

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 8pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Paul Kempster	PK	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Ken Winchester (KW) attended on behalf of HSBA

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Carter; Bob Green; Brian Jackson (BJ); Colin Jackson; Ed Lintott and Colin Walker (CW).

1. Action following the previous meeting.

BE had been informed of the names of the Voting and Non Voting delegates representing HBA.

Instructions for the County League had been prepared and placed on the HBA website.

MF had established that the county had an Over 40 and an Over 50 Veterans Team.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

MF reported that the Wheelchair Tournament had been held, and that, despite the smaller entry, it had been a good event. Only half the number of courts booked had been used and next time consideration would be given to including a standing category to secure more entries. HBA had borne the cost of the trophies this time (£207) and this had meant that the tournament made a small loss of £89. Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) had put in a bid for funds from Disability Sport funding and, if successful, could be a source of revenue for the next event. Otherwise sponsorship would be sought. MF had attended a meeting at BE about setting up a circuit for para badminton. It was planned to hold 9 tournaments over the season.

MF and KW had attended a Regional Meeting in Newmarket where there had been good interaction between counties. KW felt that Herts was doing well considering the current circumstances.

MF, GB and DB had attended the first BE General Meeting and been informed of the proposed new Badminton Centre, projected to cost around £20.3 million, that would be sited in Milton Keynes. Shortly after this meeting BE had announced their new Regional Development plan and irritation had been expressed to BE that this had not been announced and discussed at the meeting.

Secretary

Nothing specific to report.

Treasurer

CW had sent a written report stating that funds at the bank totalled £14,500. County fees for the 2012/13 season had started to come in from BE amounting so far to £1,902. Fees from the Restricted tournament came to £730.

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that a total of 9 matches had been played of which 2 had been won, 1 drawn and 6 lost. There was difficulty in getting players for the matches due to conflict with an increasing number of tournaments being organised by BE. These tournaments, which frequently clash with county match dates, were on the ranking system. Players who were involved with the German league matches were also

currently barred from the Inter County Competition. These factors meant that, despite having a pool of nearly 60 players, it proved very difficult to field a team.

It was felt that county matches were being sidelined and this should be discussed at a meeting to be held with George Wood from BE in January

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that matches were progressing. He was aware that the results of 10 matches were outstanding and he would send out a half season reminder, which would also be included in the Newsletter

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER AND GILL BARTLETT

Hertford Area League (HAL) Co-ordinator

Simon Carter had sent in a written request that he be informed of progress on the sessions at Presdales. Lee Bent, Badminton Development Officer, who was involved with this would be asked to contact SC to discuss. Funding for these sessions would come from BE.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

Bob Green sent in a report, stating that matches were progressing.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report had been received. It was understood that Toppers BC had joined the league.

Tournament Secretary

No report had been received. The Restricted Tournament had been held satisfactorily and, despite the smaller entry, had made a small profit.

Newsletter Editor

MF congratulated GB on another good issue. The deadline for the next Newsletter was 15 January.

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated the minutes of the Badminton Herts. Development Committee meeting held yesterday, which would be available on the HBA website. He highlighted the effect that the BE restructuring of regional development would have on local plans, and this provokes a lively discussion at the BHD meeting. *See item 4*

He reported that the new Oaklands College Sports Hall would be completed soon and opening sessions would be held. He would advise the committee of the dates once these were known.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

Many young coaches had been helped by funding from the Ray Learney fund. One of them, Ben Vranjkovic, had offered to send a note of appreciation to the family. Others would be encouraged to do likewise.

DB confirmed that the Singles ladder is still in operation. Anyone interested just had to register and then arrange their games.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ sent a written report informing the meeting that a Coach Education week would be held on 16-24 February 2013. Level 1 and 2 coaching courses would be held in February in Hitchin.

HSBA Representative

KW said that a B Tournament had just been held. The standard had been good and had attracted some new players. There was a drive to help good players who do not get selected for the squads. U13 and U15 teams had both reached the Team Challenge Finals. An Open Tournament would be held this coming weekend. There was a

potential problem in that Stevenage Leisure Centre had suffered a fire and may not be ready for use. He reported that HSBA finances would be going on line and discussion followed as to the advisability of this. KW said that fitness training was now being undertaken. He also reported that the size of the committee was increasing. MF reported that he had a meeting with Nick Brooking (NB) of Herts Sports Village (HSV) about concentrating all the coaching on to one evening and progress had been made.

3. Revision of HBA Constitution

GB and HA had been working on a total revision of the HBA Rules. MF will circulate the revised Rules, once completed, with his comments, to all committee members

ACTION: MALCOLM FRASER

4. Restructuring of Regional Development team

MF explained that, because of targets being placed by the Government on all National Sport Governing Bodies, the period 2013/17 would be closely monitored.. BE were restructuring the development team. Until the budgets were announced on 13/14 December it was not clear what could be afforded so any action was on hold. BE staff in the regions would be required to apply for their own jobs. Lee Bent was going back to HQ and there was no news of a replacement, leaving all his actions on hold at least until 1 April. It was not feasible for county volunteers to cover this amount of work. DB would prepare a letter to George Wood (BE) outlining the concerns and asking for assistance.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

DB would also circulate a Sport Funding document

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

5. Bid to host an International in 2014

Adrian Christie CEO BE had sent an e-mail giving details of the bidding arrangements for International matches to be held around the country in 2014. MF had established with NB that HSV would be interested in making a bid and MF would accordingly send in an Expression of Interest form. It was agreed that Stevenage LC should also be asked if they were interested.

6. Any Other Business

MF had received an e-mail from Liz Bateman querying the 50% share out of Junior Club affiliation fees to HBA and HSBA respectively. Her view was that Junior Club money should go exclusively to HSBA. DB said that a lot of the development work undertaken by HBA was to the benefit of junior players and it was agreed at the committee that the associations worked in tandem and should be jointly funded. A discussion ensued as to whether HSBA concentrated too much on squad players. MF said that this must be their priority, but as new volunteers became available more work could be done with good players who had not made the squads. KW confirmed that this was already happening. KW asked if clubs could send in suggestions of what they specifically want HSBA to do and this request could go in the Newsletter

ACTION: GILL BARTLETT

DB reported on the success of the Inter Schools Tournament. The Centre Parks tournament would be held on 4 December. He also said that there had been over 600 viewings of videos placed on the HBA website. He was keen to use Social media such as Face Book and a volunteer was needed to set this up. He would prepare a brief note for the Newsletter asking for a volunteer

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

PK said that we need to discuss the pros and cons of presenting trophies to winning clubs, and this should be placed on the agenda of the March committee meeting

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

PK would prepare a note on this for the next Newsletter

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was 12 March 2013.

The meeting closed with thanks to Paul for arranging the meeting.