**Mid Sussex & District Badminton Association (MSDBA)**

**Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 25th August 2020**

Venue – Hurstpierpoint Village Hall

**Persons Present**

Penny Radford (PR) – Committee Member (Chair)

Brian Hobbs (BH) – Committee Member (League Secretary)

Zoe Macwhinnie (ZM) - Committee Member (Secretary)

Louis Eastwood (LE) – Hassocks

Sara Fallon (SF) – Nomads

Steve Gumbrell (SG) – Virgin

Jamie Neill (JN) – Dolphin

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Chris Cooper (Committee Member), Tony Brown (Committee Member), Becky Simpson (Virgin), Sue MacGregor, Ellie Watts [Holbrook now combined with Forest], Paul Fletcher (Valiants), Gill Fairham (Forest), Nicky Holness (BATS), Dan Goodchild (Southover), Kevin Chamberlain (Lindfield).

1. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

PR confirmed that those present had had an opportunity to examine the minutes of the 2019 AGM, which had previously been circulated electronically. Copies were not available this year due to Covid 19 restrictions. She enquired whether there were any matters arising out of those minutes. SF proposed that they be accepted, SG seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. PR raised that the amount of funds that MSDBA are holding was discussed last AGM. It was agreed that £1000 in the bank felt about right so that there was money available in an emergency. There was a discussion last year about how to spend the funds. We need to continue to think of ideas and clubs can contact us with any ideas or suggestions that they have. Tony Brown had suggested coaching for juniors but the we would need someone to run sessions before we could invest. SF said that she thought it was sensible in the current circumstances that monies were carried forward.
   2. Certificates were actioned.
   3. Nothing has been actioned by Badminton England about the suggestion of ladies clubs.
   4. Becky Simpson was going to look at the cost of shuttles. The plan was to contact Yonex to look at ways of purchasing cheaper shuttles. Committee to check with Becky if she has managed to action this. Clubs to contact MSDBA if they are struggling to source shuttles or with the cost.
2. **Chair’s Report**

I would like to start by thanking my Committee and Club Representatives for coming tonight during these unprecedented times. Who would have thought that we would be sitting here wearing masks, two metres apart and with the cleanest hands ever!

I think the Season of 2019-2020 will be one for the history books, we can all it The Unfinished!

Personally I am glad we stopped our matches when we did, even though at the time, it felt that we were being over cautious and I am sad that we couldn’t resume again to finish the outstanding matches. We did send out an email, offering to pay for any court fee’s associated with any cancellations but I think that no clubs did receive a charge.

Badminton England did a great job in providing information throughout, along with pushing forward to get indoor sports restarted by working with Governing bodies. There has also been communication regarding Hardship Funds that can be made available to clubs if they need it. Every member of your club should have also received an email from BE regarding membership fee’s for the 20/21 season. This informs members that they can either request a 25% discount off the fee’s or donate that discount back to BE, so the member would pay full price. I understand that they have also asked for a survey to be completed, if you are struggling to find courts.

Hopefully you will all have an idea of when your clubs can be up and running again, we are here to help you if you encounter any problems. We will be discussing start of season in AOB.

1. **Correspondence**

The two issues that were raised during the season were resolved.

1. An issue with a club not fully appreciating how the fusion league was working with the two divisions. A complaint was put in as they had entered one team into Division 1 who were then being continually beaten. The club were then reminded of how the divisions were structured with a stronger division (Div 1) and with a feeder division (Div 2).
2. An issue with one member playing for two teams in the same division. This was resolved and it did not affect the league.

Emails have been received from BATS, Forest and Southover letting the league know their current situations with access to courts and any possible matches.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

PR started by explaining that Avril Caleb has resigned and therefore the position of Treasurer is available. The report was read and is attached to these minutes.

1. **League Secretary’s Report**

Well it was all going so well!

What a season, what to do and what to say?

After an initial scare with a number of clubs indicating that they would have to field a reduced number of teams due to long term injuries and players willing to play competitive matches, we actually got off to a good start with the introduction of a new club, Brighton Valiants, and some additional teams being entered by others.

And then came Covid which has thrown everything into turmoil. Of course it would be wrong of me to complain about the effect this has had on our sport without first saying that I hope everyone is well and that they have remained safe and healthy throughout these troubled times. Some of you may have had friends and family that have been affected by this dreadful disease, either physically or financially and my thoughts, indeed all of our thoughts, are with you. Some of you will know that my ‘regular job’ has involved me working closely with people who have been most affected by Covid including, sadly, a number who have lost their lives.

Against this background, I hope you will understand why I will both keep this report both short and to the point and instead of celebrating the achievements of clubs and teams in my normal way, I will dampen down my normal enthusiasm.

The committee and I have looked at the possibility of trying to finish the league in some way, but following current guidance and a consultation with all clubs, this just isn’t possible. Although not all matches have been played, it is however possible to determine the winners of all of the divisions, with the exception of the Ladies, as those teams had already attained an unassailable lead. So our congratulations go to the following:

Lindfield Mens A – Winners of the Mens Combi Division 1

Triangle Tornados – Winners of the Mens Combi Division 2

Lindfield Mens B – Winners of the Mens Combi Division 3

Triangle Tornados – Winners of the Mixed Combi Division 1

Hassocks Mixed B – Winners of the Mixed Combi Division 2

Triangle Tornados – Winners of the Fusion Division 1

Hassocks B – Winners of the Fusion Division 2

I have tried to look at ways of determining a method that could predict the winner if the ladies division, but the truth is that there were only 5 rubbers separating all 4 teams and the team in 4th place had 2 matches in hand over the team in first. Sadly, I can only conclude that the division results will be voided this year – or alternatively, that it was jointly won by all four entrants.

Looking ahead to the 2020 2021 season, I am hopeful that we will bounce back stronger than ever as a league. Venues are beginning to open up, but times remain uncertain and we can rule nothing out, including further lockdown guidance. As such, I propose a shorter season this year, with competitive matches not starting until after Christmas. To accommodate this, when I have the team entrants from each club, I will try and arrange for a number of ‘small leagues’ in order that matches can be accommodated into the shorter time frame. This, along with anything else you may wish to raise, I put forward for discussion.

1. **Election of Committee**

PR was happy to stand again as Chair. This was accepted unanimously. PR encouraged all clubs to have members on the Committee. BH will continue as League Secretary, ZM as Secretary and we need a new Treasurer – Becky Simpson has subsequently confirmed that she is happy to be Treasurer.

1. **Proposal**

PR put forward a proposal in relation to a refund of the league fees. The fee for one team is £11. The total amount to refund is £248. PR felt there were three options:

1. To refund
2. To offer a refund
3. To not refund

After a discussion, it was agreed that the money would be ringfenced and then used to set up as small league as soon as it viable or to start the league in September 2021. This means clubs would not need to pay fees when a league restarts.

Currently the start of the league is suspended until after Christmas.

1. **AOB**

There is currently no date for a fixtures meeting for this season.

The date for the next AGM is Tuesday 1st June 2021 and for the fixtures meeting 14th September 2021.

MSDBA would like the trophies back from Lindfield and BATS. Certificates can be issued, so if clubs would like one for their winning teams then please contact Brian.

There was a discussion about clubs welcoming visitors. It was agreed that this is fine as long as the Covid 19 rules of the venue and from Badminton England were followed.

At Hassocks we will be playing on five courts at Henfield initially. Players from other clubs are welcome to contact us (PR) to see whether there is any availability on clubs nights.

SF said that at Nomads about 70% of people are interested in playing but this may mean that there is a problem with numbers going forward.

SG said that Virgin have two courts on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

There being no other business, PR declared the meeting over at 19.42.