

## **HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Monday 9 March 2015 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, starting at 7.45pm 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>Eddie Lintott</b>	<b>EL</b>	
<b>Pam Newman</b>	<b>PN</b>	
<b>Colin Walker</b>	<b>CW</b>	
<b>Steve Willis</b>	<b>SW</b>	
<b>Ken Winchester</b>	<b>KW</b>	

Apologies received from Gill Bartlett (GB) and Brian Jackson (BJ)

### **1. Action following the previous meeting**

Clubs had been reminded on the HBA website that they should affiliate to Badminton England (BE) before 31 December or lose their insurance cover. CW had obtained a copy of the Birchwood contract. Other actions would be covered under the relevant agenda items.

### **2. Report on activities**

#### **Chairman**

PK reported on the last BE General Meeting. It was proposed to increase affiliation fees by £1 for both Seniors and Juniors, to £15 and £5 respectively. It was apparent that BE were experiencing financial challenges due to the likely reduction in Government funding. One membership benefit, the Courtside magazine, was to cease publication. The changes to Senior County restructuring had been announced but the costs to counties had not been revealed. Responses to a survey suggested that most counties agree with Herts that the current player qualification criteria should not be changed.

#### **Secretary**

All correspondence received had been circulated.

#### **Treasurer**

CW reported that the balance at the bank, currently £18,880, had gone down by about £2K since the start of the season. Once ring fenced funds had been taken out the balance in general funds was around £16,300, and he expected this to drop to around £15K once costs relating to the last Premier weekend, still to be held, and other expenses were settled.

#### **Membership Secretary**

70 clubs had affiliated, down by 3 with the loss of Lingwood; Merlin and Welwyn. The number of seniors affiliating was 941, slightly down on the previous year, but for juniors the number was up to 542. The income from affiliation fees was much the same as in the previous year.

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

PK reported that it was nearing the end of the season and there had been no significant issues. Late cancellation was still a difficulty but usually settled after some arbitration.

#### **Chairman of Selectors**

This position is still vacant and was being covered by PK and the county team captains. PK reported that there was one more Premier weekend of matches to be held at the end of March. The 1st team would have to battle to stay in the Premier league. It had been a difficult season due to injuries and unavailability. The latter had been

exacerbated due to the decision of the French league not to allow the players in their league to play for English leagues. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team were in 2<sup>nd</sup> position and expected to finish there after a good season. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 2 matches left to play. With regard to next season PK said that details of the structure were now available. It was possible that the first and second teams could end up in the same division but this was allowed, although it would create problems in getting enough available players. A bigger pool was required, particularly of ladies.

#### **County Match Secretary**

NA reported that under the new structure for next season there would apparently be no requirement for a team to travel for more than two hours. Herts Sports Village had been selected as one of the venues and this would obviously be very convenient.

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

The HAL AGM would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> May and a new Chairman would be needed as Colin Jackson was moving out of the area. His input would be much missed particularly in organising the tournament. PN said that one formal complaint had been received about Codicote Hall. Stanstead Abbots BC would be celebrating 60 years in May.

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

No report had been received.

#### **Tournament Secretary**

EL expressed his irritation that BE had changed the date for the Open Tournament to the August Bank Holiday without consultation. They had not informed him of the change which he had only discovered when scrutinising their calendar. They had put a gold tournament into our regular spot and this could not now be changed. He was concerned that this change of date would adversely affect the number of entries, and also the number of volunteers that would be available. He had contacted BE asking if they will cover the costs of any possible shortfall in entry numbers and if they will supply volunteers to help with running the tournament. To date he had not received a reply.

#### **Masters Co-ordinator**

SW reported that the Over 55 team had beaten Essex yesterday and had won all 5 of their 5 matches. They would be involved in a playoff against Surrey. The Over 40s had come third in the ICC but would have won it if the revised way of counting points had been adopted. He was planning to run trials at Birchwood on 26 April and if he had a good response then an Over 50s team would be re-entered. He would send the relevant information to HA who would notify clubs.

**ACTION: STEVE WILLIS AND HILARY ANDERSON**

#### **Newsletter Editor**

DB said that GB was unwell and the committee asked that their good wishes be passed on. He had sent a Newsletter out in January via MailChimp to 1100 members and only 17 emails had bounced. The age of recipients was 16+. He would investigate sending the next issue out not as an attachment and this would be before the AGM.

Copy date was **30th April**

**ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT & ALL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS**

#### **Development Co-ordinator**

DB had circulated a Development Report to the committee and this was available on the website. Progress was being made on various initiatives set up to encourage participation in badminton. The new Regional Partnership Manager, Leah Singleton, had badminton experience, had worked for BE since 2010, and would be an asset to the county. There was a desperate need for more coaches.

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

BJ had sent in a written report also emphasising the shortage of coaches which meant that he had been unable to assist with several recent requests. The position was not likely to improve in the near future as the recent Level 1 and 2 courses had only attracted 7 Herts based candidates.

### **HSBA Representative**

KW said that a successful Primary Schools Tournament had been held, attracting 28 teams, and had been well reported in the press. An Under 13 Singles and Doubles Tournament had been held in Stevenage and this had been a success as well as making a profit for HSBA funds. An U15 Silver Event was coming up using all 5 courts at the Gosling Stadium. HSBA had agreed to take over all Sunday bookings at Birchwood from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> August. Barbara Lewczynska would be running a replica "Youth Games" tournament on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### **3. Finance**

CW said that although there was a requirement to keep a working capital, especially for the start of the season when expenses were heavy and there was little income, there were still funds available. He proposed that the county fees be reduced by 20p per Senior to £3.50 and by 50p per Junior to 50p with no rebate. This reduction in fees should be well advertised to clubs, and would slightly mitigate the rise in BE fees. It was also agreed that a reduction in fees would be made for anyone joining after 1<sup>st</sup> May, although that rarely happened. In view of the shortage of coaches it was also agreed that a further £500 of HBA funds would be transferred to the Ray Learney Fund to help applicants with the cost of coaching courses. It was also agreed that HBA would offer help to clubs needing new nets and 50% of the cost would be offered.

#### **ACTION; COLIN WALKER**

CW had obtained a copy of the Birchwood contract which gave HBA, together with HSBA, 3 years of exclusive use of the courts on Sundays. It has run successfully for 2 years but as BE will be running Senior County matches next season less court use will be required. A decision about the contract had to be made by 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was agreed that, if the court time could be reduced to 9am – 6pm, then it may still be feasible to complete the final year. KW said that HSBA would continue to use the courts as much as possible. CW would speak to Paul Widdicombe to see what could be arranged.

#### **ACTION: COLIN WALKER**

PK thanked CW for all the work he had put in to managing this contract.

### **4. Preparations for AGM on Monday 8 June 2015**

HA circulated a draft agenda for the meeting. It was agreed that the HBA website would have a Roll of Honour Board giving the names of all the Vice Presidents. The agenda would then only list the latest incumbents.

#### **ACTION: DAVE BARTLETT**

HA would write to Martin Winstone to see if he wished to continue being named as SW Herts Representative and, if so, would he be able to provide some input regarding badminton in the area.

#### **ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON**

It was agreed that Adrian Christy, Chief Executive of BE, would be invited to speak at 9.15 with an opportunity for questions afterwards, finishing at the deadline of 10pm. The AGM would start at 7.30 and finish by 9pm with the opportunity for a drink and nibbles at the start and in the brief interval between the AGM and the speaker. It was agreed that the committee would propose that Angela Blowers; Pat

Walker; Phil Westwood and Paul Widdicombe be made Vice Presidents. To enable the AGM to proceed swiftly all Executive Committee reports should be circulated and only bullet points given at the meeting.

**ACTION: ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**5. Herts Open Tournament – feedback from BE**

PK will circulate feedback that he had received from BE.

**ACTION: PAUL KEMPSTER**

**6. Parabadminton Tournament**

This would take place on Saturday 25 April at Sir Frederic Osborn School Sports Centre. PK was named as the organiser and all BE sanctions had been complied with. They handled the promotion and the tournament was listed on their website. PK was concerned about the lack of entries so far, and it was unfortunate that Gobi was unwell and not able to promote the tournament. Surrey was due to hold a similar tournament this coming weekend and PK had asked the organiser to actively promote our one. BE would provide medals and 10 tubes of shuttlecocks free of charge.

**7. Data Protection Guidance**

DB said that BE were continuing to seek legal advice as to the relevant age range where this should apply.

**8. Any Other Business**

PK said he would like someone else to take over the role of County League Organiser. He would prepare a job description for the AGM and it should be advertised on the Notes to the Agenda as a committee vacancy. DB said that the new BE Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy would be dealt with by Barbara Lewczynska, HBA Child Protection Officer

**9. Dates of future meetings**

The AGM would be on **Monday 8 June 2015.**