

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 2 March 2026 on Zoom

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Eddie Lintott	EL
Colin Walker	CW

1. Apologies for absence

Natalie Barton	NB
Nick Goode	NG
Bob Green	BG

2. Matters arising from the Committee Meeting on 8 December 2026

- a) PK had spoken to CSBC about the proposal to run a Tier 4 tournament and had given HBA's sanction. He had heard nothing further.
- b) PK had circulated the email from BE about a County Development Plan and invited committee members to make contributions to a reply. There appeared to be no deadline for completion.

Action: Committee members to read the documents, consider ways in which the county should respond and send comments to SG, who would prepare a draft response.

- c) BJ had been in touch with BE about the lack of coaching information on the BE web site and had received the reply that it was still work in progress. BE stated that one problem was the absence of details that coaches themselves should have entered.

DB mentioned that the Find a Club facility was still not working.

3. Chairman

PK explained that he had been unable to attend the most recent BE General Meeting. DB, who had attended the meeting, reported on the following items:

- a) There had been a safety issue arising from limited space at the Masters Challenge.
- b) BE was encouraging counties, leagues and clubs to use JustGo as it was GDPR compliant.

- c) He had asked if counties would be notified when a member/coach was barred. George Wood undertook to reply but that had not happened by the date of the meeting.
- d) The AGM was scheduled for 13 June which PK hoped to attend.
- e) Concerns were raised about discrepancies in membership auto-renewal leading to overpayments. George Wood said that problems would be resolved for next season.

4. Secretary

SG reported that all 10 complimentary tickets for the All England had been taken by Herts members.

5. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

CW reported as follows:

- a) There were currently 56 affiliated clubs, a net increase of five. The new clubs included one called Herts National Badminton; it was understood that it was run by Julie Bradbury. PK asked if Anna Collis had affiliated Smash It but CW said she had not. DB suggested that she should be made aware of the insurance position as some of her members were entering tournaments and that Ian Robinson and Kevin Maughan should also be informed.

Action: PK to contact Anna Collis about the insurance position.

- b) Membership stood at 1521, an increase of 100 over the figure at April 2025.
- c) There was about £17k in the bank. Looking ahead, there were still over £1k in match fees to be collected but there was around £800 in court fees still to be paid as Presdales was slow to invoice HBA. He expected there to be a small loss at the end of the season.

6. Senior County

The results from the first two Senior County weekends were as follows:

First team (Premiership)

Played 6 Won 6

Second position out of 10 in the league

Second team (Division 1 South)

Played 4 Won 2

Third position out of eight in the league

Third team (Division 2 South East)

Played 4 Won 1

Sixth position out of eight in the league

7. County League

PK reported that the League was running smoothly.

8. Hertford Area League

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

9. North Herts and Letchworth

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

- a) Some clubs had had to change venues following an increase in costs since Everyone Active took over most venues.
- b) BG was waiting to hear whether he would receive three grants from North Herts District Council to start up badminton groups for inactive older people in Hitchin, Letchworth and Whitwell. He expected a reply in mid-March.

10. Masters

No report. PK commented that the Over 50s were through to the finals.

11. Tournaments

EL reported that he had been unable, as yet, to book the courts for the Restricted as HSV would now only allow bookings for one hall, ie four courts, six months in advance.

12. Development

DB reported as follows:

- a) The noteworthy issues from the BE General Meeting were summarised under item 3.
- b) The process for organising a possible parabadminton tournament was continuing. Gobi Ranganathan had suggested an open tournament and HSV halls had been tentatively booked for 1 and 2 August, two halls on the first day and one on the second. It had been suggested that a PhD student could manage the project for a fee, amount unknown. HSP, BE and HBA might provide some funding.
- c) The minutes of the most recent CBN meetings had been put on the web site. DB commented that Ian Robinson and the EHCBN were very active.

13. Coaching

BJ reported as follows:

- a) He had contacted BE about Coach Finder, as reported under item 2.
- b) The recent foundation course in St Albans included eight candidates from Herts among the 25 attendees. The tutors were Sue Ruston and Dave Jones.

14. Social Media / Publicity

No report.

15. HJBA

No report.

16. BE Issues

The meeting discussed the email from BE about 'Developing dedicated badminton facilities'. It was agreed that the survey should be completed on behalf of the county rather than by committee members as individuals. SG to coordinate the committee members' thoughts. DB explained that he would provide a number of historical documents that chronicled HBA's actions on the issue.

Action: Committee members to provide contributions and SG to prepare a draft response.

17. Any other business

There was no other business.

19. Future meetings

Next Committee Meeting	11 May 2026
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AGM	8 June 2026
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