

ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ('ECBA')

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') held at 8pm on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at Shenfield Parish Hall

1. Attendance

Vice Presidents: Mrs Y Harris, Mr J Havers

Officers & Committee: Eric Richardson (Chairman), Eric Brown (President),
John Gardner (Hon Treasurer), Allison Pearson,
Helen Richardson, Darryl Hardcastle, Carol Stammers

Other ECBA Members ('Members') representing: B&BP BC, Chase BC, Chelmsford Casuals BC, Colchester Badminton Federation, Danbury BC, Davenant BC, Dragons BC, Eastwood BC, Five Lakes BC, Leighway BC, Ramgarhia BC, Redbridge BC, Riverside BC, Stanway BC, The Badminton Academy, Thurrock BC & Westcliff 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 Amanda Austin, Shirley Jackson, Sheila McCoig, Gary Webb, Trevor Rogers, Hawkwell BC.

3. President's Remarks

Eric Brown gave his President's Remarks saying that it had been a very busy but enjoyable season. From an accounting position the county had done well, showing an increase in profits.

Our Senior County teams achieved mixed success this season. The 1st Team finished ninth in the Premier Division and are relegated to Division 1. The 2nd Team won Division 3 without losing a tie and are promoted to Division 2. The 3rd Team finished a strong second and remain in Division 4.

The Masters achieved considerable success in the County Championships this season. The O40s and O45s both won the National Finals in the age groups and the O50s came second to Yorkshire.

Highlights of the junior season, were the U17 County Challenge (ICT) where Essex finished in 6th place and the Essex U13 team winning the National Finals of the Shires League played in Wolverhampton.

Mixed Doubles Div 1: Stanway
Mixed Doubles Div 2: Leighway
Mixed Combination: Leighway

6. Presentation of Reports

a) *Junior Report*

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



Essex Junior Squad
Report 2014.pdf

The Essex U17 team achieved their highest position in the U17 County Challenge for many years, finishing in a very creditable 6th place out of 36. Many thanks to their coaching team - Steve Bish, Emma Skingsley and Phil Turrell.

Although the U13s only came 9th overall in their group matches, they won their regional play-offs against Leicestershire 20-0 and then went on to beat Warwickshire 13-7 in the National Finals played at Wolverhampton. An excellent achievement.

b) *Senior Report*

Essex Senior County Reports are attached. Click on the icon.



Essex CC Team
Reports 2014.pdf

1st team. After regaining promotion to the Premier Division this season, the 1st team finished 9 out of 10 and are relegated again to Division 1. Many thanks to Andy Frye who has managed the team for the last few seasons, but is now stepping down.

2nd team. Following their relegation to Division 3, the 2nd team had a good season in spite of team selection difficulties at times. They topped their division comfortably ahead of their nearest rivals Kent and gain promotion to Division 2 next season. Congratulations go to Nicola Waller in her first season as 2nd Team Manager.

3rd team. Led once again by Team Manager Lee Scott, the 3rd team had a good season overall, finishing second in their division after losing only to a strong Middlesex team home and away. Many thanks to Lee and John Scott for all their work.

c) *Masters Report*

The Essex Masters teams continue to achieve considerable success at many age groups in both the County Championships and the County Challenges. The highlights were in the O40s and O45s County Championships where we won their respective National Finals. Many thanks go to Roy Lord for his work as Masters Coordinator.

A summary of the results is attached. Click on icon.



Essex Masters Report
2014.pdf

d) *County League Report*

There were no specific matters arising from the County League. Many thanks to John Gardner who is standing down as County League Secretary after three years. Thanks also to the League Committee. The role of League Secretary is being taken on by Simon Gilhooly.

7. **Presentation of Accounts**

John Gardner (Treasurer) presented the Income & Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31st March 2014. He apologised for last year's accounts being published on this year's AGM section of the Essex website, however hard copies of the correct version were available to those attending the meeting.

Key points from this year's accounts are that profits from running tournaments are up from £8672 last year to £9799 this year, although income from membership fees were down from £6385 to £4544. The association's Net Worth is now £31K.

John Havers asked why there was such a decline in membership fees? The answer is partly due to changes in the structure of Badminton England's membership scheme, which has led to a significant reduction in the number of junior affiliated clubs, coupled with fewer members. Essex also previously charged players an additional fee for county representation, but BE have now included county representation within the benefits of their membership fee.

Although membership figures nationally appear to be holding up, club membership seems to be suffering. John Havers said he thought a club structure for player development was essential.

From an Essex CBA perspective, we used to be an association funded almost solely by membership fees, but are now very much more dependent on funding from tournaments.

Dave Spurling asked if there were any plans to hold a Masters tournament in Essex. Simon Gilhooly said we are trying to get a date from Badminton England during the 2015/16 season.

Following the proposal by Darryl Hardcastle and seconded by Allison Pearson, the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 were approved and adopted.

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

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

The following Officers 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. We are still seeking a volunteer to take on this role.
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.

John Havers emphasised the need for volunteers to come forward in order for the Association to thrive and said we owe a debt of gratitude to all those currently involved.

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

9. Any other Business.

1. BADMINTON England update - Eric Brown.

Membership. Eric Brown doesn't believe it is inevitable that membership numbers will continue to decrease. We currently rely on clubs to collect and forward membership fees, but perhaps this needs to change. BE need to look at the whole process of collecting fees. Clubs not getting their juniors to pay the £4 membership fee are doing them a disservice, as among other benefits it enables them to enter tournaments online and provides insurance cover. Although BE has increased junior club membership fees by £1, the county fee remains at £0.50p.

Sport England. Sport England have reduced total funding to BE by £0.5M and state funding must only be used to support projects associated with increased participation for players above the age of 14. This has resulted in money being taken from the coaching and talent pathway. However without Sport England funding we would be facing a £2M deficit. Having said that BE do have strong reserves.

The 2014/15 budget will be set to break even, so all activities will come under close scrutiny. As an example of the problems faced, members want to continue with the ICC (Inter - County Championships), but in 2013/14 these made a loss of £60K.

Coaching / Coach Education. Badminton England are introducing a coach licensing scheme for coaches at Level 2 (and above) who give a commitment to CPD (Continuous Professional Development). The scheme will offer significant benefits to both coaches and players. Coaches joining the scheme will be issued with an Active Passport. At present only 10% currently qualify.

Uber Cup. The England Women's Team qualified for the Uber Cup winning their group, but lost to the holders China in the last 16. The running of England teams is funded by Badminton England. This event alone cost £10K.

Tournament Admin Fee. BE are introducing a Tournament Admin fee from the start of next season for all circuit events. Tournament Organisers will be required to pay £2.50 to BE for each player entering their tournament. This goes towards supporting BE's ranking and grading system.

Badminton England - Summer of Badminton. Since Sport England funding is based on increasing player participation - measured by the Active People Survey, it is important we encourage players to get involved during the off season. BE are actively promoting a number of initiatives during the summer including Battle Badminton League, Smash Ups and Essentials courses.

CBNs (Community Badminton Networks). Working with the BE Partnership Manager (East) Rhiannon Smith, we have established or are planning to establish CBNs in the following areas: Colchester, Chelmsford, Basildon, Southend & Castle Point, Redbridge, Havering & Newham.

Junior Club League. BE are trialling a number of formats for a Junior Club League competition this year. Essex have accepted an invitation to be part of the trial called the Junior Trail Blazers League, which is currently in the planning stage.

2. Questions from the floor.

Will the Essex County League be the same format as last year?

Simon Gilhooly said he is contacting all clubs inviting them to enter the league. There have been various proposals for changing the structure, but until he knows which teams are entering it cannot be finalised. Entries are required by the beginning of August, with final decisions being made before the Fixtures meeting in early September.

10. Date of next AGM.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at Shenfield Parish Hall.

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