badminton Museum.

Further actions would be covered under the appropriate agenda item

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

#### **Chairman**

There had been no BE meetings since the last HBA committee meeting. The next one would be held early in November. BE staffing changes would be reported under item 3.

#### **Secretary**

Nothing to report.

#### **Membership Secretary**

CW reported that BE's online membership administration system was closed from 1-21 September. Five new clubs had been added since 1 May 2016.

#### **Treasurer**

The current bank balance of £17,850 was down from the year end. This was normal for this stage in the season, and due to payments for courts, shuttles etc without income, apart from tournament fees and £500 county league fees, The Herts Open Tournament made a small profit, and the Para badminton Tournament a small loss which was covered by the para badminton funds.

#### **Senior County Coordinator**

*This position is still vacant*

PK reported that training sessions had been well attended and that matches would start in November. These were well spread out this season.

#### **Herts County League Secretary**

GC reported that 51 teams had entered in the County Leagues this season. A post Fixtures Meeting request for the entry of three teams had caused some difficulty but it had been agreed that one team could be fitted into the bottom mixed division with the agreement of the other clubs in that division. Otherwise the Fixtures Meeting has operated smoothly.

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

PN reported entries to the league in the Ladies 4s; Mens 4s, and the Medley had been slightly down in numbers and there had been no entries for the 6s. The Fixtures Meeting had gone well.

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

BG reported that both the Letchworth and District league and the Stevenage league had lost 2 teams this season. The North Herts Community Badminton Network (CBN) had bid successfully for a further £500 for junior schools badminton sessions, the third year in succession. A new Chairman had not yet come forward and the secretary and treasurer were taking on an increased share of the work.

#### **SW Herts League Representative**

No attendee and no report.

#### **Masters Co-ordinator**

SW reported that a team had been entered in each of the five age categories (Over 40; 45; 50; 55 and 60). All teams apart from the O40s had been entered in the County Challenge Tournament to be held in January. Generally there were more players in the older categories and this was a nationwide trend. Matches would start during the second week of October.

#### **Tournament Secretary**

EL said that the Open Tournament had gone well with entries up on the previous year. All had gone comparatively smoothly and judicious use of courts together with a better entry had resulted in a small profit being made. PK thanked EL for running this tournament and congratulated him on a successful outcome.

#### **Newsletter Editor**

*This post was still vacant.*

DB said that it was important to announce successes, or any item of interest, on Facebook as these items tended to be picked up well. They could also link in to the website increasing the number of hits. Consideration would be given to the issue of a Newsletter at the next committee meeting. PK thanked DB for the considerable amount of work he was putting into HBA media communications.

#### **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), and all were active. All now had bank accounts and would receive funding from HBA. Herts West CBN was able to use Beaumont School's newly opened facility this term. Post Meeting: Community use is currently prevented by Herts Highways Department.

Other activities were ongoing in the area. Welwyn Hatfield CBN held a meeting in August and a number of activities were arranged in the area. DB had written to the Head Teacher at Bishop's Hatfield School to offer assistance with the opening ceremony of their new hall and also to arrange coaching sessions at the school. No reply had been received to date.

BJ reported on behalf of East Herts CBN . Paul Widdicombe was investigating the new Chauncy School Sports Hall. A Junior Tournament was planned.

PK congratulated DB on the extensive amount of development work that was being carried out in the area through the four CBNs.

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

BJ had been very busy finding coaches for different areas and age ranges and had been successful in the main. Occasionally the proposal came to nothing even when a coach had been found. He was still planning to arrange a visit to BE at Milton Keynes for coaches and was in touch with BE to get possible dates. A post Olympics Master class was suggested and he would follow this up

**ACTION: BRIAN JACKSON**

### **HSBA Representative**

KW thanked CW for agreeing to undertake an audit of HSBA's accounts. This was more complicated because of the IT system being used, although it was a good streamlined system that had worked well for the prompt payment of accounts. Two new coaches had been appointed and the new age group squads were in place. A new Fixtures Secretary would be needed at the end of the season, The training sessions had been well attended so far.

#### **3. Contact with Mike Piggford, new BE Partnership Manager**

PK outlined the new BE staffing structure and said that he had received an introductory email from Mike Piggford (MP). He would be speaking to MP later in the month and MP intended to come to the meeting with BE on 24 October. It was unfortunate that BE was cutting down on staff numbers and that MP would have to cover 4 counties. If any committee members had any points they wished him to raise they should get in contact as soon as possible.

**ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

One issue raised was what differentiated a volunteer from a professional, particularly for tax purposes. This needed to be clarified, mainly for coaches.

#### **4. Meeting with BE on 24 October to discuss 2017/24 Strategy**

PK had been in contact with Herts Sports Village (HSV) to arrange for a room on 24 October for this meeting. Discussion ensued as to who should be invited to attend and this would depend on what BE were hoping to achieve. PK would contact BE to establish the agenda for the meeting and arrangements would be made accordingly.

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

#### **5. Potential new sports facilities**

DB had contacted both Beaumont School and Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School offering badminton related activities. Paul Widdicombe was in contact about the new sports hall at Chauncy School.

#### **6. Committee vacancies**

It was agreed that there was less need for a Publicity Officer now that Ben Vranjkovic had set up the HBA Facebook page. Other vacancies had already been discussed.

#### **7. Sunday bookings at Birchwood**

CW had circulated a chart showing current bookings. About 60% of the available court time had been booked already. Under the current agreement this worked out at £6.81 per court hour, a very favourable rate. There were three Sundays that were available all day and it was agreed to reserve 12 February and 2 April for the proposed Club Level Tournament. This should be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting in November

**ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

11 December remained available all day and there were slots available on several other Sundays.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Considerable annoyance had been expressed at the admin charge imposed by BE. This was for the use of their online system connected with the DBS check required by coaches and other volunteers working with children. Although only a small charge of £9.60 over three years this had previously been free and made a mockery of BE's stated claim to value volunteers. It was agreed that this should be raised with BE, possibly at the meeting on 24 October, or at the next Council meeting, and our displeasure made clear.

The tax position for coaches accepting payment for their tuition was not clear and GC agreed to check this.

**ACTION: GRAHAM COBB**

It was agreed that Doug Clark be invited to join the committee to report on East Herts CBN

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

GB attended the meeting as alternate BE Council representative

The next committee meeting would be held on **Monday 28 November.**

*Please make a note in your diary*