



Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting

for the year ended 31st May, 2010

held on Thursday 24th June, 2010

at Wellfield Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield

Annual Reports Package

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over many years it has been my pleasure to report a very successful season for our Association. The past year has been no exception, which has been enhanced by a range of superb performances.

Sadly, it is my duty to wish a very fond farewell to Tony Clarke and Joan Walters who have each played such an enormous part in the success of HSBA over so many years. We wish them both good health and happiness for the future.

As always, my admiration and thanks on your behalf is extended to our squad managers, coaches, committee members and many other helpers. Most worthy mention must also go out to the numerous dedicated individuals who nurture, encourage and support junior badminton throughout Hertfordshire.

Keeping our finances on the straight and narrow once more, we should thank Ash Kejriwal. His quiet efficiency and solid reliability imbues us all with a terrific sense of confidence.

Providing us yet again with invaluable secretarial help, may I pay tribute to the skills of Mary Wikner and Kevin Maughan. I am very conscious that they manage to juggle busy lives with the ongoing affairs of this Association. Likewise tribute goes to Angela Blowers who is consistently on hand to lend advice and vital assistance.

Significantly, Angela together with Joan and Russell Walters has also helped provide us with vital financial help after concluding another successful Open Tournament.

We are also indebted to Barbara Lewczynska who kindly took control of our junior closed tournaments at short notice with help from others, including Angela and Megan. Barbara must additionally be thanked for continuing to act as our Child Welfare Officer.

Performing an amazingly complicated yet essential role, our Fixtures Secretary, Phil Westwood, continues to earn our respect and admiration both for himself and his family.

Fascinating us with news and reports about events locally and beyond Megan Lumb also deserves our congratulations. May I express the hope that she will continue to devote her time in producing our treasured Newsletter.

I would again like to thank Dave Bartlett together with Malcolm Fraser and Malcolm Jellows for their ongoing help and support.

Whilst we all remain very proud of the achievements of our young players, it cannot happen without the help of those around them. May we say a huge thank you to both parents and members of the teaching profession who each have a vital role to play in the success of this Association.

Your support during the coming season will continue to be highly appreciated.

Ken Winchester



CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

CRB checks have been renewed when necessary throughout the year on all our coaches and volunteers in the County Squads.

From September 2009 a new piece of government legislation has been introduced.

The new Vetting and Barring scheme will run alongside CRB checks to provide an additional safeguard.

In a nutshell

This scheme is being gradually phased in over the next five years.

Basically anyone working with children and vulnerable adults (on a regular or intensive basis) need to be ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) registered

You register by completing the new CRB/ISA registration form (available from BE now)

It costs £64 but is free to volunteers.

Free online checking of ISA registration will be available from July 2010, it will show whether a listed individual is barred or not barred.

How does it affect HSBA?

The organisation is the same (filling in a form and renewing every 3 years).

Coaches and regular volunteers will be CRB checked and ISA registered.

HSBA will have a 'duty to refer' (to the ISA) when a person is dismissed from our organisation for suspected abuse, or when they leave while under investigation.

Further information is available on the ISA website: www.isa-gov.org.uk

Barbara Lewczynska



U11 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

This season the development squad has been a little thin on the ground.

I had 12 boys and 2 girls, the youngest and most talented being Harry Goode at the age of 6!!

It has been a really difficult task of recruiting players from other clubs and we gained only one player from the HBSA tournaments.

With this small group we had a very enjoyable time, a few of the players entered the Badminton England Tournaments and found it a great experience.

We were not able to arrange many matches with other counties mainly because many of the Counties unfortunately have the same problem as us, not having enough younger players..we had one Quad match at home against Surrey and Bucks and we came 3rd.

Throughout the season I had assistance from Dick Large.

After Easter most of my players moved up to U13s leaving me with 6 boys and no girls, after a few weeks I got 4 new girls join in from my badminton club and we invited players from Dave Bartlett's club.

For 10 - 12 players we were paying costs for 4 courts

We are having the Development Trials on the 29th September.

At the start of the season 6 of my players are invited to train on one court with Dick Large to save us the court costs.

I'm a bit concerned as we have to pay for the courts and we do not have many players coming through, and unless we can come up with a plan to recruit more younger players, I wonder whether it is worth running a U11s or a Development Squad?

It is noticeable that the HSBA tournaments are generally well supported, but disappointing that this apparent enthusiasm does not seem to encourage youngsters to come forward to the County Development Squad, and clearly few county based coaches seem to be pushing their youngsters in our direction. We need to ask them - and ourselves why this is.

Sangeeta Dhall.

I have suggested to Barbara that we e-mail all the players and the team managers that are entering the youth games and the HBSA tournaments dates of the County trials as a first step to recruit new players into the County.



U13 SQUAD

We ran with an initial squad of 27 for the Wednesday evening sessions at HSV this year (having lost two of last year's squad to other sports). We also invited two new members after their performances in the Stevenage B tournaments, and Keya Patani on a regular basis from the U11/Development squad, so we were full up, with 30 players for the bulk of the season

The season got off to a great start with the arrival of Herts' Olympic bronze medallist Jo Goode as Coach. Jo's top level background was soon demonstrated with her thorough and meticulous planning, and her experience and enthusiasm quickly made a great impact on all the players.

The counties were evenly matched this year - there were a number of very tight competitions, with final positions frequently determined on countback of games or points.

Shires League was probably the highlight of the year

- two early away matches, beating Kent 18-2 and Middlesex 19-1
- a 20-0 win over Bedfordshire (they conceded their home game, unable to raise a team and hampered by snowfall) guaranteed us a play off place.
- an 11-9 victory over Essex straight after New Year, gave us home advantage in the play off.
- 1st play off was against Norfolk - a 17-3 victory saw us qualify for finals day
- Bucks were too strong for us in the second play off, so we went into finals day as the second place team in the group
- Finals day saw an excellent fighting performance in the first round - a 10-10 victory (ie on countback) over Sussex. The semi final against Derbyshire was tough, and the team went to down 14-6, but a gritty performance gave Herts 3rd place - another 10-10 victory, this time over Surrey, who had been 2nd in the Team challenge finals

The team also qualified for the team challenge finals, winning all the East Anglian qualifiers at Mildenhall Dome, including another victory over Essex (Always nice...)

In the Finals, Herts beat Northumberland, Hampshire and Surrey but lost to Lancashire and Buckinghamshire to end up 4th in the initial box, and then beat Devon and Yorkshire in the second round, to claim sixth place overall. Again, many matches were 3-3 on rubbers, with the winners decided on games or points difference, so the team learned to make every point count this year.

Congratulations to all the team members for these strong performances, and all the parents and other helpers whose support is vital.

By the end of the season, the squad contained 3 gold players (Amy George, Isabel Hatt and Ellie Makewell) and 9 bronze (Renu Dhall-Chopra, Eleanor Fitton, Zoe Taylor, Daniel Fox, Sam Newlove, Andrew Baird, Will Pickworth, Jack Goode, Mohammed Khaku) of whom 2 will still be U13 next season

Special thanks are due to Marion Conway for continuing her long standing heavy involvement with the U13 squad and to Angela Blowers and Pat Walker who stepped in to cover while I was working out of the country.

Graham Hall



U15 SQUAD

At the trials in June 2009 in our squad we had selected 28, out of that one was on alternate weeks for the half term from September till December and became a permanent squad member thereafter. We had taken on three of the u-13's to come and train with us fortnightly. A few of our top players were given an opportunity to train regularly with u-17's squad. We also kept summer training for those who were going to stay with u-15 and to those who were moving up from U-13's squad for five Mondays after Easter.

John Stobo has been instrumental for the squad as he motivated the players to perform at their best and taught them well. John and I managed the Shires matches, the Team challenge, Friendlies and the squad nights.

This year we had a good season as we made it to finals of Team Challenge and the Shires Finals after topping the league table. Many of the squad members participated in BE tournaments and did very well with their own grades.

Conor Bambrick: Mark Sadler and Anna Collis were grade one, Alex English; Georgia Pittson; Philippa English; Oliver White; Matthew Widdicombe; Lyall Daniels and David Maughan were grade two's ; graded three were Cayleigh Bambrick; James Sweetnam, Edward Bryne and Hugo Weaver new comer to the squad.

Team Challenge: In November 09 we played in the regional round at Brandon against Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire and Norfolk and sailed through by beating everybody, taking the first place. The finals then took place at the end of February 09 at our home ground at Hatfield HSV. The twelve best counties participated in the finals. We were in group A against Bucks, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Avon and Surrey. We did well and came second in our group the winners were Bucks.

In the finals we were playing for position 1st to 4th against Yorkshire, Hampshire and Bucks. We came fourth overall. The team players were Conor Bambrick, Mark Sadler, Oliver White, Matthew Widdicombe, Alex English, Anna Collis, Georgia Pittson and Philippa English. In Regional rounds also Hannah McLaren and Lyall Daniels played to get us into the finals. Overall we came Fourth.

Shires League: This time as it was a big group we were split into two where we had to play matches over the course of the season against Bedfordshire, Middlesex, Kent and Essex and won all our matches. There was a playoff against Norfolk with Herts and Suffolk Vs Essex the runner up from our group. We won against Norfolk very easily 19 games to 1 and Essex won against Suffolk. In the final play off for the position 1st and 2nd in the group we beat Essex and topped the table with 12 points.

The finals took place at Hatfield HSV on 23rd May against the top best eight counties. The first match was against Derbyshire and won 13-7. The second match we were drawn against Hampshire and lost 8-12. Then we had to play Nottinghamshire for third and fourth place and won 13-7. Finally the team got Bronze Medal. Congrats to the players : Conor Bambrick; Mark Sadler: Oliver White; Matthew Widdicombe; Lyall Daniels; Alex English; Anna Collis: Georgia Pittson; Philippa English and Hannah McLaren.

Friendly Matches: Firstly I would like to thank Phil Westwood for arranging friendly with other counties, so most of our other squad members had a chance to compete against counties, the matches we had against Surrey that we lost 4-20. We won against Oxfordshire 19-1. There was a triangular friendly match against Hants and Kent and we won that overall. Most of the squad members got chance to play.

Eastern Region u-16: Normally u-17 handles this tournament but this time we took the team from u-15 in November 09 and came 4th out of five counties.

Eastern Region U-14:

We played the tournament in December 09 against Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Bedfordshire. We took gold by beating all the teams.

The team consisted of Matthew Widdicombe, Lyall Daniels, James Sweetnam, Mohamed Khaku; Anna Collis, Cayleigh Bambrick; Ying Cen Tee and Libby Jennings. Thanks to Jeff Daniels as he managed and sorted out the team for the day.

Herts Took Gold.

Eastern Region Single sex: This tournament was for grade 3 and non graded players for Girls and Boys own their own group. We entered two Boys teams and two Girls teams in the tournament in April 2010. The



other counties that entered were Cambridge, Bedfordshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Girls B team came 5th and Girls A team came 3rd. Boys A team took 1st place and the Boys B team took 4th place. Boys took Gold Position.

Girls A team Hannah McLaren and Kirsty Southey, Girls B team Pui Yi Tam and Cayleigh Bambrick. Boys A team Edward Bryne and Hugo Weaver, Boys B team George Dobson and Casper Sui.

Kathy Wood U-14 doubles: Two pairs of Boys doubles were entered, Matthew Widdicombe and Lyall Daniels, second pair was David Maughan and Hugo Weaver.

Girls again two pairs were entered Girls first pair was Isabele Hatt and Amy George and the second was Libby Jennings and Ying Cen Tee.

Matthew and Lyall won the Gold.

Isabele and Amy narrowly missed gold - in the third game of the finals the score was 22-20. They walked away with Silver. Isabele and Amy got Silver.

Avon Doubles Invitational: This time we did enter two boys pair and one girls pair. Matthew and Lyall played together and won 5 games out of 6 in their box. The girls pair and second boys pair did not do well in their boxes. Matthew and Lyall were through to the second box and they did not do well in the second box matches. Overall they came fifth or sixth.

Social Christmas: Nikky Bambrick and Mandy English both arranged a ten pin bowling event over Christmas for the squad members, not only for u-15 but all the other squads as well, and it was great with a good turnout. Good to see the majority of the squad of Hertfordshire together. Thank you to Nikky and Mandy.

Most Improved Player for the Year 2009/10: Georgia Pittson. She received a shield with her name engraved on it for a year to keep. Georgia has worked very hard and performed very well in the tournaments, quite often she got Hertfordshire out of trouble and won the games. This year she also represented at ICT together with her doubles partner Alex English.

Sponsorship: Thanks to Ashaway for their support for the discounted Track Suits, shirts and the shuttles for the season.

Parent Rep: I would like to thank our Parent Rep Mandy English for her role in assisting the squad, good spread laid out in our Shires matches and her input for Hertfordshire badminton.

I would also thank all the parents who supported their child to chauffeur them to and fro from the Squad practice, Shires matches, friendliest or tournaments and supporting Hertfordshire Badminton.

To all the players and squad members they have worked very hard to learn and achieve good results for the tournaments. I hope that they have all got something out of our Badminton training. I would like to thank Ken Winchester for coming to our squad nights to help at a very difficult time for him and support HSBA u-15. Caroline Jennings I thank you for your support over the summer term and hope you keep helping us. Thanks to Geoff Daniels at the time needed to help the squad at the matches.

The season for the year 2009-2010 went very quickly, we achieved very good results but we can still do better than that. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching and mentoring the squad nights, and would like to thank John Stobo for his valuable time and effort to support HSBA. Lastly I would like to thank HSBA committee for doing a wonderful job. Keep it up.

Hitesh Shah



U17 SQUAD

Squad nights

We started the season with a squad total of 20 players at U16/17, 15 boys and 5 girls. We also invited 4 U15s to join us on a regular basis, 3 girls and 1 boy. In the second half of the season 4 more U15s were invited to come along on a rota basis, 3 boys and 1 girl. The average attendance over the whole season was 17 mainly due to the heavy school commitment experienced by this age group. Chris Dakin coached at most of the squad nights with Jo Goode and David Westwood covering for him on a couple of occasions. All the players in the squad represented the county at U17 at least once during the season with 8 squad members also playing for the senior county.

Shires League

We beat Kent 12-8 in a home match at HSV, lost to Essex 9-11 at HSV, beat Middlesex 18-2 in a home match at Wodson (Middlesex only had 3 girls) and beat Beds 15-5 away at Luton. In the play-offs we lost to Bucks 5-15 away at High Wycombe and beat Norfolk 13-7 at HSV. Losing the 2 matches to Essex and Bucks meant that we did not make the Finals Day.

Friendlies

We played a friendly match against Oxfordshire at Wodson which we won 24-1. Our match against Kent was cancelled in the snow. We won a quadrangular arranged by Sussex in Brighton by beating Middlesex 6-4, Surrey 7-3 and Sussex 6-4. The friendlies are all B team matches.

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region U16 team event clashed with our own U18 tournament in November so we were unable to enter a team. At the U17 Single Sex Tournament at Luton in April the Herts boys were successful with the A team coming 1st and the B team 3rd out of 10. This event is for grade 3 and ungraded players.

Dublin

This was a fantastic day trip organised by Eric Fehily. He obtained generous sponsorship from ARJ Construction and we took 6 boys and 5 girls (no. 6 was injured) by flying from Stanstead to Dublin. The Leinster team provided us with excellent refreshments and we lost the badminton match 18-9. Many thanks to Eric.

Wimbledon

We entered a team of 3 boys and 3 girls in the Wimbledon U16 Invitation Tournament in May. This was a very strong competition which included teams from Belgium and Denmark. Herts finished 11th out of 12 by beating Staffs 5-2 in the last match.

RIO

In January we took a team of 6 boys and 6 girls to the RIO tournament weekend in York. We finished 3rd out of the 8 strong counties taking part. There is a detailed report on the HSBA website.

ICT

For the 4 days at Nottingham University our team of 5 girls and 5 boys was seeded 4th out of the 39 counties taking part. And 4th was our final position. However the top 4 teams had very little between them. Our match against Bucks, who came 3rd, was a 5-5 draw, 12-12 in games with Bucks winning by 2 points. Cheshire came 2nd and the Herts team lost 4-6. But against Yorkshire who came 1st, the Herts team actually had match point which had everyone in the sports hall spellbound. However the result was another 5-5 draw with Yorks winning on games. As Tony announced this was to be his last ICT as team manager, the Herts and Yorks teams combined forces for a rousing chorus of 'For He's a jolly Good Fellow'.

Individual

Ryan McCarthy and Emily Westwood both finished the season as National Champions. Ryan in the mixed and Emily in the singles. They both played various internationals throughout the season.

Pat Walker



CLOSED TOURNAMENTS

Many thanks to all the parents, teachers and players who helped with tournaments this year – they couldn't run without you. Whether it's helping at the desk, managing players onto court in either of the halls, putting scores on walls, selling raffle tickets, donating raffle prizes or even umpiring occasionally, it's all essential.

The Stevenage events once again generated a surplus, through careful control of costs and enthusiastic raffle ticket selling, despite a 13% decline in entries.

The decline in entries was most pronounced in U13 and U18 events, whilst U10 and especially U11 events were significantly bigger than last year, which offers some hope for the future.

Our key supporting schools are Sherrardswood, Queenswood, St Albans Girls High, St Albans Boys, Lochinver House, Norton St Nicholas, Ralph Sadleir and Haberdashers Boys. Together with Swifts BC and the County squads, these 8 schools account for over 90% of the entries we receive.

It is important that we maintain good communications with these schools, but we must also find ways of getting the information out to, and entries from, a wider group of schools and clubs, as the players seem to enjoy the events when they get to them.

Graham Hall



HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7th JUNE 2010

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.45pm with 24 members present.

Malcolm Fraser (MF), Chairman, welcomed all present. In particular he welcomed Joan Waters who had recently received the National Badminton Award for long exceptional service to the sport.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Alison Alcock; Chris Burton; Tony Clarke; Margaret Cooper; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Ed Lintott; Megan Lumb; Viv Ofstedahl; Pat Ormes; Byron Perry; Jim Robson; Colin Walker; Heather Warne and Ken Winchester.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 1st June 2009

These were approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising from last AGM

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports

The Chairman reported on behalf of the Badminton England (BE) Representative, Registration Secretary and Secretary.

In his report to the AGM last year Malcolm Fraser (MF) warned club representatives of the impending change to the membership system and asked for their patience. This year he said that, while some clubs had experienced no problems, others had their patience tested to the limit. Badminton England (BE) now realised that they had provided a poor service and had adjusted expectations of what could be achieved over the coming season before the Vision system was complete. They now appreciated the problems they had caused and had expressed their apologies. To give club officials more time to settle their membership in the future the due date for affiliation had been put back to 1 November. One serious shortcoming of the new system was that HBA had not known accurate membership figures for the season, and had only recently been given membership details to enable the Newsletter to go out.

The committee was aware that some clubs had folded, and that some were in difficulties, and he requested that club officials keep him informed of any difficulties so that publicity can be given to stimulate membership. Badminton activities continued to thrive within the county and this should feed more members into clubs.

Nationally, BE had launched its 'No Strings' membership in an effort to make contact with casual players at sports centres, as a first step to bringing them into club and competitive membership. Presentations later in the AGM would show other initiatives instigated by BE, especially in schools. This put pressure on the willing volunteers who run HBA and HSBA to convert these young players to the club members of the future. More help with this task would be appreciated as both committees need further recruits. In particular coaches who could help at school closing time were particularly in demand. He wished to thank all the club officials who gave their time to run clubs and helped to keep badminton in Hertfordshire so vigorous.

Veterans

Jeff Armstrong, captain of the over 50's team, said that a full report on the Vets season had been included in the Newsletter. In summary, both over 40s and over 50s teams had a successful season, and next year an over 45s team was planned.

MF expressed his thanks to Jeff, and to Elaine Meagher, captain of the over 40s..

Herts. Schools Badminton Association (HSBA)

Angela Blowers (AB) reported that HSBA Chairman, Ken Winchester (KW) was recovering well from heart surgery, but was unable to attend. She reported on another successful and busy year for the juniors. She listed some of the successes achieved by the different squads and expressed thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who contributed to these results. In particular she wished to thank two longstanding volunteers who were standing down this year:- Tony Clarke who had worked with the Under 17s for over 25 years, and Joan Waters who had been a tireless worker for badminton and taken on almost every role during her long association with badminton. She added her congratulations to Joan on her recent badminton award.

MF expressed his thanks to KW, AB, and all the other HSBA volunteers, for the tremendous job they do, for which HBA reap the benefit. KW was wished a speedy recovery.

Development Co-ordinator

Dave Bartlett (DB) presented his report for the past season. Development continued to be driven through the Badminton Herts Development Committee (BHDC) comprising of members not only of HBA and HSBA but other county-wide partners, who he wished to thank. The BHDC targets for the year were broadly centred around:- establishing Community Badminton Networks (CBNs); increased participation especially within schools and colleges; more coaches; finding funding to reduce coaching course costs, and more clubs. Our Regional Officer's report would show excellent performance against most of these targets. He also reported on the development of facilities in Herts. In September, following some 5 years of our supporting the school's plans, Gail Emms opened the John F Kennedy School Sports Centre dedicated to badminton. 2 clubs are now enjoying the facilities there. He thanked Brian Jackson (BJ) for his work as Coaching Co-ordinator.

MF thanked DB for his considerable effort in achieving such good results. The new JFK Hall was an asset to badminton, and the prominence of badminton there was down to the enthusiasm and expertise shown by DB during the many hours of attendance at meetings. He also said that if anyone had any contact with Presdales School they should inform either MF or DB as their new school hall could be a useful venue for badminton.

Malcolm Jellows then presented his report as Regional Officer. The Eastern Region was still without a Regional Manager after Tim Fitches left BE earlier in the year. It was hoped to fill this post shortly. Funding countrywide from Sport England totalling almost £21m had enabled a 4 year strategy to be introduced last September covering the period up to the end of



March 2013. This new plan had led to several changes, for example BDO to Regional Officer, and the development of new BE roles such as Managers of Facilities Investment; Disability; HR, and the No Strings Project. CBNs had been introduced as the mechanism for driving the 3 key aims of Grow, Sustain and Excel. Herts currently had three CBNs:- Welwyn Hatfield, Dacorum/St Albans and North Herts. Each CBN had achieved considerable success in introducing badminton into schools and encouraging lapsed players back into the sport. An Active People Survey carried out by Sport England had shown that badminton was a popular sport within the community.

In response to a question as to whether areas not covered by a CBN were disadvantaged MJ said that more CBNs were planned and that he could always be contacted if help was required.

MF thanked MJ for his report and explained that all the work being done by CBNs, particularly in schools, should eventually result in more club members. Further areas of work involved the 16-19 age group to prevent drop off, and the establishment of Development Clubs to enable inexperienced players to develop to a standard whereby they could join existing clubs.

Coaching Co-ordinator

Brian Jackson (BJ) reported that all coaching courses were now run by BE and administered from Milton Keynes (MK) and through the Regional Officers. From the courses run in the past year there are now 12 new Level 1 and 4 new Level 2 coaches. However, only 3 Level 1 and 1 Level 2 coaches have joined the coaching register. This needed to be addressed as the county only used registered coaches. Coaches had been supplied on almost all requested occasions. The Herts Coaching Conference had been a great success and the various sessions had proved of value. Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) had continued to provide courses for the personal development of the county's coaches. BJ was planning a trip to MK for coaches to see top junior and/or senior players being coached and also to see the facilities there. This would take place sometime in the Autumn and anyone interested in going should contact BJ.

He concluded by thanking DB and MJ for all their support throughout the year and he, in turn, was thanked by MF for his report and the work that he put in.

League Secretary

Robert Hueting (RH) reported on an enjoyable season with increased entries in the league. There had been 12 teams in the Ladies; 19 in the Mens; 16 in the Mixed and 3 in the Medley. Comets had provided the winning teams in the Ladies and Mixed, Northwood in the Mens and Wizard in the Medley. The weather had caused problems with the fixtures but these had been mainly resolved. He announced that he would be stepping down as League Secretary, but that his principle objective, of seeing the league through the transitional period of recording results on line, had been achieved. He was willing to assist his successor at the start of the next season. The Fixtures Meeting would be held on 1st September, when the trophies would be presented.

MF thanked RH for his assistance with the County League.

Tournament Secretary

Lynne Parker (LP) said that over the past 10 years that she had been involved with the Herts. Open tournament it had grown considerably, and was now the tournament that all keen players wanted, and were encouraged, to play in. It was the first one to be held in each new season so was a prime slot. The one held last September had attracted a record number of over 100 entries in the Mens Singles. She had run a qualifier and also a plate competition to ensure that all players got a reasonable number of games. There had been 37 entries in the Ladies Singles; 40 pairs in the Mens Doubles; 24 in the Ladies Doubles and 40 in the Mixed Doubles. She expressed her thanks for the help given by John Herdman, Match Umpire for all of her period as Tournament Secretary; Margaret Cooper; Doug Furze, and husband, Mike, for their help over the years. She wishes Ed Lintott every success in taking over the role of Tournament Secretary and hoped that he had as much fun as she had.

The Herts Restricted held last autumn had a disappointing entry particularly in the Ladies Singles with only 2 entries, the lowest ever. One encouraging factor was that the tournament had been well supported by juniors. This tournament would be run by Paul Widdicombe (PW) next season and would be at a new venue and run to a new timetable. She wished him every success.

She expressed her appreciation of the gifts presented to her and her husband by the committee. MF thanked Lynne for all she has done over the past years in making the tournaments, particularly the Herts Open, such a success, and also for the financial contribution made by the Open Tournament to HBA funds.

Chairman of Selectors

PW presented his report on the 2009/10 season which had been printed in the Newsletter. He was pleased to report that the County 1st team had come second to Yorkshire in Premier A. However the 2nd; 3rd and 4th teams all had a hard season and faced relegation. The team managers had experienced difficulty in fielding teams and they were to be thanked for their considerable work during the season. The 17-21 age group had shown little interest in friendly fixtures despite a lot of effort being made to organise them by a new team co-ordinator. PW was arranging a weekend of coaching with Lee Jae Bok on 10/11 July and he advised that any county or aspiring county player should not miss this opportunity.

PW was standing down from the position of County Match Secretary and a volunteer to take on this role was urgently required. He stressed that this was not an onerous job, but if no one took it on there would be chaos with the matches.

Playing for the county on over 100 occasions was a great achievement and he was proud to report that 3 county players had achieved this feat.-Andy Walden; Ed Lintott and Natalie Barton (previously Munt). Natalie's achievement was particularly noteworthy as she had juggled international fixtures with her commitment to the county. HBA President Bob Welsh presented the award to Andy Walden.

MF thanked PW for all his hard work, and that of the team managers, over the past season. Coming second in the country was a great achievement, and even if the other teams were to be relegated he felt sure that they would fight hard for



promotion next year. He stressed the importance of the job of Fixtures Match Secretary and hoped that someone would volunteer to take on this role.

Area League Representatives

The progress of the SW Herts League had been well reported in the Newsletter.

Colin Jackson had sent in a written report on the Hertford Area League confirming that Simon Carter had been voted in as league secretary. He had advised any clubs experiencing problems with the online system to contact MF. The Herts Area Closed Tournament had been provisionally arranged for 12th September.

Bob Green said that 3 initiatives were going well in the N Herts and Letchworth area.

A tournament for non-team players had been held and the 'Get Back Into' sessions had attracted around 15 players.

MF thanked all those volunteers who worked hard to encourage badminton in their area.

5. Presentation of Accounts

Colin Walker had presented a written report which was circulated at the meeting. HBA remained in a healthy financial position recording a profit for the year, before extraordinary items, of £2,435 and cumulative funds of £15,662. The increased profit was due to Regional Support from BE; a reduction in the cost of running the senior county teams; a reduction in Newsletter costs as one edition had to be abandoned, and the increase in BE grant/prize money. This increased profit had been partially offset by the contribution to the cost of the opening ceremony at the JFK Centre; lower senior county fees from the training sessions due to the poor turnout, and reduced interest income.

MF expressed his annoyance that one issue of the Newsletter had to be abandoned. Communication with our members was most important and he also regretted the waste of contributor's time and the inconvenience caused to the Newsletter Editor, Gill Bartlett. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to Gill for the work she did as Newsletter Editor.

The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the accounts, and CW was thanked by MF for his assiduous work on behalf of the Association.

6. Subscriptions for Season 2009-10 (BE and Herts. Badminton)

The proposed increase of 10p in the Senior fee and 5p in the Junior fee was passed unanimously by the meeting. MF outlined the proposed increase in BE fees to be put before the BE AGM. The proposed Senior fee was £10 and the proposed Junior fee £5. This increase was slightly above that of the RPI to cover the cost of issuing Membership cards.

7. Election of Vice Presidents

The committee proposed that Lynne Parker become a Vice President in recognition of her long and successful period as Tournament Secretary. Lynne and the current Vice Presidents were elected unanimously by the meeting.

8. Election of Executive Committee and BE Representative(s)

With the exceptions of Paul Widdicombe as County Match Secretary; Lynne Parker as Tournament Secretary and Robert Huetting as County League Secretary, the committee were prepared to serve for another year. Ed Lintott was willing to take on the role of Tournament Secretary. The Executive committee, with these amendments, and the BE Representatives, as listed on the Notes to the Agenda, were elected unanimously.

MF said that there were a further 4 vacancies on the committee for members without portfolio, and he would welcome any volunteers. A new role of Young Persons Co-ordinator had been identified by BE and it would be necessary to fill this post in addition. He also noted that further volunteers were needed by HSBA.

9. Election of Auditor

Albert Nicholas was again elected as auditor.

10. Review of BE Agenda

MF outlined the agenda of the BE AGM to be held shortly. Currently, the increase in BE subscription was fixed by the RPI and a proposal was to be put to the BE AGM to release it from this restriction. Following a discussion at the HBA AGM and a unanimous vote MF was instructed to vote against this change, MF said that he should be contacted if anything specific needed to be raised at the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Steve Willis raised the question of last minute requests for match postponement and said that sometimes it was felt that this was more due to the reduced strength of the team rather than the inability to field one. A discussion followed and it was agreed that this had been a continual problem. BG said that the N. Herts and Letchworth League had agreed that the cost of court fees should be covered by any club responsible for last minute cancellations. RH was against any strict rules. It was agreed that the HBA committee would look into this.

MF expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Secretary in organising the AGM. He thanked all those present for attending, and the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Dave Bartlett



TREASURER'S REPORT

I have just finished my second enjoyable year as treasurer.

We managed to finish the year with a minor surplus (£296 – 2009: £2,388). This drop was mainly due to a fall in income. Most of our expenses also fell but income fell more steeply (compared to 2008/09, income fell by £2,375 but expenses only fell by £283).

Income was hit particularly hard in the U17 squad training and tournament entries (both open and closed). In addition, with interest rates being low, we are earning close to no interest on our deposits.

Expenses rose significantly for U17 squad training but have stayed stable or have fallen in most other areas.

HSBA aims to minimise fees that have to be charged. The fee is set to try and end the year with neither a surplus nor a deficit. Although we broadly succeeded this year, it can be very difficult to always get this right. Our biggest expense is the cost of hiring courts. This, we have already been informed, will be rising again this year. The coaches (and tournament organisers) are the people who put in the greatest amount of time and effort into HSBA – without them there could be no HSBA. Their commitment extends not only to their, not inconsiderable, time (which they give freely on and off the court) but also to direct, out of pocket expenses (such as travel costs). We have never been in a position to reimburse them fully for these expenses. Any fee rise will be kept to a minimum whilst trying to maintain a break even position.

The committee is always looking for additional grants and sources of income that will enable us to provide better levels of training and contributions towards our costs.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved in HSBA (in particular the squad managers) we will continue to be an excellent badminton training body for Hertfordshire children.

The accounts this year were, once again, audited by Mr. Doug Stokoe. I would like to thank him for performing this task efficiently and, as with most people involved in HSBA, for no financial gain.

Ash Kejriwal

Accounts follow:

