

# ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ('ECBA')

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') held at 8pm on Wednesday 9 June 2010 at Shenfield Parish Hall

### 1. Attendance

Vice Presidents: Mrs Y Harris, Mr J Havers

Officers & Committee: Eric Brown (President), 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, Fitzwimark BC, Epping BC, Leighway BC, Trinity BC, Chipmunks JBC, Stanway BC, Chelmsford Casuals BC, Redbridge SC, Eastwood BC, The Badminton Academy, Frenford BC, Five Lakers BC, St. Aidens Leigh BC, Rangarhia BC, All Nations BC, Westcliff BC and Essex Junior and Senior 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.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Sandy Kurik, Paul Barber, Roy Lord, Thelma Thompson, Gary Webb, Lynne Swan, Nicola Waller and Chris Dakin.

### 3. Presidents Remarks

#### a) *Essex Team and Individual Results*

Eric Brown reported that the various Essex senior teams had performed well throughout the 2009/10 season. The Essex Senior 1st team did particularly well not to be relegated after a season rife with availability issues, especially amongst the ladies. The 2nd team came second, just losing out to Kent 2nds. The 3rd team was clearly the best team in its division and had therefore won promotion up to Division Four. Eric thanked Karina Bryant, Lynne Swan and Graham Lane for acting as Team Managers.

The Essex junior teams were congratulated for reaching the ICC finals and achieving the finishing positions as per expectations.

b) *Community Badminton Networks*

Eric Brown was pleased to report that three Community Badminton Networks ('CBNs') had been set-up in Newham, Epping and Tendring during the season. The aim of the CBNs was to develop and raise the profile of Badminton at a local level.

c) *Performance Centres*

Eric Brown commended Allison Pearson and Clive Palmer for all their hard work in relation to the Performance Centres they ran in Basildon and Redbridge respectively. The building of a purpose built Badminton Hall attached to The William Edward was at the planning stage, the idea being that Allison would run the Basildon Performance Centre from the new hall.

d) *BADMINTON England*

After carrying out the role of President of BADMINTON England for two sessions (the limit laid down by the BADMINTON England constitution), John Havers was standing down as President and seeking election as a Vice President at the BADMINTON England AGM. Eric congratulated John on a successful tenure as President. Two individuals were standing to replace John as President: Geoff Rofe and John Foster, both of whom had the credentials to serve the interests of Badminton in England well. No Member had a particular preference for either individual and all Members were happy for Eric Brown to use his judgment when voting on Essex' behalf.

e) *Miscellaneous*

The new Olympic Badminton training facility in Redbridge was due for completion in July 2011.

Eric Brown congratulated Leighway BC, who had reached the finals of the BADMINTON England Cup for the third year running.

He thanked all those seated on the ECBA Committee for all their hard work throughout the season. He gave special thanks to all the players, whether they were juniors, seniors or veterans for their vital contributions to Badminton in Essex.

**4. Minutes of the AGM held on 10 June 2009**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 10 June 2009 were reviewed. Following a proposal from Yvonne Harris (Helen Turrell 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: Rohan Kapoor, Emma Skingsley, Nicola Waller, Eddie Chow, Andrew Brunning and Chris Dakin

Second team: Mark Law

Third team: Emma Harris, Alice King, Dave Wenn, Kaleem Bhatti and Adam Sibley

Veterans: Mair Dew, Donna Tubb, Simon Gilhooly, Lesley Pallett, Neil Easton and John Kindred.

### Note-Bene

The Boy's Trophy was presented to Tony Moon and the Girl's to Mina Clark, both of whom had performed particularly well throughout the season.

### County League Trophies

Mens 1:	Frenford
Mens 2:	Ramgahria
Mixed 1:	Leighway 1
Ladies American:	Frenford
Combination:	Leighway 1

## **6. Presentation of Reports**

### *a) Junior Report*

A report prepared by Helen Turrell was reviewed.

The U11s were very much a work in progress.

Essex won the Eastern Region U12 event. The U13s were winners of the Eastern Region single sex event for lower graded players (both boys and girls). The U13s finished third in the Shires League Group and were runners-up in the Team Challenge in their region, coming ninth in the National Finals. At the end of the season, there were six Grade Two players, a number of which would continue to be U13 next season.

The U14s were runners-up in the Eastern Region event. The U15s narrowly missed out on winning the Shires League after losing to Herts, but performed very well in the National Finals to finish fifth. In the Team Challenge, they were runners-up in the region and finished ninth in the National Finals. The season ended with one Grade One player and ten Grade Twos.

The U16s won the Eastern Region event. The U17s finished second after Bucks in the Shires League and came eighth in the National Finals. In the ICT, played at Nottingham University, the team finished tenth. The season ended with four Grade One players and nine Grade twos.

Helen was disappointed to report that the County lost the venue being used for regular county training sessions at Christmas and an alternative venue had not yet been found. However, ECBA was looking to utilise the coaching expertise provided by the two Performance Centres for regular junior training.

Darryl Hardcastle had coordinated the introduction of Forza One and Two Star tournaments throughout the season, which had proven to be successful and very well

attended. The Forza One events were aimed at school children and the Forza Two at those that played at clubs. County team members were not eligible to play in these events.

*b) Senior Report*

A 1st and 2nd team report prepared by Karina Bryant was reviewed. The 2009/10 season turned out to be a tough one for the 1st team, with availability issues resulting in the nominated players having to be supported by various non-regular players. In particular, special thanks went to the ladies who found themselves on a singles court (Emma Skingsley, Lynne Swan, Nicola Waller and Viv Gillard). Congratulations went to Joel Gayle, who won 13 out of 18 matches, had seven mixed doubles matches with five different partners and produced victories in both of his two singles ties; Rohan Kapoor, who turned up for his debut and came away with a clean sheet of four wins out of four; Atu Sagita, who played one weekend but won all six of her matches; Sarah Walker, who won eight out of ten matches; and both Andrew Brunning and Eddie Chow for having a good first season in Premier A. These special performances, however, were backed up by all the other players who represented the Essex 1st team this season. Karina was pleased to report that Essex finished the season joint sixth with Middlesex.

The 2nd team benefitted from the experience of many ex- regular 1st team players during the season, with Ian Pearson, Danny Plant, Karina Bryant, Lynne Swan and Lorna Booth playing in virtually every match. Combined with quality regular players such as Chris Dakin, Rohan Kapoor, Mark Law, Nicola Waller and Emma Skingsley, the squad was particularly strong. Kent, however, turned out to be stronger and just beat Essex to victory in Division One.

A 3rd team report prepared by Graham Lane was reviewed. The team had an excellent season recording eight wins and no losses and, as a result, gaining promotion to Division Four. Team spirit was especially good throughout the season. Several players made their Essex debut: Balpreet Chager, Beth McDonough, Rachel Gauntley, Clare Roberts and Miles Milner. These players supported the team regulars: Basil Tallah, Kaleem Bhatti, Dave Wenn, Adam Sibley, Justine Miller, Emma Harris, Charlotte Lane and Alice King.

*c) Veterans Report*

A report prepared by Roy Lord was reviewed.

The season had, yet again, been busy with tournaments and matches in all age groups from O45 to O60. There was an opportunity for the O70s to play matches next season, albeit on a friendly basis.

The first major tournament of the season was the World Championships in September 2009, held in Spain. Essex was well represented and was awarded three bronze medals, four silver medals and John Gardner and Peter Emptage won gold in the O55 men's doubles.

The National Championships were held in December 2009 and Essex players were runners-up in four events and winners in five (O40 men's doubles: Dave Wood and Rajeev Bagga; O45 ladies doubles: Viv Gillard and Sue Crompton; O50 men's doubles: Kim Yong; O55 men's doubles: John Gardner and Peter Emptage; and O55 mixed doubles: Peter Emptage and Pam Dallow).

The All England was held in March 2010 in Milton Keynes with a truly international entry. Again Essex players brought home medals: runners-up in two events and winners in two (O40 mixed doubles: Dave Wood and Viv Gillard; and O50 men's doubles: Kim Yong).

d) *County League Report*

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

The 2009/10 season had been relatively trouble free. The scorecards website was rebuilt at the start of the season, which delayed registrations and the entering of early match scores. There were still enhancements to be made to the system, but despite these, it seemed to be working pretty well. Overall, most clubs found it a better process than posting match cards and waiting for the sporadic publication of league tables. Paul would be looking at rewriting the County League rules ahead of next season, mainly to include use of the online score card system. He was happy to receive proposals from Members on further changes.

## **7. Presentation of Accounts**

John Gardner (Treasurer) presented the ECBA Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2010 ('the Accounts'), which showed a loss of £9,116. The ECBA net worth equated to £5,425.09 as at 31 March 2010 (2009: 14,018) and turnover for the year was £42,919 (2009: £56,610) representing income from tournament entry fees, coaching fees, donations, bank interest, match fees and other contributions to match expenses, various sales and prizes won.

The poor state of the Accounts had led the ECBA Committee to pay particular attention to reducing or at least maintaining costs at current levels as appropriate, but increasing income. As a consequence, the Committee proposed an increase in affiliation fees from £4 to £5 per Member. Darryl Hardcastle proposed this increase (seconded by Helen Turrell) and, following a vote on a show of hands, the increase in affiliation fees was approved.

Mr Gardner reported that various cost cutting measures were under discussion, such as reducing junior coaching and instead working with the Performance Centres to provide coaching. The Committee would be holding a specific Budget meeting to discuss the ECBA's financial situation.

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 John Havers (Allison Pearson seconded) and a vote on a show of hands, the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 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 - Update*

Eric Brown reported that the BWF had officially replaced the old style 'best of three to fifteen' scoring system with the rally point 'best of three to 21' system. However, the BWF had not ruled out using the old system should it continue to be appropriate to do so. Eric encouraged local district leagues to move to rally point scoring if they had not already done so, as juniors would not understand the old scoring.

The BWF had ruled that it was mandatory for Badminton posts not to protrude on to the court, however BADMINTON England along with a few other countries had voted against this rule. BADMINTON England proposed that this requirement only be mandatory at international level.

A proposal to amend the constitution documents of BADMINTON England (the Articles of Association) in order to change the subscription year from 1 October to 30 September to 1 November to 31 October was being put forward at the BADMINTON England AGM. The Members did not raise any issues with such a change.

Should anyone have any points that he/she would like raised with BADMINTON England, Eric Brown reported that he was happy to do so.

### *b) Community Badminton Networks ('CBNs')*

Clive Palmer reported on the progress of various CBNs in Essex.

Newham: Ramgarhia and Black Arrows had recently taken part in an EFDS disability course and would be taking part in a Badminton specific disability workshop. Ramgarhia were running two Bronze events next season as well as a Back to Badminton five week beginner's course. Newham Council were hoping to set up a women's session in the Manor Park area. There would be Level one and Level Two coaching courses running in Newham before March 2011, details of which would be circulated.

Tendring: Three new junior sessions had started in Harwich, Manningtree and Brightlingsea. A Level one coaching course was taking place in February 2011 and a coaching development course was being arranged for Level Two coaches.

Epping: A new junior club had started, which had 19 members. A further junior club would be set-up at King Harold School in September 2010. Davenant would be hosting a Level Two coaching course in July 2010 and a Level One course in January 2011.

With the help of funding from Sport Essex, three No Strings sessions were due to start ahead of next season, at Epping, Ongar and Clacton sports centres.

c) *Performance Centres ('PCs')*

Basildon: Allison Pearson reported that the Basildon PC had been located at David Lloyd Leisure for two seasons. However, the current allocation of only four courts was restricting the PC's expansion plans. An opportunity had arisen to partner The William Edwards School to build a Badminton specific sports centre, which would be available for both the PC and the County should a venue be required for events. Further details would be available in due course.

Training at the Basildon PC had increased with opportunities now available to players every evening from Monday to Friday. Player development had been more successful at Primary level in 2009/10, with some talented young sports boys and girls choosing to play Badminton over other sports. There was evidence of improvement with some young players achieving National junior bronze, silver and gold ratings.

Redbridge: Clive Palmer reported that the PC had moved from Redbridge s.c. to Ilford County High School in January 2010. The school had four courts, all of which were used by the PC for four hours each on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. A total of 32 players regularly attended the sessions and, although the definitions of the three standards (Raw, Developing and Emerging) were not clear, Clive considered that five players could be deemed Emerging, 14 Developing and 13 Raw.

Players from the Redbridge PC had succeeded in National and local tournaments during the season. One player had achieved a gold ranking, five players a silver ranking and six bronze. Victor Chiew was ranked 81 at U19 despite being only 16 years old. The PC had formed a good partnership with East London University's sports science laboratory with a series of fitness tests carried out on players. Fitness sessions were in the process of being arranged at Redbridge s.c. Strong links had been developed with Emerson Eagles, a Havering club, which had resulted in three new players joining the PC.

d) *Questions from Members*

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

Pennie Hackett enquired as to whether the Committee had considered changing the constitution of the County League in order to try and increase the number of players participating within it. There had been examples of other counties who had made changes.

Eric Brown said that the Committee were open to suggestions and would be happy to discuss any proposals that Members might have. In his experience at BADMINTON

England, a reduction in the number of players competing in county leagues was a National problem. He was aware of various counties that had looked to change the structure of their respective leagues, however, many of these changes might not be suitable for Essex. Each county was different, for example, the manner in which players and clubs were dispersed across the county might dictate the constitution of the league or restrict the number of changes that could be made.

**10. Date of next AGM.**

The AGM for 2011 would be held on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at Shenfield Parish Hall.

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