

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.30pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Colin Walker	CW	Treasurer
Nigel Abdullah	NA	
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Simon Carter	SC	
Paul Kempster	PK	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Ken Winchester	KW	

Apologies for absence had been received from Bob Green (BG); Brian Jackson (BJ) and Paul Widdicombe (PW). The committee was sorry to hear that Gill Bartlett was in hospital and asked DB to give her our best wishes for a speedy return to good health.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

A cheque had been sent to support the National Badminton Museum and information on an Open Day had been received. DB had offered assistance to the badminton club in St Albans for deaf players and was awaiting a response. MF had been on a Deaf Awareness course. CW said that his daughter Nikki had passed Level 2 as a Sign Language Interpreter and, with her knowledge of badminton, was willing and able to assist. Action on the lack of assistance given to Treasurers by Badminton England (BE), and the lack of contact with SW Herts League had not been taken.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

MF reported that a Badminton Grand Prix would be held at the Copper Box stadium next month. BE had asked those interested in running the Center Parcs Schools Tournament to put in a bid, and MF had objected to this on the grounds that this had previously been run by the county and it was unlikely that any other organisation in Herts was likely to be interested, so putting in a bid was a waste of time. He was fully supported by KW. Forms for the Wheelchair tournament had gone out and he had one expression of interest from a player in the Philippines! BE would provide the shuttles and all medals for this tournament.

Secretary

Nothing to report.

Treasurer

CW confirmed that the balance at the bank was £18K. Recent large expenditure had included £1K for shuttles and £1K for court hire at Birchwood for county training. Profit on the Open Tournament would be in the region of £680 and he congratulated EL on this good outcome. CW was currently holding 5 separate funds within the accounts, and he requested that active consideration be given to using this money, The funds were:-

£1,006 from BE for Herts Community Badminton Networks (CBNs);

£430 Stevenage Secondary Schools Development Fund;

Ray Learney fund of over £1K;

Wheelchair Tournament Fund of £1750, which would be used over a number of years.

It was agreed that money in a Young Officials fund could be transferred to General Funds

Herts County League Co-ordinator

MF had attended the County Fixtures Meeting. The number of teams entering remained much the same. PK confirmed that the fixtures had been entered on FixturesLive. There were 8 teams in the Mens 2 Division but all those participating had been consulted and had agreed to this number.

Chairman of Selectors

PW had submitted a written report which was read to the meeting. County training had commenced on 7th August and good attendance was reported to date. There were no new players although two had returned from the Bunderliege ban. There was an extreme shortage of ladies and PW expressed concern that this may result in the enforced dropping of a team with the resultant heavy penalties. The imposition of a clothing regulation on the 1st team in Premier A was discussed. PK would canvass other counties for their reaction to this new rule, how it was agreed upon, and how much notice had been given. If it was an inescapable fact then funds would have to be found for the purchase.

ACTION: PAUL WIDDICOMBE

PW also reported that 2 U17 players would be moving to Middlesex because of issues that they had with HSBA. KW explained that the problem arose when the parents of a few children had asked for different treatment on Squad fees, as they had chosen other coaching that clashed with squads.

Hertford Area League representative

SC reported that 22 clubs had entered teams in the League. There were the usual 5 formats and clubs would be entering their fixtures on FixturesLive. Colin Jackson had been able to arrange a tournament, at short notice due to court availability, and this had been enjoyed by all participating. Thanks should be expressed to Colin for arranging this.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

SC reported in place of Bob Green who was unable to attend. The Letchworth League was reduced this season with less teams entering. At the AGM a move to merge the Letchworth and Stevenage Leagues was rejected. The £500 grant from HBA for development had not yet been spent but it had been agreed at the AGM that the CBN would be the most suitable vehicle for taking this forward.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report.

Tournament Secretary

EL reported that the Open Tournament held on 31st August and 1st September weekend had been a success with 70 entries in the Mens Singles; 31 in the Ladies Singles and 36, 18 and 32 respectively in the Mens, Ladies and Mixed Doubles. All play was fitted into the slightly reduced number of courts and there were no contentious issues for the new referee, Lesley Owens. He was pleased to have made a good profit and this was down to a small increase in the entry fee; less shuttles used, and HSV holding the price of court bookings. An extra fee had to be paid this year to BE for their sanction.

MF congratulated EL on a successful tournament.

PW confirmed that the Herts County Championship (restricted) took place on 22nd September and a report would follow.

Newsletter Editor

A Newsletter had been issued in July shortly after the last committee meeting. DB reported that GB would proceed with the next issue as soon as she was able and all copy would be welcomed.

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated the minutes of the last Badminton Herts Development Committee meeting; the Herts Sports Partnership Badminton Update, and his report outlining additional information. BE had recruited staff to cover London and the East region as follows:-

Michael Nyarko as Regional Delivery Manager

Robert Flack as Workface Officer

Rhiannon Smith as Partnership Manager covering the East (to replace Matt Warren).

A priority for Michael would be to meet with all the counties as soon as possible.

The Welwyn Hatfield CBN plan 2012-13 had been approved and half the plan's costs (£1250) had been paid into the bank account. Two Badminton Development Officers had been recruited from the University. Monthly booking for 'Taking Badminton to the public' had been made at Hatfield Galleria and the first one on 21st September had been a great success.

Three schools had signed up for a SmashUp funded through Sportivate.

There were difficulties getting support from clubs for Herts West CBN and funding was at serious risk. DB drew attention to a 50% subsidy for women taking Level 1 Coaching Award if they sign up by the end of this month. Oaklands Academy had gone ahead.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ had sent a written report saying that a coach had been found for Comet Dragons. A coach would also be coaching at Rickmansworth School for a Sport England Sportivate funded programme. He will deliver 8 sessions of badminton to 14 to 16 year olds after school. BJ was trying to get the results of the Herts Youth Games on the HYG website.

HSBA Representative

KW said that HSBA had a new constitution in place. Overall last season had been a successful one, with the new U17 Manager in place. All squads were now in operation. A U15 Bronze event had attracted 102 entries and had been a financial success with no problems encountered.

County Match Secretary

NA had no specific issues to report.

3 Sunday bookings at Birchwood

CW said that the agreement signed between HBA and Birchwood over court bookings included HSBA. 27 Sundays had been booked up to April and he circulated a sheet showing the bookings. Considerable savings would be made under this agreement and thanks were expressed to PW for arranging it. CW was doing the administration for this. It was agreed not to make bookings in the period May to August 2014.

4. Complaint from BE

MF circulated copies of e-mail exchanges between BE and himself. He originally contacted BE by e mail on 1 August asking for direction as to how he should proceed with the plan for the Herts West CBN. He explained the background to the situation to them and how Matt Warren's resignation had made it difficult to know how to proceed, and he also stressed that the plan needed to be produced in time for the next CBN meeting on 16th September. It appears that this matter was not dealt with by BE

with the degree of urgency expected, so a formal complaint was lodged with BE. Subsequent e mails dealt with this complaint.

MF tendered his resignation as Chairman to the committee and said that he could not continue to deal with BE, despite protestations from committee members. It had reached the stage when his health was affected and the only sensible action was to resign. He appreciated that this left HBA in a difficult position in view of the time that he had held the post of Chairman (23 years) and his long involvement with badminton administration of around 48 years. He was prepared to assist whoever came forward as Acting Chairman.

KW thanked MF for all his years of service to badminton. He said that HSBA owed a tremendous debt of gratitude and its very existence to MF. He felt that it was sad that BE had not responded to just criticism and that counties were now being ignored by BE. HA expressed sadness that such service should end in this way, and this was the general feeling of the committee.

It was agreed that an extra committee meeting should be arranged so that an Acting Chairman could be elected

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

The meeting closed at 9.15pm with thanks to PW for arranging the room.