

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at 1, Valley Close, Hertford starting at 8pm and attended by:

Malcolm Fraser	MF	Chairman
Hilary Anderson	HA	Secretary
Dave Bartlett	DB	
Lynne Parker	LP	
Paul Widdicombe	PW	

Apologies for absence had been received from Angela Blowers (AB), Gill Bartlett (GB), Bob Green(BG), Robert Hueting, Brian Jackson, Colin Jackson and Colin Walker(CW).

1. Action following the previous meeting.

The sessions at Birchwood Leisure Centre for the Under 19 age group had been publicised in local schools.

HBA had an insurance certificate and MF had passed a copy to CW. Notes of the procedure to be adopted in the event of an occurrence had been circulated.

MF had sent a list of affiliated clubs to Angela Blowers.

2. Report on activities

Chairman

MF circulated a new Update from the Badminton England (BE) Chief Executive (CE). MF drew attention to the fact that affiliated members were required to opt in when contacted by BE in order to obtain the Badminton Magazine *Courtside*. The difficulties with the on line registration scheme were continuing. DB had raised a long list of concerns which had been sent to the BE CE and to the Membership Working Group, but had received no response to date. He observed that Kent BA had a detailed response from BE on their website. DB also raised another big concern that the information supplied by clubs was not coming back to the county because BE were waiting for clubs to opt in before this information could be released. The availability of this information was vital to the efficiency of HBA and had been campaigned for vigorously in the past. BE were looking at the question of governance and a paper was being prepared for circulation and discussion at the council meeting in January. One of the issues was the relationship with counties and it was felt that many of the current BE practices appeared to be excluding the county associations. Further examples of glitches with the online system were given. It was reported that the area leagues had received insurance certificates before any affiliation fees had been paid. Apparently this was now BE policy.

Secretary

All information received by the Secretary had been circulated.

Treasurer

CW had sent a written report confirming that HBA funds were just over £11,100, down £2,500 since the start of the financial year principally because of a payment for accommodation costs for premier teams weekend matches; money owing for junior matches, and the slow receipt of income from BE for club affiliation fees. Funds had been boosted by £1,082 Regional Support from BE. The HBA Open Tournament had made a profit of £965 thanks to the hard work of the Tournament Secretary, LP. The Restricted Tournament had broken even. CW also listed the problems that he had experienced with the BE's Vision system, discussed earlier.

Chairman of Selectors

PW reported that the position with regard to the county teams was not good. The Selectors were experiencing serious problems and this was reflected in the lack of success in the matches. Numerous problems were being passed back to PW.

On the positive side he had been working closely with Herts University and the hope was that good players, from outside Herts but studying here, would emerge to bolster the county teams. PW confirmed that he would not stand as County Match Secretary at the end of this season.

Herts County League Co-ordinator

MF reported that there were no problems with the league. Results were coming in, and only occasionally had to be chased. The trophies had been engraved and were ready for distribution.

North Herts and Letchworth area representative

BG had e-mailed that there was nothing new to report in his area.

S.W. Herts League Representative.

No report had been received. [Post meeting: A report has been received.]

Tournament Secretary

LP said that a full report on both the Open and Restricted Tournaments had been printed in the Newsletter. She confirmed that Ed Lintott had agreed to take on the Open next season and that PW, together with others, would run the Restricted. It was agreed that LP would ensure that the trophies were engraved. Some of the entry fee cheques for the tournaments had bounced and it was agreed that LP should inform BE to prevent other counties from experiencing the same problem. She wished to thank all those who had contributed to her gifts, which were much treasured. MF expressed his thanks, and those of the committee, to LP for running two successful tournaments again this year, and, in addition, raising funds for the Association.

Newsletter Editor

GB was recovering from a hip operation and MF, together with the committee, wished her a full and speedy recovery. The Newsletter had recently been issued and MF said it was of the usual high standard.

Development Co-ordinator

DB had circulated the minutes of the Badminton Herts Development Committee meeting held on 12 October and also the RO (Regional Officer) Update prepared for this meeting. Both documents were available on the HBA website, together with the Badminton Herts Development Plan. In response to questions from PW he explained that the 'No Strings' initiative was intended to include casual leisure centre players into the existing badminton structure and it was agreed that this was a valuable exercise, although Leisure Centre Managers would need to see the advantage to themselves before buying into the current package.

Coaching Co-ordinator

The report by the RO also gave details of the coaching courses currently organised. It had been agreed that the amount of sponsorship given to successful applicants to the Ray Learney fund would be increased to up to £100 for Level 1 and up to £200 for Level 2. Details of the fund and an application form could be obtained from the HBA website.

HSBA Representative

AB had sent in a written report confirming that the past few weeks had been very busy for HSBA. Ten tournaments, for both county and non county players, had been held at Stevenage so far this year, with another seven scheduled for November and the Open 5/6th December for U13/U17. Many of the young players had been playing in

other events around the country with some success. Squads were going well and matches progressing. A Christmas bowling event was being organised for all squad players.

3 Any Other Business

PW circulated a photo of the new hall at Presdales School due to be completed in December and opened early in the New Year. This four court facility would be of great use to the county but so far an opening had not been secured.

PW also reported that he was one of only 2 qualified umpires in the county and there was need for more.

DB reported that FixturesLive was updating the HBA website and there was a facility for both a general forum and a coaching forum. He needed to know if the committee wanted this and if so which committee members would want the facility to update the site. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION: HILARY ANDERSON

DB had attended a Vetting and Barring scheme presentation on 30 October, together with GB, and HBA Child Protection Officer Barbara Lewczynska. Once the scheme is fully implemented it will mean that anyone who wants to work or volunteer with children in 'regulated activity' will be legally required to be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). 'Regulated activity' with children includes unpaid work to provide teaching, training or instruction, and transport specifically for children. Sports clubs and leisure centres are not 'specified places', but sports activities which are organised by local clubs or other providers and which take place within a school setting would fall within the 'specified place' definition. Details of the roll out of the scheme can be found on the Herts. Sports Partnership Executive Board report of 11.11.09 located on the HBA website.

4. Date of the next meeting: 16 March 2010

The meeting closed with thanks to Hilary for her hospitality,