

## Hertfordshire Badminton Association

### Annual General Meeting

29 June 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association (HBA) held on Zoom at 7.30 pm on 29 June 2020 with 33 attending, including representatives from 20 affiliated clubs.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Graham Cobb  
County League Secretary

Vice Presidents:

Liz Austin  
Pam Newman  
Geoff Thomas  
Lynne Parker

Clubs:

Redhoods  
Stevenage

#### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 3 June 2019 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM on 3 June 2019 were approved.

There were no matters arising.

#### 3. Presentation of Executive Committee Reports

Copies of the Committee Members' reports were the web site. Only points raised at the meeting are summarised in these minutes.

##### ***Chairman and Badminton England (BE) Representative***

Paul Kempster (PK) submitted a written report. He had attended the regular BE/CBA meetings. The future for badminton was uncertain but BE had made obvious efforts to circulate information about the possible shape and form of the resumption. He explained that funds were available to support clubs with financial difficulties and that BE continued seek feedback about its relationship with its members.

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

Colin Walker (CW) submitted a written report. In 2019-20 there had been a net decrease of five affiliated clubs but an increase of 52 in the number of affiliated members. The latter was mainly due to a new club, Smashit BC, affiliating 60 junior members.

CW emphasised that HBA continued to keep the affiliation fee as low as possible; the Herts senior county fee of £3.50 was considerably lower than, for example, the Middlesex fee of £6.00.

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

Andy Walden (AW) submitted a written report. He explained that the season remained unfinished. Two weekends had been completed and the final weekend was scheduled for November.

The 1<sup>st</sup> team was currently ninth out of ten teams, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in last place and the 3<sup>rd</sup> team was mid-table. The 4<sup>th</sup> team was second in its division and might be promoted.

Queenswood had proved to be a satisfactory venue and the cost of hire was very reasonable. The attendance at county training sessions had been disappointing.

### ***Masters Coordinator***

Steve Willis (SW) submitted a written report. The county had run seven teams, from Over 45 to Over 70, including two Over 50 teams. It was planned to run six teams in the forthcoming season including an Over 40 team to provide more cover in running a lower age group team.

The 2019-20 season had been successful with the Over 70 team getting through to the play-offs which had unfortunately been cancelled.

SW hoped the fixtures could be arranged by the end of August and stated that he was still looking for further Masters players. He hoped to hold practice sessions at the end of August and early September, but would probably be pushed back due to Covid 19.

### ***Tournament Secretary***

Eddie Lintott (EL) reported that the Open Tournament had been postponed to 2021 but that it may be possible to fit in the Restricted Tournament during the forthcoming season.

There were detailed reports on both 2019 Tournaments on the web site.

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

There was no report but it was noted that Graham Cobb (GC) had been in touch with all clubs to invite entries for next season.

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

Jim Robson (JR) submitted a written report. Wendy Train (WT) and JR reported that the League remained in a healthy position with 48 teams but that the 2019-20 season had been brought to an early finish. As FixturesLive had ended its relationship with badminton, the league was looking at alternatives, League Republic being one commercial option.

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

No report.

### ***North Herts***

Bob Green (BG) submitted a written report. Both the Letchworth and Stevenage Leagues had also ended prematurely. Junior badminton was in a healthy position with a notable expansion of Smashit.

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

Ben Vranjkovic (BV) reported that there had been an increased use of the Facebook and Twitter accounts and that he would welcome additional friends/contacts/contributors.

### ***Development Coordinator***

Dave Bartlett (DB) submitted a written report. He explained that there was less money available from BE but that there were some local grants. Ian Robinson had secured a grant from Sport England.

The Welwyn Hatfield CBN remained active. It had played a major part in keeping Gosling open and was closely involved in the plans for the development at Monks Walk School which could potentially lead to the establishment of a badminton centre in Hertfordshire.

The SW Herts CBN had funding available but was yet to be established.

### ***Coaching Coordinator***

Brian Jackson (BJ) submitted a written report. He explained that the Open University was offering free modules on, for example, Sports Coaching and Psychology that might be of interest to coaches and others. He also noted that the Primary Schools Conference had attracted 350 participants.

### ***HJBA***

Mike Newlove (MN) submitted a written report. The HJBA AGM was scheduled for 30 July and the HJBA, in common with everyone, was awaiting news about the resumption.

### ***Web Site***

Simon Gouldstone (SG) explained that, following the end of the relationship between FixturesLive and badminton, the HBA web site would be moving to a new host but that its appearance and functionality should remain unchanged.

He also reported that the County League and the HABL were looking at a new system for recording match results. The external options appeared to be using the BE system, which was free, or a commercial provider such as League Republic. Clubs would be informed in due course about the feasibility and cost of the options.

## **4. Presentation of Accounts**

The draft accounts were made available prior to the meeting.

CW reported that the financial position was satisfactory. Costs were stable and there had been an increase in the fees from Senior County and Masters matches.

He also described briefly the phishing exercise. An invoice for about £3000 from Queenswood had been paid to a fraudulent bank account. Lloyds Bank had refunded half that amount and Queenswood had agreed to share the balance of the loss. In addition, HJBA had donated 25% of the value of its bookings. The net loss to HBA was therefore about £600.

As a result of that incident, CW had reviewed the payment controls which still required two signatories. Most payments were made to regular recipients but CW would ensure that the details of new suppliers were confirmed prior to payment.

PK reminded the meeting that the outcome of the incident two years ago when training fees were not passed on to HBA was that the missing fees had been fully recovered.

The accounts were approved.

## **5. Subscriptions for Season 2020-21**

It was agreed that the County Senior fee should remain at £3.50 and that the Junior fee should remain at nil.

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

Paul Widdicombe was re-elected as President and the existing 21 Vice Presidents were also re-elected.

PK explained that Liz Austin's name had been added to the list following her nomination at last year's AGM. SG also noted the passing of Duncan Conway, an existing Vice President.

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

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

PK and Paul Widdicombe were re-elected as BE Representatives.

DB was re-elected as the HBA representative to the HJBA Committee.

## **8. Appointment of Auditor**

CW explained that Ralph Paddock had stood down as Auditor after a number of years' service.

He had secured the services of Kathryn Tiddy (KT), of Hazelwood BC, as a replacement. KT was an accountant who worked for PWC and she was duly elected.

## **9. Resumption of badminton**

There was a lengthy discussion about the present uncertainties of which the main points were:

- a) Badminton, in common with many other sports, was still awaiting the green light from the government. The BE Chief Executive had written to the Prime Minister about the detrimental impact of the restrictions and had also started a petition.

- b) The BE Roadmap advice continued to be updated and would continue to be the authoritative source of information about the way in which any easing of the restrictions should be interpreted and implemented. Aleisha Challands, the BE Relationship Manager, had written a report for the meeting which was available on the HBA web site. She had also stated that she was happy to be contacted and would continue to assist.
- c) It would be crucial for clubs, at the appropriate time, to contact their respective venues to establish availability and their position on restrictions.
- d) It was also important for clubs to keep in touch with their members to address their concerns and, ultimately, to establish their willingness to resume playing.
- e) To facilitate c) and d) above, it was suggested that a WhatsApp group be set up to allow clubs a degree of mutual support and to provide a mechanism for sharing good practice and discussing difficulties. The meeting was in favour of this proposal. BV agreed to set it up and SG would email all clubs inviting them to nominate one participant.
- f) There could usefully be some sort of 'clearing house' for information about, for example, venues that had availability and clubs that had vacancies for new members. That could be achieved by the WhatsApp group but may also require channels such as the web site and emails.
- g) There would need to be a formal stage at some point in the future when clubs would need to inform the league organisers as to the number of teams they would be able to run. That would lead to decisions needing to be made as to the starting/finishing dates of the next season and the means for arranging fixtures.
- h) The HBA Committee would continue to closely monitor development and contact clubs as appropriate. The meeting was also reminded to keep in touch with their CBNs.

## **10. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

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