**Mid Sussex & District Badminton Association**

**Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 7th July 2016**

Venue - Hurstpierpoint Village Hall

**Persons Present**

Mark Steel (MS) - Lindfield - Chair

Avril Caleb (AC) - Haywards Heath - Treasurer

Vera Groves (VG) - Hassocks - League Secretary

Nick Saunders (NS)- Lewes - Junior League Secretary

Brian Hobbs (BH) - Nomads - Secretary

Penny Radford (PR) - Hassocks) - Committee member

Chris Cooper (CC) - Southover - Committee member

Tony Brown (TB) - Haywards Heath - Committee member

Louis Eastwood (LE) - Hassocks

Jan Hellings (JH) - Dolphin

Jackie Burditt (JB) - Felbridge

Alison White (AW) - Nomads

Ann Barber (AB) - Forest

Peter Welsey (PW) - Forest

Andrew Foot (AF) - Southover

Bob MacGregor (BM) - Lewes

Steve Ward (SW) - Dolphin

Senthil Kumar (SK) - Nomads

Owen Wynn (OW) - Nomads

Roger Cooper (RC) - Southover

**1.** **Election / Re-election of committee members.**

The meeting was opened by MS who welcomed those present. The first order of business was the election / re-election of the committee members. MS introduced each member and those present at the meeting duly re-elected the current committee for the 2016/2017 season.

**2.** **Has the meeting been properly convened.**

MS then asked for confirmation that the meeting had been properly convened and there were no objections.

**3.** **Apologies for absence**

BH stated that Paula Weller from Crossways had sent her apologies for not being able to attend.

**4.** **Clubs present**

BH confirmed that all clubs currently affiliated to the MSDBA were represented at the meeting with the exception of Crossways (see 3 above) and Virgin.

**5.** **Minutes of 2016/2017 AGM & Fixtures meeting**

MS then asked if there were any matters arising from the 2015/2016 AGM minutes before they were accepted.

JH raised some concern about how the issue of the Badminton England (BE) fees had been set out in the minutes and stated she did not believe it accurately reflected the way it had been presented at the meeting. The issue appeared to be that the ‘additional’ Sussex county fee had not been raised at the meeting. VG stated that she had indeed mentioned this during her presentation and that it had also been set out in the briefing sheet that she had provided at the time.

BH apologised if it was felt that the minutes were not accurate but explained that it was difficult to record all that was being said at the time and that he often relied on the briefing sheets to supplement the notes he made during the meeting. He queried if he had missed any emails from JH raising the issue after the minutes had been circulated last year but she confirmed this was the first time she thought she could raise the issue.

A discussion amongst those present proved inconclusive with some recalling the issue and others not. The consensus of the majority concluded that there was an awful lot of discussion about affiliation to BE and that the probability was that the additional county fee could easily of been missed by some of those present.

JH’s concerns were duly noted and with no other objections, the minutes were accepted.

**6.** **Treasurers report**

The Treasurer’s report was introduced by AC who, once again, thanked Lawrence Foster for independently auditing the accounts.

AC highlighted a number of points including the fact that there had been no junior affiliation fees this year as there had been no junior league run over the season. There was also an increased cost in relation to the trophies this year and this was explained as one of the cups had required a brand new base and engraving plate.

As a result, there had been a net loss over the 2015/2016 season of £157.50

The committee therefore recommended that the cost of ‘Club affiliation’ should remain at £6 but that the cost of entering a team into the league should increase from £3.50 to £5.

MS proposed these recommendations and it was seconded by LE and passed without objection from those present.

**7.** **League secretary’s report**

VG introduced the League Secretary’s report and confirmed that she would be sending this out to all Club secretaries in addition to the AGM minutes.

VG thanked those present for their support and stated she was pleased with the progress that she felt had been made during her 2 years in the role.

During the 2015/2016 season, the MSDBA had operated 6 different divisions, 2 Men’s, 1 ladies, 2 mixed combi and the new mixed combi feeder. VG confirmed the following teams as winners of the respective leagues:

Men’s Div 1 - Nomads A

Men’s Div 2 - Dolphin A

Ladies Div 1 - Hassocks A

Mixed Combi Div 1 - Hassocks mixed B

Mixed Combi Div 2 - Dolphin mixed A

Mixed Combi Feeder - Hassocks Feeder B

Congratulations to all the winners.

VG stated that the new feeder division had had some teething problems, mainly associated with discovering the strengths of the teams being entered, but on the whole had proved popular and proposals to extend the feeder divisions to the Men’s and Ladies leagues should help address the issue.

The MSDBA had attracted 11 clubs over the past season. Unfortunately we lost Lancing and Casuals, the latter feeling they were unable to remain competitive but the league had welcomed Virgin and Felbridge as new additions.

With reference to badminton England, VG thanked everyone who had voted for affiliation at last year’s EGM and confirmed she had had an update in relation to fees. BE propose increasing affiliation fees by £1 to £16 for the 2016/2017 season. In addition there will be the £5 Sussex county fee. However, there are proposals to change the way fees are calculated for the 2017/2018 season, although this has yet to be confirmed. Essentially, affiliated members will be classed as ‘Players’ and ‘Competitive Players’ the latter being those who play in BE managed events including County competitions. The proposed fees for ‘Players’ (the vast majority of MSDBA members) is thought to be around £10 instead of the current £15 and ‘Competitive players’ fees would be increased from £15 to around £20. In order that BE can maintain the same amount of income, clubs would be charged an additional fee based on the number of members. This could range from around £50 for clubs with 1-10 members, £70 for clubs with 11.15 members to £100 for clubs with 16 or more members.

VG emphasised that these figures are not yet set and will need to be confirmed by BE nearer the time, but her calculations based on the figures she has been given leads her to believe that MSDBA clubs will end up paying less affiliation fees than they currently do.

The issue of entering results onto the MSDBA website was raised and it was noted that there had been some queries throughout the season in relation to this. As a result, VG will be sending out a pack to all Match secretaries giving detailed instructions on what they need to do prior to the commencement of the 2016/2017 season. Match secretaries were reminded that players details should be entered onto the database at least 7 days prior to them playing a match and that Match secretaries should try to ensure results were entered onto the website within 48 hours of the game being played. VG asked that the away team check that the result had been entered correctly 7 days after the match in order that any queries could be bought to her attention as soon as practicable. OW asked that all clubs ensure their details on the website were accurate as issues had arisen (albeit with the Brighton league) of matches being played elsewhere than where the clubs website indicated and teams had found it difficult to arrive on time.

A discussion was then had as to when league matches should be completed by as some had been running through until the end of May, delaying the publishing of results and also going beyond some clubs seasons. It was agreed by all those present that all fixtures should be scheduled to be competed by the 15th May each year. Where matches have to be ‘re-scheduled’ beyond this date (due to cancellations because of snow etc) the match secretary should contact VG to highlight this and agree a new date.

VG mentioned the MSDBA website and highlighted the fact that each club has it’s own page and links to their own websites. Any requests for additional information to be published on the website should be forwarded to VG.

Finally, VG agreed to forward the details of the divisions, including the new feeder divisions to Match secretaries some time in August 2016 in order that some matches could be played earlier in September for those clubs who found it difficult to fit all of them in.

**8.** **Junior League secretary’s report**

NS began by thanking TB for his assistance and support in handing over the role of junior League secretary last year.

Unfortunately there was no Jnr. League fun over the 2015/2016 season due to a lack of teams entering. It is not clear as to whether this is because there is a lack of interest from junior players or a difficulty finding time to play matches on club nights. In order to keep what interest there was going, NS encouraged clubs to play a number of ‘friendly matches’ and even offered to hold an NBL (National Badminton League) style match.

Looking forward to 2016/2017, NS hopes to revive the Year 9 league and will be contacting clubs in due course to canvas support and discuss how many teams could be entered. Sadly, there does not appear to be the same support for the Year 11 league and so NS has suggested that Year 11 players can take part in matches in the new ‘Feeder divisions’ even if this means joining a separate club in addition to their own to do so.

It was agreed by all that these junior players are the future of our sport and if we wish for the MSDBA to thrive, it is important to nurture this talent. All clubs are asked to consider what they can do in terms of recruiting young players and introducing them to competitive badminton.

SK raised the issue of whether or not the MSDBA would consider introducing a ‘Veteran’s league’ aimed at those aged 45 years and over (or similar age to be set). BH responded that it had never really been considered and ‘politely’ pointed out that many players in the league were around this age anyway. There may also be the issue of the already congested fixtures within the season. Nevertheless, clubs are asked to explore whether there is an ‘appetite’ for such a division and if it is possible that age is a barrier to some who would wish to continue playing competitively but feel they can not compete against younger players. The issue will be added to next years AGM agenda for consideration.

**9. Presentation of trophies**

Presentation of trophies was made by VG to the winners of the respective divisions. Again, congratulations to all winners.

**10. Date of 2017/2018 AGM & Fixtures meeting**

Dates for next years meetings were set.

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 6th June 2017 at 8pm at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

The 2017/2018 fixtures meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.30pm, also at Hurstpierpoint Village hall.

As a reminder, this years fixtures meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30pm at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

**11. Any other business**

OW raised the ever thorny issue of the cost of shuttles and wondered if the MSDBA clubs could consider banding together to purchase them to obtain a greater discount. MS stated this had been considered but that the discount was capped after approximately 25 tubes with no additional savings to be had. OW agreed to look into what discounts Wendy Adams (local badminton coach who assists with training Sussex Jnr team) could assist with and report back to clubs.

PR stated that badminton England had assisted in sourcing a 10% discount for affiliated members at a local physiotherapist. PR will circulate the details of this physiotherapist and what members need to do to obtain any discount separately.

VG confirmed that she will explore whether or not the date a player becomes registered to play matches can be displayed next to their names on the MSDBA website.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded at 9.05pm.

Brian Hobbs

MSDBA Secretary