

## Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 8 December 2025 on Zoom

### 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
Colin Walker	CW

### 1. Apologies for absence

Natalie Barton	NB
Jim Robson	JR
Steve Willis	SW

### 2. Matters arising from the Committee Meeting on 29 September 2025

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Chairman

PK reported on the following issues:

- a) He would circulate the email from BE about a County Development Plan Questionnaire and invited contributions to the response from committee members. No deadline had been given by BE for its return.

**Action:** PK to circulate the County Development Plan Questionnaire

- b) He noted that, as a result of DB's initiative, that there might be a parabadminton tournament next year.
- c) He also noted that BE was falling behind with its administration. DB explained that the Club Finder information was not in place on 1 September although it had been updated two weeks ago. BJ added that the Find a Coach facility was still not working and he intended reminding BE. PK expressed disappointment that there had been no messages from BE about these failings.

**Action:** BJ to contact BE about the lack of coaching information.

- d) PK explained that the counties were unhappy about what BE was expecting as contributions to the governance issue. He awaited further clarification from BE

#### **4. Secretary**

SG explained at he now had 10 complimentary tickets for the All England and invited bids from committee members before offering them to a wider audience.

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

CW reported as follows:

- a) There were currently 54 affiliated clubs, a net increase of three. There were four new clubs but Borehamwood Shuttlers was no longer affiliated.
- b) The number of affiliated members was 1427, an increase of four.
- c) Income was down slightly but HBA had already received some £2600 in county fees. It appeared that the new BE finance system was working more quickly.
- d) He had received all the match fees for the first Senior County weekend and HBA was continuing to pay for the shuttles for the Senior County training sessions.

#### **6. Senior County**

The results from the first Senior County weekend were as follows:

First team (Premiership)

Played 3 Won 3

Second team (Division 1 South)

Played 2 Lost 2

Third team (Division 2 South East)

Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1

#### **7. County League**

PK reported that Cam Gears had been dilatory in providing its fixtures but that League Republic was now up-to-date.

#### **8. Hertford Area League**

There was no report from JR but SG commented that the League appeared to be running satisfactorily.

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

BG explained that the three leagues, Biggleswade, Letchworth and Stevenage, were all up and running.

## **10. Masters**

SW provided a written report that would be put on the web site. The results to date had been mixed but there had been a number of impressive performances from Herts players in the National Championships at HSV in November.

CW commented that the BE entry fees continued to increase. For Senior County the cost was £3000 and for Masters it was £600. There were some items, such as the cost of premises and shuttles that counties could not control.

## **11. Tournaments**

EL reported that courts had been booked for the Silver in September but that he had been unable, as yet, to book the courts for the Restricted as HSV would now only allow bookings six months in advance.

## **12. Development**

DB's report is appended to the minutes. He drew the meeting's attention to the following issues:

- a) East Herts CBN had carried out a study of the benefits of BE affiliation, particularly the costs and benefits of insurance by comparing BE with other providers. In summary, external providers might be cheaper but BE offered a wider range of benefits. BJ commented that, where his own club was concerned, he had secured public liability insurance for £25 whereas the BE cost was £110.
- b) Some sessions for the Live Longer Better initiative were still running and some participants were progressing to clubs,
- c) DB was continuing to facilitate the process to run a parabadminton tournament in 2026. Gobi Ranganathan had made a number of suggestions but there was still much to be done particularly booking courts. DB mentioned that he did not have the resources and that HBA might need to pay someone to manage and run the tournament. HSP and BE might provide funding and it was possible that some support would be asked of HBA.
- d) DB to attend the Primary Schools Conference in January.

## **13. Coaching**

BJ reported as follows:

- a) He had secured a coach for a lady in East Herts.
- b) The coaching consultation with Lee Bent (BE) was attended by representatives from Herts, Bucks, Kent, Middlesex and Essex. LB is putting together a coaching plan to support coaches but it appeared to be aimed more at paid coaches than volunteers. BJ would report back in due course.
- c) He continued to update the Facebook page.



# Development Coordinator Report for 8 December

## 25 HBA Meeting

Badminton England: General Meeting Draft Minutes October 2025 were circulated 23 October with mention of lack of ‘Find a club, session, or coach, and head office keen to have improved county governance.

### Find a Club, Session, Coach

I emailed BE staff that their find a club and find a session webpages have been unavailable since 1 September. It means that part of what we expect from our membership – promotion - is not being delivered. Kate Shortland, BE Membership, eventually reported, 21 November, that they had been fixed.

### Insurance Membership Value for Money

EHCBN minutes 30Oct25, see below, queried:

- which is much less costly than through BE
- It was generally felt that there were benefits of membership as a Coach but not for clubs DB to be asked’

Kate Shortland, BE Membership response

Category	Insure4Sport	Badminton England
Players	Public Liability( £10M): £22.12 Personal Accident: £47.99	Public liability £15M - Community Membership: £15.75 (Senior), £5.18 (12–18), Free (11 & under) Personal Accident - Compete Membership: £30.60 (Senior), £16.43 (12–18), £11.15 (11 & under) Enhanced terms, additional cover & benefits (e.g., counselling)
Clubs	Public Liability: £10M Price: £88.47	Public Liability: £15M. Additional cover: abuse, crisis containment Club Affiliation: £90 (up to 20 players)
Coaches	Lower level of cover, many aspects of cover not included Price: £133.99	Coach Membership: £49.50 / £70.65 Includes enhanced DBS, safeguarding training, and full BE support & benefits

### Key Takeaways

- Higher liability limits: Howden (via BE) consistently offers £15m vs Insure4Sport’s £10m.
- Broader scope: BE cover includes extras like abuse cover, crisis containment, safeguarding, DBS checks, and counselling services.
- Cost efficiency: BE membership/affiliation fees are generally lower than Insure4Sport’s standalone quotes.
- League cover: Only BE provides structured league insurance, extending protection to volunteers.

Clearly insurance is not the only or even the main benefit. BE Development fund is not available, for instance to non-affiliated clubs. BE's club standards (DBS, etc.) are important/necessary for junior clubs, leagues and tournaments.

Clubs that do not affiliate can still have some benefit from the whole support structure of BE, HBA, HJBA, CBNs, leagues, etc., from other clubs' affiliation and payments. Without most clubs having BE affiliation HBA, HJBA, CBNs, and league support structure would, if they still existed, be vestigial in comparison (evidenced in some other counties). Support from other organisations like HSP, Herts Schools, local authorities, would also be lacking or minimal.

Committee input welcomed before reply to EHCBN.

### Live Longer Better 50+ Badminton

Several sessions still going. Some members progressing to clubs.

### Parabadminton tournaments, Junior and Senior

Bob Green, Henry Prothero, HSP's Emma Catlin (Para sport Officer), Louise Hewitt [BE Head Office] are keen to help as is Gobi. Gobi says best to run next June. So we have time to plan.

The Junior parabadminton is to be a taster session for schools at least initially. Agreed with Tania Angus, Herts School Games Organiser, to keep it simple this year.

### Latest CBN meetings

East Herts CBN Committee meeting 30Oct25. See their HBA webpage

<http://www.hertsbadminton.net/east-herts-community-badminton-network/>

Herts West Development Group meeting 11Sep25 see their HBA webpage:

<https://www.hertsbadminton.net/herts-west-community-badminton-network/>