

## HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

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

<b>Paul Kempster</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Hilary Anderson</b>	<b>HA</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Nigel Abdullah</b>	<b>NA</b>	
<b>Dave Bartlett</b>	<b>DB</b>	
<b>Gill Bartlett</b>	<b>GB</b>	
<b>Bob Green</b>	<b>BG</b>	
<b>Brian Jackson</b>	<b>BJ</b>	
<b>Eddie Lintott</b>	<b>EL</b>	
<b>Pam Newman</b>	<b>PN</b>	
<b>Colin Walker</b>	<b>CW</b>	
<b>Ken Winchester</b>	<b>KW</b>	

### 1. Action following the previous meeting

Clubs had been advised via the HBA website of the transfer of funds from HBA to the Ray Learney Fund. BE had been made aware of the availability of courts at Birchwood for coaching courses. The Parabadminton tournament would be covered later in the meeting. BE had been reminded that Barbara Lewcynska was our County Welfare Officer and they would keep her advised of any changes to the Safeguarding policy. A new Regional Update had been produced and circulated.

### 2. Report on activities

#### **Chairman**

PK apologised for the fact that, due to pressure of work, he had been unable to take things forward over the preceding period. He was not able to attend the next BE meeting on 30 October but it was hoped that GB as alternate, together with DB, would be able to attend. GB requested that she be informed of any matters that needed to be raised on behalf of the county.

**ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **Secretary**

Nothing outstanding to report.

#### **Treasurer**

CW reported that the HBA balance at the bank was currently £13K down from £20K reported at the last meeting. There had been a lot of expenses, on shuttles, courts etc and this showed the necessity of holding a good balance to manage this sort of expenditure. He gave a brief report on the Ray Learney Fund. The Fund had been set up in 2007 after Ray's death to help young people with the cost of coaching courses. The family had initially contributed £1K. There had been further family donations as well as contributions from clubs and HBA. 22 awards had been made since 2008 totalling £2,100. The remaining balance of £1,783 includes the £500 transfer from HBA reserves. It was agreed that this information should be publicised on the website and in the Newsletter.

**ACTION: DAVE AND GILL BARTLETT**

CW also said that alterations were being made to the bank mandate to include PK and DB as signatories, in addition to HA and himself.

#### **Membership Secretary**

CW said that the fees scale on the website needed to be updated

**ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT**

He also said that county squad players need to be affiliated to play for the county and PK will send out reminders

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

### **Herts County League Co-ordinator**

PK reported that the Fixtures Meeting had been held on 1 September and the fixtures had been uploaded on to FixturesLive. A similar number of teams had entered but from less clubs. Some early matches had already been played. He was promoting the use of courts at Birchwood when clubs had difficulties with their own courts.

### **Chairman of Selectors**

PK confirmed that this post is still not filled. County training had continued throughout August and September and team captains for each of the 3 teams had been appointed. There had been some new players and the squads were looking good. However the lack of a Chairman was critical. It was agreed at the meeting that this position required someone with specialist knowledge and had to come from within the ranks of players. They should be advised of this.

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

### **County Match Secretary**

NA reported the calendar had been issued and was on the website. He sent details to the opposition one month before each home match.

### **Hertford Area League Co-ordinator**

PN reported that three clubs (Spartans; Lingwood and Phoenix) had dropped out of the league. Matches had started OK and the procedure where clubs entered their own fixtures worked well. She suggested that this might work for the county. Colin Jackson had organised a successful tournament on 7 September for which there had been 52 entries.

### **North Herts and Letchworth area representative**

BG reported that the North Herts Community Badminton Network (CBN) now had a bank account and they had been pleased to accept the transfer of development funding from HBA. Possible uses could be in club coaching and First Aid courses. In the league they had lost one team and gained one. They had agreed to continue with the smaller team makeup (4 players: 2 ladies and 2 men). They were hoping to run a junior tournament.

### **S.W. Herts League Representative.**

No report yet again.

### **Tournament Secretary**

EL reported that the Open Tournament had taken place on 30/31 August and entries had been dramatically down. There had been 10 pairs less than last year in each of the Mens and Mixed doubles, 28 and 25 pairs respectively, and 72 entries in the Mens Singles. There had been too many courts booked and he will have to reduce this next year. If BE agreed to waive some of their (heavy) fees he hoped to break even. They had lost some of the young entries because the Under 17s have to be of a recognised standard to enter and he felt that this was ageist.

Graham Hall, EL and PK had run the Herts Restricted Tournament on 27/28 September at Birchwood and there had been a reasonable entry. There had been some new faces, some from HSBA, and the County Team Captains had been there to watch.

### **Vets Co-ordinator**

EL reported on behalf of Steve Willis. The 50 plus team had been dropped due to the lack of ladies, but the 40+ and the 55+ had entered as usual. The fixtures were lined up. Herts Ladies had been very successful in the European Masters Championships with Liz Austin and Caroline Hale winning gold in Lisbon

### **Newsletter Editor**

GB reported that due to ill health no Newsletter had been published. DB had sent out a small electronic version. It was agreed that she would send out a blank form and ask for individual contributions with a deadline of **20<sup>th</sup> October** for return and 30<sup>th</sup> October for getting it out electronically.

### **Development Co-ordinator**

DB circulated his report to the committee and had previously circulated the latest BE HBA Update for September prepared by Michael Nyarko. The development co-ordinator's report outlined the progress being made within each of the CBNs. Both documents were available on the HBA website.

DB had been looking into social media and it was agreed that a facilitator was required to ensure that all information given was active and up to date. Any thoughts or proposals would be welcomed.

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

BJ had received one request for a coach from St Clements Danes School that, despite best efforts, he had been unable to fill.

### **HSBA Representative**

KW said that there was not much to report as it was early in the season. They were up to their fourth squad training session and having all squads training on the same evening was working well. The new HSBA treasurer was settling in. Commiserations were expressed for the Conways over the sad loss of their son and it was agreed that a card should be sent on behalf of HBA

**ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

### **3 Birchwood contract**

HBA had signed a contract with Hatfield Town Council setting out the agreement for booking courts at Birchwood on Sundays over a period of 3 years. A copy of this contract should be obtained from Malcolm Fraser. Last season this had worked very well, working out at £5.50 per court hour. This season was not shaping up so well as bookings so far were 40% down. CW asked that all possible use be made of the courts and particularly by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as coaches. BJ will remind coaches. The advantages of booking at Birchwood will be advertised on the HBA and the HSBA websites. KW will raise this at the next HSBA committee meeting.

**ACTION: BRIAN JACKSON, DAVE BARTLETT & KEN WINCHESTER**

CW said that the contract can be terminated with 3 months' notice so the position will have to be carefully evaluated in June 2015.

### **4. Any Other Business**

**Parabadminton Tournament** . Although this had not been arranged for October due to the lack of an organiser PK was optimistic that it may still be held in the season. An administrator had come forward and a possible organiser had also been identified. BE will be asked if their calendar allows for the event to be run at a later date, possibly in the spring. Paul Widdicombe will also be asked if the event could be held at Birchwood

**Shuttles.** PK said that Goode Sports were offering 25 dozen free shuttles as an incentive to using Ashaway. They were also offering T Shirts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> County teams and it was agreed that these should be purchased by team players and subsidised from HBA funds.

**5. Date of Next Meeting: MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2014**