

# **ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ('ECBA')**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') held at 8pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Shenfield Parish Hall**

### **1. Attendance**

Vice Presidents: Mrs Y Harris

Officers & Committee: Eric Richardson (Chairman), Eric Brown (President),  
John Gardner (Hon Treasurer), Allison Pearson,  
Clive Palmer, Helen Richardson

Other ECBA Members ('Members') representing: BADMINTON England, Danbury BC, Dragons BC, Emmerson Eagles BC, Fivelakes BC, Fitzwimarc BC, Frenford BC, Leighway BC, Locallife BC, Stanway BC, St Mary Magdalen BC, The Badminton Academy, Thurrock BC.

Eric Richardson took the Chair.

The Chairman opened the AGM of the ECBA, welcomed all those present and introduced members of the Senior Committee to the Meeting.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Darryl Hardcastle, Colin McBain, Carol Stammers, Karina Bryant, Rob Golding, Basil Tallah, Chris Burton, Nikki Richardson and Simon Gilhooly.

### **3. President's Remarks**

Eric Brown gave his President's Remarks.

Eric started by informing the meeting of the death of Bernard Spencer, who had been a member of Redbridge, had played for some years in the Essex League and had been a hard working Umpire and Committee member.

He went on to summarise the performance and successes of the county teams.

The Veterans O40 team did particularly well in winning the national finals of the Inter-Counties League and also their Division of the Inter-Counties Championship. The Junior Teams also achieved reasonable success across the age groups.

The Senior ICC teams had mixed success. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team finished last in the Premier 'A' division and are relegated to Premier 'B' next season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Team finished second in Division 1B, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> Team finished last in Division 3C and are relegated to Division 4 next season. As usual there were problems with a lack of ladies, making it difficult to get teams out at times.

Eric highlighted the fact that the County Committee is very small, although not through choice. We need those at this meeting to go out and assist with the recruitment of new volunteers. Helen Richardson has run many tournaments on behalf of the County, which again this season have made a significant profit. Darryl Hardcastle has also run a series of 1\* and 2\* Junior Tournaments for non county players which have attracted between 100 – 200 players.

Eric thanked John Gardner & Eric Richardson for their work on the committee, but reiterated that we need more members on the committee.

Eric said he currently works for BADMINTON England as Deputy Chair and Chairman of the BADMINTON England Board. Although he comes from Middlesex, he has a passion for Essex having taught, played and coached in the county. He is proud to be a member of the county.

#### **4. Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were reviewed with no issues raised. Following a proposal from Allison Pearson seconded by Gary Webb, the minutes were approved through a show of hands as a true record.

#### **5. Presentations**

The following awards and trophies were presented by Eric Brown:

##### **County Colours**

Senior:           First team:   Mina Clark (apologies)  
                      Second team: Alice King, Rob Golding (apologies), Basil Tallah (apologies)  
                      Third team:   Rebecca Terry, Matt Allum (not present)

Veterans:       Ross Ranson

##### **Note-Bene**

The Boy's trophy was presented to Sam Hampton (received on his behalf by John Hampton). Eric said Sam's game has developed well throughout the season and has beaten some of the best players in the country. He's a gentleman on court and a very nice person – a good example to everyone.

Catherine has been representing the county since she was 11 years old. She has worked hard and played well and is popular on the circuit – another good example for the county.

##### **County League Trophies**

Mens 1:           Leighway  
Mens 2:           Stanway  
Mixed 1:         Leighway 1  
Combination:    Leighway 1  
Ladies Doubles: Leighway Blue

## 6. Presentation of Reports

### a) *Junior Report*

The Junior Report produced by Helen Richardson was reviewed – click on the icon.



Essex Junior Report  
2012.pdf

One of the highlights was the U17 ICT in which Essex achieved 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 40. Many thanks to the coaching team of Andrew Brunning and Emma Skingsley supported by Steve Bish and Phil Turrell.

Many thanks to Helen for her work in organising county squad sessions and running tournaments.

### b) *Senior Report*

ICC Reports together with final league standings were prepared by Andy Frye (1<sup>st</sup> Team Manager), Lynne Swan (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Manager) and Charlotte Lane (acting 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Manager). Click on the icon.



Essex ICC Team  
Reports 2012.pdf

In summary the 1<sup>st</sup> team (Premier 'A') finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place and are relegated into Premier 'B' next season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team (Division 1B) finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Middlesex and will remain in the same division next season. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team (Division 3C) finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and will be relegated to Division 4 next season.

Many thanks to Andy Frye and Lynne Swan for managing the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> teams this season. Thanks also to Charlotte Lane helped (by Adam Sibley and Pennie Hackett) for taking on the role of acting Team Manager on behalf of Graham Lane, who sustained a serious injury at work before the start of last season. As Graham has now decided to give up the role of team, the Chairman thanked him for his work as team manager and wished him well in the future. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Manager / Coach role will be taken on by Lee Scott next season.

### c) *Masters Report*

Team Manager Reports for the various age groups were collated by Roy Lord and reviewed – click on icon.



Veterans Report  
2012.pdf

In summary the Masters had a good season overall, with teams in all age groups from O40 to O60 winning their respective regional ICLs and the O65s finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. However the highlight was the O40s going onto win the national ICL. They also finished winners of Division 1B in the ICC.

Many thanks to Roy Lord for his work as Masters Coordinator.

d) *County League Report*

John Gardner - County League Secretary published the final results of the County League competitions – click on icon.



Essex League table  
results 2012.pdf

John reported that most league competitions ran themselves. He did run the Ladies Doubles League, which was more of an experiment, but this was considered to be enjoyable and successful. However there was a shortage of younger ladies. There was considerable debate about the possible reason for this, in particular the impact of playing events on Saturday evenings.

Simon Gilhooly (Colchester) has made a number of proposals relating to the County League, which John and the League Committee will consider during the summer along with suggestions from all other clubs.

Pennie Hackett asked why some of the better clubs are playing in Herts & Middlesex in preference to the Essex League. The Chairman said it is actually some of the players who have joined clubs such as Paddocks in the Middlesex League, rather than the Essex Clubs joining other leagues.

Many thanks to John Gardner for his work in managing the County League.

## **7. Presentation of Accounts**

John Gardner (Treasurer) apologised that the Income & Expenditure Accounts published on the website and made available to those attending the meeting, were not the final audited version. This was an oversight which meant we would not be able to formally adopt them at this meeting. However, he would ensure the final version was published on the website as soon as possible. The difference in the Audited accounts was actually quite small and reflected adjustments made for old cheques not presented and the write back of provisions for cancelled events.

In overall terms, the ECBA Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2012 showed a profit of £2,533 compared with £6,593 last year. However total expenditure was significantly reduced from £7,962 to £6,016 due to the careful control of costs.

Income from membership fees for the year was down, partly due to the way in which we charged for Level 2 Affiliation fees this year. However the overall impact on income is much less than it would have been a few years ago, as a significant percentage now comes from running tournaments and other events. This year ECBA net worth stands at £15,567 compared with

£12,018 last year. Although our net worth may appear quite high, we do require a buffer to cater for fluctuations in income and expenditure, which can easily result from running major events. In fact BADMINTON England guidelines suggest associations should have 6 months working capital in reserve, which is roughly where we are at present.

Pennie Hackett asked how membership levels have changed over the last 2 years. John Gardner said he didn't have the exact numbers available but they're not thought to be very different.

For the reasons mentioned previously, proposers & seconders for adopting the accounts were not requested, but John Gardner confirmed the final audited figures would be available on the Badminton Essex website very soon. The corrected version of the accounts will be presented for adoption at next year's AGM (along with next year's, 2012-13, accounts).

The Chairman thanked John for his work in managing the accounts.

## **8. Election and Re-Election of Officers**

The following Officers, with the exception of the Hon. Secretary, had all agreed to continue in their respective roles. They were proposed by the Committee, seconded by Members and elected or re-elected on a show of hands:

President:	Eric Brown
Chairman	Eric Richardson
Vice-Chairman	Darryl Hardcastle
Secretary	Vacant (Due to Karina Bryant stepping down). The Chairman thanked Karina for her support and asked the meeting if they knew of anyone who would be interested in the role. Unfortunately there were no volunteers.
Treasurer	John Gardner
Auditor	Alan Gosling
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.

The Chairman thanks all Officers of the Association and all other Committee members and Volunteers for all their hard work during the year.

## **9. Any other Business.**

### *a) BADMINTON England Matters*

Eric Brown outlined in some detail proposed changes to BADMINTON England's Articles of Association and Standing Orders which will be the subject of voting at the forthcoming AGM. If approved, the BADMINTON England Council will no longer exist and Members of the Badminton Association of England will in future be invited to attend four General Meetings per year.

Eric Brown asked for the meeting's agreement to the proposed changes, which he could take forward to the BADMINTON England AGM. This was approved by the meeting through a show of hands.

BADMINTON England have developed a Transgender Policy which is going through the final stages of approval. It should be available on their website by September 2012.

*b) BADMINTON England Regional Manager East - Matthew Warren.*

Matthew Warren gave a report on progress and developments in the Eastern Region which included the following highlights:-

BE Inspired campaign. Looking for volunteers to man BADMINTON England stands at Olympic Live events at locations such as Hyde Park, Wembley, Norwich & Bedford. .

Developing and introducing new adults into badminton. Sport England targets are measured through the Active People Survey. There are currently 400 new adult players in Essex, but we need to get another 400 each year while retaining all existing players. Ladies only sessions are popular.

CBNs have been established in Epping, Basildon, Thurrock, Tendring / Colchester, Chelmsford - links with Anglia Ruskin University.

No Strings Badminton continues to grow. 3 Franchises have been established with Chelmsford District Council in addition to the University. Leaflets will be handed out to some of the 10,000 people expected to attend the Olympic Torch Rally at Hylands Park.

Eric Brown reported that BE are submitting a funding bid to Sport England. They hope to get the same as last year. However focus will have to be 14 to 25 year olds, as Sport England don't support primary age players. Initiatives include introducing a club league, also looking at a national senior club league.

There is a major club development programme based on offering 190 clubs financial and practical support based on what they see as their weaknesses. Also a programme to move players from No Strings into clubs.

Essex have benefited from BADMINTON England funding for the development of facilities, including Bower Park School, Redbridge Sports Centre and William Edwards School. Essex now have some excellent badminton venues with multiple courts including Harlow (8), Redbridge (12), University of East London (20), William Edwards (8) and Sport House, Dagenham (around 28).

The facility at William Edwards will enable us to start making real improvements to badminton in Essex. It's only 5 mins to the Dartford Crossing and 2 mins to the A13.

*c) William Edwards update - presentation by Allison Pearson.*

Allison gave a presentation on progress with William Edwards new Sports Hall which is nearing completion. This has 8 in line courts and is marked out solely for badminton. Outside of school hours, it will be used primarily by the Badminton Academy Performance Centre and Badminton Essex for all home matches, although it will be made available to clubs and individuals will be able to use it. Charges are likely to be £6 per court hour for the PC, County and clubs, slightly more for individuals.

**10. Date of next AGM.**

The AGM for 2013 would be held on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at Shenfield Parish Hall.

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