

Mid Sussex & District Badminton Association
Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 5th June 2018
Venue - Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Persons Present

Penny Radford (PR) – Committee Member (Chair)
Brian Hobbs (BH) – Committee Member
Chris Cooper (CC) – Committee Member
Tony Brown (TB) - Committee Member
Owen Wynn (OW) – Committee Member

Becky Simpson (BS) – Virgin Active
Callum Bell (CB) – Haywards Heath
Guy Constable (GC) – Haywards Heath
Sara Fallon (SF) - Nomads
Jackie Burditt (JB) – Felbridge
Graeme Gardner (GG) - Forest
Neil Warwick (NW) – Lewes
Zoë Macwhinnie (ZM) - Hassocks
Sue MacGregor (SM) - Lewes
Bob MacGregor (BM) - Lewes
Abhisek Mukherjee (AM) – Lindfield
Gargi Mukherjee (GM) - Lindfield
Louis Eastwood (LE) – Hassocks
Mark Dummer (MD) – Hassocks
Carol Salisbury (CS) – Haywards Heath
Trish Denyer (TD) – Dolphin
Jan Hellings (JH) - Dolphin
Amy Radford (AR) – Hassocks
Abi Hobbs (AH) – Visitor (to take minutes)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Avril Caleb (Treasurer), Southover and Crossways. PR confirmed that with the exception of Holbrook and BATS, all other clubs affiliated to the MSDBA were represented at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

PR confirmed that those present had had a chance to examine the minutes of the 2017 AGM, which had previously been circulated electronically and also copies available to those present. She enquired whether there were any matters arising out of those minutes. LE proposed that they be accepted, AM seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

Regarding the proposal to amalgamate the Ladies Divisions, this did happen and these joined into a single division for the 2017/18 season.

4. Chair's Summary

PR stated that it was her first season as Chair and felt it has been successful, noting with pleasure that there had been some changes to the usual winners! She noted that all clubs had been e-mailed offering help with such tasks as recruiting new members and made this offer again at the meeting. Regarding the proposed new league (non-gender specific) it was noted that this would be covered later in the meeting. PR stated the MSDBA's wish to grow the Mid Sussex League and attract more clubs. She felt that the biggest improvement over the last year was the new website and hoped that this would pick up and attract members in the area. AM pointed out to the meeting that there was also a Facebook page.

5. Correspondence

The MSDBA had been approached to take over the Mid Sussex Junior Badminton Tournament. The Committee felt that the MSDBA already had too many roles and NW confirmed that Sussex County Badminton would be taking over the organisation of this.

There had been a serve calling incident at a match involving a junior member, where the other (adult) party had behaved aggressively. After consultation with the Committee, the clubs involved were able to come to a resolution between themselves. An apology was offered and accepted.

A second incident, which PR described as 'not nice', had required an Extraordinary General Meeting to resolve. This involved a problem with the score sheet and there had been poor sportsmanship shown by both sides. In addition, as the altercation took place at a prominent leisure centre, PR felt it had shown the sport and the MSDBA in a bad light. The scores were agreed afterwards and the matter was closed. PR asked everyone to be respectful when playing matches and BH expressed gratitude to the people running the clubs involved for their sensible handling of the incidents. He emphasised that the MSDBA is not a body to police the playing of matches, only to facilitate arranging them between clubs.

6. Treasurer's Report

TB presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Avril Caleb. Once again, the accounts had been audited by Lawrence Vosper and he was thanked. TB ran through the points in the accounts (copy attached), particularly drawing attention to a refund of £35.00 relating to a cheque issued in regard to the old website which had not been cashed and noting the £50.00 donation which MSDBA makes annually towards the organisation of the Junior League. As there was a healthy balance, Avril Caleb had proposed that there be no change to fees for the coming year. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

7. League Secretary's Report

BH had previously circulated his report electronically (copy attached). He stated that he would put all the reports on the website for everyone to access. He then summarised the league activity this year:-

- Thanks to Match Secretaries from each club for co-ordinating and organising matches.
- Noted 2 new clubs had joined and this had enabled MSDBA to make up the divisions.
- Last year the lower division became the 'feeder' for juniors and, as this had worked well, there would be a similar arrangement going forward.
- BH congratulated the division winners – trophies to be presented later in the meeting.
- It was disappointing that some matches had been cancelled this year simply through clubs not being able to field teams. Altogether, 6 matches were not able to be rescheduled and ended up not being played. BH felt that a combination of good manners and sufficient notice would be enough to combat this problem. He also pointed out that if teams were struggling for players on a match night, they could field an ineligible player to allow the match to go ahead and offered to go over how this would work with anyone wanting to do so. PR asked that if clubs needed to cancel or reschedule, that they should ensure that they contact the Fixtures/Match Secretary only from the other club in good time. All contact details are on the website.
- BH reminded the meeting that all results sheets should be forwarded to him, so that they are all in one place and can be kept to refer back to if necessary.

Website: BH thanked Andrew Craig for setting up the new website, which he had done for free as a favour to MSDBA. There had been difficulties with the previous site, which was reliant on one person for updating and had not been very flexible. BH pointed out the opportunity for clubs to advertise on the website e.g. open nights, social functions etc. – if details are e-mailed to him, then he can put them up on the site. BH also told the meeting that Andrew Craig has offered his help to set up new websites for members of the league, although of course there would probably be a fee involved, as this is Andrew's business. Please let us know if you would like Andrew Craig to contact you regarding this AM & GM were very keen, as they had experienced similar problems to the old MSDBA website with their own.

BH also encouraged the use of the Facebook page, which at the moment has a grand total of 12 members! He would like to see this grow, so please add yourself and encourage all your members also:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1875601592656953/>

8. Junior League Secretary's Report

As Nick Saunders was unable to attend due to an emergency, BH presented his report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). PR invited comments, but there were none.

9. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies and certificates were awarded to the winners of each division, as follows:

Men's Combi Division One – Winners: Lewes A
Men's Combi Division Two – Winners: Hassocks B
Men's Combi Division Three (Feeder Division) – Winners: Holbrook A
Ladies Combi Division One – Winners: Lewes A
Mixed Combi Division One – Winners: Hassocks A
Mixed Combi Division Two (Feeder Division) – Winners: Dolphin A

Congratulations to all those winning teams. PR felt it was such a shame that there was no-one present to collect the trophy for Holbrook, as it was the first time they had won. She also reminded recipients that trophies should be returned to her by 1st May 2019 if they were taken.

10. Election of Committee

PR was happy to stand again as Chair – proposed by LE and seconded by AM. OW resigned as Secretary and ZM (Hassocks) offered to take the role. PR encouraged all clubs to offer representation on the Committee. BS (Virgin) was happy to stand as a Committee Member, BH will continue as League Secretary and all other Committee Members will continue also. Therefore, the Committee for the coming year stands thus:

Chair – Penny Radford
Secretary – Zoë Macwhinnie
League Secretary – Brian Hobbs
Junior Secretary – Nick Saunders
Treasurer – Avril Caleb
Committee Members: Tony Brown, Chris Cooper, Becky Simpson

The election of these officers was unanimously accepted by the meeting. PR thanked everyone for volunteering their free time and all their hard work, which ensures the Mid Sussex League continues to run.

11. Proposals

BS noted that she had not received a copy of these due to an internal miscommunication.

11.1 New League: PR stated that some Hassocks ladies were keen to join in the Men's league matches to play at a more challenging level. It was proposed that a new non-gender division be formed, initially as a fun venture and to allow clubs with fewer number of each gender to participate in more league matches. It was also proposed that there be non-nominated teams to allow a better spread of players and encourage the enjoyment of all involved. PR adds:- That maybe it will move into the direction of 'being all the really strong players (but hopefully meaning we can then have more Divisions!) but at least it will mean that a team could be 3 girls and a boy, 3 boys and a girl and even if it is 2 of each, they play level. The main outcome of the discussion was that clubs did not want to lose Mens and Ladies Divisions in their own right i.e. not allowing the other sex to put a team in. GM was concerned that e.g. a team of all men turned up to play a mixed or mostly ladies team – PR said that clubs should try to avoid unequal matching when fielding teams and that it is going to start off as 'fun' until it finds its feet, as I am sure it will take a few seasons to settle down... I am sure some matches will not be fairly matched but 'just like club night' it should be all about the fun and good nature of playing the sport. BH stated that the rules would be relaxed to let the new league develop and find its place. This would be an extra league, over and above current leagues, in order to try and give as many people as possible the opportunity to play. There was a lively discussion surrounding formation of this league.

It was agreed that, subject to enough teams being entered, this would be run on a trial basis for next season. More guidance on this will be sent Pre Season but please talk to your members as soon as possible to see if this would suit your club, so that we may have some idea of entries prior to Fixtures evening.

11.2 One Score Sheet: PR told the meeting that problems had been arising where scores were not agreed at the end of matches. The proposal was for one sheet be completed by the home team and agreed by the away team at the end of each game. BH noted that the regulations were that the Home team were responsible for submitting the score sheet to him for recording.

BH stated that the proposal was to encourage captains to agree and note the score at the completion of each game before signing off at the end of the match. BH reiterated that the current regulations mean that he can only accept the Home Team's sheet for scores and PR said that it was a case of 'Best Practice' to come off the court at the end of each game and immediately record the score to avoid disagreement. Ideally scoresheets should not be completed by a non player but if both teams go to that one scoresheet after each game to agree, then this should not be a problem. The Away team are welcome to make their own copy, should they prefer but the Home sheet will always be taken as the correct one and no disputes should happen. During the 2017-2018 season, many clubs just took a photo on their phone of the Home score sheet, so they had this for their records.

11.3 Trophies: PR told the meeting that the current trophies were coming to the end of their life, they were running out of room and the engraver is unable to source extra mini-shields for the future. The meeting discussed suggestions, including mini individual trophies for main team players, medals, framed certificates and new large trophies. It was strongly felt that league members wanted to retain the sentimental value of being able to see past league winners and the majority of the meeting leaned towards the idea of certificates.

It was agreed by those present that the existing trophies would continue to be awarded each year but would no longer be engraved (there being no room left on most of them). Clubs would also receive a certificate for each of the 4 main players and the certificate would be embossed with previous winners on the rear to maintain a sense of history. BH would also post a 'Roll of Honour' for each division on the website for everyone to access.

12. Any Other Business

Government Data Protection Regulations (GDPR): PR told the meeting that following the introduction of the new regulations, Hassocks club no longer gives personal e-mails for contacts. They have moved to more generic contacts e.g. enquiries@. She noted that clubs really should not have individual personal details shown on the website. For the MSDBA main website, she would like to have a point of contact for potential new members using a link to send an e-mail to club secretaries etc. See item 7:- She emphasised the benefits of having club contacts, club night details, acceptance of Juniors, as much information as possible etc, to help any potential visitors to the website to find a suitable club to join, these should be on sent to BH for uploading. She also suggested using e.g. What's App internally to keep on top of team selection etc. BH stated that the tightening up of regulations in the new laws surrounding data means that even though individuals give permission to use their details, it still leaves MSDBA vulnerable.

Subsequently, PR provided the following information:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

1. If your club has a website, you can add emails in front of the domain name like: e.g. enquiries@hassocksbadmintonclub.co.uk then get the webmaster to divert it to whoever takes on that role.
2. If you do not have a website, you can create a new 'club' email address with Gmail or yahoo etc. using the name of the club e.g. hassocksbadminton@gmail.co.uk (or something similar that is available) and then set it up to forward to the relevant person's email. Then if the person holding that position changes, the same email address can be used to divert to someone else.
3. If you do not want to create a 'club' email, the MSDBA could use the actual email of the relevant person but hide it as a link to them instead. This means on our website we could put e.g. 'Contact HBC' and then attach the email address link which will only be visible when clicked.

JB asked if MSDBA has a data protection policy. BH said not currently, but one could be produced. PR suggested it could be added to the website and also to the minutes. PR asked all clubs to provide new details in line with new GDPR. BS asked if it was OK to keep a more personalised form of contact details if the club wanted to and PR agreed that it was, but that a generic contact would be better.

PR opened the floor to general questions:

BS asked about the scoring situation when one team fails to attend a match fixture.

BH explained that on most occasions a score of 6-0 awarded, but surrounding teams had to be taken into consideration to avoid 'leapfrogging' – it was often necessary to juggle with the scores to avoid adversely affecting team places in the league. It was agreed that, of course the best option was always to rearrange a match if possible, and that BH would consider awarding no points to the defaulting team, however discretion to do so, remains with him (as League Secretary) and his decision is final.

13. Dates of 2019 AGM and Fixtures Meeting

This year's Fixtures Meeting will be on 18th September 2018.

AGM will be on 4th June 2019 – PR asked that clubs avoid the same night for their own AGMs.

Next year's Fixtures Meeting will be 17th September 2019.

All meetings will take place at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

There being no other business, PR declared the meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

Zoe Macwhinnie
MSDBA Secretary