

## Hertfordshire Badminton Association

### Annual General Meeting

4 June 2018

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association (HBA) held at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.30 pm with 33 attending, including representatives from 17 affiliated clubs.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee	Vice Presidents	Clubs
Doug Clark	Margaret Cooper	All Saints
Pam Newman	Liz Frost	Hadley
	Lynne Parker	Harpenden
	Geoff Thomas	Hunsdon
		Kings
		Redhoods

#### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 5 June 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM on 5 June 2017 were approved.

There was one matter arising relating to coaching activities. Brian Jackson (BJ) explained that a coaching page had been established on Facebook and that he would welcome more posts. One Level 1 course had been completed and a Level 2 course had nearly finished. More applications were needed for Level 1 courses. The County currently had 19 Level 1 coaches, 38 level 2 coaches and two Level 3 coaches. However, more coaches were needed as there was only a limited number of full-time coaches.

#### 3. Presentation by Aleisha Challands, Badminton England Relationship Manager

Aleisha Challands (AC) explained that there had been a number of significant developments in the past year with changes in BE staff, the launch of the GoMembership system and the restructuring of club affiliation fees. Where the membership structure was concerned, BE was aiming at an additional 100k members, more links across the sport and moving towards players 'wanting' to be members rather than 'needing' to be.

She accepted that the landscape was challenging in the light of:

- clubs reporting falling membership
- insufficient players of an adequate standard
- the number of clubs and teams decreasing
- insufficient coaches

She was pleased to have developed a close relationship with Herts. BE had provided funding of £7382.50 to six clubs, including a new junior club. It had promoted

Masterstrokes, Essential courses and interaction with 14 primary schools. The Welwyn Hatfield CBN had become the first 'hub' and three coaches had received bursaries.

The Discover Badminton initiative was an eight year programme and funding for clubs was growing. There were four club projects under way in Herts.

BE would welcome investment applications, up to £500 for small projects and £1000 for larger ones. There was £4000 per county available for CBN funding.

AC thanked Herts for the invitation to address the meeting and explained that she could be contacted directly on any issues.

In response to a question about a proposed change in the serving rule, AC explained that BE was still working on the details of implementation; there was, as yet, no date for its introduction.

Dave Bartlett (DB) added that BE had suffered a 13% reduction in lottery funding and that BE aimed to be less dependent on funding from Sport England.

Paul Kempster (PK) thanked AC for her contribution.

#### **4. Presentation of Executive Committee Reports**

Copies of the reports were made available at the meeting and would be placed on the web site. Only the main points are summarised in these minutes.

##### ***Chairman***

PK reported that it had been another good year for the County, which had continued to support the CBNs, members and coaches, local leagues, the Masters competition and the very successful Senior County teams.

He reflected that the season had started on a very sad note with the passing of the County's Secretary, Hilary Anderson. Hilary had made an invaluable contribution through her support for the Committee, over many years, and volunteering in badminton and other sports.

This year had seen the introduction of the new BE membership system which, although a positive step in principle, had not been without problems. Committee members had regularly provided feedback to BE, both directly and through the Relationship Manager, and would continue to do so. The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations on 25 May 2018 would have implications for counties, leagues and clubs, and BE was developing guidance which would be shared with all concerned.

HBA and HSBA would be continuing the contract with Birchwood Leisure Centre to provide courts at favourable rates. There were no developments on the proposal for a new centre at Birchwood but the Committee was in contact with the Council to stay informed.

PK thanked all the Committee members for their continuing support and all those who ran clubs for the part they played in making HBA so successful.

##### ***Membership Secretary***

Colin Walker (CW) reported that the number of junior clubs had remained unchanged but that there had been a loss of one senior club. The number of registered members had

fallen by 33. The HBA affiliation fee had been reduced over the past five years and was now amongst the lowest. The new GoMembership system had led to the County receiving fees more speedily but had proved problematic in terms of reconciling membership and income information.

### ***Senior County Coordinator***

The report was provided by Andy Walden (AW) as the post of Senior County Coordinator was still vacant.

The Senior County teams had enjoyed a very successful season. The 1<sup>st</sup> team had won Division 1 and would be promoted to the Premier Division, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team had won Division 2 and would be promoted to Division 1 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> team had consolidated its position in Division 2, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> out of eight teams. It was intended to start a 4<sup>th</sup> team. Kelly Matthews would join the three team captains as a selector.

Kelly Matthews had only lost one game all season and Charlotte Willis was the overall player of the season both for her performance in matches and her contribution to assisting the teams.

### ***Masters Coordinator***

Steve Willis (SW) reported that 83 people had represented the County. After taking into account that some had played for different age groups, it meant that 55 to 60 individuals had participated. He thanked the team captains for their work during the season. There had been some notable individual success and those were listed in his written report.

The over 40s team had been withdrawn but it was intended to continue with the current five teams. Coaching sessions would take place on the first three Sundays in September.

He was considering the introduction of a 'Moderates' category to encourage more people to participate in Masters events.

### ***Tournament Secretary***

Eddie Lintott reported on the two tournaments. The 2017 Silver Tournament had attracted a good entry and had made a profit of £682.00. The 2017 Restricted Tournament had also been successful with over 60 entries. Financially, it had broken even.

He thanked Melissa Davey and Graham Hall for organising the DK Way Bronze Tournament.

### ***County League Secretary***

Graham Cobb (GC) explained that his written report showed which teams would be promoted or relegated based on their final league positions and the league rules.

He thanked the Captains and Secretaries of the clubs for their work during the season and he was pleased to report that results had been entered expeditiously on FixturesLive. Most matches had been completed although snow had affected some fixtures. Unplayed matches obviously had an impact on finances. Ladies Division 2 had had eight teams which entailed 14 matches for each team; that might need to be changed for the forthcoming season.

He drew the meeting's attention to the rule change in relation to the cancellation and rearrangement of matches which would come into effect for the 2018-19 season.

PK presented the trophies to the winners of each division.

### ***Hertford Area Badminton League***

Pam Newman had submitted a written report. The League had maintained nine divisions, matches had been conducted uneventfully and there were no major issues to report. Lynne Burrell and Fiona Forth had replaced, respectively, Simon and Anne Carter as Secretary and Treasurer, and the AGM was due to take place on 13 June 2018.

### ***South West Herts Badminton League***

No report.

### ***North Herts***

Bob Green (BG) reported that the Letchworth League had had an uneventful season but it did need two new committee members. The position on junior clubs was stable but two senior clubs were struggling to attract new members. Primary school coaching had continued and a junior singles tournament would be held at the end of the season. A 'This Girl Can' would take place in June to generate interest in a female-only session starting in September.

The Stevenage League had continued to run two Mixed divisions (four men and two ladies) and had added two Medley divisions.

### ***Social Media/Publicity***

Ben Vranjkovic (BV) reported that the Facebook page was now well-established but he needed more contributions. There was now an additional Coaching page but that was only accessible to a closed group.

### ***Development Coordinator***

Dave Bartlett (DB) explained that development activity since the AGM 2017 was covered in detail in his written report. It continued to be focused on the four CBNs which were supported by local authorities and other bodies. SW Herts had no leader at present and still held £2000 for development activities. Aleisha Challands had attended meetings at the four CBNs. Coaching was taking place in Broxbourne although it was not part of a CBN. An Inter-FE College tournament took place in March with all four FE colleges participating.

DB was assessing the impact of the General Data Protection Regulations on the way information was held and disseminated within the County. BE had issued some templates and draft documents were currently being reviewed by the HBA Committee.

### ***Coaching Coordinator***

BJ added to his earlier comments that BE would be arranging a coaching conference later in the year.

### ***HSBA***

Mike Newlove (MN) had submitted a written report. Some 130 children had participated in HSBA events and he expressed his thanks to the coaches and others for their support.

He also paid tribute to Ken Winchester who had stood down after many years as HSBA Chair.

## **5. Presentation of Accounts**

The draft accounts were made available at the meeting. CW explained that the HBA was in a healthy financial position with funds of £18,727.00. Leaving aside one extraordinary item, the loss on the year's activities was £578.00. That was consistent with the abolition of the junior affiliation fee although there had been a further loss of income from the cancellation of a number of Masters matches.

Eleven awards from the Ray Learney fund had been made and financial support had been provided to CBNs and clubs for development activities. HBA and HSBA continued to benefit from the arrangement with Birchwood to use the courts on Sundays for which the cost was a very favourable £6.41 per hour.

The extraordinary item of £2455 related to the fees for Senior County training sessions which had not been banked. The fees had been collected by Bob Welsh, as had happened for many years, but had not been paid into the HBA bank account. PK and CW had met Bob Welsh to seek immediate recovery of the outstanding sum but, in view of his personal circumstances, he was unable to accede to that request. He was aware of the gravity of the situation and intended to make a full repayment, although that may be by way of staged payments. CW explained that the circumstances were unusual and unfortunate but he had no option but to record the sum concerned as a Bad and Doubtful debt. CW added that there would need to be stricter controls in future.

The Accounts were approved.

## **6. Subscriptions for Season 2018-19**

It was agreed that the County Senior fee should remain at £3.00 and the Junior fee at nil.

## **7. Election of President and Vice Presidents**

Paul Widdicombe was elected as President to replace Bob Welsh.

The existing 21 Vice Presidents were re-elected.

## **8. Election of Executive Committee and BE Representative**

The existing members of the Executive Committee were re-elected to serve another season.

Simon Gouldstone was elected as Secretary.

PK would remain as BE Representative and Gill Bartlett announced that she would be standing down as the alternate BE representative at the end of the 2018-19 season. Paul Widdicombe was elected to fill that position.

PK also informed the meeting that he would be standing down as Chair at the end of the 2018-19 season and that nominations would be sought before the next AGM.

**9. Election of Auditor**

CW informed the meeting that he had secured the services of Ralph Paddock to replace Albert Nicholas. The new auditor was duly appointed.

**10. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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