

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 30 November 2015 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, starting at 7.30pm and attended by:

Paul Kempster	PK	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Nigel Abdullah	NA	
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Gill Bartlett	GB	
Graham Cobb	GC	
Brian Jackson	BJ	
Eddie Lintott	EL	
Pam Newman	PN	
Colin Walker	CW	
Steve Willis	SW	
Ken Winchester	KW	

Apology received from Bob Green (BG).

PK opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all committee members.

1. Action following the previous meeting.

PK had not been able to follow up his contact with the U17 Squad Manager due to pressure of other activities, so this action is ongoing.

ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER

DB had been in contact with Ben Vranjkovic who hoped to set up the HBA FaceBook page by the end of December. HBA had taken up the full complement of delegates allowed at the BE County Conference. Club attendance at a pre-conference meeting had been minimal, despite encouragement via email, and the provision of refreshments, by HA.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

PK reported on the Badminton England (BE) Members Meeting held on 31 October. The success of English players in both the BWF World Senior Championships and the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships was noted with pleasure. In the latter event, which was hosted by BE at Stoke Mandeville, England gained second place in the overall medal table with Rachel Choong becoming our first triple Para-Badminton Champion. BE had decided not to pursue the relocation of the National Badminton Arena, but rather to consider options to refurbish the current facilities. Information on future funding of sport was still awaited. In view of the implications of the Badminton Europe age group qualifications it was proposed that our junior age groups should be moved forward by one year, and that the season will officially start on 1st July 2016. PK raised HBA concerns about the financial viability of the Herts Silver Circuit tournament that was scheduled by BE on the August Bank Holiday weekend, rather than the usual first weekend in September. Numbers were well down again and prize money had to be reduced to make it financially viable. BE have agreed to work with HBA when the calendar for the tournament circuit is released next year.

This meeting was followed by the County Conference. The HBA committee had been disappointed that there was so little interest shown by clubs in the meeting held on 5 October to hear and record the views of members within Herts, despite this being extensively promoted and encouraged beforehand. Those views that were expressed were taken to the meeting and shared with other counties at all the key breakout

sessions. Feedback from this event was going into a draft report to the next BE Members Meeting and would be shared once it was made available. Encouragement was given to HBA to continue to run the Herts Para-Badminton tournament. It was agreed that, given the same level of support by our members, this event would again be run and a date settled upon shortly.

Secretary

Nothing to report.

Membership Secretary

Affiliation fees of around £2,400 from 49 clubs had been received so far, with affiliation fees from around 22/23 clubs still to come in. Any still outstanding by mid December will be chased up. There are a possible two new clubs. County fees were reduced for this season but it is anticipated that, in total, around £3,500 will come in.

Treasurer

CW reported that there was currently a balance of around £19,000 in the bank. The Restricted Tournament had made a small loss of around £200

Chairman of Selectors

This position is still vacant

PK reported that this season has seen the launch of the new Senior County Championship competition format with all teams playing across three weekends. The first of these weekends was at the start of November and the results were mixed with the third team having particularly strong competition. Next matches take place on Saturday 12 December.

County Match Secretary

Nothing to report.

Herts County League Secretary

GC reported that a few clubs were slow in posting their results and he would prompt relevant clubs. Without score sheets it was difficult to arbitrate on disputes, but it was agreed by the committee that, as long as clubs kept the sheets, there should not be a problem. It was agreed by the committee that the names of nominated players should be given at the start of the season and GC will take this forward.

GC had also been given further information by DB about club insurance cover. There was a link on the HBA website to the BE website where further information could be obtained. It was confirmed that the CRB status of coaches was monitored by BE. CB will prepare a draft note for clubs explaining the insurance position, particularly relating to visitors.

ACTION: GRAHAM COBB

Hertford Area League Co-ordinator

PN reported that all was going well at HAL.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG had sent a written report. Two 'ladies only' sessions had been run to encourage female participation but had been poorly attended. Two funding applications to the Council's Community Fund had been successful: £500 for more junior school sessions, of which 5 would be run in 2016 starting in January; £500 for a set of ladies only sessions to be run later when it is planned to get more participants

SW Herts League Representative

No attendee yet again and no report

Masters Co-ordinator

SW reported that, although overall more matches were being lost than won, it was good to be fielding five teams and this level of competition was new to some of the players. He had suggested that the players enter as many tournaments as possible to

get practice at a higher level. Team kit, subsidised by HBA, was being organised. The next set of matches would be held after Christmas.

Tournament Secretary

EL said that the Open Tournament had just broken even, Entry for the Restricted had been well down (27% on 2014). A better competition page was needed as well as better promotion. Younger players were needed. It was agreed that a donation of £100 be sent to the Umpires.

Newsletter Editor

This post was still vacant.

DB was keen for a Newsletter to go out early in January so that the forthcoming coaches courses could be advertised. It was agreed that a version of the HBA minutes should form the basis of the Newsletter and HA will draft both versions. The court vacancies at Birchwood should also be advertised.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

Development Co-ordinator

DB circulated a Development Report to the committee and this was available on the website. Reports were submitted under the different Community Badminton Networks (CBNs). East Herts CBN had provided teams for the first inter-district junior tournament. A newsletter was planned for early in January. Herts West CBN had a new Chairman Alex Varran who thanked GB for her considerable role in this post to date. Various activities listed in the report had been held. For the Welwyn Hatfield CBN DB reported on the large number of community badminton activities that had taken place recently and these can be seen on the HBA website.

County wide DB said that all ten Herts Districts had provided teams for the first tournament on 12th November and had an enjoyable time. 'Increasing Women and Girls in Sport' Conference held on 24 November had over 200 attendees and the SmashUp presentation had been very well received.

Coaching Co-ordinator

BJ reported success in finding coaches for 3 one to ones. Where difficulty was experienced in finding a coach the solution was often to change the time or date of the coaching session. Due to lack of given contact details he was unable to call upon 19 of the accredited coaches in the county, and it tended to be the same half dozen coaches who were able to assist.

HSBA Representative

KW said that the Youth League had gone very well. However, non-county players were being fielded and this could cause problems with other counties taking a different approach. They had been let down by the late delivery of Babolat shuttles but it was felt that these were inferior so it was not a great loss. BE had offered a Master Class with Gail Emms and this had been accepted. HSBA had been able to use Birchwood extensively and were happy with the current arrangement. They were resisting a request from the Shires League to change the league format. An U17 tournament had just been held but there had been problems with the lights at Stevenage.

3. Centre for Herts Badminton at Birchwood

PK informed the committee that there was a potential funding opportunity being made in the Welwyn Hatfield area related to the Herts University Section 106 planning obligation at Angerland Common (Park and Ride). The financial contribution from the University, around £1.4m, was to be set up as a community sport fund for Hatfield, replacing the original agreement to provide sports facilities that were lost when the park and ride was built. This presented a potential opportunity for the

badminton community to make a bid to the fund for the purpose of creating a dedicated Badminton Centre in the area. This could be associated with the site at Birchwood, or elsewhere such as Gosling, and essentially consisting of developing additional facilities alongside the existing centres with a focus for Badminton. This would create:

- A centre for HBA and HSBA to locate all of its training, tournaments and competitions
- A dedicated place for coaching
- Leading court facilities for new and existing clubs to take advantage of.
- Additional facilities such as physiotherapy, restringing and equipment etc.
- A social space/atmosphere for players and spectators to enjoy while being involved in Badminton.

Funding might be possible from other sources.

DB had spoken to Jonathan Lee at BE who offered support for this and said that, where a Badminton Centre had been set up, there had been a noticeable increase in both the involvement and interest in the sport in that county. The topic was discussed widely in committee with both positive and negative views expressed. KW confirmed that it had also been discussed at the HSBA committee meeting. It was agreed that it was a very large undertaking and that, initially, Jonathan Lee would be contacted by DB and asked for further advice and assistance.

ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT

4. Sunday Bookings at Birchwood

26 Sundays at Birchwood had been taken for the period September to April and this represented 62% usage at a rough cost of £6 per hour. It was particularly helpful that there was now no requirement to fill courts after 6pm. It was agreed that CW, PK and KW would meet with Paul Widdicombe in January to discuss a future arrangement. A decision should be made by 31st March 2016 whether a further contract was to be made.

5. County League

This had been covered under the County League Secretary's report

6. Any Other Business

BJ informed the committee that in future the 'classroom' element of the coaching courses would be given on line and that the group element would be mainly practical.

7. The next meeting would be held on Monday 14 March 2016