

ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ('ECBA')

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') held at 8pm on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at Shenfield Parish Hall

1. Attendance

Vice Presidents: Mrs Y Harris, Mr J Havers

Officers & Committee: Eric Richardson (Chairman), Darryl Hardcastle, John Gardner, Allison Pearson, Clive Palmer, Helen Turrell, Nikki Richardson and Carol Stammers.
Secretary - Karina Bryant

Other ECBA Members ('Members') representing: BADMINTON England, Highlands JBC, , Epping BC, Leighway BC, Trinity BC, Chipmunks JBC, Stanway BC, Chelmsford Casuals BC, Redbridge SC, The Badminton Academy, Frenford BC, Five Lakes BC, Team Y and Essex Junior, Senior and Veterans Badminton.

Eric Richardson took the Chair.

The Chairman declared that it was 8.00pm and that a quorum was present. He opened the AGM of the ECBA, welcomed all those present (especially John Havers of BADMINTON England) and introduced members of the Senior Committee to the Meeting.

Eric Brown (President) was away on holiday and therefore unable to attend the AGM. John Havers had accepted Eric Brown's invitation to present the President's Remarks.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Eric Brown, Mrs S McCoig, Graham Lane, Alan Morriss, Viv Gillard, Sang Tu, Toby Moon, Tracey Dineen, Janice Flowers, David Spurgeon, Mina Clark, Roy Lord, Lynne Swan and Sandy Kurik.

3. President's Remarks

In Eric Brown's absence, John Havers presented the President's Remarks.

Mr Havers reported that the previous year's finances had been a cause for concern and, following the requisite approvals at the 2010 AGM, a number of steps had been taken to rectify the various issues. These measures seemed to have been successful, although it was important not to be complacent.

Mr Havers congratulated the relevant ICC teams on their various achievements during the season. He was pleased to note that Sarah Walker had been selected for the Sudirman Cup and would also be competing in the World Championships taking in place in London in August 2011.

There were some issues surrounding the affiliation of clubs. Although the trend was marginally upwards over the previous few years, clubs did not always understand the significant benefits that affiliation was able to bring players. In the wider world, club affiliation was seen as a measure of health in a sport, leading to funding which would go on to benefit clubs and the community. It was fair to say that funding tended to follow those sports that were seen to be flourishing on both a numbers and performance basis.

Turning to the performance of the Nation's top players, Mr Havers reported that England had, by and large, underachieved since 2006. There had also been problems with some of the senior appointments made at BADMINTON England. Steps were being taken to move forward, with the vast majority of the current England squad made up of young players, some of whom were starting to make an impact on the World stage. In the event that the Nations' players failed to perform well at the Olympics in 2012, funding was likely to be cut.

Mr Havers reported that, just as there were aspirations for England, Mr Brown had similar aspirations for Essex. Mr Brown felt that Essex should aim to be back amongst the best counties in England by 2020. In order to achieve this, it was important for clubs, coaches, players and officials to work together. The ECBA Committee work very hard, with limited capacity, to pursue the interests of players in Essex. Mr Havers thanked the members of the ECBA Committee for their hard work.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on 9 June 2010

The Minutes of the AGM held on 9 June 2010 were reviewed. Following a proposal from Clive Palmer (Donna Tubb seconded) and a vote on a show of hands, the Minutes were approved as a true record.

5. Presentations

The following awards and trophies were presented by Eric Brown:

County Colours

Senior: First team: none
 Second team: Mina Clark and Sang Tu
 Third team: Toby Moon, Oscar Hackett, Joe Skornia and Beth McDonough

Veterans: Tracey Dineen, Barry Coleman, Janice Flowers, Gary Webb, Rahma Saibon,
 Linda Hurrell, Cathy Cracknell, Roger Baldwin and David Spurgeon

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The Boy's Trophy was presented to Rob Golding and the Girl's to Rebecca Terry, both of whom had performed particularly well throughout the season.

County League Trophies

Mens 1: Five Lakers
Mens 2: Thurrock
Mixed 1: Leighway 1
Ladies American: Leighway 1
Combination: Leighway 1

6. Presentation of Reports

a) *Junior Report*

A report prepared by Helen Turrell was reviewed.

The U12 team won the Eastern Region Team Challenge.

The U13 team, managed by Michael Ekengren, had won all bar one of its matches in the Shires league and ended up seventh nationally. The team lost in the play-offs to Berkshire. In the Team Challenge, the team became Eastern Region champions and achieved sixth place in the National finals. At the end of the season, there were two Grade One, five Grade Two and five Grade Three players, some of whom would remain U13 next season.

The U15 team, managed by Helen Turrell, also won all bar one of its matches in the Shires league and ended up ninth nationally. The team was due to compete in the play-offs against Leicestershire on 15 May 2011. In the Team Challenge, the team was runner-up in the Eastern region and came eleventh in the finals. At the end of the season, there were three Grade One, six Grade Two and eight Grade Three players.

The U17 team, also managed by Helen Turrell, won all bar one of its matches in the Shires league. The team was due to play Staffordshire in the play-offs, but Essex was sadly unable to field a team. In the ICT, the team came eleventh. Five of the U17 players would remain in the same age group next season. At the end of the season, there were three Grade One, six Grade Two and five Grade Three players.

The Forza 1* and 2* tournaments for school and club players had proved successful, with many young players competing.

County training sessions had not been held during the season, as it was envisaged that the Performance Centres would be able to cover all the needs of the players. This had not been the case and the ECBA Committee had resolved to hold county training sessions during the next season.

b) *Senior Report*

Reports prepared by the various team managers were reviewed.

The 1st team, managed by Andy Frye, finished the season in sixth place, on the same number of points as Warwickshire in fifth and Hertfordshire in seventh. The 1st team was represented by 16 different players throughout the season and Mr Frye was keen to thank each of them, many playing as a result of problems pertaining to the availability of nominated players. Yorkshire won the Premier Division comfortably and both Leicestershire and Lanarkshire were demoted.

The 2nd team, managed By Lynne Swan, finished second in Division 1B, losing out to Norfolk's 1st team. This result was considered a success, much aided by the presence at different times of the season, by many ex-1st team players.

The 3rd team, managed by Graham Lane, yet again achieved promotion, by winning Division 4B comfortably. The players were looking forward to next season, when they expected to have much tougher matches in Division 3B.

c) *Masters Report*

A report prepared by Roy Lord was reviewed.

The Masters scene continued to expand, with a greater number of tournaments available to players of all age groups. Essex entered teams in the ICC in each age group from over 40 to over 70. Unfortunately, as a result of travel and weather problems, some matches had not been played and were therefore conceded.

Essex was well represented at The European championships in Southern Ireland in September 2010. Essex partnerships were awarded a total of eight medals, one of which was Gold (Kim Yong in the over 50 men's doubles).

At the National Championships, Essex players won the over 40 men's doubles (Kum Wai Kok), over 45 women's doubles (Viv Gillard and Sue Crompton), over 50 men's doubles (Kim Yong) and the over 55 mixed doubles (Peter Emptage and Pam Dallow).

There was double success at The All England for Tracey Dineen, who won both the ladies and mixed doubles events. Viv Gillard and Sue Crompton won the over 45 ladies doubles.

The results of the ICC tournament were good, despite various availability issues. The most successful team in the ICL was the over 45s, which qualified for the play-offs and ended up coming second behind Surrey.

d) *County League Report*

A report from Paul Barber, the County League Secretary was reviewed.

Division One in the men's league provided an exciting close to the season when, in virtually the final match played, Five Lakers was able to pull off a convincing 8-1 home win over defending champions, Frenford to claim the title by the narrowest of margins. In the mixed and combination divisions, Leighway's teams were dominant losing no matches at all in the mixed and just one in the combination league. The ladies struggled again this season, with the "American" format proving difficult.

7. **Presentation of Accounts**

John Gardner (Treasurer) presented the ECBA Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2011 ('the Accounts'), which showed a profit of £6,593 (2010: loss of £9,116). The ECBA net worth equated to £12,018 as at 31 March 2011 (2010: 5,429) and turnover for the year was £36,298 (2010: £42,919) representing income from tournament entry fees, coaching fees, donations, bank interest, match fees and other contributions to match expenses, various sales and prizes won. In answer to a query about the cost of senior matches, Mr Gardner reported that there were costs relating to accommodation for the senior 1st team, of which, in previous years, prize money had gone some way to covering. The 2nd and 3rd teams tended to break even.

Pennie Hackett requested that certain figures in the accounts be broken down further in order that they could be analysed more closely. Mr Gardner asked that any specific requests be emailed to him and he would provide a breakdown.

John Gardner turned the meeting's attention to the Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities contained within the Accounts. The Senior Committee of the ECBA were responsible for ensuring that ECBA maintained an effective system of controls in order to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information used in ECBA's affairs was reliable and that assets were safeguarded. Whilst a system of controls was in place, this could only provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance with respect to the preparation of financial statements and the safe guarding of assets. The key features of the internal controls were described in the Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities.

Following a proposal by Pennie Hacketts (Darryl Hardcastle seconded) and a vote on a show of hands, the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011 were approved and adopted.

8. Election and Re-Election of Officers

The following Officers, who had all agreed to continue in their respective roles, were proposed, and seconded by Members and elected or re-elected on a show of hands:

President:	Eric Brown
Chairman	Eric Richardson
Vice-Chairman	Darryl Hardcastle
Secretary	Karina Bryant
Treasurer	John Gardner
Auditor	Alan Gosling
County League Secretary	Paul Barber
Senior Match Secretary	Nikki Richardson
Vice Presidents	Mrs J Brewster, Mrs J Chamberlain, V Chamberlain, Mrs H Cowan, Mrs Y Harris, J Havers, Mrs S Jackson, Mr R Lee, Mrs S McCoig, E Summers and Mrs S Tyrell.

9. Any other Business.

b) BADMINTON England Regional Manager's Report

Matthew Warren, the BADMINTON England Regional Manager for the East of England, presented a report.

With only 414 days to go to the London Olympics, there was much preparation going on at BADMINTON England. As a result of the Olympics, BADMINTON England was certain that there would be an increase in demand from people wishing to play Badminton. Olympic focussed activity was underway with the aim of positioning Badminton as The Olympic sport. A National team meeting was due to be held later in the month to discuss this activity. A new website called PlayBadminton.co.uk was in the process of being set up, which aimed to increase Badminton participation across the country.

Within Essex, the Community Badminton Network ('CBN') structure was in operation, with CBNs in Harlow, Chelmsford, Thurrock, Tendring and Epping. There were now 16 more Primary schools within these CBNs offering Badminton to pupils. No strings

Badminton had been relatively successful and there was a continuation of the work carried out in educational establishments at all levels to promote Badminton and encourage school children and students to play. With effect from October 2011, there would be a dedicated officer at Anglian Ruskin Officer for Badminton.

In Essex, 464 new adults were playing Badminton once a week. There were 76 clubs containing 2,037 members, an increase of 2.3% on last season. It was important to help and support clubs that wished to grow. Both Clive Palmer and Matthew Warren were available to clubs should they require support or guidance on any matter.

Mr Havers commented that players should be encouraged to attend clubs which were affiliated. He also felt that Essex should consider appointing a Press Officer to help promote Badminton within the county.

b) Performance Centres ('PCs')

Clive Palmer reported that Suffolk Badminton had submitted an application for a PC in Ipswich, not far from the Essex border. This had the potential to attract players from Essex.

There were in excess of 40 players at the Redbridge PC, many of whom played at least twice a week. At the end of the season there were three Gold players (2010: two), eight Silver players (2010: two) and six Bronze players (2010: five). Players had won one Gold event, two Silver events and seven Bronze events.

Alison Pearson reported that court space at the PC in Basildon was limited at the David Lloyd centre. It was difficult to meet demand from players who wished to attend. Construction on a new facility at The William Edwards School, with planning permission for eight courts, was due to start imminently. Once built, the intention was to hold sessions at both the new facility and Basildon. In answer to a query, Mrs Pearson reported that court hire fees at the new facility would be affordable.

c) Questions from Members

The Chairman asked Members whether they had any questions for the ECBA Committee.

Following a discussion on the state of the ladies league, those representing the clubs agreed that more work was required to find a solution in order that the ladies could play competitive level doubles. There were various suggestions by those present and it was agreed that a specific meeting be convened at which such suggestions could be discussed and an agreement made.

It was agreed that notice of each season's fixture meeting should be brought forward.

10. Date of next AGM.

The AGM for 2012 would be held on Wednesday 13 June 2012 at Shenfield Parish Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.