

## **Hertfordshire Badminton Association**

Minutes of the committee meeting held, by way of a conference call,  
on 21 March 2022

### **Present:**

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Mike Newlove	MN
Jim Robson	JR
Colin Walker	CW

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Doug Clark	DC
Bob Green	BG
Julie Pike	JP
Andy Walden	AW
Steve Willis	SW

### **2. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 29 November 2021**

- a) CW had provided PK with a list of possible candidates for the post of President and PK intended contacting one contender. The HBA Constitution was silent on the precise role of the President and the committee agreed that there could be flexibility as to the extent a new appointee wanted to get involved in HBA business.
- b) CW had asked those clubs that did not need to affiliate to BE for 2021-22 for the HBA affiliation fee and would include feedback in his report.
- c) DB and BJ still had to look at the coaching register to (i) contact those coaches who had not yet registered and (ii) to see if there was an explanation for the gap between the number of active coaches and the number of funded participants on coaching courses.

Action: CW to send DB and BJ a list of all Ray Learney awards.

- d) DB, BJ and CW had reviewed the wording of the Ray Learney fund application form and it would be discussed later in the meeting.

### **3. Chairman**

PK had been unable to attend the BE General Meeting on 27 January 2022. The main issues arising were:

- a) Early appointments were anticipated for the posts of Chief Executive and Performance Director. (At the date of the HBA meeting, the appointments to both posts had been announced)
- b) The Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy would be launched in the near future.
- c) 90% of clubs appeared to be up and running although some venues were not offering badminton or had increased costs substantially.
- d) All international players were back in full training.
- e) A revised scheme for affiliation fees would be tabled at the Annual Meeting.

### **4. Secretary**

- a) SG had been able to dispose of six of the 10 complimentary All England tickets.
- b) There was nothing to report from the newly-established BE County Badminton Associations group.

### **5. Membership Secretary and Treasurer**

CW reported on the following issues:

- a) There were currently 55 affiliated active clubs, only three fewer than April 2020, and that included seven new clubs. It was encouraging that there were 10 active junior clubs. CW had been unable to establish the number of affiliated members as the existing BE reports showed three different, widely-varying, figures. He had raised this with BE but had had no reply.
- b) To date, HBA had received £1083 in adult affiliation fees. That included £179 from clubs that had been contacted directly as they had not had to pay the BE affiliation fee for 2021-22 and there was no mechanism for collecting the county affiliation fee through BE. Total county fees pre-Covid were around £3000 when the county fee was £3.50. With the 50% reduced fee of £1.75, the county would have expected the total to be about £1500 if all adult members rejoined. For 2022-23 CW would be recommending that the county fee returned to £3.50.
- c) Funds currently stood at £16200. CW had anticipated that the loss for the year would be in the region of £3000 to £4000 but since the last meeting there had been a number of positive events:
  - (i) Travelodge had given HBA a credit of £325 following a cancelled booking.
  - (ii) Richards Adams ran a Mini Masters tournament which made a profit of £328.
  - (iii) Goode Sport had issued a credit of £465 due to an incorrect invoice.

- (iv) There were three Senior County teams, thereby saving £300 in not running a fourth team.

HBA was therefore some £1400 better off and the current estimate for the year was a loss in the region of £1600.

- d) The Ray Learney Fund application form had been updated following the discussion at the last meeting. It now included a statement that preference would be given to young people living or coaching in Hertfordshire and a question asking applicants to give the name and email of the coach with whom they were currently working/volunteering. The email sent to applicants when their application was successful had also been updated. It was agreed that BJ should be a member of the panel, along with CW and DB, that considered applications.
- e) There had been five recent awards and two further people, who had been sponsored, did not pass, or did not attend, the final assessment day. Both had indicated that they would attend a future assessment day so their awards would be carried over. The amount of each award had been reduced to: Foundation £50, Level 2 £100 and Level 3 £150.

## **6. Senior County**

There was no report but AW said he would feed back after the final weekend of matches on 26 and 27 March.

## **7. County League**

There was no report but SG explained that the League appeared to be running as expected.

## **8. Hertford Area League**

JR reported as follows:

- a) The timescale for completing matches was unchanged, being five months rather than six. Fixtures might still need to be played in May.
- b) As of 14 March, the percentage of matches played ranged from 50% (Mens 1) to 90% (Mens Premier).
- c) The participation rates, reported at the last meeting, remained unchanged.
- d) It was hoped that the number of divisions would be maintained for next season.
- e) There were no Covid-related issues to report.

## **9. North Herts and Letchworth**

BG stated that there was nothing of note to report.

## **10. South West Herts**

No report.

## **11. Masters**

SW submitted a written report, the main points of which were:

- a) Following the withdrawal of the o70 team, the county had run five teams (o40, o50, o55, o60 and o65). SW thanked the respective captains for their efforts.
- b) The County Challenge had been cancelled for Covid reasons but Richards Adams had run a successful Mini Challenge at Milton Keynes.
- c) There had been some problems with player availability which meant that the strongest teams were not always fielded. Players testing positive for Covid compounded the problem.
- d) As matches could not be played at Queenswood, it was difficult to find alternatives and that had impacted on timing and cost.

PK added that he had encountered problems in fielding the o40 team due to player unavailability. CW mentioned that, at the beginning of a season, he provided SW with a list of eligible players. PK also said that there was to be a Masters Captains meeting which might lead to a further tournament.

## **12. Tournaments**

EL explained that the Open Tournament was scheduled for 20 and 21 August 2022 with a change of format; group matches would be played on the Saturday and semi-finals and finals on Sunday. The Restricted was scheduled for 24 and 25 September 2022.

## **13. Development**

DB submitted a written report and the minutes of the latest meeting of the East Herts CBN. Both documents are appended to these minutes.

DB explained that his term as a member of BE's General Committee, which started in 1996, came to an end last year.

## **14. Coaching**

BJ explained that there had been 24 candidates, including six from Herts, on the Foundation Course at Beaumont School in February and 23 had passed. Julie Pike is organising a Foundation (Level 1) Course on 3 and 4 September 2022, also at Beaumont School. Within Herts, there were now 11 Level 1 coaches, 40 Level 2 and two Level 3.

## **15. Social Media/Publicity**

DB continued to update the Facebook page and BJ the coaching page.

## **16. HJBA**

MN reported that the U15 and U16 had had relatively successful seasons but the U13 less so. Future events included trials in June, a U15 Bronze tournament in January and a primary school tournament.

## **17. BE issues**

JP submitted a written report, the main points of which were:

- a) She was currently working with the Active Communities Manager for Harrow and Three Rivers who was seeking to run an Essentials course, No Strings Sessions, Smash Up and Racketpack. He had also asked South West Herts CBN for funding.
- b) She was hoping to run a Foundation Course at Beaumont School on 3 and 4 September. The booking had not yet been finalised. She was also looking to run Level 2 course in September/October.
- c) Racketpack would continue to be developed with the aim of getting more primary school age children to experience badminton.
- d) BE was still targeting Mount Grace School for a Coach/Facility project to enable coaches to deliver a mass community badminton programme.
- e) Community Badminton was looking to deliver sessions within the County.

## **18. Any other business**

HJBA is looking into using the courts at Presdale School next season for all their junior matches and would like to know if HBA would be interested in making a joint booking. It is available all day on Sundays at £40 per hour for four courts which is a favourable rate although parking could be a problem. AW and SW would need to commit for Senior County training and Masters training and matches. CW emphasised that one person would need to organise the bookings as he used to do with Birchwood and AW did for Queenswood.

Action: PK to contact AW and SW and decide whether HBA would use Presdale School next season.

CW mentioned that HBA had donated £500 each to Welwyn & Hatfield and East Herts CBNs back in 2020 and had promised to donate the same amount to the other two CBNs if they needed funding to support a particular project or event.

Action: DB to follow up.

## **19. Future meetings**

- a) The next committee would take place on 9 May 2022 by way of Zoom.
- b) It was agreed that the AGM should take place on 6 June and that it should, if possible, be a physical meeting. GB to investigate if a room was available at HSV.

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