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**MINUTES OF THE 74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT BABINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON  
THURSDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2012**

**1. PRESENT:-** President/Treasurer – Steve Lofthouse; League Secretary – Greg Howes; Publicity Secretary – Richard Clarke; Development Officer – Carole Spencer; County Fixtures Secretary – Louise Lester; Carol Harding – County Veterans representative; Colin Kent; representatives from all clubs with the exception of Huncote and Welland Park badminton clubs.

**APOLOGIES:** Edward Hayes, Ajay Pitrola.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2011 A.G.M.:** These had been circulated to all affiliated clubs, and were accepted unanimously by all members present.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising from last year's minutes.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORT:** The following reports were either circulated before the meeting or read out at the meeting and are attached at the end of the minutes:

**a) President's report**

**b) League secretary and Leicester development officer's report**

**c) Website manager's report**

**d) Development Officer's report**

**e) Senior County report**

**f) Publicity officers report**

**f) Veterans report**

**g) Treasurer's report**

The treasurer mentioned that since his report was circulated, Badminton England had announced that their registration fees had increased from £10 to £11 therefore the total registration fee would increase from £19 to £20 for seniors and £9.50 to £10 for juniors, with all other fees to remain the same (£5.50 per hour for court hire, £10 per team in the ordinary leagues and based on the number of court hours in the hall league).

**5. To approve and adopt the accounts**

The treasurer proposed that the accounts and the above fees be accepted by the meeting. This was seconded by C Harding (Loughborough) and accepted unanimously.

**6. RULE CHANGES:-** The following rule changes had been put forward by the committee.

New Rule 15: Dissolution. A resolution to dissolve the Association can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of membership. In the event of dissolution, any assets of the Association that remain after any debts are paid off will become the property of Badminton England or some other local badminton organisation with similar objectives to those of the Association.

It was explained the grant awarding bodies often ask for this when awarding grants so that the funds cannot be misappropriated and should have been in our constitution for a long time. It was passed unanimously and the president pointed out that clubs should have a similar version in their constitution also.

In the light of the extension of the season from the end of March to the end of April, the president pointed out that we would have to amend rule 7a to read that “the AGM be held no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year” (instead of the 31<sup>st</sup> May) and rule 7d to read that “formal proposals for consideration at the AGM must be submitted in writing prior to 1<sup>st</sup> May” (instead of 1<sup>st</sup> April).

This was accepted and it was generally felt that the extension of the season had been a good thing and we would continue it next season, but look at bringing the AGM and Presentation Evening forward a little next season to make it easier for the two universities to attend.

## **7. LEAGUE MATTERS**

a) To adopt a new club “Meltonshire”.

Meltonshire will be based at Uppingham, is an offshoot of the Melton OGs club and will be taking over some of the higher Melton OG teams along with adding a ladies and second mens team to the league. It will give the association a much bigger player base in that part of the county. Melton OGs will continue to be based in Melton.

b) Increasing the number of teams in division one from 5 to 6. This was a proposal from Longslade Stoneygate and after some discussion it was decided to increase the mens division one from 5 to 6 and leave the mixed and ladies as they are.

c) Hall league. The committee had felt that because of lack of interest we might need to look at replacing it with something else. However the league secretary pointed out that there had been a renewed interest towards the end of the season with 4 or 5 possible new teams and the prospect of increasing from two to three divisions. So it was decided to continue with it as before.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The president asked that we adopt Colin Kent as a Life Vice President on his retirement from the committee. This was accepted unanimously.

Mark King, of Loughborough, had expressed an interest in becoming County Captain. The president is to set up a meeting with him to look at how we might proceed.

Mac Dodge, the hall secretary has recently resigned so we need to find a replacement urgently although none was forthcoming at the meeting.

A couple of people expressed an interest in becoming ordinary committee members, which is encouraging.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a) The president asked whether we still wanted a printed copy of the handbook. It was felt that an electronic version, available on the website and distributed by club secretaries would be sufficient, saving us £350.
- b) Margot Thompson, who has run the veterans club on a Monday evening for many years, has been nominated for a Meritorious Award. She was also involved with the now defunct Kirby Muxloe BC for many years. This will be presented by the president in September when the vets club re-convenes.
- c) Richard Clarke asked that we promote the summer club (7.30 Mondays at Babington - £4 per session on a pay and play basis)

With there being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Report written by Steve Lofthouse, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**LBA President's report**

As predicted in my report last year, 2011/12 has indeed provided a major milestone in the history of Leicestershire Badminton with the refurbishment of the LBA Hall at Babington. The hall licence (giving us a further 28 years use of the hall) was finally signed in the summer which meant that the work started later than planned and was largely completed over the Christmas holiday. Impressively, and credit here must go to Colin Kent, Ray Allsopp, the finance manager at Babington, and the company doing the work, there was very little disruption to play in the hall and we now have a new roof, cushioned floor, state of the art lighting, sound system and seating in the balcony. The work came in well under budget and with remaining money we are having some impressive signage on the exterior of the hall and a state of the art video coaching system, both of which should be in place by the start of next season. Babington itself is due to be demolished and rebuilt on the other side of Strasbourg Drive under the next stage of Building Schools for the Future, leaving just the two sports halls and new changing facilities on our side of the road. This is due for completion in summer 2014, with the refurbishment of Babington's sports hall and new changing rooms being in the final phase of the work.

We are hoping to have an official opening of the premises in the lead up to the new season, probably in September and to reinforce that we're also hoping to get a fairly long slot on Radio Leicester to promote badminton in the county. The new facilities were inspected on April 17<sup>th</sup> by the CEO of Badminton England, Adrian Christie. He was suitably impressed with what he saw and with the inclusion of the video equipment, it is likely that there will be no badminton facility like it in the country. During that visit, Adrian presented Colin Kent with the English Badminton Award for his services to senior and junior badminton in the county and his voluntary work for Badminton England.

The newly founded Leicester City Community Badminton Network has met with a very good start, increasing the number of players, especially women, playing badminton in the city. We hope soon to be welcoming some of these players into our clubs. Also we're now starting to develop links with De Montfort University which is something we've been trying to do for a long time.

Congratulations go to Ray Harding on his selection to represent England at the World Masters Championship in Calgary. In a few months he'll be travelling to Bulgaria for the European Championships.

A couple of dates for your diary. Leicester City Council are holding Olympic Days on Humberstone Gate for various Olympic sports. Badminton has been allocated 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July from 10 till 4. The second date is when the badminton is taking place so the plan, I think, is to show live badminton.

And finally my thanks go to everyone who has helped in the running of the county association this year. All help is greatly appreciated and as all of you here know it's always difficult to get volunteers. So if any of you or your club members would like to extend your CVs we're always open to offers of help.

Steve Lofthouse, LBA President

May 2012

### **End of season report 2011/12 – Leicestershire senior county badminton**

The First team finished the season in seventh place in Premier B, ensuring Leicestershire continues to have a presence within elite badminton and allowing our players to compete with the best and give our upcoming stars something to aspire to.

The Second team finished a comfortable 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 2 of the regional championships, behind Buckinghamshire and Cheshire.

The Third team had a tough season and, despite some very close games throughout the season, they narrowly lost the relegation battle to Suffolk.

The Fourth team managed to survive relegation, with lots of new players given an opportunity to experience county badminton. Many thanks to those who stepped in and well done to the juniors who helped out, putting in some strong performances. There were occasional shortages of women players and more could be encouraged to play in the fourth team from clubs across Leicestershire. Anyone who would like to play should contact myself. County training was again poorly attended and a re-think on the structure and timing of this may be needed by the committee. Contributions from players about what they want would be helpful.

Overall I believe that the atmosphere among players showed a vast improvement on last year. We have suffered the loss of several key players (particularly women) but were fortunate to gain a number of enthusiastic players who completed their first season as seniors. Although continuing to field four teams has been a struggle at times, I think it shows an excellent commitment and willingness of players to want to play badminton for their county and I hope this continues to improve next year.

Louise Lester May 2012

## VETERANS REPORT 2011—2012.

This year has been a fairly successful season for the Masters ( veterans ) teams. The O60 team won their Division in the Inter County League with 4 wins and two winning draws. They then went on to the finals held in Stoke where they lost to Lancashire on the Saturday and beat Avon on the Sunday to come 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team also won their Division in the Inter County Championship held in January over two days and will be promoted back to the Premier division next season. Congratulation to the team of Cathy Buckler, Carol Harding, Audrey Preston, Margaret Roskell, Carole Spencer, Jan Thomson, Richard Dayman, Ray Harding, Edward Hayes, Dave Watts and Dave Wilkins.

The O55 team won 5 lost 2. A shortage of ladies at this age group meant the O60's had to help out and with regret we have had to withdraw this team next season.

The O50 won 3, lost 3 coming second in their Division.

The O45 won 2 lost 4.

The O40 came second in their Division just losing to a strong Derbyshire team. Many thanks to all the captains, Sarah Gamble, Debbie Merry, Tahir Mahmood, Colin Noronha and Edward Hayes without whose hard work the teams would not have been so successful.

If anyone is interested in being considered for the Masters (veterans) teams, please come along to the practice sessions, held every Wednesday in September at the L.B.A. Hall from 7p.m. to 10p.m. or contact Carol or Ray Harding or any of the captains. You do not have to be an ex county player, just a fit O40, still playing good standard badminton!!

Success at the Masters County tournaments has also been achieved by several of the players. Tahir Mahmood won the O50 singles at the Nationals, Carl Jennings won the O35 mens doubles and was runner up in the O35 Singles, and Ray Harding represented England at the World Masters games held in Canada in September 2011, and with his partner from Kent will be going to Sofia, Bulgaria to take part in the Europeans this September.

County Veterans colours have been awarded to Jane Cleaver, Debbie Dy and Mark King.

## PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Once again in 2011/2012 Greg Howes and myself have been working together to heighten the public and media profile of Badminton in the City and County, with the overall objective of increasing our coverage, particularly in the Leicester Mercury, and also on Radio Leicester, has now begun to come together and to bear fruit.

This has been demonstrated particularly well by our continuing increased coverage in the Leicester Mercury over the past year, which has been gratifying and an on-going feature of the past few years. The challenge is now to continue and increase this coverage and this will be a leading objective for us in the coming year. Having achieved this profile it is now very important that we build on this and

maintain this level or ideally increase our overall exposure in what is an increasingly competitive battle for space in the sports columns

I am sure that the many Club members who read the Leicester Mercury are aware of this and will be encouraged by this and indeed that some of you will have seen your name in print, because of your particular achievements as a part of your respective Clubs. Local stories about local people are, of course, of great interest to the local media and I would like to repeat my request to both Clubs and individual members to let us know about any news and stories that they may wish to put forward so that we can publicise these.

One particular article which was featured in the Leicester Mercury and which was very pleasing was the piece about the Long Service Award which was made to Colin Kent by Badminton England, which was richly and fully deserved.

My particular thanks go to Greg, who has worked tremendously hard in helping us to attain the encouraging levels of publicity that we have been able to achieve in the last year.

Best wishes

Richard Clarke                      Publicity Officer

## **LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT 2010/11**

Once again, I am attaching the entire accounting spreadsheet. The three sheets that this report refers to are "balsht", "incac" and "expac". The rest are the sheets I use to arrive at the final figures.

This year we made profit of around £327. I was expecting this to be a loss because I thought we would incur expenses from the refurbishment of the hall. In the end, the grant from Badminton England more than covered the cost and the only additional expense we incurred was £1500 solicitor's fees which was money well spent in obtaining a further 28 years on our hall licence. The work was concluded so efficiently around the Christmas holidays that we lost no time in there, nor did we have to book any additional courts elsewhere.

One or two clubs were a little tardy in paying their registration fees but they all came in without too much hassle. I haven't recently checked whether all clubs have paid their Badminton England fees. I know that about 7 clubs hadn't about half way through the year. When I emailed the clubs concerned, I got a couple of indignant replies saying that the fees had indeed been paid. So it just goes to show that you can't rely on Badminton England's data being reliable. I want to ask you at the AGM whether you are happy to continue paying your LBA fees and Badminton England fees separately or whether you wish to pay everything to Badminton England and let them send us your LBA fees..

My records show that our membership numbers have hardly changed from the previous year. That is in spite of us working really hard to try to increase them. On the income sheet, the affiliation fees look a lot higher for the previous season but that is because, as some you will remember, I had to collect a lot of outstanding fees from the previous season because of Badminton England's incompetence! Hall hire was down a bit, partly because we didn't run any coaching courses last year. Next year will be much better. A level 2 coaching course is currently running and there is also one booked in for spring 2013. On the expenses side, you'll notice that the caretaking fees are lower. I've negotiated a new rate with Babington this year which reflects the decrease in hours that we use the hall. For example, on the original

licence we could use the hall until 11pm. The new licence states that we have to vacate the building by 10.15.

These days, the financial side of the Association more or less runs itself. I often get questions about why sundry creditors and debtors are so high. Really they are just a device to allow you to carry items over from one year to the next. For example I tend to send out hall hire invoices in March for the previous season, but they tend not to be paid until after the accounts are done. So they appear in sundry debtors (and also on the sheet labeled "creddeb") and are invariably paid in May or June.

The market value of our shares has increased from £17300 to £18200, or at least they had at the end of March. With the Greek crisis they'll have dropped back a bit. The rest of our assets are held in the bank: £9800 in the current account, £1000 in the deposit account and £20000 in a fixed rate deposit account, which is currently getting 1.5% interest.

As far as I'm aware Badminton England are keeping their affiliation fees at £10 per senior and £5.00 per junior. So I'll keep ours at £9 and £4.50 respectively. Other fees also to remain the same: £10 per ordinary league team, £5.50 per court hour at Babington and no increase in the Hall League entry fees based on the number of teams in each league.

Because the AGM is a little later this year, the accounts have already been audited and passed, once again by Phil Conley, to whom my sincere thanks go. Therefore I would ask that this year's accounts are accepted and propose that the above fees are also accepted.

Steve Lofthouse, Treasurer

17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

### **LBA Website Manager Report 2011/12 Season**

It has been another good year for the website. The website was updated throughout the season. Server issues caused some disruptions in the updates during the later part of the season, many apologies for this and hopefully this has been rectified. I also moved house and started a new job so was unable to update the site as regularly as before, however I am now settled in and will endeavour to keep it as current as possible.

Looking once again at the statistics for this season, I am pleased to share that the site is constantly attracting on average 2,000+ individual hits per week (peaking over 8,000). In terms of individual visitors, the site is attracting over 400+ unique visitors per week (peaking at 900). These figures are down from last year but I believe this is not a true reflection as the issues highlighted above are the cause of this. There are plans to overhaul the site this summer with more new features.

#### **Badminton Activator & No Strings Badminton Co-ordinator**

My new role is working as a Badminton Activator in the city. The B-Active Women project I am working on looks to increase the number of women in Leicester playing badminton. I have used my role as a platform to further raise the profile of the LBA and the role we play to support people wishing to take part in the sport. This has led me to signpost people to clubs via the website and by developing two new No Strings Badminton sessions in the city, one of which I am the co-ordinator, we can further add to the numbers taking part.

Throughout the season I have once again use Social Media to promote the site and the events that are taking place. This has had a good impact and I will continue to undertake more promotion where possible. I urge any clubs that still don't have a club website to contact me if they need help/advice on setting one up.

## **Singles League**

Unfortunately due to a lack of numbers again and people dropping out, the Singles League did not take place this season. **I desperately need any willing volunteers** that would like to help me organise it. Anybody interested can contact me on first instance. I can then go through what is involved.

We will revisit it in the new season.

## **LBA Diary**

I am currently still looking to implement this feature as it would allow clubs/individuals at a glance see the availability of the LBA Hall and the Sports Hall. This will allow clubs/individuals to make bookings quicker. I will be looking to make it live for the new season also.

## **Summary**

It has been an eventful season for myself, with many changes on a personal front, however this has led me to be more involved in promoting badminton in Leicester. I will continue to do the hard work necessary and would like to thank the LBA Committee, all the club members and those that have supported me throughout the season.

Ajay Pitrola LBA Website Manager June 2012

## League Secretary's Report

The 2011/12 badminton season will be remembered as the return of the Students. After a disappointing campaign in the previous year Loughborough Students dominated the Leicestershire leagues this time around taking 5 divisional titles including the 3 major trophies – ladies, mens and mixed doubles. Also celebrating one of their best ever seasons are Countesthorpe Croakers, their first squads winning both mens and mixed divisions. In the other mens divisions Loughborough Leys and Melton return to divisions 1 and 2 respectively, and Quorn are promoted to division 3 after many seasons in 4. In division 5 South Leicestershire and Central Leicester both succeeded in elevating their third teams. Longslade Stoneygate return to the top flight in the mixed league after dominating division 2. Also moving up are Melton seconds and Loughborough Leys thirds after their success in division 3. South Leicestershire's fourth mixed bounced back to division 3 at the first time of asking.

In the ladies divisions Longslade Stoneygate again return to the top flight and the young Loughborough Town second team now join their first team in division 2 next season.

Loughborough Town and Loughborough Leys second string won the Hall divisions 1 and 2 respectively.

I'm pleased to report on another fairly trouble free season. For members taking advantage of the email facility for sending results I would urge you to obtain a 'read receipt' or equivalent acknowledgement so that you know I have received it. Again whenever possible could you kindly enter player numbers on match sheets and complete the additions before submission. Should you change your match secretary before the start of the season can you please forward their contact details to me.

Finally, on behalf of the LBA, can I thank all those that have devoted their time and efforts for the benefit of their club.

Greg Howes

League Secretary



## **Report on City Coaching & Development 2011/12**

**Below I have given an up to date account of my work since April 2011.**

### **The Leicester City Community Badminton Network (LCCBN)**

Perhaps one of my most successful achievements and privileges in badminton is to chair this focus group which attracts funding and plans badminton activities within the City. It is a joint effort mainly between the LBA and the Council's Sports Regeneration Department, plus other interested parties. A 3 year plan is now in place covering all aspects of local badminton.

### **Primary Schools**

Again many hundreds of primary school children have been introduced to badminton in the last 12 months through projects funded mainly by the LCCBN. A successful local tournament was held last October at Hamilton School, attracting around 40 participants. A top schools tournament is due to take place at Babington on 21 June 2012, involving 6 schools, and a 3 school tournament at Judgemeanow on 9 July 2012.

### **City Primary School league**

5 primary schools completed a full league program this year with Forest Lodge Primary school finishing winners. Other schools are interested in joining the league next season.

### **Secondary Schools**

Fewer visits were made to secondary schools this year due to a reduction in sports partnership funding. However extensive coaching has been conducted all year round at Judgemeanow Community College where almost all 1,000+ students have been introduced to badminton. The College is also working towards Badminton England Premier status.

### **Secondary School League**

For details of the season see [www.leaguerepublic.com](http://www.leaguerepublic.com) (search Leics Schools Badminton).

### **Further Education Colleges**

As part of a Sportivate project myself and Maurice Roberts (Longslade BC) again undertook a series of coaching sessions with Leicester, Gateway and WQE Colleges, culminating in another successful tournament in March won by WQE. Central Leicester has welcomed over half a dozen players from this series.

### **Prospective Adult League Clubs**

An enquiry has been received from Trinity BC, Hinckley about playing in the Leagues, and currently discussions are taking place with DMU over their entry into the league.

### **Babington College**

Along with Colin Kent, Steve Lofthouse and Bob Withers I am now a trustee within the LBA Hall's new 28 year licensing agreement with the City Council. Along with Steve and Carole Spencer we have established a Hall Development group that meets with the Babington staff and the Council to determine the best use for both halls. I will be working with Babington on their badminton curriculum content during the next academic year.

### **Junior Clubs & Change 4 Life Clubs (C4L)**

Huncote Pavilion Junior Club is going strong and currently has 4 under 11 county players and another 3 within the LSBA training program.

Central Leicester's Junior club in Oadby is fully subscribed and also contributes to the county training sessions.

Babington Central C4L club, linked to Central Leicester, continues to grow now managed by Ajay Pitrola. C4L clubs were also set up at Judgemeanow CC, managed in house and linked to Oadby BC and at Hamilton, linked to Wyggeston BC, managed by Kim.

### **Womens Badminton**

Last May saw the start of the B Active for women project get off to a slow start, but at Cossington Street the numbers began to swell with no less than 90 women trying out badminton over the last 12 months. Around 30 of those are now regular players. The project is now managed by the council's activator, Ajay Pitrola.

### **Gift and Talented Funding**

The £3,300 grant from Sport England has helped over 20 young players either join or continue with the coaching sessions run by the LSBA. £700 remains which has to be spent by the end of this month.

### **Attracting Funding**

Funding streams have been significantly reduced over the past 12 months but I have been successful in obtaining funds under Sportivate to coach badminton at the 3 FE Colleges plus Judgemeadow, Moat and Crown Hills and a no strings session at the DMU in the new academic year. The LCC and Badminton England also provide some funding to be utilised by the LCCBN.

Greg Howes

Leicester City Badminton Coaching and Development Officer

6 June 2012