

# ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008 SHENFIELD PARISH HALL – 8PM

The Chairman Eric Richardson welcomed all those present especially the representatives from Badminton England, John Havers and Tim Fitches.

**Vice Presidents:** Mrs D Harris

**Officers & Committee:** Eric Brown, Mrs D Hardcastle; Mr J Gardner; Mrs H Turrell; Mrs N Richardson & Mrs C Stammers.

Representatives from Clubs and District Associations: Billericay Junior BC; Chelmsford Casuals BC; Chelmsford & District BA, Chipmunks Juniors BC; Colchester BC, Colchester Sixth Form BC, Davenant Academy, Epping BC; Essex Junior Badminton - Colchester; Frenford BC; Leighway BC; Leyton Youth BC; Localliffe BC; Redbridge BC; Southend & District BA; Stanway BC; The Badminton Academy BC.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Mr P Barber; Mr R Lord; Mrs J Brewster; Mr C Darrell & Mr A Morris

### **2. Presidents Remarks**

Eric Brown reported that a lot of excellent work had been done by Eric Richardson, in this his first year as Chairman. He also thanked the committee who have also achieved a great deal, however with all the new initiatives, more volunteers are needed. The President informed that there would be no increase in the County Affiliation Fees next season, as the many junior events have made a profit to offset the cost of activities.

Darryl is no longer the BDO and although her post was part time, she actually worked full time and did so much excellent work throughout the County. The County are currently negotiating with a London Borough to help support a full time BDO.

The County 1<sup>st</sup> Team finished second in the Premier 'A' division, with fantastic loyalty from Karina and her team. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team won Division 2C, being clearly the best team in the division. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Team, although not winning many matches, gained valuable experience, which will serve them well for the future. All of the results are a credit to Essex.

In the Juniors, our team finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the ICT. The U15s were 7<sup>th</sup> in the Team Challenge Finals, and the U13s finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah Walker is the current U19 National Singles Champion, who could well compete in 2012.

We have been successful with submissions for 2 Performance Centres, 1) Essex North & 2) The Badminton Academy. Overall a very successful year for the County.

The meeting stood in recognition of two loyal servants, Tony Horden & Dave Rowe, who died recently.

### **3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Thelma Thompson & seconded by Allison Pearson.

### **4. Presentations**

Eric Brown welcomed John Havers, President of BADMINTON England, who always attends our AGM when available.

### **County Colours & Note Bene.**

County Colours were presented to the following team members:-

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team:** Richard Accomando, Eddie Chow, Daniel Munro

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team:** Jenni Crisp, Charlotte Lane, Lizzie Rumble, Vicki Russell, Helen Wiley, Terry Coleman, Mark Fatungase.

**Veterans:** Colours will be presented at a later date, when new colours have been designed & manufactured to: Joan Bell, Pat Lee, Doreen Brown & Dave Spurgeon.

**Note -Bene:** The Boys Trophy was presented to Adam Southgate and the Girls to Rosie Hutton, both of whom have made outstanding contributions during the season.

### **County League Trophies:**

Mens 1 – Trinity BC

Mens 2 – St Aidan's–Leigh 1

Mixed 1 – Leighway 1

Ladies American 1 – Leighway 2.

Ladies American 2 – Leighway 3.

Combination – Leighway 1.

### **5. Presentation of Reports**

The Chairman informed that all copies of team reports were available. He thanked all Team Managers for their considerable work and enthusiasm over the season and to Helen Turrell for her work as Junior Coordinator.

### **6. Presentation of Accounts**

John Gardner (Treasurer) reported a year end loss of £966.82, not one of the best years with a further decline in income from subscriptions. However the loss included a £500 development fee, for the new website, which is proving to be an excellent asset and a very useful tool. The Association was now worth £12,437.02 and had a turnover of ~ £42K.

BADMINTON England fees will be increasing by 4.1% next season, but new clubs joining during the season, will not have to pay full fees for their members.

**Adoption of the accounts** was proposed by Sally Taylor and seconded by Gary Webb. The Chairman thanked John for his work as Treasurer.

## 7. Election of Officers

The following Officers were elected.

President:	Eric Brown
Chairman	Eric Richardson
Vice-Chairman	Vacant – no volunteers
Secretary	Karen Turner (her appointment was approved by the meeting)
Treasurer	John Gardner
Auditor	Alan Gosling
Vice Presidents	Mrs H Cowan; Mrs J Chamberlain; V Chamberlain; EW Brown; Mrs S Tyrell; E Summers; Mrs Y Harris; Mrs J Brewster; Mrs S Jackson; Mrs S McCoig.

## 8. Proposed changes to the ECBA Constitution.

The Chairman outlined the proposed key changes to the Constitution which included changes to the County Logo. He said further work was required to simplify the new constitution further, but this will be carried out in due course. The meeting agreed the changes presented. Donna Tubb requested that further changes should reflect equality, e.g. Chairman should be replaced by Chairperson. This was accepted.

John Gardner informed that notice of meetings and / or reports could now be circulated electronically via email or made available via the website. This possibility has been incorporated into the new constitution. It was agreed however that paper copies of the AGM Agenda would still be sent out via post.

## 9. Any other Business.

**Community Badminton Networks.** Tim Fitches (RDM) said he was pleased with the attendance at this meeting, which was the largest at any AGM in the Eastern Region. He gave a brief outline of Community Badminton Networks, which BADMINTON England is aiming to set up across the country as part of its drive to be #1 Badminton Nation by 2016. The four key elements are: Clubs; Schools; Participation Projects and Pay & Play Sessions. Anyone requiring more detailed information should contact Tim by phone or email.

**Essex Badminton Development Officer.** Adding to the Presidents earlier remarks, the Chairman said attempts to recruit a part time BDO towards the end of last year failed. Although BADMINTON England are still unable to fund a full time post at present, we decided to seek top up funding for the post from elsewhere and are currently finalising a deal with one of the London Boroughs. Recruiting a full time BDO should be easier, although it means their time will be shared between Essex & London. It is hoped to have someone in place for the start of next season.

**Badminton England update.** Eric Brown said the many developments currently in hand meant there were exciting times ahead in badminton. Specific points mentioned included:-

- Problems at the BWF (Badminton World Federation) AGM. Following a vote of no confidence, the BWF President Dr.Kang has resigned and a new body is being set up to lead the BWF forward.
- BADMINTON England have employed a consultant to advise on upgrading their IT System. When completed, some of the benefits available to clubs and players will include on-line membership & payment, on-line entry to events and the ability for players to update their rankings.
- BADMINTON England are currently undertaking a major competition review and have just completed a Corporate Governance review, although the recommendations were for minor changes only.
- Five players have qualified for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

**Performance Centres.** The Chairman reported that BADMINTON England are planning to establish ~ 50 Performance Centre throughout the country during the next 3 years, their primary objective to produce many more top players. Counties & clubs are being invited to submit bids to set up Performance Centre, which must establish Performance & Club Pathways in line with the Club Future strategy. Each successful PC will receive £30,000 over 3 years to kick start the programme, although they must be financially self sufficient by the end of this period.

Successful bids have been made to establish 2 Performance Centres in Essex, one called the Badminton Academy PC based on the Badminton Academy in Basildon, the other called Essex North PC based on a consortium of three clubs in the Colchester area. These are Essex Junior Badminton Colchester, Chipmunks Junior Badminton Club & the University of Essex Badminton Club. Both Performance Centres will work closely with each other and in partnership with ECBA to deliver the required programmes. Allison Pearson, who has been appointed Director of Coaching for ECBA, will also be the Head Coach for both PCs, which should be up and running in September.

**Junior County Training.** Sally Taylor (Colchester) raised concern that Junior County Training sessions were being moved closer to London next season and felt this was unfair on those players travelling from the north of the county. Eric Brown commented that an ideal location for training would be Chelmsford, but at present there are no suitable venues in the area. The introduction of Performance Centres will provide quality coaching sessions in the north of the county, but there will still be a requirement for the top players to attend full county sessions. Pennie Hackett (Colchester) asked if parents could meet with members of the Committee to discuss ideas for sliding charges for sessions and travelling costs. Eric Brown thought a parents meeting was a good idea.

**Other matters.** Sue Crompton raised three additional matters.

1. She was concerned about the lack of quality Ladies games in the Essex County League. After much discussion, it was agreed that the future of Ladies Badminton would be discussed at the next ECBA Committee Meeting.
2. She asked if the time available for playing Essex League matches could be extended by 2 weeks into May. This will be put to the County League Secretary.
3. She was concerned about the unacceptable behaviour of one of the players in the Essex Restrict & other matches. She had hoped the County would take action. Eric Brown said that in matches / events, the Referee had the authority to deal with such matters directly or refer them to BADMINTON England.

#### **10. Date of next AGM.**

Next year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Shenfield Parish Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.