

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting

8 June 2026

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association (HBA) held at the University of Hertfordshire at 7.30 pm on 8 June 2026 with 20 attending, including representatives from ten affiliated clubs. The names of those who attended the meeting are listed at Appendix 1.

These minutes record the issues discussed at the meeting and do not attempt to summarise the committee members' written reports which are available on the AGM 2026 page of the HBA website.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee:	Vice Presidents:	Clubs:	BE:
Gill Bartlett Steve Willis (SW)	Pam Newman Lynne Parker Geoff Thomas Pat Walker Paul Widdicombe	Hertford BC	Luke Hornsley

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 2 June 2025 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM on 2 June 2025 were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

PK reported as follows:

- a) The Committee Members' reports were available on the HBA web site.
- b) Another successful season had been completed in competitions involving the Senior County teams, the Masters Championship and Challenge events, and County tournaments.
- c) He reported that Luke Hornsley had replaced Henry Prothero as the BE Regional Manager for the East Region but that he was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.
- d) He thanked the county committee members for their support and the commitment they had shown in their various roles to promote and develop badminton in the county.
- e) He also thanked all those who had continued to give their time to run clubs and teams.

4. Membership Report and Accounts

CW reported as follows:

- a) There was an increase in the number of affiliated clubs from 51 to 56. There was also an increase in the number of affiliated members from 1424 to 1564, with increases in the number of both senior and junior members. In comparison with other counties, Herts was now 5th in the number of members and 6th in the number of clubs. CW1 believed that the numbers reported by him actually measured the total number of affiliated members. However, BE reported a higher number as it double counted members who played for two or more clubs. It also recorded Welfare Officers as a separate category although those positions were in all probability held by affiliated members.
- b) There was a small loss for the year of £289 and total funds stood at £18,180.
- c) The net cost of running the three Senior County teams and the five Masters teams, explained in detail in note 6 to the accounts, increased to £2,822. That was explained by an increase of £400 in the BE entry fee for the senior county teams and higher court and shuttle costs for Masters matches.
- d) He thanked EL for again running successful Open and Restricted tournaments which had contributed a combined surplus of £469.
- e) During the year, four awards totalling £390 were made from the Ray Learney Fund, three for the Foundation course and one for Level 2. There remained £913 in the Fund for future awards.
- f) HBA was arranging a parabadminton tournament at HSV on 1 & 2 August. HBA has donated £250 and has applied for a grant of £750 from the Herts Sports Partnership.

AW explained that he agreed it was sensible to aim to break even but he asked if there were any plans to utilise the 18k HBA held in funds. CW1 responded that that was effectively a buffer to meet costs that were inevitably increasing. DB added that if a permanent county venue became a realistic possibility, HBA might need to make a financial contribution. PK invited clubs to put forward any spending proposals for the committee to consider.

5. Subscriptions for 2025-26

CW1 explained that HBA had managed to keep county fees at the same level for many years. However, in view of higher shuttle and court hire costs, the committee considered that a modest increase in fees was appropriate.

By way of comparison, BE had provided a list of all county fees. In summary:

Senior County fees

- Range from £2.00 to £10.00
- The average across all counties was £5.68
- Four counties charged £10.00
- Only five counties charged less than £3.50

Junior County fees

- Range from nil to £5.50
- The average across all counties was £1.72

For next season, the committee proposed that the senior county fee should increase by 50p to £4.00 and a junior fee should be reintroduced of £1.00. The committee further proposed, to bring HBA into line with other counties, there should not be a match fee for those playing for the senior county first team. HBA would continue not to charge an entry fee for teams entering the County League.

The meeting agreed those proposals.

6. Review of the season's activities

Senior County

SG reported on the season's results:

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| a) | 1 st Team.
Played 9 Won 7 | Premiership
League position 3 rd of 10. |
| b) | 2 nd Team.
Played 7 Won 4 | Division 1 South.
League position 3 rd of 8. |
| c) | 3 rd Team.
Played 7 Won 1 | Division 2 South East.
League position 8 th of 8. |

35 players represented the county in 2025-26 including four debutants.

NG commented that it was good to see some younger players in the teams.

Masters

SW submitted a written report and he highlighted the following points:

The results in the County Championships were:

- 40s equal on points but 2nd on rubbers to Middlesex. W4 L2
- 50s won league by 1 point from Middlesex to qualify for Finals weekend in Birmingham. Lost to Worcestershire 5 -7 in semi-finals and then lost the 3rd place playoffs to Wilts by 4 -8, partly due to an injury to one of our players.
- 55s 3rd in the league behind Essex. W2 L4
- 60s 5th out of 7 in league behind Essex. W2 L4
- 65s 3rd out of 3 behind Essex

He anticipated entering similar teams for next year's championships and would welcome new recruits, particularly ladies in the younger age groups.

Tournament Secretary

EL reported that the dates for this year's tournaments were as follows:

Herts Senior Silver 5 & 6 September at HSV

Herts Restricted 10 & 11 October at HSV

Where the Silver was concerned, the number of entries had fallen. In response to questions, he explained that the event would continue to be Round Robin and that the entry fee was £28.00.

He was still waiting for confirmation from HSV for the dates for the Restricted event.

He would also be running the parabadminton tournament on 1 & 2 August and the event was now on the BE tournament schedule.

PK thanked EL for his continuing work in arranging tournaments.

County League Secretary

PK reported that the season had been completed without any obvious problems, apart from some difficulties in relation to rearranging matches.

He congratulated the division winners which were:

Ladies Doubles Division 1	Ware Ladies 1
Ladies Doubles Division 2	Masters Ladies 2
Open Doubles Division 1	Ware Mens 1
Open Doubles Division 2	Hawks Mens 1
Open Doubles Division 3	Harpenden Mens

Mixed Doubles Division 1
Mixed Doubles Division 2

Ware Mixed 1
Ware Mixed 3

The meeting agreed that there should again be an in-person fixture meeting but concern was expressed at the number of clubs which had not sent a representative to last year's meeting. Various options were discussed, including applying a sanction, but the only realistic courses of action appeared to be reminding all clubs of their responsibilities or issuing some pointed communication to those clubs that had been absent. PK reminded the meeting the structure of the League could only ever be finalised after the entries had been received and that he would continue to act in the best entries of the League.

Hertford Area Badminton League

JR reported that the League had operated with 12 clubs and 29 teams. The Medley and Mixed categories had run successfully but he hoped more Ladies teams would come forward. There would again be an in-person fixture meeting but it was likely that next year's AGM would be a Zoom event.

Given that there were 56 affiliated clubs in Herts, he hoped that a way could be found to encourage more teams to enter the League.

North Herts

BG reported that the three local leagues, Stevenage, Letchworth & District and Biggleswade, ran successfully although there appeared to be a tendency to push fixtures to later in the season.

The junior clubs continued to operate well.

The Live Longer Better sessions continued to run and BG had received grants to establish three new groups.

Social Media / Publicity

NG suggested that it might be possible to establish an HBA presence in social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram, as used by HJBA. Much of the work was carried out by a member of NG's staff and he would see if the person concerned was willing to take on the additional responsibilities. He reminded the meeting that, in common with the website, it would be wholly reliant on committee members and others submitting contributions.

Development Coordinator

DB submitted a written report. He highlighted the following issues:

- a) He had reported to BE the committee's support for the current scoring system rather than 3 x 15. The BWF had formally adopted the new system, with implementation from 1 January 2027, and it would be up to counties to decide whether to implement it. He added that, in time, all counties might need to implement the new system as younger players might find themselves at a disadvantage if they were coached on 3 x 21 but found themselves having to play matches on 3 x 15.
- b) BE's Find a Club appeared to be working satisfactorily although Find a Coach produced patchy results. BE had informed him that coaches needed to ensure their profiles were up-to-date.

- c) As EL had already reported, the Parabadminton Tournament was scheduled to take place on 1 & 2 August. Financial support would be provided by HBA and BE, and HSP was assisting HBA's application for a grant of £750.00.
- d) The Live Longer Better project had been completed in March 2025 and, of the 11 projects started, nine were continuing. As BG had reported, he had received funding for a further three projects.
- e) Facilities continued to be a problem. For example, Comets Junior continued to have problems booking regular sessions at HSV and Abbey BC had also reported similar problems. DB had for many years sought to find a venue for a permanent county badminton facility and the two most recent possibilities, Gosling Sports Park and Oaklands College had not come to fruition. There was a wide disparity in the availability of facilities within the county. For example, in Hatfield there were 25 badminton courts available during the working week and in Welwyn Garden City there were none. There was clear evidence, from the NHS and other bodies, of the link between health and physical activity and DB encouraged those at the meeting to contribute to local consultations such as the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26, extended in the small print to 2027. The relevant links were:

[Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022 - 2026](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy Stakeholder Survey](#)

CW2 asked if HBA had a contact who might be able to provide early information about the impact of any local government reorganisation. There was a possibility that some local authority areas might be merged which could impact, for example, CBNs. DB explained that he was in close touch with bodies such as the Herts Sports Partnership but was unaware of potential changes.

Coaching

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

- a) A Foundation Course was run in February with 25 candidates, eight from Herts.
- b) The BE Club & Coach Conference was taking place at HSV on 27 June. The cost to coach members was £20.00.
- c) There were now 19 Level 1 coaches, 42 Level 2 and two Level 3, although some were outside the county.

DC raised the issue that, given the number of coaches, few were visible. He suggested that at least the Level 1 coaches should be mentored and that there should be a follow-up on the commitment given by candidates on the Ray Learney application form to undertake a certain number of sessions post-qualification.

PK said that coaches should be encouraged to update their profiles on the BE site to ensure their details were available to potential clients. BJ agreed to support that by circulating all coaches.

HJBA

MN reported that it had been busy season, with teams finishing 9th out of 25 in the ICT and the Under 15 team finishing 5th out of 30 in the Shires Finals. HJBA had also run three successful open tournaments. The HJBA Committee needed a new Treasurer and he hoped those at the meeting could canvas their members and contacts.

7. Badminton England update

- a) SG drew the meeting's attention to the change in the BWF rules regarding the introduction of the 3 x 15 scoring system, as mentioned earlier by DB. SG explained that the change was due to take effect from January 2027 but that the impact on counties and local leagues would be a matter of choice, unless BE dictated otherwise for certain events. The BWF's Alternative Rules permitted the continued use of the 3 x 21 scoring system. The meeting agreed to continue to use the existing system but accepted that, at some point in the future, the new system might need to be adopted to ensure consistency across all competitions.

The BWF Rules were at

[Statutes | BWF Corporate](#)

(NB At the BE AGM on 13 June 2026, it was explained that all leagues and tournaments that started before 1 January 2027 would continue, to the end of the season, to play under 3 x 21. The impact of that was that the only change would be for Performance Pathway squads, which would be playing international tournaments, would be coached to 3 x 15.)

- b) JR again raised his concerns about the difficulty of accessing BE's insurance documents and that a member of BE staff had made misleading statements about the level of cover. PK and DB agreed to raise the issue at the BE AGM.
- c) DC asked if there had been any review of the relationship between HBA and the CBNs, particularly where funding for adult clubs was concerned. PK indicated that the existing relationship was close and that CBNs were free to apply for funding, as had happened in the past.
- d) TC asked if any decision had been made about the use of synthetic shuttles. DB explained that no decision had been made but BE although the BWF rules permitted the use of non-feathered shuttles subject to them meeting the prescribed criteria. PK added that most clubs in the County League used feather shuttles.

(NB At the BE AGM on 13 June 2026, it was explained that BE would be standardising RSL shuttles rather than Babolat. Five types would be available from Central Sports.)

8. Election of President and Vice Presidents.

The existing Vice Presidents were re-elected for a further term.

9. Election of the Executive Committee and BE Representatives

The existing members of the committee were re-elected. The BE Representatives were PK and DB.

10. Election of Auditor

Kathryn Tiddy was willing to continue and was duly re-elected as Auditor.

11. Any Other Business

The meeting approved an amendment to the HBA Constitution dated June 2013 to replace Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association (HSBA) with Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association (HJBA).

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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Appendix 1

In attendance:

Dave Bartlett (DB)	HBA Development Coordinator Comets JBC WHCBN
Linda Butterfield (LB)	Epping BC
Mervin Changabroyen (MC)	HEBC
Doug Clark (DC)	EHCBN
Tom Crossland (TC)	Harpenden Racqueteers BC
Nick Goode (NG)	HBA President
Simon Gouldstone (SG)	HBA Secretary
Bob Green (BG)	HBA Committee Member HJBA
Brian Jackson (BJ)	HBA Coaching Coordinator Dane End JBC
Paul Kempster (PK)	HBA Chairman
Sue Kwok (SK)	HEBC
Wing Kwok (WK)	HEBC
Eddie Lintott (EL)	HBA Tournament Secretary Hawks BC
Mike Newlove (MN)	HBA Committee Member HJBA Chair
Richard Potter (RP)	Comets BC
Jim Robson (JR)	HBA Committee Member HABL Representative
Ross Thompson (RT)	Masters BC
Andy Walden (AW)	Ware BC
Colin Walker (CW1)	HBA Membership Secretary & Treasurer
Chris Wheeler (CW2)	Harpenden BC