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

**Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 21st July 2021**

Zoom Meeting at 8pm

**Persons Present**

Penny Radford (PR) – Committee Member (Chair)

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

Zoe Macwhinnie (ZM) - Committee Member (Secretary)

Becky Simpson (BS) – Committee Member (Treasurer)

Tony Brown (TB) – Committee Member

Louis Eastwood (LE) – Hassocks

Gordon Owen (GO) – Nomads

Paul Fletcher (PF) – Valiants

Gill Fairham (GF) – Forest

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Nicky Holness (BATS), Sue MacGregor (Lewes)

1. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

BH approved the minutes from last year and LE seconded this.

1. **Matters Arising**

Because of the disruption of covid a decision still needs to be made about how to spend the funds that the association still has. PR said that definite ideas still need to be identified.

TB suggested an open day – free sessions. This could possibly be at Henfield and all clubs could be invited. It was discussed whether this should be postponed because of covid.

BS suggested that, so to encourage people to get to know each other, we could hold a mini party after an evening of badminton. PR suggested that the format of this might be best as a ‘fun day’ rather than a tournament.

GF suggested whether the money could be used to fund a beginner’s course. BH pointed out that some provision for beginners is already happening, such as Wendy Adam’s sessions. BS suggested that it might be useful to show the clubs what is already happening.

It was discussed that next season clubs could put forward ideas.

It was decided that any decisions about how to spend the money should be postponed until the next AGM.

The fixtures meeting has been booked for 14th September 2021. There was a discussion about whether this meeting could/should take place outside.

BH explained that he really needs to know what teams clubs are thinking of entering by 7th September. When he has those details then he needs to know what kind of standard the players are so to make matches competitive.

BH explained that this information will help decide what type of leagues MDSX will be able to run. The fusion league has been successful with two divisions, one being a feeder league. Previously there have been issues with the ladies’ league. Clubs need encourage their ladies to play matches or to enter into the fusion league.

1. **Chair’s Report**

*Well as you can imagine, there is not really much for me to talk about!*

*Hopefully some of you have been able to return to a court these past few weeks and have not been too rusty! Fingers crossed that we will be able to re-start properly in September and get our League back up and running. I will be honest and say that it has been a shame because pre-Covid, we had started to attract a lot of interest from new clubs to join our League, so I feel we are starting from scratch again but we are resilient and things can only get better!*

*I would like to welcome Becky on to our committee as Treasurer, it has been a hard slog to get the names changed on our bank account but this is finally near completion. I am aware we have a couple of invoices to pay, so thank you for your patience.*

*We bid a fond farewell to Avril and also Chris, who have stepped down from the committee. Thank you both so much for your contribution to MSDBA and enjoy your ‘retirement’ from the roles! On that note, we would love another person to join our committee, fortunately (!) it is not in a role, we just need extra hands and brains for decision making! Please let us know if you can help.*

*If any clubs have problems with venues or membership, please remember that we are here to help in any way we can.*

1. **Correspondence**

PR mentioned that there had been emails about BE Membership discounts. This should be forwarded on to the clubs. ZM mentioned the email that Sara Foster had sent about coaching but this has been sent to clubs already.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Please see attached treasurer’s report.

BS suggested that, in her opinion, in relation to the £1000, £500 should be kept in the account and £500 could be spent. [As above, a decision about the finances will be agreed with the committee at the next AGM].

BS has been added to the account so she can sign cheques.

1. **League Secretary’s Report**

***7.1 Report by Brian Hobbs***

*In preparing this annual report I would normally begin by focusing in on the highlights of the past year and detailing the results of matches and the final league positions.*

*Clearly, however, there is nothing to report upon. The league has effectively been in limbo during lockdown and so instead I will simply detail the plans for moving forward.*

*Our Annual Fixtures Meeting is due to take place on 14th September and we will of course give you an update as to the venue for this, or whether we will need to do it virtually, nearer the time.*

*In advance of the meeting, I will need an indication as to what teams each club are considering entering in order for me to form the leagues. I appreciate that clubs won’t have a clear idea as to what teams they will be able to enter until they start up again, but I really need these details as soon as possible and by the latest the 7th September.*

*As a reminder, teams can compete in the following:*

*Men’s League – consisting of 4 male players*

*Ladies league – consisting of 4 female players*

*Mixed league – consisting of 2 male and 2 female players*

*Fusion league – consisting of any combination of players (but we ask you to consider the standard of players you are entering in the interest of fairness).*

*If we are able to create two Fusion divisions, we will again encourage players of a higher standard to enter Div 1 and to use Div 2 as a ‘feeder division’ for newer players or those of us that can’t quite move as fast as we used to.*

*Because we haven’t played for so long, it would be really helpful if you could give me an indication of what you consider to be the standard of your teams that you enter. Please be realistic, nobody wants to play a game where teams are not closely matched.*

*Finally, we have struggled to enter enough teams for a ladies league recently. Hopefully clubs will be able to encourage enough female players to make this viable (you really need 5 teams in a division as a minimum, 4 at a push). In the event that it is not possible to create a ladies league this year, please consider entering into the Fusion Leagues with an ‘all female’ team.*

**7.2 Further issues raised**

BS raised an issue with the Fusion League. Virgin had found that in one match it felt more liked a mixed match because of the formation of the other team – she felt it was difficult to play ladies against a mixed pair. It was discussed generally that the Fusion League only works if teams enter into the spirit of it. PR felt that all the teams had done this thus far but that it might be worth re-looking at the wording of how the Fusion League is described.

1. **Election of Committee**

All committee members were re-elected. PF offered to help with MSDBA website. GO suggested that some of the money could be spent on a member of the committee going on a social media course.

1. **AOB**

**Fixtures meeting - 14th September 2021 at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Provisional diary dates for 2022 –**

**AGM – 7th June 2022**

**Fixtures Meeting – 13th September 2022**

BH raised how it would be good for all clubs to make good use of the MSDBA website. Valiants have recently updated their information on the league website and they are really selling their club. Any clubs that wish to do this can email BH and he can put the new information onto the website. A link to the club’s own website or their Facebook page would be a good idea.

GO raised that Nomads are still struggling to get courts at The Triangle; they are now lucky to get two courts. The club has written to Badminton England but they have had no reply. PR raised the possibility of Nomads using Haywards Heath College’s badminton courts. GO said the club at taken a vote about whether to try to stay at The Triangle or whether to go to Haywards Heath. The majority had voted to stay at The Triangle.

GO raised the possibly of running a knock out league. BH said that the idea might be something he could consider next season.

There being no other business, PR declared the meeting over at 21.03.