

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held, by way of a conference call,
on 16 March 2020

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Bob Green	BG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Mike Newlove	MN
Jim Robson	JR
Andy Walden	AW
Colin Walker	CW
Paul Widdicombe	PW
Steve Willis	SW

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Doug Clark (DC).

2. Actions from the previous committee meeting and the AGM

- a) SG had added an item to the web site about safeguarding. Aleisha Challands and Barbara Lewczynska had been consulted about the content. The committee proposed no further amendments.
- b) SG had also expanded the item on the web site about Vice Presidents to state that nominations had to be made at least one month before the AGM. He had spoken to Liz Austin to apologise for the fact that no action had been taken following her nomination as a VP at last year's AGM. She confirmed that she was happy to stand and SG said he would accordingly add her name to the list. He suggested that PK should mention this at the AGM 2020.
- c) The issue of whether there should a charge for sanctioned tournaments requiring HBA approval would be considered as a separate agenda item.
- d) PK confirmed that he was preparing a response to the email from Tracy McLeod Hawkins.

3. Reports on activities

Chairman

PK explained that he had been unable to attend the BE General Meeting in January. The documents had been circulated to committee members. It was noted that there was to be a further evaluation of the relationship between BE and its members and that there was no date for the extension of hubs beyond the two areas that were acting as pilots.

Secretary

SG had nothing to report.

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

CW reported that the number of affiliated clubs had declined by five. Defining a junior club as one with either "junior" in their name or one with more than 80% juniors, the number of junior clubs had increased by one but the number of senior clubs had reduced by six. Overall the number of members had actually increased due to a greater number of juniors with a new club Smashit having 60 juniors. He also explained that HBA received a county fee for Compete members.

On finance, CW reported that:

- a) Current funds stood at £21,500.
- b) Outstanding payments included £1,492 for Queenwood courts, January to April, and £760 for Masters entry fees (despite CW asking BE, on several occasions, for an invoice).
- c) The forecast for the year was a small profit of £100 to £500. The main unknown was what the stock of shuttles would be.
- d) The worst case scenario, if the final Senior County weekend was cancelled due to the virus and there were no further match fees, could be a loss of about £500. It was raised at the meeting that Masters matches had also been cancelled and that there would be no refund of the accommodation costs for the Senior County weekend. Despite those additional costs, HBA funds were likely to be in the region of £20,000.
- e) Affiliation fees for the current year would be about £3,200 compared to £2,250 in 2018-19. The former figure included a one-off payment of £381 from BE that related to the 2018-19 season. The fees for 2018-19 should accordingly be £2,631 and those for 2019-20 £2,820, the difference being what would have been expected by increasing the county fee by 50p.
- f) Given the level of funds, CW proposed, and the committee agreed, that £500 each could be made available to WHCBN and EHCBN. CW also mentioned that there was still money set aside for para-badminton tournaments which he was considering, if unused, adding to the Ray Learney Fund. BD explained that he had spoken to Gobi Ranganathan (GR) about that but the response had been that it was difficult to schedule tournaments.

Action: DB to send email to CW requesting a donation of £500 to WHCBN and EHCBN.

Action: DB to check with GR that there was no planned para-badminton tournament next season.

Senior County Coordinator

AW reported that:

- a) The four teams had had another tough weekend in the second round of the Inter-County Championships at the end of January. The 1st and 2nd teams were in the lower half of their respective divisions, the 3rd team was likely to stay in its

division and the 4th team was in second place with the possibility of being promoted. The weekend was not helped by BE not booking a sufficient number of courts although all matches were eventually played. It appeared unlikely that the third and final weekend of matches would go ahead.

- b) The financial position had improved but the training sessions had been poorly attended.

Herts County League

There was no report although the impact of COVID 19 would be discussed later in the meeting.

Hertford Area League

JR reported that HABL clubs had been advised that if a club felt it could not play a match for COVID 19 reasons, a score of 3-3 should be recorded.

North Herts and Letchworth League

BG explained that North Herts had not yet taken any action in relation to the coronavirus outbreak.

South West Herts League

No report.

Masters Coordinator

SW explained that Herts had run seven teams with 73 players. With the season nearly complete, the teams' positions within their respective divisions were as follows:

O45	4 th	Won 1 - Lost 5
O50 (1)	2 nd	Won 6 - Lost 2
O50 (2)	3 rd	Won 3 - Lost 5
O55	3 rd	Won 3 - Lost 3
O60	4 th	Won 1 - Lost 5
O65	2 nd	Won 3 - Lost 3
O70	1 st	Won 3 - Lost 1

SW asked if the HBA would subsidise t-shirts for the O70s in the playoffs. CW suggested that the team could possibly use spare Senior County shirts. If not, it was agreed that HBA would subsidise the cost of shirts up to £10 per shirt. (Post meeting: playoffs cancelled so no further action.)

Tournament Secretary

EL explained that BE was moving to a calendar year basis for sanctioning tournaments so the Herts Open in August (22/23) was already sanctioned and the courts booked at HSV. Entry would open in June. To avoid a clash with the Junior Restricted on 19/20 September the Senior Restricted would take place on 26/27 September. EL had not had an opportunity to meet up with Micky Mahbubani to discuss running Bronze tournaments on behalf of HBA.

Development Coordinator

East Herts CBN

The minutes of the EHCBN meeting on 28 January 2020 are attached to these minutes.

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

DB submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes.

Coaching Coordinator

BJ reported that:

- a) A Foundation Coach had been found to assist with some of Ian Robinson's sessions.
- b) A Foundation coaching course was run in Hemel Hempstead in February and BJ was waiting to hear how many had passed the online assessment.
- c) Aleisha Challands was in the process of setting up a coach award course around June of this year.

Social Media/Publicity Officer

No report.

HJBA

MN had no issues to report.

4. Queenswood School courts update

CW had circulated a summary of the agreement and the costs. The overall view was that the courts were satisfactory but the lack of showers was an inconvenience and two counties had complained. The rate of less than £7.00 was favourable compared to other venues but still more than Birchwood last season. It was not considered necessary to seek an alternative venue but HJBA were reviewing other options. AW commented that there had sometimes been problems with gaining access and that HBA had had to purchase its own nets.

5. Charge for sanctioned tournaments requiring HBA approval

The view of the meeting was that the imposition of an HBA fee would simply be passed on to the participants. The system was self-regulating in that there was likely to be a reduced entry from poorly-run tournaments and that complaints could always be brought to the committee's attention. It was also mentioned that, strictly speaking, sanction was granted by BE rather than counties and that the option was always open for HBA to run its own tournaments. The decision was that there should be no charge for HBA sanctioning a tournament.

6. Para Badminton Fund

The issue had been addressed in the Treasurer's Report. DB would speak to Gobi Ranganathan and, provided no tournaments were planned, CW would transfer the balance to the Ray Learney Fund.

7. Web site update

SG reported that FixturesLive had informed the HBA that it would only extend the present hosting contract until the end of June 2020. There was no further news but it could potentially mean developing yet another new web site. Usage of the present site remained unchanged and SG suggested that next season there should be a greater effort to ensure all items were up-to-date and that the wide range of HBA events was fully recorded.

Action: DB to send CW invoice for subscription renewal which was due on 4/3/2020.

8. AGM

See item 9.

9. Impact of COVID 19

The County League Secretary had asked the committee to consider the impact of COVID 19 on the programme of league matches. The committee's decision was that the League should be suspended indefinitely and that PK/GC would communicate this to the clubs involved, and it should also be recorded on the web site. It was understood that the HABL had already made that decision.

Action: PK to inform GC and issue email to clubs.

Action: SG to add item to web site

The AGM was scheduled for 1 June 2020 and premises had been booked. However, it appeared unlikely that it could take place as a physical meeting. It was agreed that the committee should not postpone the AGM but should consider holding a conference call.

Action: SG to investigate alternatives

10. Dates of future meetings

AGM: 1 June 2020

The dates of future committee meetings would be decided at a later date.

*

*

*