

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 27 July 2015 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	
Graham Cobb	GC	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Pam Newman	PN	
Colin Walker	CW	
Ken Winchester	KW	

Apologies received from Gill Bartlett (GB), Bob Green (BG) and Steve Willis (SW)
PK opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to Graham Cobb who was attending his first committee meeting having volunteered to take on the role of County League Secretary.

1. Action following the previous meeting and the AGM

There had been a very good response to the trials for the Masters teams held at Birchwood on 26 April and as a result a team had been entered in all five age categories. EL congratulated SW in the way the trials had been organised and on the successful result. DB had issued an electronic Newsletter.

HA had contacted the South West Herts League Chairman, as well as other contacts, but had not been successful in recruiting a representative to attend HBA committee meetings. DB would follow up other possible contacts.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

PK had circulated feedback that he had received from Badminton England (BE) about the difficulties experienced with the Herts Open Tournament.

The remaining action points, including one from the AGM, would be covered under separate agenda items.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

PK reported on the BE AGM held at the end of June, where DB had been voted in as an 'elected member'. The meeting had followed a standard format and PK will circulate the minutes to the committee. The 'Open Discussions' afterwards had made clear that BE were expecting severe funding cuts, and were making plans accordingly. A County Conference would be held in Loughborough on Saturday 31st October in the afternoon following the General Meeting in the morning. The agenda would be circulated shortly and counties would be invited to send representatives. No firm decision had been made with regard to the new Badminton Arena.

Secretary

HA reported that Adrian Christie had been pleased to attend our AGM and had offered to make a return visit if it would be useful. Once the agenda for the County Conference had been received, and, if there was interest from clubs, this offer could be taken up.

Treasurer

CW reported that this was a period of heavy expenditure, mainly on court fees, and no income. It was important to keep a reasonable bank balance to cover this period.

Around £5K had gone out and the balance was in the region of £15K. He was content with the new charges to be imposed by BE for the county teams.

Membership Secretary

Nothing to report during the closed season.

Chairman of Selectors

This position is still vacant and was being covered by PK and the county team captains. Pre-season training would start early in August at Herts Sports Village as it had not been possible to book courts for the necessary times at Birchwood. Invitations to attend these training sessions had been extended and included, amongst others, some U17 players, and also players whose names had been put forward. A larger pool of county players would be needed in view of the format this coming season and that Teams 1 and 2 were in the same division. The problem with players being tied in the French league continued, with 3 players in the 1st team affected. The venues for the matches had been announced with the 1st and 2nd teams playing in Surrey and the 3rd team at Harlow Leisure Zone. All county players should be affiliated, but checking this was a problem.

County Match Secretary

NA reported that, under the new structure for next season, there would be much less for him to do, with possibly 3 or 4 weekends to arrange.

Herts County League Secretary

PK would arrange a handover meeting with GC shortly. Clubs would be asked to submit details of the teams they were entering by mid August. FixturesLive would be opened up so that clubs could manage their own teams. CW suggested that clubs be asked for feedback on the current points system.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN said there was little to report during the closed season. An Acting Chairman for the league had been found and team entries were trickling in. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on 1st September.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG reported that, at their AGM, it had been decided to keep the 3 men and 3 ladies format despite the lack of ladies in the clubs.

Masters Co-ordinator

SW had reported that fixtures were currently being sorted and he was liaising with CW. The committee agreed that he was to be congratulated on having a team in each of the age groups.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that a reduced number of courts had been booked for the Open Tournament to be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Entries were slowly coming in. The BE letter about the new sponsorship deal with Babolat had come too late for this tournament and he would continue with Ashaway. He had informed BE and was awaiting a response. He still needed to organise umpires.

Entry forms for the Restricted Tournament, to be held on 26/27th September, had gone out early. This would also be held at Birchwood.

Newsletter Editor

DB said that the pre-AGM Newsletter had been sent out electronically and had 'above average' opening and viewing figures. He was prepared to send out the next edition, and the Chairman thanked him for this.

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated a Development Report to the committee and this was available on the website. A 'Summer of Badminton' from June to September, was in progress within

the Welwyn Hatfield CBN with many community events promoting badminton taking place. The Inter District Y7 Tournament had been held on 12th July and had been highly successful, with 6 districts taking part. It was clear that, due to cutbacks, there would be no more funding direct to CBNs in the near future.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ gave details of a number of instances where he had been able to supply coaches when requested. Occasionally there were difficulties due to a shortage of coaches in a particular area, but on the whole he was able to respond positively. He will consider arranging a further visit for coaches to BE HQ.

HSBA Representative

KW said that, at their AGM, their treasurer was able to confirm that HSBA was in the unusual position of having funds totalling around £4K. This was due to the success of the Inter District Tournament as well as Bronze events for the U13s and U15s held at HSV. He confirmed that John Stobo was co-ordinating interest and progressing the establishment of a BE Junior League. With regard to the new sponsorship deal he was content to remain with Ashaway where possible.

3. Committee vacancies

The position of Chairman of Selectors was still vacant but was currently being run as outlined above. A Newsletter Editor was still needed although DB would issue the next edition. A Publicity/Social Media Officer was sought but Ben Vranjkovic was prepared to set HBA up on FaceBook.

4. Training and Match Fees

CW said that the income from fees paid by county players was around £5K whereas the expenditure totalled around £7,800, so the county association was subsidising the county teams. While there was no problem with this he did not feel that a reduction in the fees was appropriate and this was agreed by the committee. The Masters teams were virtually covering their costs.

PK would check on the team shirt requirement instigated by BE for teams in the Premier Division, but presumably not applicable now that the 1st team had been relegated.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

EL would speak to SW about shirts for the Masters teams

ACTION: EDDIE LINTOTT

5. Funding proposals

The Net offer had been taken up by 5/6 clubs and £110 had been spent out of a pot of £500. CW would re-circulate the offer to clubs. The lowering of county fees would cost HBA about £700. It was agreed that a new Display Board should be purchased. It was also agreed that, if there was sufficient interest amongst the clubs, then a meeting should be held on 5th October to discuss any further ideas for funding as well as topics for the BE County Conference later in October. HA would book the Sportsman Room at Birchwood for this meeting.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

6. Transition to Senior Badminton for strong U17 players

PK will arrange to visit the U17 training session to discuss easing the transition for these players into the senior county teams, and to clubs where necessary.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

7. Badminton Archives

Paul Widdicombe had been scanning a large number of documents relating to his time as Chairman of Selectors and he had offered this information to the committee. DB

would contact Paul to thank him for all his hard work and to arrange collection and storage of this important material.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

8. Sunday bookings at Birchwood

The number of hours available had been restricted to 9am to 6pm and Sunday bookings were currently good. CW would liaise with SW and HSBA over further bookings, as he was obliged to cancel any sessions not required by the end of August 2015 to get a refund. He would circulate available sessions, and, if no take up, cancel. He would cancel usage after April 2016.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business

10. Dates of further meetings

Monday 14 September

Monday 30 November

2016

Monday 14 March

The AGM would be on **Monday 6 June 2016.**

Please make a note in your diary!