

would likely be reduced, and it was therefore unlikely that funding for capital projects, like the redevelopment of Birchwood, would be available.

Secretary

Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary

CW reported that a total of 62 clubs had affiliated to the county with a number of others still outstanding. Affiliation was due by the end of this month and he would be sending out a reminder to those still awaited.

Treasurer

The current bank balance of £17,370 was down from the previous year end. The main outlay had been for court hire and shuttles. Income had been from club affiliations, match and training fees. Outstanding were Senior county match fees and these were being collected by the team captains.

Senior County Coordinator

This position is still vacant

PK reported that the first weekend of matches early in November had been a success for Herts with all matches being won in the morning and only one loss in the afternoon. The weekend matches were well spaced out this year.

Herts County League Secretary

GC reported that results were coming in and updated on fixtures live in a far more timely manner, resulting in the league tables reflecting actual positions sooner than last year. There was some discussion about clubs playing in the Herts league but outside the county. Given specific details MP would check the position re affiliation with BE records.

ACTION: GRAHAM COBB and MIKE PIGGFORD

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN reported all was going smoothly. No tournaments had been arranged.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG had emailed his report. One school had decided not to continue with the Satellite club but two others were, hopefully, going to sign up in their place. They had another grant of £500 for after school coaching at junior schools and a coach was in place.

SW Herts League Representative

No attendee and no report.

Masters Co-ordinator

SW had emailed the team results so far. Over 40s: won 2 lost 1; over 50s: won 1 lost 2; over 55s: won 1 and over 60s: lost 2. At the time of the email the over 45s had not played.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that the Restricted Tournament had gone very well this year with entries up on the previous year. It had become necessary to hire more courts and play continued until early evening. The tournament had broken even financially. The good entry was partly down to early publicity and Graham Hall had been influential in getting the entry forms out in the summer. EL was pleased to report that the doubles trophy had turned up after going missing for 25 years. Getting it correctly engraved might prove a challenge!

PK thanked EL for his and his team's hard work in arranging and holding this successful tournament.

Newsletter Editor

This post was still vacant.

DB produced printouts of the HBA Face Book page and web page, and confirmed that interest had been shown in this form of information dissemination.

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated a Development Report to the committee and this was available on the website. Although 3 of the 4 Community Badminton Networks had sufficient funding there was still a shortage of coaches to fill some vacancies. However, some of those who took the Young Leaders Award course in July were beginning to volunteer their services in various ways, and a few had expressed interest in the Level 1 coaching course in February.

DB reported specifically on the proposed redevelopment of Birchwood and whether the new facility could be expanded to include 8 courts or increase the 4 court footprint for tournaments and a viewing gallery. He had been trying to contact the Hatfield Town Council Leader but without success to date. He and Nick Goode were to meet Richard Sutcliffe (RS), Funding4sport on 1 December regarding funding opportunities. It was unlikely that funding would come from BE.

Post meeting:

DB met Hatfield Town Council Leader, Lenny Brandon, who said that due to complex reasons the area for the development would very probably have to be moved and this required agreement with the Borough Council. Only then (probably February) would be able to get the architects to draft the new facility and see if an additional 4 courts and/or viewing balcony could be accommodated (and assess costs). At the meeting with RS, Nick Goode and DB heard that sufficient capital e.g., £1M for another 4 courts, was unlikely and currently unknown until SE complete their funding of NGBs, etc., but, it might be possible develop piecemeal. Funding for NGBs is likely to be completed by February. RS has forwarded useful information. Discussion moved on to the Yonex Tour Event on Friday 16 December that was item 4 on the Agenda. This had been arranged to feature the Olympic Bronze Medal pairing of Chris Langridge and Marcus Ellis and has been advertised widely. Unfortunately Chris had now dropped out. MP reported that this was being dealt with at a high level at BE but, so far as he was aware, Chris was still not available and no replacement had been found. Discussion ranged from cancelling the evening, in which case the daytime visits to schools might also be dropped, to carrying on with just Marcus. It was agreed that this was most disappointing, particularly after the considerable effort devoted to it by DB. An outcome from BE would be awaited, and if it was decided to go ahead all relevant organisations should be contacted to make them aware of the change of plans. DB had prepared a list of various tasks that would need to be undertaken if the event goes ahead together with the numbers of helpers required. PK would sort out Senior County players to play in the evening event. PK thanked DB for the considerable effort he had put into organising this event.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ reported on another busy period seeking to satisfy requests for coaches. In the main he had been successful, or he had been able to point the applicant in the right direction. The Coach Education week had been arranged for 11 to 19 February.

HSBA Representative

KW had emailed his report. The season had started well with high attendance among each of the 4 junior squads. There were so many under 12s showing good potential that the coaches were exploring the possibility of a development squad purely for under 9s. The high standard of a number of younger players had necessitated them training with an older squad in order to give them more equal competition but this did sometimes result in adverse comments from some parents. A number of well

supported restricted tournaments had already been held. A BE request to run an U13 Gold Hatfield tournament had been turned down as it would have clashed with an Open U14 Bronze. The next tournament was an U18 Bronze at Stevenage on 3 December and there was a high level of entries. There is plenty of interest in the Yonex County Tour so it was hoped that it would take place.

3. Sunday Bookings at Birchwood

CW reported that, generally, bookings were going well and the cost currently worked out at under £7 per court. There were 3 Sundays (11 Dec; 12 Feb and 2 April) where there were no bookings and it was not possible to hand these dates back. There was possible Masters interest in 11 December; MP expressed interest in using 12 February and it was agreed that consideration would be given to running a tournament for club members on 2 April.

4. Chris and Marcus Tour 16 December

See discussion under Development Co-ordinator's report.

5. Mike Piggford to report on meeting on 24 October and to discuss HBA 2017/24 Strategy

MP said that the BE team had been pleased with the level of interest shown at the meeting on 24th and they had received good feedback from the event. He had summarised the feedback and listed the individual topics raised and recorded the range of priorities given by attendees. This information had been circulated to the committee. Some aims, such as getting more people playing, had been consistently given high priority, but in others, such as coaching, there was no clear agreement on priorities. In response to a question from PK MP said that input from BE depended on the amount of funding they would receive and this would hopefully be known sometime in January. He did confirm that primary development was well underway as it had been started before the cutbacks. If coaches were available then this could start and DB emphasised that MP should work together with BJ and himself as they knew where the opportunities existed. DB also stressed that the Coaching Co-ordinator needed a higher status with BE and a clearer knowledge of what was being developed at BE. MP would relay this to Aleisha Moore at BE and ensure that BJ was kept informed of BE developments and initiatives

ACTION: MIKE PIGGFORD

MP was working with individual counties and devising customised plans according to stated needs. It was agreed that the 3 areas that HBA would concentrate on were:

More people playing; Coaching and School links,

and that two further columns should be added to the chart identifying:

What needs to be done and Who should do it

The views of the committee in this respect would be of value and should be sent to

PK by **7 January**

ACTION: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A meeting to discuss the next steps in preparing a County Plan would be held on Monday 6 February at the Bartlett's home. (*27 Mardley Hill, Welwyn, AL6 0TT*)

6. Any Other Business

DB regretted to inform the committee that he had lost the HBA Banner Stand. He had taken it to an event in the summer but it had not been brought back and, despite extensive enquiries, could not be traced.

The next main committee meeting would be held on **Monday 27 March 2017**

Please make a note in your diary