

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 29 July 2014 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, starting at 7.30pm and attended by:

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|------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Paul Kempster | PK | Chairman |
| Hilary Anderson | HA | Secretary |
| Nigel Abdullah | NA | |
| Brian Jackson | BJ | |
| Eddie Lintott | EL | |
| Pam Newman | PN | |
| Ken Winchester | KW | |

Apologies for absence had been received from Dave (DB) and Gill Bartlett (GB); Bob Green (BG); Colin Walker (CW) and Steve Willis (SW).

1. Action following the AGM.

Concern over BE's proposal to increase fees had been raised at the BE AGM and had been noted, but was defended by BE on the grounds that funding reductions made increasing membership fees unavoidable.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

PK welcomed those present and circulated his report. He had attended the BE AGM on 28th June together with DB. The BE accounts showed a large deficit of £700k for the period ending March 2014 but the plan was to reduce that in the current year and then to balance over the four year cycle to March 2017 as part of the Business Plan. They would look at cost reduction options when the new Finance Director was appointed. The HBA meeting was appalled at the size of the deficit, some of which was as a result of the badly attended Copper Box tournament held last autumn, and felt that someone should bear responsibility for this, Amazement was also expressed that BE intended to go ahead with the new National Badminton Arena despite the dire financial position and that the plans were currently stalled.

Unfortunately the deadline for nominating David Bartlett for election as a General Member was missed so his term has now finished. He will be nominated again in October in accordance with BE procedure.

The National Badminton League (NBL) would start with the first match on 6 October 2014 having 6 teams initially, but with the potential to grow. The player auction had been held in June and the squads confirmed on 1 August when tickets would go on sale. Match nights would be on Monday live on Sky, and streamed on Tuesdays.

The BE Board of Directors agreed the changes to the Inter County Competition on 28 May and these would come into effect for the 2015/16 season. BE would coordinate the venues and shuttles, and for the Regional divisions there would be four weekends with 8 teams playing each team once only. The National Division (Premier) would have ten teams. The advantages are expected to be an enhanced player pathway and players will get ranking points.

Secretary

Nothing outstanding to report.

Treasurer

Colin Walker had sent a written report. Little had changed since the end of the financial year. Funds stood at around £18K which was down from the £20.8K level at 30.4.14 due to payment of £2K for courts for next season (£1890 for HSV courts for the Open and £300 for HSV courts for county training in August). £10 rebate had

been paid to the 18 clubs represented at the AGM and two fundings of £100 each had been from the Ray Learney fund. It was agreed at the meeting that £500 should be transferred from general funds to the Ray Learney fund and that clubs should be advised of this in the Newsletter and the HBA website.

ACTION: COLIN WALKER, DAVE AND GILL BARTLETT

Herts County League Co-ordinator

PK reported that forms for team entry had gone out and he was anticipating an increase in entries. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on Monday 1 September at Birchwood Leisure Centre.

County Match Secretary

NA reported difficulty in arranging one particular match against Yorkshire due to their requirement to play on a Saturday. He had eventually been able to accommodate them. He anticipated that there would be no role for him after this season due to the changes being made by BE.

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN reported that all the forms for team entry had been sent out to clubs. They hoped to run a Mens 6 but there would probably be insufficient entries for a Mixed. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on Tuesday 2 September at Allenburys Sports and Social Club.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG had sent a written report. The Letchworth & District Badminton League had their AGM recently and despite losing a team for the next season the members voted to continue with the 3 ladies and 3 men format, in preference to switching to a 2 ladies 2 men format to ease the lack of ladies. After the meeting there was a suggestion that local junior clubs should get together for more tournaments and this would be taken forward. It was also hoped that the county would run at least one junior event and KW gave this suggestion his support.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report yet again.

Tournament Secretary

EL reported that on line entry forms for the Open on 30/31 August had been sent out and there was 2 ½ weeks remaining to the closing date. The response was slow but this was standard with most of the entries usually coming in the last week. He had increased the entry fee by £2 from £16 to £18 this year as all costs had gone up, particularly relating to on line entries, and a fee of £2.50 per entry payable to BE. Graham Hall, EL and PK had jointly agreed to run the Herts Restricted Tournament on 27/28 September at Birchwood.

Newsletter Editor

No report.

Development Co-ordinator

In a written report DB summarised the position regarding the 4 CBNs, East Herts, North Herts & Stevenage, South West Herts and Welwyn Hatfield.

Currently, EH CBN have decided to meet, network and promote opportunities for badminton but not produce a plan that is required for BE Head Office funding.

NH CBN are working towards, have had several useful projects and programmes but have not had the time to complete the documentation to get the HO funding.

SWH CBN have had 3 meetings and are working towards completion of the plan by 8th September deadline to release funding: Support from the LA Development Officers and School Games Partnerships has been good, but only 1 club rep. (from Marshals

JBC) has attended regularly. The Development plan, while co-ordinated by Chairman (Gill Bartlett), will have the sections written by the LAs, schools and Colleges. WH CBN have completed a year following their Development plan acceptance and receiving half the HO funding: the remaining funding will be available following the completion of the Development Plan Update by 8th September. The whole scheme has been highly successful.

The full report was available on the HBA website.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ reported that he had been able to fill a request from Welwyn/Hatfield CBN for a coach on Mondays. A BE instigated Coach Licencing Scheme had been announced this week. He and DB were attempting to persuade BE not to insist on a repeat Safeguarding course.

HSBA Representative

KW reported that their AGM had been poorly attended, which was disappointing but probably due to end of season lethargy. Next season all squads would play on Wednesday evenings at the same venue and the Under 11s would be coached by Kelly Matthews. The standard of the coaching at these squad sessions was very high but good quality athletes among the children were missing. He stressed the need to interest children in badminton at an early age.

Veterans Co-ordinator

SW had sent a written report confirming that Over 40; Over 50 and Over 55 teams had been entered in the Masters League and Over 45 and Over 50 teams in the Yehlex weekend. The team captains: Eddie Lintott for the O40s; Kevin Maughan for the O50s, and Jeff Armstrong for the O55s, were arranging the fixtures for the next season. New players were sought for the squads especially ladies for the O50s, and he is relying on responses from clubs as to who is available before he can draw up a spreadsheet of players to choose from.

3 Chairman of Selectors – vacancy

Paul Widdicombe had briefly attended the start of the meeting and was presented with a voucher and a bottle of champagne as a token of the appreciation felt by the committee for all his hard work over the years as Chairman of Selectors.

No replacement had yet been found and PK was currently assisting the three county team captains with selection. Some difficulty was anticipated due to the shortage of ladies.

4 Birchwood contract

CW reported that court bookings for next season had already started to come in. One person coordinating HSBA bookings was working much better. Senior county fixtures had been advised and those present were requested to advise CW of any further bookings together with any interest in mid week daytime court use. The fixtures for the Masters League would be made in August followed by the court bookings. The cancellation of some unused dates listed by CW was agreed. BJ agreed to advise BE of the availability of courts at Birchwood for coaching courses.

ACTION: BRIAN JACKSON

5 Parabadminton tournament

Following the recent withdrawal of a possible candidate, an organiser was still being sought. HSP had indicated that they may be able to assist and PK would take this forward with DB.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER & DAVE BARTLETT

6 Safeguarding Young People policy

DB had provided some useful written comments on the BE Safeguarding Young People policy and it was agreed that Barbara Lewcynska as HBA County Welfare Officer should take this forward with BE.

ACTION: BARBARA LEWCYNSKA

7. Any Other Business

CBNs CW reported that East Herts CBN do not have a bank account and he has agreed that HBA will pay any bills they incur up to the value of £251.50 eg. costs incurred in running a tournament such as courts or shuttles. He was still waiting to be advised of North Herts CBN bank details.

Ray Learney Fund

This funding was proving very helpful in assisting much needed new coaches to undertake costly training for qualification.

Regional Update from Michael Nyarko

This report had been circulated to all committee members prior to the meeting and it was agreed that any additions and/or amendments should be sent, either to DB or Michael Nyarko direct. The publication of a regional update had the full support of the committee.

ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8. Suggested Dates for Further Meetings

From responses received Monday appeared to be the best night for future committee meetings and the date of the next meeting was

Monday 29th SEPTEMBER 2014