Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held at 7 Woodland Way, Stevenage on 13 March 2023

Present:

Paul Kempster	PΚ
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Nick Goode	NG
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Mike Newlove	MN
Jim Robson	JR
Steve Willis	SW

1. Apologies for absence

Bob Green	BG
Doug Clark	DC
Colin Walker	CW

2. Jan Macfarlane

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Jan Macfarlane who died on 18 February. Jan had been involved in badminton for many years, through the Stevenage League, Codicote Badminton Club and coaching, and will be greatly missed.

3. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 5 December 2022

a) Social Tournament

MN explained that the Tournament would be going ahead on 2 April as there had been sufficient entries. He expected it to break even although HBA, rather than HJBA, would assume responsibility for any profit or loss. To encourage entries, DB had contacted all the No Strings organisers and SG had circulated the HBA clubs.

b) BE 10 year strategy

SG reported that this had not yet been published. The next BE General Meeting was scheduled for the end of April.

c) Invoice for Masters teams

The invoice from BE for the Masters' entry fees had been received, belatedly, and had been paid.

d) Donation from Stevenage BC

CW reported that he had heard nothing from the Senior County organisers as to possible recipients. He therefore suggested, and the meeting agreed, that the money should be moved to the Ray Learney Fund.

e) HBA Strategy Document

SG reported that his thoughts on a strategy to encourage club development had been expanded by Graham Cobb (GC) into a much longer and broader document. As SG had not had time to go through it in detail, he was not in a position to propose a way forward. Those at the meeting suggested GC's document should be circulated to the Committee before the next meeting.

4. Chairman

PK reported that he had been unable to attend the last BE General Meeting and that the minutes had not yet been circulated.

5. Secretary

SG reported the following issues:

a) All England tickets

HBA's allocation of 10 complimentary tickets had been taken up, including two each to two clubs.

b) BE circulation lists

After a lengthy exchange of emails involving several committee members, Julie Pike and Mark Downie, the roles held by HBA committee members recorded on the BE system had been updated. One of the triggers for this had been the email about complimentary tickets for the All England being sent to nine people, three of whom were Herefordshire officials. SG intended monitoring closely the way in which BE in future circulated information.

c) Gadebridge BC

He had provided a reference for Gadebridge BC to assist them in opening a bank account.

d) SW Herts League

He had emailed the organiser of the League to suggest restoring the relationship between it and HBA. To date he had had no reply.

6. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

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

- a) Since the last meeting, one more club had affiliated bringing the total to 54, one fewer than last year. Another 80 members had affiliated in 2023 giving a current total of 1326. That almost matched the position of a year ago and included 468 junior members, a slight increase.
- b) The Income and Expenses report showed a small loss of £303 from normal activities but, after taking into account the donation of £700 from Stanstead Abbotts BC, the overall result was a profit of £397. The forecast for the year was for a profit of £101 from normal activities and an overall profit of £801. Those figures might change as some of the expenditure of shuttles was estimated. Herts has entered a team in the U21 tournament and HBA has agreed to meet the entry fee of £160. At this stage, CW's view was that the county and match fees could remain unchanged for next season.
- c) CW raised the matter of two Level 2 candidates, awarded £150 each, who had not yet completed their final assessment. In one case that was due to health issues and, in the other, the candidate failed the assessment. DB assured the meeting that both candidates would be taking the assessment later in the year and that awards should not be withdrawn. The meeting agreed that position.

7. Senior County

No report.

8. County League

SG reported that GC had circulated a questionnaire to the participating clubs seeking their views on the structure the league should adopt next season. The replies were still being collated.

9. Hertford Area League

JR reported that the Area League was running with no reported problems. To date, 75% of matches had been completed.

10. North Herts and Letchworth

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

- a) Anna Collis was finalising plans for a senior schools coaching project. Fearnhill, Knights Templar, Priory, and John Henry Newman would each receive six weeks of coaching and at the end there would be a tournament between them. The hope was that this would take place after the Easter break.
- b) Julie Pike delivered a Racket Pack session to around 100 children at Knights Templar school this month, with the help of Alex Jennings (North Herts SSP). They were all provided details of junior clubs in the area.

c) The two leagues were ticking along nicely, though with much reduced numbers of teams/events compared with the position pre-pandemic.

11. South West Herts

No report. The meeting noted that the league was running although the results and tables did not appear to be published.

12. Masters

SW reported as follows:

- a) The Challenge was very successful for Herts with wins and promotion to the Premier Division for the 55s and 60s.
- b) In the leagues, only the 55s would possibly make it through to the National Finals in Birmingham on 22 & 23 April.
- c) SW, along with Tim Moore and Kevin Maughan, was looking at ways of improving the number of players involved. Compared with other counties, Herts had a relatively high proportion of Compete players.
- d) Presdales had proved to be a very good facility, in terms of cost and quality.

13. Tournaments

EL reported that the Senior Silver had been sanctioned by BE and would take place on 19 & 20 August. The only difficulty was that HSV was insistent on closing at 7.00 pm during the Summer which might necessitate limiting the number of entries.

HSV had been booked for the Restricted Tournament on 30 September & 1 October.

14. Development

DB submitted a derailed written report which is appended to these minutes together with the minutes of the most recent EHCBN meeting.

15. Coaching

BJ reported that one Herts participant had been assessed as competent at the most recent Level 2 assessment. The Facebook page had 837 followers.

16. Social Media/Publicity

No report.

17. HJBA

MN reported that three age groups had made it through to the Shires final, that the new HJBA Treasurer had settled in well and that this year's ICT would take place in Nottingham.

18. BE issues

There were no issues raised.

19. Web Site

NG suggested that merging the HBA and HJBA web sites into one would provide a better vehicle for communicating with members. He estimated that an upgrade would cost £3k to £4k. There was no consensus at the meeting to support that proposal but NG intended exploring further the question of cost.

20. Any other business

There was no other business.

21. Future meetings

Committee Meeting: 22 May 2023 at DB's.

AGM: 20 June 2023 at HSV

* * *

Development Report to HBA Committee Meeting 13 March 23

Contents

National and County-wide	1
EH CBN	3
Herts West Badminton Development Group	3
North Herts CBN	3
WH CBN	3
EH CBN Minutes	5

National and County-wide

County Officials -JP/DB/CW

BE's County officials list for Herts was grossly out of date leading to messages and free tickets being misdirected. Details of how to update have been provided to CW and DB.

Coach Education - JP

Beaumont School Foundation Course took place on the 18th/19th February with 23 candidates, 11 from Herts.

Level 2 Course organised to take place at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre on the 7th, 14th May, 11th, 18th June, 17th September – I am awaiting a live booking link for this which I will send to Brian/Dave to circulate {now sent].

National Schools Tournament - JP

In the absence of a BE competition I have linked the winning schools from each category (KS3 Boys, KS3 Girls, KS4 Boys, KS\$ Girls) up with the winning schools from Bedfordshire and Suffolk County Rounds. It is now down to them if they wish to arrange to play the other schools to determine a 'regional winner'. BE are looking to run some format of National Schools from September but I'm currently unaware of what this looks like.

The new Session Finder and Club Finder are now live on our website - JP

First Disability Junior National Championships On June 17th - JP

We will be launching our first Disability Junior National Championships to help raise the profile of badminton amongst secondary age players with a physical disability. There will be a 'recruitment' drive for players across each region and two regional training days will be held where a team will be selected for the event.

Kent Para-Disability Badminton Tournament on the 13th/14th May 2023 -JP

Online entry via Tournament Software is here:

https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/tournament/E6798DCF-4D77-48CC-9FB8-62D84435646E

The Racketpack Festival is running at Presdale School, 10am on the 19th May - JP

I will be there at 9am to set up and train the leaders who will run the stations.

The more the merrier so please pop along if you would like to support – I will also provide Lisa with information of local clubs for exit routes.

The Grassroots Coach of the Year Award Winner - JP

It has been won by a Hertfordshire coach for the second year running – this time Anna Collis. She will be presented with her award on semi-finals day at the All England.

Potential New Local and National Tournament Sponsor - DB

DB virtually met with Syam Puli, CEO, at Dhigna bank, and his colleagues, particularly Vinamra Chauhan, event manager. Dhigna ('We are building the world's first truly universal financial fintech platform') on their website: https://dhigna.com/about-us. Basically Dhigna want to sponsor badminton competition, at the club, county and national level. Syam and Vinamra are based in Hatfield. Julie is aware and Nick G. is now progressing.

Herts Sport Partnership Skills Strategy DB

Published 22Feb23, 20 employers in Hertfordshire indicated that they employed 394 individuals, and other individuals in a 'Sports Coach' role; the Strategy covers a wide remit. Perhaps the most important for us are the training needs for coaches (Appendix p25).

Oaklands College Sports Industry Board Input to Curriculum Meeting 22Feb.

Nick and I attended this meeting convened to identify the needs of 'the sports industry' in Herts, what Oaklands college, are doing and might do. We attended not least to show our support for a Badminton Academy, a potential county badminton centre, and to input to potential courses.

Oaklands College Sports curriculum offer

Currently, there are 372 students studying sport with 450+ students in sporting academies.

70% students progress to to Higher Education, 105 pursue sporting apprenticeships and remaining 20-30% go into full time employment.

Badminton Academy: At the meeting we, reiterated our support for a Badminton Academy, for which they said they would keep us informed of course recruitment ('Open') days that interested badminton juniors could attend. From previous discussions a minimum of 8 students is needed to start an academy.

There are 26 categories of Oaklands College courses covering vocational, FE and HE: **The next Open Evening to enquire about courses is 5-7pm, 25 April. HJBA to publicise to U16 1nd U18 squads**

Like other participants, we mentioned the need for L1 & L2 coaches, and the need for courses on business skills, and soft skills.

We also requested an advisory module (3h) on coaching GP Referrals for our LLBiHwB project. There is already a 'Level 3 Exercise Referral' course that might be modified for us.

County Facility - DB

Gosling Meeting due end of March

Oaklands College

See Oaklands College Sports Industry Board Input to Curriculum Meeting 22Feb, above.

Living Longer Better in Herts with Badminton - DB

Recap: 'Government and HSP Funded scheme to get people 50+ active: badminton interests are being pursued by DB, JP, and CBNS: KB, SC, BG. (www.livelongerbetterinherts.co.uk). Proposal: In the 4 quarters of Herts: the organisation, recruitment, and training of coaches for 8 badminton skills sessions for those 50+, called No Strings Essentials, followed by friendly tournaments and exit routes into clubs and No strings sessions in sports facilities.'

All CBNs are engaged. Richard Sutcliffe, HSP, to help write the bid for £10K, potentially more: start in September. HSP's 10 Active Local Officers are engaging with GP's Social Prescribers (SP) and finding appropriate facilities. SPs to signpost clients to sessions.

DB attended the national and HSP conferenced LLB 12 session course and is their first 'Champion'.

National Badminton – Julie Bradbury, DB

Their new Next Gen Play programme this year will trial in Hertfordshire, Luton and Swindon. As a way to attract players in a more cost-effective way they are offering for £29.99 plus Postage and Packing (£5):

6 weeks of Professional Coaching Racket & Shuttle Set, T-Shirt

HBA Website CO2 Emissions

HBA report at https://ecograder.com/report/AyRpsXiFt1YNfdfQl8aQdOxA 'This page emits an estimated 0.766g of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) every time someone views it.'

EH CBN

Meeting 1Mar23: minutes below.. Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Herts West Badminton Development Group

Meeting 7 Dec 22 on HBA CBNs, HWBDG webpage: http://www.hertsbadminton.net/herts-west-community-badminton-network/

Meeting 8 Feb 23 deferred

Chair KB: 'Apologies I have had to cover all the sessions that my other level 2 was employed for... I still haven't found anyone else available so I'm still covering them.'

No new date suggested and one application request for funding not addressed.

Julie Bradbury CEO National Badminton, has 3 sessions:

North Herts CBN – Bob G report.

WH CBN

No meeting this season: bank has been changed from HSBC to Lloyds to avoid charges.

Schools coaching: John Stobo:

- 1. After-school clubs for Year 3&4 children in the following schools: Howe Dell, St John's Lemsford, Commonswood, Peartree and Applecroft, not all of them every term. One hour per week for each club.
- 2. Follow-on training for promising players from the above groups up to end of primary school Year 6 at Gosling Sports Park. One hour per week in school term-time.

- 3. BISI coaching events at Stanborough School for Year 3 children in the primary school sports consortium coordinated by Stanborough School (8 primary schools, I think). Usually once per term.
- 4. For the same consortium, an inter-school tournament for G&T children. Usually once per school year. In activities 3 and 4, I work in support of Jo Moxham who runs the consortium.

Onslow St Audrey's New 4-court Facility

DB and JP have offered support. Email from Mitchell Davey, 23Feb23:

'Onslow St Audrey's school has been delayed slightly with completion set for September 2024. This will include four badminton courts with appropriate run-off areas suitable for competition.

We, of course, want to increase the badminton provision and the effective implementation you have described in your original email would be of great interest to us.

I can keep you updated with the progress of the build as we look to build an effective relationship moving forward. '

DB,JP replied with suggestions and that we would like to have an initial discussion soon.

Monks Walk 4-court Facility

Email from Mrs Tracie Smith, today, 13Mar23:

'I had my first on site meeting with the DFE regarding our sports hall last week. To my utter amazement they have indicated that there is the possibility of working with sports partners to enhance the provision being made to the school.

There intention is to provide us with a 4 court hall. They have sited that they are working at another school where the number of courts in the build is being increased by funding from other sources.

Is this something that Badminton might want to be involved in?'

DB replied, copy NG, Matt Rayner, HSP, JP, we would like to glad to be involved – with suggestions.

Dave Bartlett HBA Development Coordinator	

MINUTES of the

East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

Wednesday 1st March 2023 Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

Sue Clarke (SC): Secretary	Julie Pike (JP), Relationship Manager,
	Badminton England (BE)
Doug Clark (DC): Chair	Neil Clarke (NC)
Brian Jackson (BJ) Treasurer	
Jim Robson (JR)	
Ian Robinson (IR)	

ITEM ACTION

- **1. Apologies:** See list above
- 2. Minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2023 were agreed
- 3. Update from JP on behalf of Badminton England
 - JP sent a report to DC, BJ and IR on 28th February. It included information regarding:
 - Coach Education
 - Beaumont School Foundation Course took place on the 18th/19th February with 23 candidates.
 - Level 2 Course organised to take place at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre on the 7th, 14th May, 11th, 18th June, 17th September – JP is awaiting a live booking link for this which she will send to Brian/Daye to circulate
 - Following communication from Ian, JP contacted Mervin, who is interested in starting a badminton club for primary aged school children in Bishop Stortford, to arrange a meeting. She will contact him again, as she hasn't heard back from him following her latest email. Mervin is currently a Level 1 Coach though, so JP's recommendation would be for him to work alongside a Level 2 Coach
 - National Schools in the absence of a BE competition JP has linked the winning schools from each category (KS3 Boys, KS3 Girls, KS4 Boys, KS4 Girls) with the winning

schools from the Bedfordshire and Suffolk County Rounds. It is now down to them if they wish to arrange to play the other schools to determine a 'regional winner'. BE is looking to run some format of a National Schools competition from September but JP is currently unaware of what this will look like

- The new <u>Session Finder</u> and <u>Club Finder</u> are now live on the BE website
- On June 17th BE will be launching their first Disability Junior National Championships to help raise the profile of badminton amongst secondary age players with a physical disability. There will be a 'recruitment' drive for players across each region and two regional training days will be held where a team will be selected for the event
- SC questioned if there will be something similar scheduled for primary age players with a physical disability
- The Grassroots Coach of the Year Award Winner has been won by a Hertfordshire coach for the second year running – this time Anna Collis. She will be presented with her award on semi finals day at the All England.

BJ suggests that Mervin looks for a Level 2 Coach from Essex rather than Herts. There may possibly be a coach from Harlow Badminton Club who could take on this role

Matters arising from minutes;

Parent/Grandparent & Child Tournament on 29th January 2023

a)

4.

- We noted on the day that there were too many entrants for this to be an "easy" tournament to manage. Too many entrants had too few games and we, as organisers, were overstretched
- It was suggested that, should we run a similar event again next year, we have two groups on two separate dates dividing the children according to their age
- It was also noted that we should be clearer about the effects of players cancelling at the last moment, or just not turning up
- It was proposed that we increase the entry costs a little in an effort to make people value our work as volunteers more
- However, on a more positive note, SC noted that one of the parents who partnered his two sons from the Much Hadham Badminton Club, has now joined an adult badminton group to improve his game
- The costs of running this tournament were as follows: £72 in income from players, £40 to hire the Drill Hall, £8 to IR for the purchase of chocolates for the parents in each group, £9.50 to DC for the purchase of refreshments

Live Longer & Better in Herts with Badminton Project

b)

 SC made contact with Viktoria Huszar, the Active Local Officer for East Herts; Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) on 3rd February. In her response on 15th February, Viki noted that she had caught up with her contacts regarding social prescribers and they said that they would prefer it if we could provide her with a criteria

- and some marketing materials and they could refer individuals that way. She asked if we were looking for any participants over 50, or specifically individuals with long term health conditions etc, saying that she would like us to let her know so that she could see if any of her contacts works with anyone suitable
- She also asked if we had a flyer that we could send her so that she could share it through her contacts and get referrals that way
- Regarding GP contacts, Viki doesn't have any unfortunately!
- She noted that the East Herts Healthy Hub leads are Simon Barfoot (<u>Simon.Barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk</u>) and Ric Maraia (<u>Riccardo.Maraia@eastherts.gov.uk</u>), suggesting that we reach out to them and join the monthly meetings as other partners attend it.
- Neither SC nor IR, for different reasons, were able to attend the Teams meeting on 20th February. However, Charlotte Stringer, Active Local Officer for Peartree, Welwyn Hatfield and Cowley Hill, Hertsmere; HSP included us both in the minutes and actions from that meeting:
- There was discussion about the project being seen as a pathway into No Strings Badminton, to reach those targeted groups (the most inactive, referred by social prescribers) of our Active Local Areas, by utilising the infrastructure of our Active Local Areas
- To highlight a few action points from the meeting:
- Active Local Officers will identify and build/develop relationships with potential community centres/venues for small badminton sessions to take place.
- Active Local Officers to identify and liaise with social prescribers in their Active Local Areas.
- David Bartlett to send across a list of No Strings Badminton sessions and locations that are happening across Hertfordshire
- One note added by Charlotte, was to request that we could be mindful regarding contacting venues. Active Local Officers will reach out to venues and discuss the project, availability etc. to avoid duplication in work or any miscommunication. It was suggested that we reach out to our Active Local Officer if we have any venue related questions between 20th February and the next meeting.
- In an email from IR to Dave Bartlett (DB), it was noted that the sessions he runs for National Badminton in Hoddesdon and Cheshunt are for beginners and intermediates, but they require a monthly subscription after the first 2 free visits. He asked DB if he was only going to advertise No Strings pay as you go as next step sessions for these Essentials courses. There are also several groups and clubs that would welcome social players and beginners
- DB already knows about the NS Sessions with Ku Qureshi at Hatfield Leisure Centre

- IR attached the EH CBN flyer; the first page being for adult groups in the Broxbourne and East Herts areas.
- It was noted that, regarding the best times to run these groups, a BE survey from long ago found 10-12pm on weekdays as the time most retired people were looking for activities, and also the time when most leisure providers had empty halls. Full time Level 2 coaches often find weekday bookings difficult to come by, and evening and weekend bookings as their prime time. It all depends on what the social prescribers want to do and the Active Local team marrying it up as best they can with coaches and venues
- DC has made enquiries about the availability of the Drill Hall in Ware for this venture in East Herts. Tuesday and Thursday mornings were suggested as possibilities. DC was told that the costs of hiring would be higher if funding was gained for hosting these events
- After discussion it was decided that the way ahead is unclear as things stand. Committee members do not have time to spare to pursue this further at the moment. We will wait to see what happens

The Primary Schools Coaching & Badminton Tournament on C) March 5th at Stevenage Leisure Centre

- DC and BJ will be participating in the coaching session
- 5 children from St Andrew's Primary School (also members of Much Hadham Badminton Club) will be attending the coaching, but not the tournament this year

The 2023 HJBA Junior Club Tournament on March 12th, 1-5pm at Wodson Park

- DC does not have a team from All Saints/Hertford at the moment
- Dane End and Much Hadham will provide a joint team
- IR said that there will be at least 12 teams participating, if not more: Team Broxbourne, Team Watford, DK Way 1, Baldock 2, Team Gosling, Three Rivers, Abbey, Team East Herts, DK Way 2, Baldock 1, Team Rickmansworth, and Smashit (Holders)
- He is waiting on one more confirmed response from Swifts JBC
- Each participant should have at least 3 matches
- NC and BJ will oversee the East Herts Team. SC offered to help in any capacity IR sees fit to give her
- The cost of entry will be £20 per team
- JR wished it to be noted that he felt that authentication regarding the age of participants should be available, and it was noted that BE provided membership cards at one time. Could this be reintroduced?

DC to let IR know if he has a team by Friday 3rd March at the latest

IR to send an email confirming arrangements asap

e) Contact with Richard Hale School re court availability and costs

- JR confirmed that the 4 court sports hall at Richard Hale is not available for hire for 2 years, as there would be tax implications for the school if that were to go ahead
- JR is providing after school sessions on a voluntary basis for Year 7, 8 and 9 students from the school on Mondays starting at 3.30pm and finishing at approximately 4.30pm. This commenced on Monday 27th February

f) Update regarding Coach training

- See previous notes from JP
- IR will be attending Tutor training on 4th/5th March, and will keep us informed about how this goes. It is a Level 3 award, and is not badminton specific. He has since let SC know that he had an interesting weekend at the NBC in Milton Keynes on the tutoring/assessing course and now has to shadow and assist for several hours over the next 12 months to be accredited with a "1st for Sport Level 3 award in tutoring and assessing sport" certificate.
- It is suggested that a workshop session be set up for candidates wishing to undertake the Level 2 course, to ascertain whether or not they are "up to it". This would save people time and money if they are not ready to proceed

Sharing feedback from committee members and news about badminton across the county

- BJ has taken on a further badminton session on Wednesdays at Dane End. This is as a result of the coaching he is undertaking at Ralph Sadleir. 6 youngsters from the school are attending
- IR said that 90% of the group he runs at Goffs have joined the club as a result of the sessions he runs at Cuffley School
- IR has known 2 boys playing at Hatfield Leisure Centre since they were 9 years old, and feels as if he has been a part of their journey in the game. 3 youngsters that he worked with have now qualified as Foundation coaches
- SC reported that since she went into St Andrew's School in Much Hadham, taking part in an assembly where badminton was part of the agenda, MHBC has 5 new members: a good result!

5. Treasurer's Report

 There is currently £647.72 in the bank, and £113.49 in cash. This is £761.21 in total

6. Any other business

- IR commented that the online advertising of sports clubs and facilities in Waltham Cross is not necessarily getting through to interested parties. Delivering leaflets from door to door or being a presence in the shopping centre is proving to be more successful
- He also noted that the English as a Second Language courses in that area were oversubscribed
- He is running a "This Girl Can" session on Saturday July 22nd at Lea Valley White Water Centre, and would appreciate some assistance with this venture. Badminton will be just one of many stalls and activities at the "This Girl Can" festival

Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd May 2023

10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN