



Reports for Annual General Meeting 2023 - 2024

Chairman's Report

All our teams reached their respective finals - team managers will report results below. Well done all!

This will be our second AGM in person since COVID and hopefully more people will be able to attend; awards can be made to Young Coaches and Volunteers and thanks to all those people coaching at all levels in Junior badminton and the great work they do bringing and developing new players at all ages.

June Goode took over the closed tournaments this year and is finding her feet very well - tournament planner can be awkward. Thanks to all who entered and helped, it brought in more non-county players this year which should reflect in more new players at the trials on the 26th. Thank You!

My thanks as always go to the hard working, squad managers and coaches - your commitment is great, keep up the good work.

Committees can be hard work; however, everyone pulls together to make it work. Thanks to Zoltan for his methodical accounting, Joseph who after years of co-ordinating and organising matches has decided it's time for a rest. Thank you for putting up with all the non replies and managing to get matches arranged and agreed enjoy the rest!

Thanks also to Nick for his back up and ideas, various people for their hospitality and to Kevin for his persistence in the face of slow response, without whom lots of things would never happen, from membership to easier ways to fill member forms or ensure all the paperwork for meetings goes out at the right time.

Thanks to all the parents who support, ferry, encourage their children to play, enter tournaments and come to training - we would not exist without you.

Finally, thanks to Raj Madha who is doing a sterling job as auditor, thank you!

Mike Newlove
Chairman

Vice-Chair's Report

Our county officers of volunteers and coaches have continued to work as a close team.

Challenges lie with recruitment of additional coaches and a more diverse committee.

There has been a reaching out to parents, offering support for coaching course fees and asking for volunteers to join the committee.

HJBA continues to be amongst the strongest counties.

Nick Goode
Vice Chair

Treasurer's Report

As agreed on the last AGM, we move the financial end date from end of April to end of May to be more in sync of HJBA's activities. As such, you can find 3 set of financial reports: one for the period of 01/05/2023-30/04/2024, one for the period of May 2024 and a third one that merges the two periods together.

While the first report shows a +8,097 balance, when we look at the merged balance it brings us closer to what we actually achieved compared to the last year end: we had a solid 1,139 profit and that is the true reflection of our financial performance across the year. Going forward this will not only give us a comparable snapshot of the financial performance year on year but also shows us the actual situation of our balance and hence it helps better plan for the next year.



We managed to collect more membership fees than anticipated, as a result of the U18 membership numbers being above the budgeted. The additional evening of coaching was planned to be on break even, so it did not have a significant impact on our financial performance.

Other county night expenses (shuttles, coaching costs) were as budgeted - the only caveat here is that we cannot separate tournament shuttle costs from the county night shuttle costs. If we want to measure it better, that would need a discussion with Goode sport to decide how to understand better for what purpose shuttles are given to the coaches

As for the tournament income and expenditures, we made a predictable slight loss on the closed/primary tournaments while the BE tournaments generated a revenue as expected (£2,300). The ICT and RIO events were heavily subsidized (£1,900 and £300) and as the result of this, the tournaments and other competitive events resulted in a loss that was needed to be balanced out by the membership fee income.

As the result of the increased financial control and processes, the accounts are showing true reflection of the financial status of the organisation and auditing happens in an accelerated pace without any comment on the accounts. The outstanding payments are restricted to the bare minimum.

Our balance shows a 36,700 cash that we can use for our plans.

Zoltan Tatrai
Honorary Treasurer

Closed Tournament Secretary's Report

Pleased to report that HJBA held 7 closed tournaments across all age groups, including 1 primary school event and 1 B tournament.

These are always heartily enjoyed by the youngsters who attend and pleased to say this season was no exception.

In particular, the B tournament was very well attended and received, and general feedback has been to ask if other tournaments of this type might also be held during a season. HJBA committee advised accordingly.

The tournaments were split between Stevenage Leisure Centre, now run by Everyone Active and Herts Sports Village for this season.

HSV had been requested, as a trial for events, as facilities for both participants and supporters provide an improved experience quality, for both.

Attendance for some of the older age groups for restricted tournaments has required some considerable additional encouragement to obtain reasonable numbers and sincere thanks, in particular, go out to Kelly Crick for unwavering support on this matter. It has been raised by a number of parents that this is because there are no BE points awarded for entering restricted tournaments and could this be looked into. Feedback was duly sent on to the HJBA committee to discuss.

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make all these events so enjoyable for the youngsters, in particular as always Barbara Lewczynska, Mike Newlove, Kelly Crick, Ken Winchester, John Stobo and Natasha and Maggie Moylan.

Ronnie Goode
Closed Tournament Secretary



Open (BE sanctioned) Tournament Secretary's Report

We ran three BE tournaments this season, an U15 Silver in September, an U17 Bronze in November, and another U15 Bronze in April, all of which were well supported. Next season we are planning an U17 Bronze in September and an U15 Silver at the start of December. Herts Sports Village works very well as a venue for players and parents.

Thanks to all who help – Barbara Lewczynska, Graham Clarke, Ken Winchester, plus others from time to time.

Mike Newlove
Open Tournament Secretary

Child Welfare Officer Report

All of our paid and volunteer coaches and managers are checked through the government DBS scheme every three years. All these checks are presently up to date. Some helpers, if they are not in sole charge of the players, do not need to be checked.

In order to qualify for continuing Premier club status some additional paperwork has been requested. I attach a working copy of 'Procedures for dealing with accidents' and 'Accident report form', which will be discussed at the next full Committee Meeting, so that these documents can be submitted to Badminton England, and hopefully our Premier Club Status will be assigned.

Barbara Lewczynska
Child Welfare Officer

Publicity / Newsletter Editors Report

This season we have continued to try to build effective communication with our membership, using Facebook and regular emails. This covered all aspects of badminton in Hertfordshire, from notifications about our tournaments through to encouraging players to support Herts players at the Masters All England tournament at Hertfordshire Sports Village.

In the second half of the season, we have also started posting more on Instagram and already have 106 followers, so please follow us if you haven't already! We have a dedicated email for all the news that you want posted on our accounts - news@hjba.org.uk - so please send us lots of photos!

After a few years in this role, I have decided that it is time for me to have a break and retire. Fortunately, we have found an able replacement in Steve Maidment, who for most of the season has been managing the Facebook and Instagram accounts, so thanks Steve and good luck!

Jackie Ward
Publicity/Newsletter Editor

Fixtures Secretary's Report

Yet another good season of Shires League fixtures from a broader view. HJBA fielded 5 teams like previous year where U17 HT1 and U19 teams stood OUTSTANDING on the league table whereas U13 made into the TOP8 and U15 in the TOP12. However, there were mixed sentiments arranging the fixtures unlike previous years. I found Kent extremely delaying the arrangements, Herts missing the U17 HT2 match partially my responsibility too due to confusing date discussions. Kent could not provide a timely date for U15 eventually awarding 20-0 to Herts. I was getting no responses whatsoever from Kent fixtures for the bulk of the season despite a dozen chasers and multiple escalations to the Shires Chairman and eventually playing rat race closer to the end of season. The sense and spirit of voluntary work gets derailed by such acts from those responsible roles.

U17 Herts1 however ended up 7th position due to the match date conflicting with Six Nations International and Easter holidays. It was tiresome to put up a full team as a result and eventually poor performance - the concerns have been



sent in writing by the team manager as well as myself. I think this should be echoed if the Shires AGM takes place so that the Chairman performs thoughtful consideration for the counties in future. If it was the GCSE Exam during 2022, this year is Six Nations. U19 Shires team came out THIRD in the finals. U15 came out EIGHTH and U13, FIFTH. Congratulations to all the players and team managers. I would like to thank and congratulate the entire crew for all their efforts.

It is my understanding from the Shires Chairman that Loughborough University most likely will be a permanent finals venue in the coming years.

Assuming that Herts will field 5 teams next season, 15 home slots are necessary to allocate all the HOME matches. Presdales school continues to be a blessing in allocating fixtures regardless of its slightly remote geographical location from the centre of Herts Badminton. Thanks to Barbara in co-ordinating the booking timetable between HBA and HJBA matches.

Good luck to another smashing season Team HJBA!

Joseph Eluekunnel
Fixtures Secretary

U11 Squad Report

The last season has seen a full squad of Under 11s with a few on a waiting list.

The squad had for the first-time players as young as 6.

We did manage a friendly with Surrey but unfortunately our scheduled matches with Kent and Essex for a variety of reasons did not come to fruition.

Attendance was extremely good.

Nick Goode
U11 Squad Manager

U13 Squad Report

Attendance numbers became low by the end of last term, with school commitments and sickness causing players to miss training.

We finished our last shires league match on a real high, winning 20-0 with some players competing in their first county match, so a great experience for them.

This ensured that the team qualified for finals day on May 25th.

With the top 8 counties qualifying we knew this would be a tough day with a young team but the message to the team was go out play your best and enjoy.

With two teams pulling out we finished 5th out 6th with some great performances & close matches.

The team should be very proud of their achievements this season and build on them for next season with many still able to play next season in this age group.

Lastly, I would like to thank Lazar Tatrai for his help on squad nights, it's been his first season with us and he has shown great commitment and has a great rapport with the players.

Kelly Risley
U13 Squad Manager



U15 Squad Report

The squad has had an average attendance of 23 this year. Players from both squad years were given the opportunity to play in Shires League matches, both home and away. We won 4 out of 6 matches, playing Surrey, Cambridgeshire, Sussex, Suffolk, and Essex and Kent, finishing 11th in the national league, and qualifying via the play off with Bucks who finished 8th and winning 13-7 for the finals. In the finals we had a very hard draw v Kent first who won the whole day, then playing Notts and finally Surrey to finish 8th, a long day with some very close games after a long trip to Loughborough, Well done to all players who contributed; we expect good things of the Shires teams next year!

Thanks to Kelly and Graham for their hard work and support, and all the parents again without whom we couldn't do it.

Mike Newlove
U15 Squad Manager

U17 Squad Report

The A team has had a really positive finish to the season qualifying for finals. Finishing 7th. They had an excellent season winning all 6 with a 118-2 record. The B team had a very good season with 2 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses (one to the A team) they also had an opportunity to qualify for the finals as well but had to concede the last game of the season due to a miscommunication.

Wednesday training session have seen a drop off in attendance. This could be due to exams but going forward I would like to address parents and players about regular attendance. The players always train with purpose when they are at the sessions which is encouraging for the following season.

Trials registration for the U16/17's has been just as popular as last season with over 70 players registering to trial for the squad next season.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with the U17 squad next season.

James Gordon
U17 Squad Manager

U19 Squad Report

The team was very successful in qualifying for finals day, winning each match comfortably and securing 2nd seed for finals day.

We were positive leading up to the event but unfortunately the day before we had our top boy pull out unwell which was a bit of a blow for the team.

Despite this we only narrowly missed out to Leicestershire on points to stop us from progressing to the final.

This meant we played Sussex for a 3rd/4th place where we beat them convincingly and finished 3rd overall.

With the initial disappointment of not regaining the title, overall I feel the team performed really well and I was happy with the commitment from the team and the team spirit.

On the 4th April myself, Graham Clarke & Dave Westwood took a young team to ICT where we finished a respectful 10th out of 29 counties.

We had some great matches and exceeded our expectations.

I was extremely proud of all the players and it's promising that many of them will get the chance to play again next year.

Charlotte Wilson was this years 'Tony Clarke Player of the Tournament', we asked a lot of Charlotte playing singles in every match, however, she rose to the occasion and put in some amazing performances.



Despite not having a huge amount of experience she showed great determination, never gave up, was supportive of her teammates and an all-round credit to our team.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dave Westwood for his continuous support and commitment to squad nights and for giving up his time to attend another ICT along with Graham Clarke, I couldn't do it without their unwavering support.

Kelly Risley
U19 Team Manager / Head Coach

HBA Representative's Report

Presented as the latest HBA AGM, which will be available as a download from the HBA website 2024 AGM page - <https://www.hertsbadminton.net/news/hba-agm-2024/>; a draft version has been reproduced below.

David Bartlett
HBA Representative

Club Representative's Report

Unfortunately, due to family commitments, this has been another season where I have not been able to be as active as I would have hoped as club rep.

The number of Junior clubs affiliated through Hertfordshire has stayed the same as last year, but junior membership has dropped by 74 to 410 players. These numbers do not include players at clubs registered through other counties – for instance the Rayappan Academy runs club sessions in Stevenage but is affiliated through Bedfordshire – or junior players playing at the several unaffiliated junior clubs that run in the county.

Hopefully in the season to come we will see more junior clubs appear and participation levels bounce back.

Ben Vranjkovic
Schools and Colleges Representative

Schools Representative's Report

The committee have agreed for the Schools Rep role to include some outreach coaching in primary schools to feed the clubs and the county set up. After discussions with PE lead at Howe Dell, Lois Lock, I provided 2 x 45-minute classes of Year 5s during curriculum time at the primary school, for 6 weeks, which is local to HSV, and potentially will feed some interest into Comets Juniors as well as others. I have been in discussion with Michelle Johnson, Head teacher at Green Lanes, and am offering 2 x 30-minute classes during lunchtime during this Summer term. If all goes well, they would like to continue in September. I have also been in contact with Nicky Cameron of Bishops Hatfield, who would like to offer some tuition from September, for GCSE students and a lunchtime club.

The HJBA Clubs tournament was held at Wodson Park on March 3rd with teams entered from across Hertfordshire (Bob Green – Baldock, Natalie Barton – Bright Stars, Dave Bartlett – Comets juniors, Ken Winchester – Swifts, Doug Clark/ Brian Jackson – East Herts CBN, Keith Burns – Abbey BC, John Stobo – Gosling, Ian Robinson – Broxbourne, Phil Adams – Dynamic Badminton, and Suzanne Miller – Rayappan Academy). The winners this year were Rayappan Academy who have classes at Stevenage.

National Badminton offer social/ club level junior tournaments called Super Singles throughout the year and Anna Collis at Smashit runs an annual program of tournaments. These run alongside the HJBA's calendar of events. GLL Hatfield Leisure Centre have a parent and child tournament on Sunday 30th June, and have other junior events through the year.

The Schools Games Officers (SGOs) continue to organise a great range of sporting events, including Primary school games and RP festivals. In East Herts, we helped to organise a Year 3/4 Racket Pack Festival at Chauncy on 22nd May, for 100 children from 9 schools, which 16 leaders from Chauncy ran superbly. We are due to host a Year 5/6 Racket



Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association | 2024

Pack Festival at Presdales on June 19th. Lisa Robinson (Hertford and Ware SGO) also hosted a multi school year 5 event at Wodson Park on the 6th June for 24 schools, at which Brian Jackson and myself organised badminton tournaments in the morning and afternoon.

We will continue to raise awareness of the game where possible in primary schools and promote participation in badminton as part of a healthier lifestyle in secondary and FE education.

Ian Robinson
Schools and Colleges Representative



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Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 30th April, 2023 (01.05.23 - 30.04.24)				
2022-23	Expenditure	2023-24	2022-23	Income
	Matches and Coaching			Matches and Coaching
4,118	U10/U11/U12 Squad Courts	4,488	10,950	U10/U11/U12 Squad Fees
4,524	U13/U14 Squad Courts	5,271	8,952	U13/U14 Squad Fees
4,147	U15/U16 Squad Courts	4,832	9,280	U15/U16 Squad Fees
2,663	U17/U18 Squad Courts	3,966	4,080	U17/U18 Squad Fees
0	Courts - Extra Session	1,088		
1,476	U10/U11/U12 Training Cost	2,658	(448)	Discounts - Siblings Discount
1,563	U13/U14 Training Cost	275	0	Extra Session Squad Fees
2,006	U15/U16 Training Cost	2,648		
2,634	U17/U18 Training Cost	2,088		Summer Fees
0	Training Cost - Extra Session	1,540		
0	Trial Courts	0		
4,125	Shuttles - Training & Matches	3,179		
119	Coaches Registration Fees	0		
0	Refund (Eligible BE Tournaments)	0		
27,375	Matches and Coaching Subtotal	32,032	32,814	Matches and Coaching Subtotal
	Tournaments & Leagues			Tournaments & Leagues
5,800	Tournament Courts	6,396	6,692	Entry Fees - Closed Tournaments
732	Trophies & Medals	695	0	Entry Fees - Primary
165	Shuttles	206	2,580	Entry Fees - Shire Matches
2,122	Bill Goode Tournament expenditures	3,594	2,250	Bill Goode Tournament Entries
	Junior League Expenditures			Junior League Entries
2,210	Shires League	1,359	0	RIO York
741	RIO (York) Fees & Expenses	2,095	2,970	ICT Notts
4,518	ICT (Notts) Fees & Expenses	1,535	14,492	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal
16,288	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal	15,880		
	Open Tournaments			Open Tournaments
0	BE Costs Incl Medals U13/U14 Bronze	0	189	U13/U14 Bronze Entry Fees
2,005	BE Costs Incl Medals U15/U16 Bronze	1,617	2,488	U15/U16 Bronze Entry Fees
2,749	BE Costs Incl Medals U17/U18 Bronze	2,204	6,599	U17/U18 Bronze Entry Fees
493	BE Costs Incl Medals U15/U16 Silver	2,229	327	U15/U16 Silver Entry Fees
244	Paypal Fee	0		
90	Sundry Expenses	90		
5,581	Open tournaments Subtotal	6,141	9,602	Open tournaments Subtotal
	Sundries			Sundries
384	Affiliation BE	470	0	Interest
170	Postage & Telephone	42		
2,060	T-Shirts	1,580	1,880	T-Shirts
824	Bursary Payments	759		
0	Miscellaneous Expenses	503		
	Travel Expenses			
	Badminton Coaching / Training Course			
0	Bad Debt	0		
3,499	Sundries Subtotal	3,331	1,880	Sundries Subtotal
52,743	TOTAL Expenditure	57,384	58,788	TOTAL Income
6,045	Excess of Income over Expenditure	8,097	0	Excess of Expenditure over Income
58,788		65,481	58,788	65,481



Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association | 2024

Balance Sheet as at 30th April, 2024					
2022-23		2023-24	2022-23		2023-24
12,626	Current Account	9,211	30,699	Funds at 01/05/2023	36,744
30,000	Deposit Account	35,600	0	Adjustment to Fund	0
0	Paypal	0	0	Deduct excess Expenditure over Income	0
(54)	Debtors Control Account	30	6,045	Add excess Income over Expenditure	8,097
(5,828)	Creditors Control Account	0			
	Prepayments	0			
	Accruals	0			
36,744	Total	44,841	36,744	Funds Carried Forward	44,841

The above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account have been prepared from and are in accordance with the books and records of the Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association for the year ending 30th April, 2024.

Hon Treasurer: Mr Zoltan Tatrai
Dated:

Auditor: Rajesh Madha
Dated:

Notes:

- As agreed last year, I have added a sum of 502.72 adjustment based on the suggestion of the auditor. This can be found on the miscellaneous expenses line of the P&L sheet. Result of this is that the creditors/debtors control accounts are only showing the items resulted by last year and this year, previous year's items are cleared out.

Accruals does not contain:

- Membership fee partial amounts related to 24-25 financial year
- Court booking partial amounts related to 24-25 financial year



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PREMIER CLUB

Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31st May, 2024 (01.05.24 - 31.05.24)			
2023-24	24 May	2023-24	Income 24 May
Matches and Coaching		Matches and Coaching	
4,488	U10/U11/U12 Squad Courts 458	12,500	U10/U11/U12 Squad Fees 0
5,271	U13/U14 Squad Courts 687	8,950	U13/U14 Squad Fees 0
4,832	U15/U16 Squad Courts 630	9,900	U15/U16 Squad Fees 0
3,966	U17/U18 Squad Courts 529	6,035	U17/U18 Squad Fees 0
1,088	Courts - Extra Session 0	(474)	Discounts - Siblings Discount 0
2,658	U10/U11/U12 Training Cost 384	2,355	Extra Session Squad Fees 0
275	U13/U14 Training Cost 0		Summer Fees
2,648	U15/U16 Training Cost 348		
2,088	U17/U18 Training Cost 224		
1,540	Training Cost - Extra Session 70		
0	Trial Courts 0		
3,179	Shuttles - Training & Matches 0		
0	Coaches Registration Fees 0		
0	Refund (Eligible BE Tournaments) 0		
32,032	Matches and Coaching Subtotal 3,330	39,266	Matches and Coaching Subtotal 0
Tournaments & Leagues		Tournaments & Leagues	
6,396	Tournament Courts 825	5,170	Entry Fees - Closed Tournaments 0
695	Trophies & Medals 0	0	Entry Fees - Primary 0
206	Shuttles 0	2,005	Entry Fees - Shire Matches 110
3,594	Bill Goode Tournament expenditures 0	2,080	Bill Goode Tournament Entries 2,080
	Junior League Expenditures		Junior League Entries
1,359	Shires League 278	1,800	RIO York 0
2,095	RIO (York) Fees & Expenses 0	3,400	ICT Notts 0
1,535	ICT (Notts) Fees & Expenses 3,750	14,455	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal 2,190
15,880	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal 4,853		
Open Tournaments		Open Tournaments	
0	BE Costs Incl Medals U13/U14 Bronze 0	0	U13/U14 Bronze Entry Fees 0
1,617	BE Costs Incl Medals U15/U16 Bronze 876	3,176	U15/U16 Bronze Entry Fees 0
2,204	BE Costs Incl Medals U17/U18 Bronze 0	6,151	U17/U18 Bronze Entry Fees 0
2,229	BE Costs Incl Medals U15/U16 Silver 0	0	U15/U16 Silver Entry Fees 0
0	Paypal Fee 0		
90	Sundry Expenses 0		
6,141	Open tournaments Subtotal 876	9,327	Open tournaments Subtotal 0
Sundries		Sundries	
470	Affiliation BE 0	1,034	Interest 0
42	Postage & Telephone 0	1,400	T-Shirts 0
1,580	T-Shirts 0		
759	Bursary Payments 0		
503	Miscellaneous Expenses 90		
	Travel Expenses		
	Badminton Coaching / Training Course		
0	Bad Debt 0		
3,331	Sundries Subtotal 90	2,434	Sundries Subtotal 0
57,384	TOTAL Expenditure 9,149	65,481	TOTAL Income 2,190
8,097	Excess of Income over Expenditure 0	0	Excess of Expenditure over Income 6,959
65,481	9,149	65,481	9,149



Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association | 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31st May, 2024					
2023-24	24 May	2023-24	24 May		
9,211	Current Account	1,503	36,744	Funds at 01/05/2024	44,841
35,600	Deposit Account	35,600	0	Adjustment to Fund	0
0	Paypal	0	0	Deduct excess Expenditure over Income	(6,959)
30	Debtors Control Account	780	8,097	Add excess Income over Expenditure	0
0	Creditors Control Account	0			
0	Prepayments	0			
0	Accruals	0			
44,841	Total	37,883	44,841	Funds Carried Forward	37,883

The above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account have been prepared from and are in accordance with the books and records of the Hertfordshire Junior Badminton Association for the year ending 31st May, 2024.

Hon Treasurer: Mr Zoltan Tatrai
Dated:

Auditor: Rajesh Madha
Dated: 7th June 2024

Notes:

1. Accruals does not contain:
- Court booking deposit amounts related to 24-25 financial year (£1,740)

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting

3 June 2024

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association (HBA) held at the University of Hertfordshire at 7.30 pm on 3 June 2024 with 14 attending, including representatives from seven 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 2024 page of the HBA website.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Committee:	Vice Presidents:	Clubs:
Eddie Lintott (EL)	Natalie Barton Pam Newman Pat Walker Paul Widdicombe	Hertford Much Hadham Juniors

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20 June 2023 and matters arising

The minutes of the previous AGM on 20 June 2023 were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

PK reported that another year had been completed with all major competitions running. He noted the sad news of the passing of Mike Robinson and Diana Troke and that Derek Batchelor had been elected BE President with a narrow victory over Paul Widdicombe. He welcomed Liam Cooper as the new Regional Manager for the East Region who had taken over from Julie Pike. The new BE Strategy had been released and the county would be reviewing the proposals for the ways in which the sport could be developed locally.

He thanked the county committee members for their continuing contribution and those who devoted time to running clubs and teams.

4. Membership Report and Accounts

CW reported the following issues:

- a) There was a reduction of one in the number of affiliated clubs and a net decrease in the number of affiliated members. Although there was a small increase in the number of adult members, the number of junior members had significantly fallen, mainly due to one club affiliating far fewer junior members than last season. He

intended contacting BE to establish how Herts compared to other counties whether there was evidence of similar trends.

NG commented that the junior scene was active but there was little benefit to junior members in affiliating to BE. RA explained that his club included the affiliation fee in its membership subscription to ensure affiliations were up to date.

- b) There had been a small profit on the season's activities of £111 and funds stood at just over £18000. Income rose from £13,901 to £15,133 mainly due to an increase in Masters match and training fees. Total expenditure increased by £1,389 as a result of an increase of £686 in BE fess for entering teams in Senior County and Masters championships and the Masters Challenge, and the purchase of shirts for players in Senior County matches. The Open and Restricted Tournaments contributed a profit of over £700. During the year, five awards totalling £400 were made from the Ray Learney Fund.
- c) HBA was awarded a grant of £10,366 from Sport England, recorded as an Extraordinary item in the Income and Expenditure Statement, to organise activities under the Live Longer Better with Badminton Project. That sum was devolved in its entirety to the CBNs and there were no costs attributed to HBA apart from an additional donation of £500.

There were no questions in relation to the accounts.

5. Subscriptions for 2024-25

The committee proposed, and the meeting agreed, that the adult county affiliation fee for 2024-25 should remain at £3.50 and that the junior fee should remain nil. There would again be no entry fee for teams in the County League.

6. Review of the season's activities

Senior County

There was no report but PK explained that, for next season, the three teams were likely to stay in their present divisions. The end-of-season standings were as follows:

- a) 1st Team. Premiership
Won 4 Lost 5 League position 7th of 10.
- b) 2nd Team. Division 1 South.
Won 3 Lost 3 League position 5th of 8.
- c) 3rd Team. Division 2 South East.
Won 5 Lost 2 League position 2nd of 8.

NG commented that he had been pleased to see that younger players had been given the opportunity to play in matches and that there appeared to be a satisfactory balance between that group and those more experienced.

Masters

SW submitted a written report. He explained that the county had run six teams in 2023-24 but that one of the O65 teams would be withdrawn for the forthcoming season. The highlight of the season was the O55 team winning its division and then finishing third in the Finals, losing to Notts but beating Hants. Practice sessions would be held during the Summer and he would be using the BE email system to encourage participation.

Tournament Secretary

EL was unable to attend the meeting but gave the following dates for this season's tournaments:

Herts Senior Silver 31 August and 1 September at HSV

Herts Restricted 7 & 8 September at HSV

County League Secretary

PK reported that Graham Cobb would be standing down as League Coordinator and the meeting recorded the HBA's thanks for his significant contribution.

PK congratulated the division winners which were:

Ladies Doubles Division 1	Comets Ladies
Ladies Doubles Division 2	Masters Ladies 2
Mens Doubles Division 1	Ware Mens 1
Mens Doubles Division 2	Comets Mens 2
Mixed Doubles Division 1	Ware Mixed 1
Mixed Doubles Division 2	Masters Mixed 3

Hertford Area Badminton League

JR provided a written report. He drew the meeting's attention to the fact that Wendy Train was standing down from the committee after many years' service. The League had run satisfactorily but it was of some concern that there were, as yet, no new teams or volunteers for committee roles.

North Herts

BG submitted a written report. The Letchworth & District League, with an additional team, and the Biggleswade League had both run satisfactorily. The junior clubs, Baldock, Shuttles and Smashit, all reported strong membership but Smashit was faced with significantly increased court costs. The main focus of the CBN had been to initiate the Live Longer Better project. Three pilot groups were started and one had expanded its membership. The attendance at the other two had been disappointing but there was scope for further development.

IM added that the Stevenage League had run successfully with 12 teams in two Medley divisions. There was a possibility of restarting a Ladies division.

Social Media/Publicity

There was no report and no issues raised.

Development Coordinator

DB submitted a written report. He drew the meeting's attention to the fact that BE was offering a Development Fund for which applications had to be submitted by 24 June. There was still a chronic lack of badminton facilities, particularly in the Welwyn area, and he explained that Comets JBC's bookings at HSV were regularly cancelled. It appeared that badminton was suffering from other sports and activities being prioritised. He continued to keep in touch with the developments at Oaklands College and Gosling but both projects were some way from completion. The Live Longer Better project had been implemented successfully with significant support and interest from other organisations. He hoped that some of the attendees would find their way into clubs.

Coaching

BJ submitted a written report. He added that the assessment day for the Level 2 course was taking place on 23 June under Sue Ruston's stewardship. There were eight candidates and she would be supplying trainees.

HJBA

MN submitted a written report. It had been a successful season with all four age groups reaching the Shires League finals. Squads have been well attended although boys tended to outnumber girls.

7. Badminton England update

Local issues raised by Liam Cooper were listed in DB's Development Report. On the day of the meeting, BE had circulated its revised schedule of fees for the forthcoming season. There was to be a small increase in the fees for most categories of membership and, in addition, a 10% discount for signing up to auto-renewal and the introduction of a common renewal date for all except coaches.

8. Election of President and Vice Presidents.

NG had been elected as President at the AGM 2022 for a three-year term. The existing Vice Presidents were re-elected.

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 had audited last season's accounts and was willing to continue. She was duly re-elected as Auditor.

11. Any Other Business

PK explained that he had received representations from several clubs about the rule change, made two years ago, about the nomination of players. In particular, clubs found it overly restrictive to be unable to play nominated players in a higher team if a club ran two teams in the same division. RA, RP and AW explained how that restriction made managing teams more difficult.

SG circulated a document with proposed changes to address the contentious issue. The main point would be to allow, on a limited basis, nominated players to play for a higher team, whether or not those teams were in the same division. In addition, there would be a specified sanction if clubs contravened the nomination rules and a requirement that nominated players should play 50% of the matches of the team for which they were nominated.

The meeting agreed the changes and SG agreed to produce an amended version of the rules.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

* * *

Appendix 1

In attendance:

Richard Adams (RA)	Masters BC
Dave Bartlett (DB)	HBA Development Coordinator Comets JBC
Nick Goode (NG)	HBA President
Simon Gouldstone (SG)	HBA Secretary Hazelwood BC
Brian Jackson (BJ)	HBA Coaching Coordinator Dane End JBC
Bob Green (BG)	North Herts
Paul Kempster (PK)	HBA Chairman
Ian Macfarlane (IM)	Stevenage Badminton League Codicote BC
Mike Newlove (MN)	HBA Committee Member HJBA Chair
Richard Potter (RP)	Comets BC
Jim Robson (JR)	HBA Committee Member HABL Representative
Andy Walden (AW)	Ware BC
Colin Walker (CW)	HBA Membership Secretary & Treasurer
Steve Willis (SW)	HBA Masters Coordinator