

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 11 May 2026 on Zoom

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Natalie Barton	NB
Nick Goode	NG
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Colin Walker	CW

1. Apologies for absence

Bob Green	BG
Eddie Lintott	EL
Jim Robson	JR
Steve Willis	SW

2. Matters arising from the Committee Meeting on 2 March 2026

- a) PK had spoken to Anna Collis about whether she intended to affiliate Smash It but, by the date of the meeting, she had not done so.
- b) SG had returned to BE the *Developing dedicated badminton facilities* survey but had heard nothing by way of a reply.

3. Chairman

PK, and DB, had attended the most recent BE general meeting. HBA's views on both the proposed 3 x 15 scoring system and the changes to the membership system had been put forward and it was assumed that the two issues would be on the agenda for the BE AGM.

4. Secretary

SG reported that he had sent to Kate Shortland, BE Membership Manager, at her request, an up-to-date list of the names and roles of the current committee members.

5. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

CW reported as follows:

- a) There had been an increase, during the year, in the number of Herts affiliated clubs and Herts Affiliated members. There were currently 56 affiliated clubs, an increase of five, and 1564 members, an increase of 140. There were increases in the number of both senior and junior members and there was also an increase of 28 in the number of Welfare Officers. There was a consequent improvement in the ranking of Herts in comparison with other counties. Herts now had the 5th largest membership and was 6th in the number of clubs.
- b) As CW had predicted at the last meeting, the draft accounts indicated a loss at the end of the season of about £300. Total funds stood at £18000. The largest item of expenditure was the net cost, after match fees had been taken into account, of running the three Senior County teams and five Masters teams. The total was £2822 and the respective figures were £1934 and £888. The increase in costs was due to a £400 increase in BE's fee for entering the senior county teams, totalling £2925, and higher costs for Masters matches and training. The shortfall was effectively covered by the £2846 received in Herts affiliation fees.
- c) There had been a further four awards from the Ray Learney Fund totalling £390. There remained £913 in the Fund for future awards.
- d) HBA was arranging a parabadminton event at HSV on 1 & 2 August 2026. BE had agreed to contribute £250 and HBA was applying for a £750 grant from Herts Sports Partnership (HSP). HBA has agreed to support the event and it appeared that contribution could be £250. If the HSP grant was not forthcoming, HBA's exposure could be in the region of £1000. HBA had already paid a deposit to HSV of £144 and the balance of £1296 was due to be paid in the near future. CW was reluctant to pay such a large sum without confirmation that the event would go ahead.
- e) NB explained that there was some disquiet among the senior county players about the level of match fees. Other counties charged lower amounts and also paid for items such as hotel fees. CW pointed out that, from information provided by BE, Herts fees were not out of line with other counties. The meeting agreed that, in order not to compromise team selection, match fees for the Senior County first team would be waived for next season.
- f) There also a discussion about affiliation fees for next season. It was agreed that a small increase was appropriate as the costs for most items of expenditure were increasing and the following schedule was proposed:

Adult member	£4.00 (from £3.50)
Junior member	£1.00 (from nil)

Those figures would still leave Herts at very much the lower end of the range of county affiliation fees.

6. Senior County

The final results for the Senior County teams were as follows:

First team (Premiership)

Played 9 Won 7

Third position out of 10 in the league

Second team (Division 1 South)

Played 7 Won 4

Third position out of eight in the league

Third team (Division 2 South East)

Played 7 Won 1

Eighth position out of eight in the league

NB commented that it had been a good season overall although it was disappointing that the third team was likely to be relegated. She also paid tribute to the significant time and effort expended by those organising the teams.

7. County League

PK reported that the League was drawing to a close with some matches still to be completed. There had been no obvious problems but the support for the Ladies divisions was disappointing. NB mentioned that it would be helpful to know which clubs were seeking lady players as she was aware of some younger players which might be interested in joining a club.

PK also reported that the League Rules needed to be updated to reflect the adoption of the BE Transgender Policy.

Action: SG to look at updating the Rules

8. Hertford Area League

JR submitted a written report. All fixtures had now been completed. Twelve clubs had provided 29 teams, one Ladies team having withdrawn during season. The lack of Ladies teams was of particular concern. A further concern was that the HABL committee was now only three strong, only one being a playing member.

9. North Herts and Letchworth

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

- a) The three local leagues (Stevenage, Letchworth & District and Biggleswade) were all nearly completed with AGMs either arranged or on the point of being so.
- b) BG had received three grants from North Herts District Council to start up three new over 50s groups (Hitchin, Letchworth and Whitwell). One had been running for four weeks and he aimed to start the other two after the summer break.

10. Masters

SW submitted a written report. The results in the County Championship were as follows:

- 40s Equal on points but second on rubbers to Middlesex.
- 50s Won the league and qualified for the finals in Birmingham. Lost in the semi-final and the third-place play-off.
- 55s Third in League behind Essex
- 60s Fifth out of seven in the league behind Essex.
- 65s Third out of three behind Essex.

SW was looking to enter similar teams next season but more ladies were needed for the younger age groups.

11. Tournaments

EL submitted a written report. The Herts Silver was scheduled for 5 & 6 September and the Restricted was anticipated to take place on 10 & 11 October. EL had also agreed to run the parabadminton tournament in August.

12. Development

DB reported as follows:

- a) Luke Hornsley had taken over from Henry Prothero as BE Regional Manager.
- b) The BWF had approved the adoption of the 3 x 15 scoring system although the way counties should implement that was uncertain. For example, junior squads could be at a disadvantage if they were coached on the 3 x 21 system and then had to play the new system at international level. There might also be a trickle-down effect if senior county matches used the new system.
- c) The BE proposal for updating club administrator permissions for player registration drew many concerns at the BE meeting and was likely to be discussed further at the BE AGM.
- d) The BE Coach Finder is still producing misleading results and needs a thorough overhaul. The Find a Club facility appeared to be working satisfactorily.
- e) The process for organising a possible parabadminton tournament was continuing but still needed finalising. BD and EL needed to discuss the way forward and it might also be helpful to gather intelligence from other counties that had recently run such tournaments such as Kent.
- f) Several 50+ No Strings sessions were continuing and increasing in membership. BG has received a grant for three sessions (see earlier in the minutes).
- g) The minutes of the most recent East Herts CBN meeting had been put on the web site and similarly the minutes of the Herts West Development Group.

13. Coaching

BJ reported as follows:

- a) The BE Club & Coach Conference this year would be held at HSV on 27 June.
Topics included:

Fixing common technical faults in club and intermediate players
Developing racquet feeding skills
Coaching doubles at club level

The cost to coach members was £20.

- b) He continued to update the coaching Facebook page as items arose.

14. Social Media / Publicity

No report.

15. HJBA

NG summarised the state of play as follows: The results at the ICT had been better than expected, HJBA had been inundated with participants at under 11, and the under 15s had reached the Shires final. Boys tended to be stronger participants than girls but few appeared to join clubs. HJBA finances were in a strong position.

16. BE Issues

The only live BE issue not discussed earlier in the meeting was the County Development Plan. DB had submitted an initial version, which had not been easy to complete, but Luke Hornsley had undertaken to send a new template.

17. Arrangements for the AGM

- a) The meeting would take place on 8 June in the usual format. DB had secured the use of a room at UoH. Light refreshments would be provided as usual.
- b) It was suggested that Luke Hornsley should be invited.
- c) It was raised that the current version of the HBA Constitution made reference to HSBA and needed to change. That would require an AGM decision.

Action: SG to add that to the agenda

18. Any other business

NG explained that HJBA had two vacancies on the committee: Match Secretary and Treasurer. He would welcome any assistance in identifying candidates.

19. Future meetings

Next Committee Meeting

14 September 2026

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