

## **Hertfordshire Badminton Association**

Minutes of the committee meeting held, by way of a conference call,  
on 26 September 2022

### **Present:**

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Nick Goode	NG
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Bob Green	BG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Mike Newlove	MN
Julie Pike	JP
Jim Robson	JR
Colin Walker	CW
Steve Willis	SW
Ben Vranjkovic	BV

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

Doug Clark	DC
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### **2. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 9 May 2022 and the AGM on 6 June 2022**

There were no specific matters arising but issues discussed at both meetings would be included in the relevant agenda items.

### **3. Chairman**

PK reported on the main points from the last BE General Meeting and BE AGM. The All England tournament had run successfully with an actual rather than virtual audience, the post-covid return to play had been slower than expected, Morten Frost had been appointed as Performance Director and BE had made a small surplus on the year's activities. Paul Widdicombe had been elected as a Vice President for a three year term. DB added that, although not recorded in the minutes, the Talent Pathway would include tournaments and that Kent, surprisingly, had no funding for development.

### **4. Secretary**

SG had nothing to report.

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

CW reported the following issues:

- a) The increased Herts adult affiliation fee of £3.50 was now in place and we had received £200 to date. The final position would not be clear until the standard BE renewal date for club players of 1 November. The contribution from Compete players would emerge during the season as they renewed their BE affiliation on the anniversary of the date on which they first signed-up.
- b) The county's usual activities were already underway. The Open tournament had taken place, making a profit of £645, and the Restricted tournament was scheduled for 1 and 2 October. Masters training had also begun. The cost of shuttles had increased noticeably which would impact on many activities. NG added that the weak pound would not ease that situation and that there had been a prediction that there would be a greater use of synthetic shuttles in national and international matches.
- c) The courts at Presdales School were now being used and were available at the favourable rate of £7.50 per court hour. A booking system was in place and was being managed by Barbara Lewczynska. CW agreed to circulate the current schedule.

## **6. Senior County**

BV explained that he was now running the Senior County teams in conjunction with Kelly Matthews. Dan Lears was in a supporting role.

The County would be running three teams. There was no regular training programme but there would probably be self-funded sessions before the significant match weekends. There were sufficient players in the squad and more younger players than last season.

CW reminded BV that the County still held the £250 contribution from Stevenage BC for the support of players from low income families. The identities of any players benefiting from this fund could remain confidential.

## **7. County League**

SG explained that the League was up and running with 14 clubs, 37 teams and eight divisions; the respective figures for last season were 12, 33 and five. In response to a comment made at the AGM, the divisions were smaller in size.

CW reported that Graham Cobb had asked him to produce county reports on a regular basis that would allow him to check the players' affiliation status.

To address the fall in the number of clubs and teams, NG suggested that there were informal groups of players within the county who could perhaps be persuaded to enter league teams.

## **8. Hertford Area League**

JR reported that the Area League was also underway with six divisions. The number of clubs and teams was still some way short of the 2019-20 figures. There also appeared to be a shortage of younger players.

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

BG reported that the Letchworth and Stevenage Leagues were both running. There were clubs in both leagues that might be open, in the future, to joining other leagues.

The usual development activities were taking place. Ana Collis was continuing to run her events, and there were also Smash It and senior schools initiatives.

He also noted that Presdales School appeared to be good value compared with the £9 to £12 per hour being charged by North Herts College.

## **10. Masters**

SW reported that five training sessions had been held at Presdales. The facilities were satisfactory although the floor could be slippery and the showers cold. He intended speaking to the caretaker about those issues.

He was encouraged by the recruitment of some new players and it was likely that the Challenge would take place this season.

## **11. Tournaments**

EL reported that the Open Tournament had taken place in August. There had been some teething troubles with the new format particularly with time pressure on the Saturday. All events were nevertheless completed and the Mixed Doubles had been good for Herts. A profit of some £600 had been made.

The Restricted Tournament was scheduled for 1 and 2 October and there had been a substantial entry. The Singles and Mixed Doubles would take place on the Saturday and the Level Doubles on Sunday.

He understood that the Restricted winners could enter the 'Champion of Champions' event at Milton Keynes. BE would contact the winners.

DB added that the Facebook article had been viewed by over 300 people and the YouTube clips by 104. He also suggested that the fact that the tournaments were free to watch should be publicised.

## **12. Development**

DB submitted a written report which is appended to these minutes. The noteworthy points were:

- a) There was a meeting next week about the development of Gosling but it appeared that there would not be any new facilities until 2024.
- b) He had attended an 'Aspirational' meeting at Oaklands College and there was £62m to spend on a sporting venue. He had registered HBA's interest.
- c) The CBNs continued to meet. Where WHCBN was concerned, the new Games Organiser at The Ridgeway Academy is asking schools for interest in badminton coaching.

### **13. Coaching**

BJ reported that there had been 23 participants on the Foundation Course in September of which six were from Herts. There was a further Foundation Course on 18 and 19 February 2023. The Coaches Facebook page had been regularly updated.

### **14. Social Media/Publicity**

BV clarified that, whereas anyone could contribute to the Facebook page, the Coaches section was locked.

In response to a question from SG, it was agreed to cancel the Twitter account as it had not been updated since 2019. SG agreed to remove the link from the web site.

### **15. HJBA**

MN reported that, although it was very early in the season, the numbers participating was similar to previous seasons. The first match was scheduled for next weekend.

### **16. Additional agenda issues**

- a) SG had been contacted by the Treasurer of Icarus BC. The club has been playing host to two Ukrainian refugees who had been in the UK for six to eight weeks but had no job or income.

He asked if the HBA had any funding available to contribute to the Ukrainian players' costs. The club's annual subscription is £135 and the club would meet 50% of that for each person. In addition, he suggested that a decent racquet would be £40 per person. He is therefore seeking £215.

NG agreed to supply two racquets. DB suggested that the local authority may have funds available for that purpose and that the club should investigate that avenue first.

- b) DB proposed that HBA considers running Bronze and Copper tournaments. The issue was raised at the BE AGM when it was suggested they would be included in the Talent Pathway. In addition, it was also mentioned at the Herts AGM and had been the subject of questions on Herts Facebook.

In 2019, three successful copper tournaments were run, with BE financial support. They were organised by Micky Mahbubani who has now moved to MK.

JP felt that such tournaments would be well received as a good way for players to make the step into competitive badminton and would also provide a response to those who suggest that club players get little in return for their county affiliation fee. She also notes that the stumbling block might be getting volunteers to manage these events.

It was agreed in principle that a Tier 5 tournament could be a worthwhile first step and that a date should be tentatively booked at Presdales.

ACTION: CW to provisionally book 2 April 2023.

The committee would then need to find an organiser.

## **17. BE issues**

JP reported that:

- a) There had been six Herts participants on the Level 2 coaching course.
- b) She hoped that the Mount Grace facility would be open by Christmas. The coaches were ready to proceed.

## **18. Any other business**

- a) DB reported that Comets Juniors was still suffering cancelled bookings at HSV. As Queenswood was no longer available he was having to look at venues further afield such as St Albans.
- b) It was agreed that DB should be an HBA representative at BE meetings in place of Paul Widdicombe.

## **20. Future meetings**

The next committee meeting should take place in early-December.

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# Development Report to HBA Committee Meeting 25Sep22

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## County-wide

### Sports Facilities

#### County badminton centre – Gosling SP

Next meeting in October

#### Oaklands College

At the 'Aspirational' meeting for interested NGBs 21 September Oaklands Director, Andrew Slade, and colleagues explained that they have £62M to spend on the St Albans Campus for a 'world class sporting venue'. Strategic partners are 'HCC, District councils, HSP, NGBs, Sport England and UK Sport, and University of Hertfordshire'. Next steps to 'Establish a Working Forum for development and design' and 'Develop Elite Athletes and a sustainable, relevant skilled workforce'. The slides from the meeting will be circulated soon.

I expressed our interest to several of the department heads who sounded very interested and they said they would be in touch for the next phase

#### HJBA

Hertfordshire PE [Primary and Secondary] Conference 2022: Positive Futures and Positive Minds will now take place on Friday 20th May 2022. DB, JP, MN, KW, BJ 'promoting current programmes and resources available from BE and what HJBA and Herts coaches can provide.'

Tanya Angus, Herts School Games Programme Manager organised a racket pack festival at the Primary schools School Games celebration event 8 July at Oaklands college, St Alban.' Julie Pike organised the activities and coached together with Brian Jackson Gill, Oliver and Dave Bartlett.

## Community Badminton Networks

**East Herts CBN** Next Meeting in 20 September (no report yet).

**Herts West Badminton Development Group (was CBN)** Next Meeting 28 September

#### N Herts CBN

See Bob

**WH CBN**

New School Games Organiser, Terri Harvey, at The Ridgeway Academy, is asking schools for interest in badminton coaching, To report early October.

Comets Junior Badminton Club has lost 13 sessions in the coming year at HSV owing to higher priority bookings. Queenswood cannot accommodate them this season, Oaklands College is being consulted.

Dave Bartlett, HBA Development Coordinator