

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held, by way of a conference call,
on 24 May 2021

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Mike Newlove	MN
Andy Walden	AW
Julie Pike	JP

1. Apologies for absence

Doug Clark	DC
Bob Green	BG
Colin Walker	CW
Paul Widdicombe	PW
Steve Willis	SW

2. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 18 May 2020 and the AGM on 29 June 2020

- a) The withdrawal from badminton of FixturesLive had had two consequences: the HBA web site had moved to a new host and appeared to be working satisfactorily and SG was involved in continuing discussions with Graham Cobb and Wendy Train about a new league management system for both the Herts County League and the Hertford Area League.
- b) Although it was decided at both meetings that the county affiliation fee would remain unchanged, the committee later decided that, for the 2020-21 season, the adult fee should be nil.
- c) The new auditor, Kathryn Tiddy, had been appointed and had approved the 2019-20 HBA accounts.
- d) The WhatsApp group for Herts clubs had been established with 14 members.

3. Chairman

PK reported that he had been unable to attend all the BE meetings as they tended to be held at times which conflicted with his work commitments. The committee was nevertheless aware of the live issues which would be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Secretary

SG explained that he had continued to circulate BE documents although there was still a problem in that BE did not always make it clear to whom documents had been sent. He had again raised the issue with BE but it meant that there was inevitably duplication in the information received by committee members.

5. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

CW had circulated the draft accounts and his reports. It was noted that the HBA had made a small profit in a season in which the level of activity had inevitably been much lower than normal.

Membership was down to 27 affiliated clubs compared with 58 in the previous season.

Stevenage BC had generously donated £250 to support senior county players from low income families.

DB mentioned that web site costs of approximately £40 would need to be included in the accounts.

It was agreed that, for the 2021-22 season, the adult county affiliation fee should be £1.75 (50% of its previous level) with the junior fee remaining at nil. PK would inform the clubs at the AGM.

6. Senior County

AW explained that matches were expected to resume. BE was seeking feedback from counties with a view to securing a consensus as to the way forward.

AW also said that he would be stepping back from his coordinating role but would continue to support Kelly Matthews and Ben Vranjkovic.

7. Masters

SW submitted a written report. The 'group of 16' rule meant that Masters matches could resume although no dates had yet been fixed. Practice sessions were expected to take place at the end of June.

SW anticipated running over 40, 50, 55 and 60 teams in both the Championship and the Challenge and over 65 and 70 teams in the Championship only.

8. Tournaments

EL explained that there was uncertainty in relation to both tournaments. BE had changed the format for the Silver tournament with all games up to and including the quarter-finals being played on the Saturday and the semi-finals and finals on the Sunday. That could cause scheduling problems with the majority of games expected to take place on the first day. He was holding 21 and 22 August as possible dates although it now appeared that those dates might clash with a national competition.

He had also pencilled in 25 and 26 September for the Restricted tournament but the arrangements, including the venue, needed to be finalised.

9. Development

DB explained that Monks Walk School should hear by the end of the month whether it had been granted a four court DfE standard hall. The present gym was now unusable.

Gosling Sports Park had been identified by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council as a strategic sports facility with eight indoor courts to be built by, probably, 2024. It could potentially be the county facility and DB was seeking inputs about projected usage from HJBA and HBA.

10. Coaching

BJ explained that he had been working with JP to set up a Foundation Coaching course. The course is scheduled for 18 and 25 July at the Ridgeway Academy, Welwyn Garden City. Candidates must be 16 years old to participate. BJ said he was hopeful of attracting the eight candidates we need as a minimum to run the course.

He also expected to run a Level 2 course later in the year.

11. HJBA

In view of the separate Covid requirements applicable to younger players, the juniors had been playing since 12 April and the only recent problem had been a difficulty with entering tournaments online. The AGM would take place a week before the HBA's.

12. BE issues

a) Affiliation fees

It was noted that BE had proposed waiving the affiliation fee (for both club and compete members) for 2021-22 for those who had paid the fee for 2020-21. One unresolved issue was how the county fee would be collected from those who did not need to pay a BE affiliation fee.

b) Disciplinary Procedure

The revised procedures had been widely circulated. DB had commented on the lack of proper paragraph numbering and SG had commented on the ambiguity in the wording of the application of the Grievance Procedure. The revised procedures would apply to both counties and clubs and one requirement was for the appointment of a County Disciplinary Officer. PK agreed to assume that role.

c) Revised scoring system

It was understood that the proposal to amend the scoring system had not been passed by the BWF.

13. Arrangements for the AGM

It was agreed that:

- a) The AGM would take place on Zoom at 7.30 pm on 28 June 2021.
- b) The agenda would follow the traditional format although, apart from the Accounts and Membership Report, there was no point in attempting to report on activities. That could be replaced by updates on the resumption of the range of activities undertaken by HBA, possibly put on the web site beforehand.
- c) All affiliated and previously-affiliated clubs would be invited.

14. Return to play

It was proposed that it would be helpful to survey the clubs to establish where they stood in relation to the resumption. Areas to be covered could include whether they intended to resume, membership levels, issues relating to venues and facilities, finance and whether clubs expected to be able to play matches. The committee felt it was important to see if they could assist in any way. SG agreed to circulate a draft questionnaire to be sent out with the AGM invitation. (The final version of the questionnaire is appended to these minutes)

15. Any other business

PW had indicated that his three-year term as President ended at the AGM 2021 and that he was not seeking re-election. PK agreed to sound out possible candidates.

16. Future meetings

It was agreed that the committee should return to meeting at three-monthly intervals. The next meeting would therefore take place at end September/beginning October.

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Survey of Herts clubs 2021

This short survey is to find out how clubs are managing return to play and whether there are any issues where HBA or BE could assist.

1. Has your club resumed or is it planning to do so in the near future?
2. Have you had any problems booking your usual venue? If so, what is your usual venue and do you need help finding an alternative?
3. What approximate proportion of your members have returned and do you anticipate they all will at some point in the future?
4. If your club is playing, have you had to change the way you run club sessions?
5. Has your club, or your venue, met any problems in interpreting or implementing the current BE Return to Play guidance?
6. Will your club be in a position to run teams if league competitions resume later in the year?
7. Does your club need any financial support?
8. If there are any other issues on which you feel clubs need support. If so, please describe them here: