**Mid Sussex & District Badminton Association**

**AGM - 9th June 2015 7.30pm**

**Hurstpierpoint Village Hall**

**1. The MSDBA AGM** was opened by Brian Hobbs who explained that Mark Steel (Chairman) had been unable to make the meeting due to personal commitments. No objections were raised to the suggestion that BH should chair the meeting in Mark’s absence. Sue McGregor (Lewes) proposed the meeting was properly convened and this was seconded by Dave Ellis (Casuals).

**2. Apologies for Absence**

BH Announced that he had received apologies from the following people who were unable to attend the meeting.

Mark Steel(Chairman)

Avril Caleb (Treasurer)

Stewart Byne (Lancing)

Becky Simpson (Virgin)

Corrine Pavey (Felbridge Jnrs)

**3. Clubs Present**

Casuals

Hassocks

Forest

Lewes

Lindfield

Haywards Heath

Nomads

Southover

Dolphin

**4. The minutes of the 2014 AGM** were presented. Penny Radford (Committee / Hassocks) proposed they be accepted as correct and this was seconded by Kay Poots (Forest).

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

This was introduced by Tony Brown in AC’s absence. Thanks were given to Lawrence Vosper who had once again kindly audited the accounts. AC had sent a written report which explained that affiliation fees were slightly down due to fewer teams entering competitions. On the whole, however, income was similar to last year as was expenditure and the MSDBA made a loss of £6.50. On this basis, AC recommended that fees remain the same as follows:

Senior Club Affiliation - £6

Senior Team League Entrance Fee - £3.50

Junior Club Affiliation (If separate from Snr Club) - £3

Junior Team League Entrance Fee - £3.50

This recommendation was unanimously accepted by those present.

**6. League Secretary’s Report**

Vera Groves began by thanking everyone for their support in her first year as League Secretary. There had been some problems with the incorrect entering of results which it was believed could be attributed to there being a number of new ‘Team Captains’ not being sure what to do. VG also raised the issue of the timeliness of entering the results and requested that Team Captains should record these within 48 hours of the match being played so that the ‘away team’ could check the accuracy of this entry within 7 days of it being entered and raise any queries they may have to the League Secretary.

VG then presented the results of the league competitions, but began by stating that this year we had lost 2 teams who had withdrawn because the league was not affiliated to Badminton England. (They have promised to return should we become affiliated - please see below). The net result was that we had 5 divisions of 6 teams each.

The winners were as follows.

Men’s Combi Div 1 - Lindfield

Men’s Combi Div 2 - Haywards Heath

Ladies Combi Div 1 - Hassocks

Mixed Combi Div 1 - Lindfield

Mixed Combi Div 2 - Hassocks B

VG explained certain changes she was making to the website and that she was looking at developing ‘Feeder Divisions’ for both senior and junior players. Finally, she mentioned that she had been making enquiries with other clubs in order to recruit them into the league. There were numerous clubs in the area, and many expressed an interest but would only consider doing so if the league was affiliated to Badminton England. As a result, she would be putting forward a proposal at the end of the AGM to make such affiliation mandatory for clubs which are members of the MSDBA.

**7. Junior League Secretary’s Report**

The Junior league is divided into two age groups and we use the school years of 9 (under 14) and 11 (under 16) to do this.

Tony Brown reported that 6 Junior clubs had entered the league this season, one down on last year. A lack of support in running a second division for the year 9 group meant that some clubs withdrew their weaker teams and played friendlies instead, reducing the league teams down to 12 (3 down on the previous season).

We were able to maintain two divisions at year 11 but the reduction to only one division for year 9 removed the opportunity for some less experienced players to test themselves at the gentler division 2 level.

TB announced that this year saw Lewes achieve the remarkable result of winning all competitions, including the three divisions and the club shield for the highest combined ace total of Div 1 teams at Yr 9 and Yr 11. Congratulations should go to Lewes. This is undoubtedly testimony to both the skill of their players and the hard work and support of their coaching staff.

Finally TB announced that after 7 years as Junior League Secretary he would be stepping down with immediate effect.

We would like to publicly acknowledge the huge contribution Tony has made to the MSDBA and in particular the junior section. Without his efforts and hard work we would not have been able to run a junior league and develop the future players of our sport. Whilst we are sure Tony will continue to offer advice and support, we would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication over the past 7 years.

Of course we now need to find a replacement for Tony. Those present at the meeting were asked to seek a volunteer from their clubs and e-mail Brian Hobbs (abi.brian@sky.com) with nominations. Without a willing volunteer our Junior section is in danger of folding.

**8. Presentation of Trophies**

This year's trophies were presented by Vera Groves to the winners as mentioned above.

**9. Dates of 2016/17 AGM & Fixtures meeting**

The dates of next year’s meetings were set as follows.

AGM - Tuesday 7th June 2016, 7.30pm

Fixtures Meeting - Tuesday 13th September 2016, 7.30pm

Both meetings to be held at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

**10. Special Mention for members / past members who had passed away.**

Special mention was given to the following people who the committee had been informed had sadly passed away during the past year.

Matt Page (League secretary for Brighton & Worthing)

Dave Widdowson (Lancing)

Chris Allen (Forest)

Dave Cosham (Lewes)

Sydonia Butterworth (Southover)

All have played an active role with MSDBA at some stage and will be sadly missed.

**11. Affiliation to Badminton England**

Vera Groves introduced Lee Ward and Nick Rimmer from Badminton England. Vera has been working tirelessly to develop the MSDBA league and seeking to arrest the decline in the number of clubs / teams that have been entering competitions over the past few years.

There are currently 3 clubs (Casuals, Dolphin & Southover) that are not affiliated to Badminton England, but for the MSDBA to become affiliated, all of the clubs need to be. Affiliation is done on an individual basis with clubs registering their players with BE.

It is also a requirement to affiliate to our county league - fees as below:

**Badminton England Affiliation fees:**

£14 Adult £4 Junior (U18)

*(Adult fee goes up £1 to £15 next season to be agreed at the BE AGM at end of June)*

**Sussex County Fees:**

£5 Adult £0 Junior (U18)

* Adult members have to pay County fees BUT under 18's don't pay a County fee
* These are the fees regardless as to whether they play matches or not
* Junior members can play matches
* If members belong to more than one club, they only pay at one club at the moment

**TOTAL - BADMINTON ENGLAND + SUSSEX COUNTY FEES**

**ADULT = £19 (£20 NEXT YEAR) JUNIOR = £4**

Badminton England has just won the prestigious title of Sports Governing body of the year and the Sussex section is acknowledged as being very dynamic and strong. VG strongly believes that by affiliating to BE, the MSDBA will be able to access many of the benefits they offer. Lee & Nick have stated they will both be available to work with individual clubs to develop / grow them in a direction that club wishes to take. They have a network of officers to assist in doing this. Their involvement with local authorities and schools, promoting things such as ‘Satellite Clubs’, ‘Smash Up’ & ‘No Strings’ provide a steady stream of new players and even without these, the BE website is the place many people go to when seeking their first or change of club. The MSDBA would be able to access this immediately if affiliated. BE can offer coaching support to clubs and bursaries of up to 50% are available for members to complete Level 1 & 2 coaching courses.

A whole new package for affiliated clubs is just about to be published by BE and amongst these should be opportunities for assistance with running junior leagues, including some funding and free shuttles.

There are many other benefits to affiliation listed on the BE website. These include: discounted BE event tickets such as the National Championships, discount at Central Sports where shuttles etc. can be purchased and free insurance for each affiliated member.

After the presentation by the BE representatives, those present were given an opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns they might have.

Many of those present agreed that there were some clear benefits to affiliating to BE. A few people representing those clubs not presently affiliated to BE expressed some concern about the cost, which could raise some club subscriptions to over £100.

It had been intended to hold a vote on the evening. However, of the three clubs this affects the most, two (Southover and Casuals) had yet to hold their own AGM and put this proposal to their members. As a result it was decided to postpone the vote to allow this to happen. An extraordinary AGM will now be held on the evening of the fixtures meeting for the purpose of this vote only. Each club is eligible for 2 members to attend and vote and it requires 2/3 of those voting to pass the motion. For note, our constitution states that it is an attending vote (i.e. no proxy voting) and that abstentions are not part of the 2/3 calculation, either as a no vote or part of the overall attendance figure.

Unfortunately whilst the MSDBA and its clubs will be able to access the benefits of affiliation should the motion be passed in September, VG pointed out that the decision to postpone could delay some of the new clubs joining until the following season.

**12. AOB**

BH stated that he had received notice from Owen Wynn (Nomads Match Secretary) that the rules surrounding players not being able to ‘play down’ in the lower divisions once they had played a certain amount of matches in the higher ones had caused him some issues and asked that consideration be given to changing this rule. Due to the late hour and the fact OW was not present to put the argument forward, it was agreed that clubs would consider whether a rule change was required and this could be discussed at next years AGM.

There being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was concluded.

**Brian Hobbs**

**MSDBA Secretary**