



Reports for Annual General Meeting 2014 – 15

Chairman's Report

It is again a pleasure for me to report that this has been a highly successful year for your Association.

This was no accident and results from the tremendous hard work enacted by Squad Managers and our many expert coaches, ably supported by Committee members.

Our new honorary treasurer, Mrs Ying Lee, deserves special mention and thanks for implementing an easier to administer accounting system in her first year, which now provides regular snapshots of the Association's financial health.

My personal thanks are also extended to Kevin Maughan who looks after a number of critical administrative functions, without which HSBA could not properly operate.

I would also like to congratulate Kelly Matthews in this her first year after taking over as Squad Manager of the u11's and offer our gratitude to Nick Goode for his expert assistance.

It is impossible to overstress the enormous contribution to the finances of HSBA derived from revenue relating to our highly successful open and closed tournaments. These additional funds are used to subsidise our squad fees and enable the Association to fund additional playing opportunities for our players.

So we should all be grateful to Mike Newlove (u13 Manager), Barbara Lewczynska (also in her role as our Child Welfare Officer) and Simon English who collectively have earned HSBA a record sum this year that will also enable us to maintain the same squad fee for next season.

Thanks are also very deserved for John Stobo, who apart from his invaluable coaching role, also assumes other vital administrative responsibilities including the production of our well-read and widely appreciated Newsletter.

My thanks also go to Christine Adey for her important work as our Fixtures Secretary, never any easy task and much appreciated by everybody.

We also need to recognise Graham Clarke both for his generous coaching and tournament help as well as maintaining the all-important Association website.

Dave Bartlett's expertise is again highly appreciated and I should also like to congratulate Gill Bartlett upon her recent retirement having edited the HBA Newsletter for the last 20 years.

Our grateful acknowledgement goes out to the county's junior clubs, schools and private coaches, who continue to make an essential contribution to this Association.

As always, HSBA strives to maintain the goodwill of all parents whilst ensuring fair treatment for the wider majority. This is not possible without your ongoing trust and support, which is greatly appreciated.

***Ken Winchester
Chairman***



Treasurer's Report

We managed to have a year better than last year (surplus of £4,662 as compared to £29 last year).

HSBA aims to minimise fees that have to be charged and this year we have made a decision to keep our squad entrance fee same. The fee is set to try and end the year with neither a surplus nor a deficit.

We were fortunate to make a substantial surplus due to tremendous commitments from particularly Barbara, Mike, Simon and Ken who have contribute considerable amount of their time organising as well as co-ordinating open tournaments during the 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.

We have this year changed the way of charging our members, where accounting software has been introduced and carers/parents of the members receive invoices relating to charges raised by HSBA. So far we have received good positive feedback on this and hopefully would continue to be the same for the coming year.

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. Regrettably this would be the last year Mr. Doug Stokoe will be able to provide a second pair of eyes on our financial positions.

Ying Lee

Honorary Treasurer

Accounts follow: [the accounts have been audited – a signed copy of the accounts is available upon request]

Tournament Secretary's Report

Closed Tournament report

Another very successful year of closed tournaments, which kicked off with the U15 singles, doubles and mixed, and the U11 singles in September 2014, and closed with the U13 singles, doubles and mixed and the U11 doubles in March 2015. Just short of 500 children played during the season, and it is a testament to the parents and teachers who got them there and kept them all on track.

In particular, yet again, the Primary Schools Team Tournament was a fantastic and very noisy day, with 28 teams competing, representing 10 schools. My thanks as usual to all the helpers who gave up their valuable time to spend time on the desk and other important tasks throughout the season, and in particular to Mike and Ken, Ronni and Nick Goode, Graham and Sue Clarke, Lucy Goddard, Sue Meehan, and Christine Adey.

There is no Herts Youth Games this season due to funding cuts; however HSBA are running an inter-district tournament, based on the same format as the HYG on Sunday 12th July at Birchwood. We currently have six districts entering teams



Open tournaments

Despite not being able to run an Open Tournament in September (having done so during the previous season) because BE would not sanction our September date (a long running saga, I hasten to add), we managed four Open events during this season. The U17 Bronze on 29th November 2014, the U15 Bronze on 24th January 2015, the U13 Bronze on 31st January, and the U15 Silver on 21st March 2015. All were very well attended, and Mike did his usual exemplary job on the computer (with help from Graham Clarke). Many thanks to them, and Ken, and the many parents who helped out. The U15 Silver was held at Gosling Sports Park, and those running the tournament all agreed that this was not as spectator or player friendly as Stevenage LC for various reasons, and Stevenage was by far the better venue.

The next season's Open Tournaments are as follows

- Saturday 12th September 2015 U15 Bronze
- Saturday December 5th 2015 U17 Bronze
- Saturday March 5th 2016 U15 Silver These will all be at Stevenage Leisure Centre

***Barbara Lewczynska
Tournament Secretary***

Child Welfare Officer Report

All of our paid coaches and volunteer coaches and managers all have their DBS checks up to date.

***Barbara Lewczynska
Child Welfare Officer***

Development Squad Report

I took over the U.11/development squad for the season of 2014/2015.

I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of children that turned up to the trials & the level of ability.

We put together a squad of 12 boys & 10 girls with the youngest being just 6 & the eldest being 12.

We decided the focus would be on movement in the training sessions which the players did extremely well at & gave us good focus in every session.

We had a good amount of the players competing in tournaments around the country which was really encouraging, with all of the players doing really well & some managing to medal which is very positive for Hertfordshire.

We also arrange some friendly matches against other counties which proved to be a great success, with the children really enjoying them & learning a lot. We had 2 teams in the Norfolk tournament at the beginning of the season, our strongest team winning and the other coming 5th, many of the players playing in their first county match. We had home matches at Birchwood against Surrey, Warwickshire and Surrey. Every player in the Squad played in the matches and every player played singles doubles and Mixed.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first season as the U.11 coach & am already looking forward to the new season of 2015/2016.

I would like to thank all the parents for their support & commitment & the help I had in the training sessions.



Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

2014-15

I hope you all have a great summer & I wish the players that have moved up from the U.11 squad into the U.13 all the best for the coming season.

Kelly Matthews
U11 Squad Manager

U13 Squad Report

The 2014/15 season for the U13 squad has seen some very successful matches, winning 20-0 on 2 occasions, losing on 2 occasions 17-3 and winning the other 2 more closely, overall finishing 10 in the shires league, we played Hampshire in the play offs for the final & narrowly lost 12-8, well done to all who took part, most of whom are still in the squad for next year which has resulted in Herts U13 being ranked at 3rd for the shires league next season.

Results only come from hard work, none of the above would be possible without the great team of coaches that inputs skill , knowledge, advice & enthusiasm each week, this year's coaches have included Jo Goode, Graham Clarke, Ming Lee, Ben Vranjkovic, Thank you all for your hard work.

Support of parents, in getting players there on time, sharing lifts & providing some great snacks for home matches is very much appreciated & special thanks To Lucy Goddard for co-ordinating home snacks & others helping collect fees on the day.

We are all looking forward to working more closely with the development squad next season and hope that the extra inputs will lead to further success as a team & individually.

Mike Newlove
U13 Squad manager

U15 Squad Report

At the trials on 29th of June 2014 nearly 53 people turned up for U15 selection, out of that we selected 24 in the squad. The beginning of the season there were few who had missed out the trials were also looked in for two weeks and then three more were selected for the squad. Throughout the season few of our top players were given an opportunity to train with u-17's squad with David Brown. They also played for the u17 matches.

We had five summer sessions training for those who were going to stay with u-15 and to those who were moving up from U-13's after Easter. There were 20 who took part for the summer term. We also had an extra level 2 coach Ian Robinson helped out for the summer term.

Shires League: This was a big league group with 36 teams.

Throughout the season we had matches against Surrey 2 lost 7-13. Essex we won 15-5, Bedfordshire won 19-1, Kent we won 14-6, Suffolk we won 15-5, and finally Buckinghamshire we lost 15-5. We finished 13th place on the shires league table, we nearly made into finals only if we had won one more game.

I would like to thank all the participants those who played in the league from the squad.

Eastern Region U-14:

This tournament hosted by Cambridge. John Stobo took two teams out from the squad, which took place on 30th November 2014 at Cambridge Regional College. We had matches against four other counties Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Herts 1 team took second place and Herts 2 team came 5th.

Friendly Matches:



Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

2014-15

This season we did not have any friendly matches as time did not permit for our Sundays and when we tried to get other counties for our Sundays free was not possible for them to play.

Eastern Region Single sex: This tournament took place in East Anglia Sports Centre in Norwich on May 9th 2015 only for those who were graded G, H and I and ungraded for Girls and Boys own their own group. We entered two Boys teams and two Girls teams.

Boys A team came 7th, and Boys B team took 6th place. The Girls A team came 6th and Girls B team came 3rd.

Most Improved Player for the Year 2014/15: Steven Elliot.

He received a shield with his name engraved on it for a year to keep. Steven has worked very hard and performed very well in the squad, shire league and tournaments.

Sponsorship: Thanks to Ashaway again for their support for the shirts and the shuttles for the season.

Coaches: I would like to thank John Stobo for his services to HSBA not only as a coach and team manager for the squad who he has motivated the players to perform at their best and taught them well, also for his fabulous newsletter regularly on time to give us all the news and also for all the paper work required for trials or in the matter anywhere help is required etc.

Both of us managed the Shires league matches and the squad evenings.

Ian Robinson just joined us for the summer term to coach the squad to help us out. Thank you to Ian for his help and we hope he can join us for the next season.

Parent Rep: I would like to thank our Parent Reps Sue Clarke for her role to manage the squad, Good spread for food in our shires home matches. She also organised Christmas bowling for the under 15 squad together with other squads and parents reps.

I would also thank all the parents who supported their children to chauffeur them to and fro from the Squad practice, shires matches 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 all have got something out of our HSBA Badminton training.

The season for the year 2014-2015 went very quickly. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching and mentoring the squad nights, Once again special thanks to John Stobo for his valuable time and effort to support HSBA. I would also like to thank our chairman Ken Winchester and the committee for supporting HSBA U 15 squad for the season 2014/15.

Next season trials will take place on 14th June 2014 at Birchwood and we will be ready again to deliver another season 2015/16 in September at HSV for HSBA.

Hitesh Shah

Under 15 Coach and Squad Team Manager

U17 Squad Report

This year has seen good attendance at squad nights with around 20 players in attendance every Wednesday

The Team bonding once again has been very good proving to benefit the performance during Shires Matches, ICT and RIO.

The Team continued to improve throughout the season, finishing with a 14th place at ICT (well done Team)

Support from the U15 squad has been very good this year with the strongest players playing up at squad Nights and for match play (thanks Hitesh, John).



Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

2014-15

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank David Westwood & Tracy Crowther for all their help throughout the season and for RIO and ICT, (these events would not happen without them)

We were very privileged to have Alan Crowther (Ranked 4th in England at his peak) come to U17 squad nights to give some master class sessions to the players, this has helped their doubles and mixed play considerably and the feedback from the players was very positive, they all enjoyed the coaching sessions (thank you Alan).

I very much look forward to the coming season and hope this season is as enjoyable as the last.

David Brown
U17 Squad Manager

Fixtures Secretary's Report

In the 2014/15 season, Hertfordshire entered one team into each of the three Shires League age groups, namely U13, U15 and U17. Fixtures were arranged to take place between Oct 14 and March 15, avoiding, as far as possible, clashes with relevant open and closed tournaments and between U15/U17 age groups. All fixtures took place on the scheduled dates. All home fixtures took place at Birchwood, the booking of which was helpfully co-ordinated by HBA's Colin Walker.

At the Shires League AGM end June 14, it was proposed that all Shires League matches should count towards a player's BE grading. This prompted much debate. Whilst some counties welcomed the proposal in principle, there were fears that players, who wanted to protect their grading in a particular discipline, might pull out of county matches or question their pairing in level doubles and mixed. The majority of counties voted against the proposal. Since then, BE has agreed that the results of Shires League matches will not be used to downgrade any players. On that basis, the Shires League Secretary is putting forward a proposal at this year's AGM end June 2015 that the results of Shires League matches count towards grading for the 2015/16 season and reviewed at the end of the season.

Also on the agenda for the forthcoming Shires League AGM, is a proposal to split into an upper and lower league for each age group, thereby reducing the number of one-sided games. HSBA does not support this proposal. We welcome the opportunity to play a mix of stronger and weaker teams and, in our experience, the matches are often more competitive than the final score might suggest. We would not wish to reduce the number of teams faced nor significantly increase the amount of travelling involved. We have proposed, however, that teams are ranked beyond the top four, with a view to creating more balanced groups in terms of standard. Given that comments submitted prior to the AGM already show mixed views, the earliest this change will happen, if at all, will be the 2016/17 season.

Christine Adey
Fixtures Secretary

HBA Representative's Report

Attached as the minutes of the HBA AGM

David Bartlett
HBA Representative



Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31st May, 2015

2013-14	Expenditure	2014-15	2013-14	Income	2014-15
Matches and Coaching			Matches and Coaching		
1,980	U11 Squad Courts	2,143	3,784	U11 Squad Fees	5,762
3,043	U13 Squad Courts	3,256	6,020	U13 Squad Fees	6,110
2,088	U15 Squad Courts	2,164	4,350	U15 Squad Fees	6,075
2,080	U17 Squad Courts	2,164	3,848	U17 Squad Fees	4,760
72	U11 Training Cost	1,750	0	Discounts - U11 Squad Fees	(155)
1,472	U13 Training Cost	1,190	0	Discounts - U13 Squad Fees	(220)
528	U15 Training Cost	50	0	Discounts - U15 Squad Fees	(150)
1,600	U17 Training Cost	1,450	0	Discounts - U17 Squad Fees	(121)
1,560	Summer Courts	2,328	1,920	Summer Fees	2,352
0	Habs Training Expenses	0	0	Habs Training Fees	0
271	Trials Courts	0	Trial fees		155
4,084	Shuttles - Training & Matches	3,158	695	Match Fees	502
1,461	Match Courts	450			
70	Coaches Registration Fees	320			
20,309	Matches and Coaching Subtotal	20,424	20,617	Matches and Coaching Subtotal	25,069
Tournaments & Leagues			Tournaments & Leagues		
2,110	Courts	2,909	2,823	Entry Fees	3,975
738	Trophies & Medals	681	557	Entry Fees - Primary	270
82	Shuttles	0	0	Affiliations (Clubs & Schools)	0
0	Eastern Region Tournament	0	0	Junior League Entries	0
68	Shires League	72	72	Raffles	0
90	Other Tournaments	505			
1,304	RIO (York) Fees & Expenses	1,053	1,140	RIO York	1,380
3,041	ICT (Notts) Fees & Expenses	3,199	1,350	ICT Notts	1,500
7,433	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal	8,420	5,942	Tournaments and Leagues Subtotal	7,125
Open Tournaments			Open Tournaments		
192	BE Costs Incl Medals U13 Bronze	291	2,603	U13 Bronze Entry Fees	1,774
0.00	BE Costs Incl Medals U15 Bronze	422	2,112	U15 Bronze Entry Fees	3,269
0	BE Costs Incl Medals U17 Bronze	333	1,643	U17 Bronze Entry Fees	1,880
496	BE Costs Incl Medals U15 Silver	338	0	U15 Silver Entry Fees	2,158
1,800	Courts	1,800	0	Raffle	0
769	Shuttles	1,079			
0	Printing	0			
0	Paypal Fee	318			
24	Sundry Expenses	104			
3,280	Open tournaments Subtotal	4,686	6,358	Open tournaments Subtotal	9,079
Sundries			Sundries		
224	Affiliation BE	445	8	Interest	7
0	Website Cost	100	736	T-Shirts	1,280
112	Postage & Telephone	63	0	Sale Donated Shirts	0
343	Stat. & Printing (Incl. Newsletter)	158	0	Donation	0
797	T-Shirts	1,714			
248	Bursary Payments	535			
278	Misc. Expenses	39			
848	Travel Expenses	1,140	239	Misc. Receipts	1
0	Child protection Cost	0			
0	Gifts	175			
2,849	Sundries Subtotal	4,369	983	Sundries Subtotal	1,287
33,871	TOTAL Expenditure	37,898	33,900	TOTAL Income	42,561
29	Excess of Income over Expenditure	4,662	0	Excess of Expenditure over Income	0
33,900			33,900		42,561

Balance Sheet as at 31st May, 2015			
0 Petty Cash	0.00	18,170 Funds at 01/06/2014	18,199.36
6,510 Current Account	3,183.16	0 Deduct excess Expenditure over Income	0.00
11,689 Deposit Account	20,494.26	29 Add excess Income over Expenditure	4,662.33
0 Current Account	70.00	Sundry Debtor	235.26
0 Paypal	272.71	Creditors Control Account	2,571.00
Debtors Control Account	355.00		
Prepayments	1,292.82		
18,199 Total	25,667.95	18,199 Funds Carried Forward	25,667.95

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 Schools Badminton Association for the year ending 31st May, 2015.

Hon Treasurer: Mrs. Yi Ying Lee
Dated:

Auditor: Mr. Doug Stokoe
Dated:

HERTFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION (HBA)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8th JUNE 2015

Minutes of the meeting held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield, commencing at 7.30pm with 29 attending.

Chairman, Paul Kempster (PK) welcomed all present, particularly Adrian Christy (AC), Chief Executive of Badminton England (BE) who would be addressing the meeting at the conclusion of the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Alison Alcock; Neil and Sue Clarke; Margaret Cooper; Elaine Drury; Liz Frost; Angela Glew; Byron and Lesley Perry; Roger Simmons and Joan Walters.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 2nd June 2014

Item 6 should be amended to read *Malcolm Fraser to be made Vice President* instead of *Vice Chairman*. The minutes were then approved. PK confirmed that the increase in BE fees had been raised at their AGM. This would be covered under Item 3.

3. Presentation of the Executive Committee Reports

All reports had been circulated to members and were available on the HBA website. Committee members highlighted various issues in their reports, when appropriate.

Chairman and BE Representative.

PK reported that Leah Singleton had replaced Rhiannon Smith as BE East Region Partnerships Manager. Leah had worked for BE since 2010. BE membership fees were due to rise again and this issue had been raised at their AGM last year when the financial constraints facing the governing body had been explained. AC would cover this later in his presentation. BE planned to hold a county conference later in the year to garner views on the future of English badminton. The Senior Inter County Competition (ICC) would see the introduction of a new format and structure next season with centralised venues and ring-fenced match days to reduce travel times, costs, and clashes with other events. HBA would be continuing with the Birchwood Leisure Centre contract with exclusive use of the 4 court hall from 9am to 6pm every Sunday through the year at very favourable rates. A successful Herts Parabadminton Open Tournament was run in April and it was hoped to run a similar event next year. PK thanked the committee members for their support and dedication, as well as all those who give up their valuable time to run badminton clubs and help make Hertfordshire Badminton so successful. He was sure that, with all working together, HBA can continue to develop and grow.

Colin Walker (CW) congratulated PK on his successful running of the Parabadminton Tournament, which had been a real success.

Membership Secretary

CW outlined the current membership position. The number of registered clubs had gone down by 2 and the number of registered members had gone down by 15, although the number of juniors had increased by 45, which was a positive sign. PK thanked CW for his work as Membership Secretary.

Chairman of Selectors

This post was still vacant and had been covered during the season by PK aided by the team captains Andy Walden and Liz Austin. A full report had been published in the latest Newsletter. The first team, captained by Gail Emms, had suffered loss of players through injury and a French ruling which prevented their players also playing in the French leagues. That team had been relegated and would be in the same, new

format, division as the 2nd team, who had been promoted, after a successful season. The third team would remain in their division having finished a comfortable 3rd. Next season would see the new format with all three teams playing on the same day. All clubs were asked to refer any promising players to one of the team captains or PK so that they could be considered for inclusion in training for the various squads.

He congratulated the team captains on their ability to always turn out a team in spite of the many problems experienced during the year and he thanked them for their help and support in covering the Chairman of Selectors role. He also expressed his thanks to HBA President, Bob Welsh, who had been present at all possible matches, managing the shuttles and rendering support to the players and captains. His commitment to county badminton was phenomenal.

County League Secretary and Presentation of the trophies

The full league results were posted on the HBA website.

HBA President, Bob Welsh presented trophies to the following club representatives (where present):

Ladies 1-Asteroids; 2-Comets;

Mens 1- Asteroids; 2-Sunnyside; 3-Bishops Stortford

Mixed 1 Ware; 2-Asteroids; 3-Comets

The County League Fixtures Meeting would be held on Wednesday 2nd September at Birchwood starting at 7.30pm.

In view of his other commitments PK was not able to continue in this role and a new County League Secretary was required. A job description was available from him or on the website, and full support would be given to whoever took on this role.

Area League representatives

Full reports from each of the representatives had been circulated and were available on the website. PK thanked them for their contribution which was valued by the Association.

Veterans

Masters Co-ordinator, Steve Willis (SW), thanked Ed Lintott (O40s) and Jeff Armstrong (O55s) for running their teams so efficiently. The O40s had played 6 games and won 2, and the O55s had played, and won, 6 games. The O45s successfully defended their National Premier Title. There was a tremendous response from club members to trials held at Birchwood in April and, as a result, Herts will have 5 teams in the Championships next season, although only 3 teams (O40; O55; O60) will be entered in the Challenge. Fixtures will be arranged in the coming weeks and there will be 2 further trials in September to finalise the squads.

PK thanked SW for taking on this role, and the number of new teams and the success rate was evidence of the success he was having.

Tournament Secretary

Ed Lintott (EL)'s report had been circulated and full results were available on the website. He confirmed that the Open Tournament, held at the start of last season, had been successful although the number of entries was down. The Restricted Tournament had also been held successfully. Next season's Open had been scheduled by BE over the August Bank Holiday weekend and he was hoping that this would not be a problem, The Herts Restricted would again be held at the end of September. EL was thanked by PK for his hard work in running these tournaments.

Development Co-ordinator

Dave Bartlett (DB) explained that the HBA development areas are divided into 4 Community Badminton Network (CBN) areas: East Herts; Herts West; North Herts, and Welwyn Hatfield. Clubs and other badminton stakeholders are represented at each

of their CBN committees. Two CBNs had produced Development Plans that had been approved by BE and attracted funding. This process required time and considerable effort. Various schemes were being run through BE such as No Strings and Smash Up sessions and full details were available in the Development Co-ordinator's Report on the website.

PK expressed thanks to DB on behalf of HBA for his considerable, and successful, contribution to the development of badminton within the county over many years.

Coaching Co-ordinator

Brian Jackson (BJ) confirmed that there had been around twenty requests for coaches this past season and, thanks to keen and eager coaches in the county, he had been successful in satisfying almost all of them. His full report was available on the website.

PK congratulated him on his success in finding coaches on request and thanked him for his efforts. Members were reminded that financial assistance was available to any young player considering qualification as a coach, at all levels, through the Ray Learney Fund. Details could be obtained from CW and were also available on the website.

HSBA

Ken Winchester (KW) presented his report on behalf of the Schools Association. He began by paying tribute to the contribution made by Malcolm Fraser in helping to steer the Association through a rocky patch in 2010. It was mainly down to him that HSBA had come through that period and was now stronger, if leaner. He was pleased to report that all four squads were now able to train on the same evening at a single venue, to the benefit of all. The Herts Youth Games were no longer being held and HSBA had stepped in with an Inter-district event. He thanked all of the squad managers and their assistant coaches for their hard work, and he also congratulated PK on successfully completing his first year as Chairman of HBA and thanked the Association for their continuing support.

PK expressed gratitude for all the work done at HSBA in developing and passing on good players to enhance the County squad.

4. Presentation of Accounts

Colin Walker (CW) presented his Annual Accounts for the year ending 30 April 2015. HBA was in a very healthy financial position with cumulative funds of £20,134.

The profit for the year amounted to £1,320, marginally down on the previous year. Income is mostly from three sources:- club subscriptions, tournaments and fees from county matches and training. Income from all of these was a little down. Total expenses were also lower, mainly because the Newsletter was now produced on line, saving on printing and postage. During the year seven awards totalling £800 were made from the Ray Learney Fund to subsidise young people going on coaching courses. Since the Fund was set up in 2007 the county has made 25 awards totalling £2,500. HBA ran another very successful parabadminton tournament which cost £438, leaving £534 in this fund for a future tournament. This coming season will be the third year of a three year contract signed with Birchwood Leisure Centre for the exclusive use of its four courts every Sunday. There were an increased number of unused court hours over the past season which meant that the hourly rate worked out at £7.33, more than in the previous season, but still a very competitive rate. Next season the hours have been reduced to 9am to 6pm and anyone interested in booking courts at Birchwood should contact CW.

A question was again asked as to what was going to be done with such a large balance. CW said that it was necessary to carry a reasonable balance forward as the

heavy expenditure at the start of the season was not matched by income, which arrived later. The committee was proposing a reduction in fees (see item 5); had given financial support to CBNs, and had also agreed to subsidise the cost of new nets for clubs. Any further suggestions for expenditure within the county would be considered by the committee.

PK said that the new inter county match arrangements set up by BE were very likely to cost more and HBA needed to ensure funds were readily available to cover these. Otherwise he reiterated that any suggestions regarding expenditure would be welcome and given full consideration by the committee.

The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the accounts and appreciation was expressed to CW for all his work over the year.

5. Subscriptions for Season 2015-16

The committee proposed that the HBA Senior Fee be reduced to £3.50 and the Junior Fee be reduced to 50p. This proposal was passed unanimously.

6. Election of Vice Presidents

To show appreciation for all the hard work they had put into badminton in the county the committee proposed that Angela Blowers; Pat Walker; Phil Westwood and Paul Widdicombe be made Vice Presidents and they had all agreed to this proposal. This was passed unanimously by the meeting as well as the re-election of all the previous Vice Presidents.

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

Gill Bartlett (GB) had resigned as Newsletter Editor. PK paid tribute to her dedication in fulfilling this role over a long period of time. This was endorsed by those at the meeting. GB said that the post of Newsletter Editor was not onerous now that it was sent out electronically, and mainly involved getting articles in on time and collating them. As well as a vacancy for a Newsletter Editor there was currently a vacancy for a Publicity Officer and a suggestion had been made about giving the Association more of a social media presence, perhaps going on Facebook. Discussions were ongoing and a job description would be drawn up. The other vacancy, already mentioned, was for a County League Secretary.

The Executive Committee, as listed on the Agenda, were elected unanimously to stand for a further year. The BE Representatives, Paul Kempster as Council Representative and Gill Bartlett as alternate, were also elected unanimously for the year 2016/17.

PK repeated that there was an urgent need for someone to come forward to take on the role of Chairman of Selectors. The job description was available on the HBA website.

8. Election of Auditor

Albert Nicholas was willing to stand and was again elected as auditor.

9. Review of BE Agenda

PK outlined the agenda of the BE AGM to be held at Milton Keynes on Saturday 27th June which he would attend. The main items were reports on activities, the accounts and various resolutions regarding auditors, elected members etc. He was willing to raise any issues that were suggested to him by the meeting. The question of the increase of BE fees was again raised and would be covered in Adrian Christy's presentation after the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

The late cancellation of matches and the subsequent costs were again raised. One club had 8 rearranged matches and 4 conceded during the season, resulting in heavy financial penalties as well as disappointment for the players. PK reiterated that league rules state that costs should be shared in these circumstances, and he was of the

opinion that a match should still be played even if one of the teams is short of players. In the Hertford Area League there was a penalty for any team that conceded more than once. It was agreed that this was a sensible disincentive and the penalty should be loss of points. Each league needs to consider this and issue any new rules/proposals at the start of the season.

Bob Welsh proposed that the fee for the county training sessions be reduced from £7 to £6 and this would be considered by the committee.

ACTION: HBA COMMITTEE

PK expressed his appreciation to Hilary Anderson for arranging the AGM and for providing refreshments. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to all those attending.