

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held, by way of a conference call,
on 9 May 2022

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Bob Green	BG
Jim Robson	JR
Colin Walker	CW
Andy Walden	AW

1. Apologies for absence

Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Julie Pike	JP
Steve Willis	SW

2. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 21 March 2022

- a) PK had approached Nick Goode who was willing to be nominated for the position of President. His appointment would be confirmed at the AGM.
- b) CW had provided BJ and DB with a list of the recipients of all Ray Learney awards and the review by DB and BJ was ongoing. DB had identified those he knew had coached or were still coaching. BJ had sent emails to the remainder and was awaiting replies, of which there had been three to date.
- c) SW had agreed that, in principle, Presdale School could be used for Masters matches and had already arranged some Masters training there in the summer. HJBA was also intending to use it and it was understood that Barbara Lewczynska was organising the bookings. AW reported that he had met some resistance from Senior County players to using Presdale for practice sessions. However, as there were unlikely to be many practice sessions taking place, he suggested that Masters and HJBA should go ahead with their own bookings and that the Senior County would try to fit in with their commitments if bookings were necessary.
- d) DB had secured the use, without charge, of a room at the University of Hertfordshire for the HBA AGM.

3. Arrangements for the AGM

- a) The meeting would take place in room M232 on the de Havilland campus. The format would follow the previous 'physical' meetings. SG to check with Julie Pike to establish if she would need an OHP.

- b) Committee members would aim to provide SG with their reports two weeks before the meeting. The reports would be put on the web site and hard copies would not be provided. GB suggested that, given the provision of reports, committee members only needed to focus at the meeting on key points.
- c) Refreshments would be available at the end of the meeting, along the lines provided on previous occasions, to facilitate a degree of social interaction.
- d) All committee members were prepared to offer themselves for re-election except AW who would be standing down. Ben and Kelly were looking for a replacement.
- e) The issue of BE representatives might need to be left open. Although PK was one representative, Paul Widdicombe might not be able to continue as the second. Additionally, the incoming President might want to get involved and there was another issue as to whether the second representative should be someone in the junior field. If the matter was not resolved at the AGM, it would need to be discussed by the committee afterwards.

4. Chairman

Paul Widdicombe had circulated some notes of the last BE General Meeting. PK drew attention to the appointment of the new Chief Executive, that affiliation fees were to increase for the 2022-23 season with a new membership scheme scheduled for 2023-24, following consultation with the counties, and that the operation and funding of schools tournaments was entirely the responsibility of counties.

5. Secretary

SG explained that Paul Widdicombe's application to be a BE Vice President had been submitted. He had been nominated by HBA and seconded by Devon CBA. The outcome would not be known until the BE AGM on 25 June 2022.

6. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

CW reported the following issues:

- a) The number of affiliated clubs had fallen by six from 61, at April 2021, to 55 and the number of affiliated members by 142 from 1387 to 1245.
- b) The loss for the year was £1870, the main reason being the combined effect of a fall in the number of members and the reduction in the county affiliation fee to £1.75 rather than the previous £3.50.
- c) The main items of expenditure were running three Senior County teams and six Masters teams, the total HBA funding being £1794. The fees from the Masters teams almost covered the costs but the biggest expense was on the Senior County teams. Where the latter was concerned, the BE entry fee, over which the HBA had no control, was £2200 and travelling expenses amounted to £485. Those figures were lower than they might have been as the number of Senior County teams was three rather than four.
- d) Additionally tournaments broke even, HBA had topped up the Ray Learney fund by transferring £1000 from general reserves, and overall funds stood at £17055.

- e) Looking ahead, CW said that we should reduce the size of the loss and recommended that the cost of running the Senior County teams should be reduced with match fees increasing, from £3.50 per game, by 10% to 20%, to perhaps £4.00 per match. However, HBA still held the donation from Stevenage BC of £250 to assist younger players and could be used to offset the impact of higher match fees. Also there should be no accommodation costs next season as the second team had been relegated.
- f) He also recommended that the adult county affiliation fee should return to its former level of £3.50, which should provide an additional £1000. Another possibility was reintroducing the County League entry fee of £10 per team although he was reluctant to propose that as the increase in BE affiliation fees would place a significant burden on clubs. It was suggested that we communicate this to the clubs and that we would probably need to charge a fee for 2023-24.

7. Senior County

AW reported as follows:

- a) The first team had finished 7th out of 10 teams in the Premiership. This was a good performance and younger players had been given the opportunity to play.
- b) The second team had faced a tough time in the Championship and had finished last out of 10 teams. One problem had been having to play other counties' first teams.
- c) The third team had finished 7th out of 8 teams in Division 2 South East and would be relegated. The team had finished on equal points with the team in 6th place but had lost after a count-back.

AW intended stepping back from his coordination role but expected three teams to run next season.

Dan Lears had organised, in a private capacity, training sessions to which he had invited Senior County players and others.

8. County League

No report.

9. Hertford Area League

JR reported as follows:

- a) There were no outstanding Covid 19-related problems.
- b) There were only three matches remaining and, as expected, the season would run into May.
- c) The HABL AGM is scheduled for 30 May 2022.

10. North Herts and Letchworth

BG reported that the Letchworth League had not started this season and that the Stevenage League had run on a limited basis.

11. South West Herts

No report.

12. Masters

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

- a) Five teams had run although there had been problems with player availability, some Covid-related issues and the lack of a regular home venue for matches.
- b) For next season, SW was hoping that Presdale School could be used as the venue for both matches and trials/practice sessions. He was also considering running an internal tournament.
- c) To attract more players, SW had emailed all compete members who were not currently involved, had arranged for SG to email all clubs and flyers had been put up in various leisure centres.

13. Tournaments

EL reported that:

- a) The 2022 Open Tournament, scheduled for 20 and 21 August 2022, had been published on the BE Tournament Software and players could enter from 1 June.
- b) He would be applying to HSV to book courts for the Restricted, due to take place on 24 and 25 September 2022.

14. Development

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

- a) HSP was actively involved with Sport England to help shape the facilities strategies for the 10 district and borough council areas. It was agreed that HBA should engage with this initiative.
- b) It was also agreed that HBA should input to the planning of a new facility at Oaklands College.
- c) DB would be participating in a seminar on sustainability on 18 May 2022.
- d) DB was currently investigating whether there was potential for the reintroduction the Eastern Region Development Committee or, if not, whether any financial resources could be distributed to the counties.

- e) DB reported that all CBNs were now active with some effective developments, for example the Herts West Badminton Development Group had approved funding for a Women's Essentials Badminton Course.
- f) HJBA County trials will be held on Wednesday 8 June at Hertfordshire Sports Village. Details and contacts are on the HJBA web site <https://hjba.org.uk>

15. Coaching

BJ reported that he had emailed all those on the Level 1 and Level 2 waiting lists to inform them of courses starting in the autumn. Details were also on the Coaches Facebook page. He was also contributing to the survey of recipients of Ray Learney awards (see item 2 b) above).

16. Social Media/Publicity

No report.

17. HJBA

No report.

18. BE issues

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

- a) The Coaching Certificate (Club Specialism) courses are scheduled at Berkhamstead Leisure Centre on 2 and 9 October, 6 and 13 November and 18 December.
- b) There had been no developments on the Coach/Facility project at Mount Grace School.
- c) Keith Burns had won the Grassroots Coaching Award, a great achievement which had been publicised on the BE web site.
- d) The new BE Chief Executive was now in post but there were no details yet as to her plans for interacting with the counties.

19. Any other business

As badminton was gradually moving towards pre-Covid levels of activity, SG asked committee members to submit items for the web site, particularly events. The site was more likely to be accessed by more people if it was regularly updated.

20. Future meetings

The next committee meeting should take place in mid-September, if possible as a physical meeting.

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