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

**Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 6th June 2023**

Hurstpierpoint Village Hall – 7.30pm

**Persons Present**

Penny Radford (Chair) (PR)

Brian Hobbs (Match Secretary) (BH)

Becky Simpson (Treasurer) (BS)

Zoe Macwhinnie (Secretary)

Tony Brown (Committee member) (TB)

Louis Eastwood (Hassocks) (LE)

Matt (BATS)

Bulent Gunes (Nomads)

Alan Luxford (Racqueters)

1. **Apologies**

Jamie Neill (Dolphin)

Julie James (Forest)

Paula Weller (Crossways)

Dan Goodchild (Lewes)

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting**

LE approved the minutes and BH seconded.

1. **Matters Arising**

None

4. **Correspondence**

4.1 Parking fine letter –

Two ladies from Hassocks received a parking fine when attending a match at Moulsecoomb leisure centre. Apparently, there are signs at the centre. BS, representing (Racqueters), said that it was discussed at the fixtures meeting. The Hassocks Ladies team captain had been informed and she sent a message to the ladies playing. There is also a time limit of 3 hours and you will be fined if you go over that time limit. PR said it has been put in the minutes at the Hassocks AGM as well.

It is important that all clubs are aware of the need to log your car at this venue (Moulsecoomb).

1. **Chair’s Report**

I am so pleased that we have had another successful season and that our Mid Sussex League is still going strong. I would like to thank all of the clubs for their continued support and to also give great appreciation to Brian for all his efforts in getting club and team entries, as well as looking after the entry results and match communications. Just so you know, I have purchased some trophies for Fusion Div 1 and Div 2 and as I am ever hopeful, I thought I might as well get a Div 3. Hopefully you may have some new members, including juniors or veterans who might be suitable for Div 3, who would love to have some competitive match play. Thank you, as always, to my committee colleagues, who also volunteer their time to keep the Mid Sussex Badminton Association alive! Good luck to everyone in the 2023-24 season!

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
* We charge for affiliation fees so there has been no incoming monies. Outgoing was a total of £91.20
* BS recommended that we do not charge affiliation fees again for 23/24 season.
1. **League Secretary’s Report**

I hope you will agree that it has been another fantastic year of Badminton across the MSDBA leagues and I sincerely hope that, if you were able to participate, you have enjoyed it as much as I have. The standard of some of the matches seemed to me to have got higher, or am I just getting older and slower?

It seems that every year there is a last-minute scramble to organise the various leagues and divisions. It makes it quite a difficult period but I fully appreciate that many clubs are unsure of what teams they will be able to enter until September when the season gets underway. As such, I am as always very grateful to those involved in organising their clubs’ teams and fixtures for their support and understanding around this time. This year, whilst we sadly lost Brighton Valliant’s, who were unable to field any teams, we did see some growth welcoming Horsham for the first time and with strong representation from Hassocks, BATS and the Triangle Tornados across most divisions.

A couple of issues have been raised throughout the season which I would welcome discussion on at the AGM.

The first pertains to ‘Rule 9’ of our regulations which deals with registering players. This was easily managed via our old website which required clubs to enter details of the players eligible to play in the various teams. The current website does not have that facility and it has been down to me to try and monitor compliance with this rule. With many clubs not sending me details of their eligible players, this can be challenging. I would therefore welcome a discussion as to how this rule should be enforced or whether or not any changes should be made to it? In addition, how should we monitor registration with Badminton England (Rule 16)?

Secondly, league positions are currently determined by totalling up the following in this order:

1. Rubbers won

2. Matches won

3. Games won

4. Points won

It has been suggested that points 1. And 2. Should be reversed so that the number of Matches a team wins is the primary factor for calculating success. I would again welcome a discussion and determination on this.

In addition, I will work with Andy, who administers the website, to see if we can reinstate the detail of how many matches, rubbers and games a team has accrued so that it is visible on the league tables on the website.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce the winners of this year’s competitions.

Ladies Combination League – Hassocks

Men’s Combination Div.1 – Hassocks

Men’s Combination Div. 2 – Bats B

Men’s Combination Div. 3 – Bats C

Mixed Combination Div. 1 – Hassocks

Mixed Combination Div. 2 – Triangle Tornados

Fusion Div. 1 – Triangle Tornados

Fusion Div. 2 - Nomads

Sincere best wishes and hope to see many of you in the 2023/2024 season.

Brian Hobbs

MSDBA League Secretary

6.1 Discussion point 1 – rule 9 registration of players.

* Difficult to keep tabs on this as League Secretary. The new website doesn’t have the facility to input the players’ names. Sensible rule to keep that if you play for the first team you can only play two matches for a lower team. Clubs should be reminded of this rule before the fixtures meeting.
* A vote was taken on regulations being changed (regulation 9 and 10 will be amended) – LE proposed, PR and BH seconded.
* **BH action - update the regulations, send to the committee for verification, hard copies for fixtures and circulate to the club secretaries.**
* AL suggested that rules about Fusion League are added in as well.
* BS raised the issue about four men playing in Fusion Leagues. BS asked that it is in the minutes that although certain teams have said they can’t play unless it is all men, she feels that it shouldn’t happen as the norm. PR explained that the Fusion league was introduced for stronger women to play against strong teams because of the issues with ladies’ leagues. TB raised that he only has one woman who wants to play matches and sometimes she cannot play.

6.2 Discussion point 2 –

Overall, it was decided that league positions should be determined in the same way that it has been done previously – rubbers won and then matches won.

1. **Election of Committee**

All positions were offered out if anyone wished to be part of the committee.

Alan Luxford voted on as a co-opted member of the committee

All main roles will stay the same.

1. **AOB**
* BE membership – nominated members of clubs that will play matches. They need to have Badminton England membership. Members no longer get a reminder from BE that their membership will expire, members can set up an auto re-new payment. PR unsure how to police that players have valid BE membership. Somebody in every single club needs to take on that responsibility. The main thing is that the clubs are affiliated to BE. We need to put the responsibility on the individual clubs. **Action - ZM to send out an email to ask clubs for proof of purchase of club affiliation to be sent to MDSBA.**
* **Action - PR to look into a different venue for the AGM next year.**
* BH raised an issue on behalf of Tornados Club. There are sometimes issues because of the times Tornadoes are given for matches between 6pm-8pm. If Tornados don’t have these courts then they won’t be able to play. They are going to have an additional men’s team but they will play those matches at 8.30pm.
* In relation to the possibility of a Division 3 in the Fusion League, AL asked what the rules would be to enter this division. PR explained this division would be an entry division, but it would depend on numbers of teams that clubs can enter.
* BS raised that Paula Crossways is going to put a ladies’ team in which means we should be able to run a ladies’ league.
* Brighton League have put out a message to see if there is any interest in an over 60’s league. BS said that she is interested and wondered whether there would be interest for it in Mid-Sussex - it doesn’t have to be 60 it could be 55.
* **Action - BH to enquire about interest in a new Master League in his pre-fixtures meeting email.**

Tuesday 4th June 2024 - next year’s AGM

17th September 2024 – next year’s fixtures meeting at

Meeting closed at 20.48