



Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 30th November 2023 at 44 Fulling Mill Lane, Welwyn AL6 9NP (also online over Zoom)

Present:

Mike Newlove (MN) – Chair / Open Tournament Coordinator
 Nick Goode (NG) – Vice-Chair
 Kevin Maughan (KM) – Secretary
 Barbara Lewczynska (BL) - Welfare Officer

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Ronnie Goode (RG) - Closed Tournament Coordinator Joseph Eluekunnel (JE) – Fixtures Secretary Dominic Savage (DS) - Convenor of the Squads Working Group Zoltan Tatrai (ZT) –Treasurer Kelly Matthews (KMat) – Head Coach Dave Bartlett (DB) – HBA Rep Ian Robinson (IR) – Schools Rep Ben Vranjkovic (BV) – Clubs Rep Jackie Ward (YL) – Publicity Officer</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous committee meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last committee meeting (21/09/2023) were accepted unanimously.</p>	
3.	<p>Actions from previous meeting not covered by an agenda item</p> <p>Bill Goode’s Memorial Tournament</p> <p>NG reported that he was planning to start organising next year’s tournament in the New Year.</p> <p>Suspended Coach/Member Communication Process</p> <p>This relates to the ongoing question on the issue of coaches/members that have been suspended by BE, and how that is communicated to clubs/county.</p> <p>No confirmation has been received as to whether that is linked to the BE membership system – DB is following up with BE but was not at the meeting to report on any progress.</p> <p>Premier Club Registration</p> <p>This is still ongoing, and we have recently received a list of outstanding information that BE requires from us. One requirement is that we have two committee members that have completed a full online safeguarding course – BL to send MN and RG the link.</p>	<p>NG</p> <p>DB</p> <p>BL</p>
4.	<p>Coaches’ Agreements</p> <p>Nick Rimmer (Operations Director at BE) had provided a template for our coaches’ agreement but has now conceded that it is too legalistic. He referred this to BE’s new Head of People to review several weeks ago but has yet to receive any response. NR to be chased.</p> <p>In the meantime, it was agreed that KM should try to create a simpler version.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>
5.	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a. Projects/New Activities that require funding in 2023/24</p> <p>NG – Primary schools’ development. Putting investment into primary schools would broaden the base of players that could feed into the squads and clubs. One option would be to fund coaches for after</p>	



	<p>schools/lunchtime sessions. The selected schools would need to be located close to clubs to ensure a pathway to play outside school. BL has checked with BE and these sessions would need at least a level 2 coach; level 1 coaches would only be able to assist. NG & DB are working to progress this and two possible schools have been identified in Welwyn Hatfield where KMat could run lunchtime sessions. We would need to ensure that the clubs being fed from these sessions have spaces available.</p> <p>NG – there is a shortage of active coaches. It was agreed that we should email parents to inform them about the process of becoming level 1 or 2 coaches, as this was a group that are more likely to be motivated to become coaches. Depending on the level of interest it may be possible for HJBA to provide some financial support; there is also the Ray Learney fund which can provide grants. Currently it costs £215 for a level 1 course. KM to create an email and circulate to the committee for comments.</p> <p>b. Medium/Long Term Spending Review</p> <p>NG had met with a player from the U18 squad who was interested in providing more opportunities for U19 players to compete against other schools. Suggestions provided to him included his school entering the BE National School Championships, entering HJBA tournaments (particularly the B tournaments) and organising friendly matches against other schools. Currently there is probably no financial support required.</p> <p>It was noted that this year we did not directly publicise the Schools Championships County round to our schools and players. This needs to be added to the email Communication schedule for next season.</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>
<p>6. Extra Coaching Session</p>	<p>It was reported that the new 2h weekly coaching session was running well, with very positive feedback. Invitations for the next 10 week block of sessions had been sent out and all but one player were continuing.</p> <p>The grant submission to BE for funding had been rejected.</p>	
<p>7. Squad Trials / Online Registration Review</p>	<p>The issues with the squad trials being over-subscribed, and of too inexperienced players attending were discussed again. Ongoing suggestions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trialling for the U18s on a different night to free up more time • exempting the top players for each year group from the trials, subject to them committing to join the squads • inviting coaches to view squad sessions/matches • including a section on the trials form for the older players to list their recent tournament participation <p>It was agreed that a Squad Management meeting should be held as soon as possible to decide the best solutions</p>	<p>DS</p>
<p>8. Squads</p>	<p>A search for a replacement U12 manager is ongoing. Some possible alternatives have been identified.</p>	<p>KMat</p>
<p>9. Web Site Update / Social Media</p>	<p>It was agreed that the design of the website was very dated and needs an update. However, it was noted that the biggest challenge was keeping the content up to date and a new design would not help that problem. Simplifying the content and removing old material as a first step might improve the site.</p> <p>It was agreed that the website update project would be parked for the moment – NG is currently investigating an update to his work site and after that is completed, he will review how successful it has been and whether it is applicable to HJBA.</p> <p>KM reported that Kelly had confirmed again that she and Ana Chatto were still keen to take on keeping our social media accounts up to date. To be progressed</p> <p>NOTE: subsequent to the meeting NG has offered to manage our Facebook and Instagram accounts</p>	<p>KM</p> <p>NG</p> <p>KM</p>
<p>10. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Nothing to discuss further.</p>	



11. Communications with Members	The communications schedule appears to be working with regular emails being sent out to the members. The latest email covered the Masters Nationals at HSV – it was agreed that including non-junior events should continue as it helped non-playing parents appreciate the badminton organisation that exists post-juniors.	KM
12. AOB	There is a shortage of U18 players willing to play at RIO, so this year we will be fielding a younger team. The reasons for the reluctance to play should be identified and, if possible, addressed, as attendance at RIO and ICT is a really positive experience for players.	
13. Date of Next Meeting	19:30 on February 8 th 2024, at 44 Fulling Mill Lane, Welwyn AL6 9NP.	KM

K Maughan
Honorary Secretary
HJBA