

CASTLE BROMWICH BADMINTON CLUB
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 16TH June 2008

Venue: Jaguar Sports & Social Club

Present: Lynne Allen, Gail Bove, Roy Bimson, Les Burford, Dave Ridley, Cyril Tutt, Keith Priestly, Fiona Moore, Iain Sharpe, Mike Conlon, Eddie and Niall Pocock

Apologies: Colin Talbot, Jill Dorman, John Kr. Bridget Butterworth, Sim Lodhi, Geoff Allen

1. Minutes of last meeting held on Monday 16TH June 2007
- 1.1 Proposed by Cyril that minutes of last year's meeting were agreed as true record of the meeting. Seconded by Keith - Carried.
2. Chairperson's Report
- 2.1 In a written statement (see separate sheet) Geoff thanked everybody for their contributions.
- 2.2 He commented on the facilities at Park Hall and looked forward to improvements in the new centre despite the anticipated increased costs
- 2.3 He said that we needed to attract youngsters experienced or not.
- 2.4 He commented on the Steve West memorial award and explained that we would be covering this later in the agenda.
- 2.5 He said that unfortunately he would be leaving the club for personal reasons and was therefore standing down as chairperson but wished the club every success in the future.
3. Treasurer's Report
- 3.1 Cyril on behalf of Colin presented the year's income and expenditure for the season 2007/08
- 3.2 Colin reported that the club has made a profit of £240.96 this year, had paid £26 Steve West Award and had received £269 in day membership fees. There were also the ongoing costs of the web site.
- 3.3 Hall fees were £1137, shuttles cost £139 and we had club T-shirts in hand still to sell.
- 3.4 Cyril also stated that the club membership is OK and from a financial point of view it has been a fairly successful year for the club we had received £1760 in fees (excluding day membership).
- 3.5 Badminton England submissions were £262, Warwickshire Fees £91.45
- 3.6 Colin was thanked for his hard work over last season.
4. Fees
- 4.1 Proposal was to leave the membership fees to be decided latter in the summer because of the uncertainty over the cost of the new sports hall . It was proposed by Mike Conlon seconded by Gail and agreed by the AGM that match fees should be £2 and £4 for visitors fees at the start of the new season .All other fees to remain the same in the meantime.
- 4.2 It was also proposed by Cyril that the collection date should be quarterly if there was a substantial increase in hall costs but Roy pointed out that we have to registration with Badminton England in September for the year and also we would have to secure the courts in the new centre for the whole year.

Existing members	<i>Currently £65 if paid by first Monday in Oct 2008, otherwise £70 but under review late Aug/ Sept</i>
Team Captains	Reduction in fees of £1.50 per home match played
Junior Fees	£2 per night
Visitor Fees	£4 per night (this to be off-set against yearly subs if they join the club)
Match fees	£2 per person who plays for each game played in all leagues both home and away

4.3 Club starts back to Park hall Mon 4th July

5. Club Secretary Report

5.1 Membership had improved – we lost 2 this year there were 6 gains but since some prospective members arrived just before we closed then they might not return.

5.2 The booking of North Solihull at Christmas and during the summer exams had been moderately successful but was marred by people who had committed to come not turning up and not paying their dues and also by people who had turned up also not paying the £5 for the whole seasons.

5.3 Not many people use the club website but on the positive side there had been a quite a few leads from prospective members because of it and indeed we had gained members as a result.

5.4 It was disappointing that new comers were not always made to feel welcome. Everyone should play a part in this.

5.5 Email was being used as the primary communication media as before but again some disappointment in responses from some members.

5.6 The club is still affiliated to Badminton England and with Warwickshire Badminton and so we now have club insurance as a result. It was agreed to continue with this

5.7 Roy was thanked for his work over last season but he mentioned that he would be looking to hand over to someone else once the new hall was set up.

6. Match Secretary Report

6.1 Les reported that the year had been generally ok; there were the usual rearrangements. Calthorpe once again being problematic but no real problems otherwise.

6.2 Les was thanked for his hard work over the last season.

7. Team Captains Report

7.1 Mens 1 – Roy reported that there had been no major problems fielding a side, mainly due to only one men's team being entered this season. A steady team was fielded in the main and Roy thanked all those who had played and stood in over the season performance was poorer than hoped for but several matches went to 5 4.

7.2 Mixed– - Roy reported that the session had not been so good in terms of results although there were fewer problems fielding teams the results seemed on the surface to be poor. However of the ones we lost several were to 5 4.

7.3 Ladies 1 Bham – Gail said that the team were up against strong opposition again this season but with fewer teams in the division 3. We finished bottom.

8. Social Secretary Report

8.1 Cyril reported that the Skittles event had had a good turnout, but was difficult to organise. The Dogs would be hard work to get people to attend because of the increased costs. There were suggestion to have beer and skittles night again in Nov

9. Election of committee

9.1	Cyril Tutt	Chairperson
	Colin Talbot	Treasurer
	Les Burford	Match Secretary
	Roy Bimson	Club Secretary (but see note)
	Sim Lodhi	Social Secretary (agreed after the meeting)
	Gail Bove	Equipment Officer
	Eddie Pocock	Ad Hoc fee collection and form completion

10. Teams for next season

10.1 Mens – one team. Iain captain
Ladies Bham – one team. Fiona captain
Mixed Bham – one team. Roy captain
Battledore –no team will be entered

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Steve West memorial – Keith had come to an arrangement with Central Sports to contribute £50 each to a voucher for goods to be bought at Central Sports for the person or club who contributed most to youth badminton. Keith would speak to Central sports again re timescales etc.

11.2 Yonex 300 shuttles are the only shuttles to be purchased but yellow ones will be needed if North Solihull is used again.

11.3 Peg board arrangements need to be explained to any new attendees.

11.4 It was likely that the new sports hall at Park Hall School would be timetabled to be ready for Nov 2008 school term. Roy and Cyril had managed to get the walls painted in a blue colour. Mike suggested putting photos of new centre on web site. Fiona suggested a campaign to see who would pay up to £200 per year in subs. Also a direct debt scheme was suggested for collection of subs on an ongoing basis.

11.5 Roy stated that the club seems to have forgotten about the youth policy. He suggested better links to Parkhall school once new centre was open. It was stated that if we should continue to have 'sessions' for school age children if they could be persuaded to come along

11.6 Other discussion about attracting new players each agreed to speak to any players they saw at other venues to see if they are interested in playing at Castle Bromwich.

Meeting closed 9.50.

Dear Club Members.

First of all, I would like to offer my sincere apologies for not being present at the AGM this evening. When I originally agreed this date with Roy, Cyril and Colin I had every reason to believe I too would also be available, but unfortunately I was asked by my work to attend a 3-day conference in Berlin.

I have therefore prepared a Chairman's statement which I have asked Lynne to read out to you. Obviously I am unable to answer directly any questions you may have of me, but hopefully one of the other committee members will be able to deal with your queries.

Generally, I feel the last 12 months have been reasonably good for CBBC. Monday nights have been well attended, and Friday evenings particularly when there have not been any matches have also proved popular. I'm also delighted to report that during the year we have also welcomed a number of new members, some of whom I hope are present this evening. In fact, compared to this time last year the number of fully paid up members is now 28, which is an increase of 6 over the last 12 months. As far as club funds go, for the year just ended we had a net surplus of £240, which means our total net funds balance is just over £1,860. Colin will go into these in more detail with you shortly.

However we must not rest on our laurels as we have some difficult decisions to make in the near future which will materially affect how the club functions. More on this later.

On the team front, we entered 3 teams into the Birmingham league, namely Ladies, Men's and Mixed. Each of the respective team captains will give a brief report on the successes or otherwise of past season, but I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Team Captains for their efforts and to everyone who represented the club, some of whom played at very short notice. As usual we will need to consider what teams we will want to enter into the league for the next season. If you would like to represent the club and play competitive badminton, then please speak with one of the team captains.

Steven West award.

Most of us still fondly remember Steve and it was in his memory that the Steven West award was established. The principle is that, each year, an individual from within the Birmingham league badminton community would be presented with an award of £150 worth of vouchers to be spent by the recipient at Central Sports in Coventry. CBBC provide 50% of that value (£75) with Central Sports providing the other 50%.

Last year was the first year the award was made, and 2 nominations were made to the league. The first was Abdul Ali-Akbar, a 9 year old with Aston Villa juniors and currently the youngest player in the league. The nomination was made on the basis that Abdul had been playing regularly since he was 7 and shows outstanding potential. The second nomination was Paul Harris of Solihull and Shirley who over the last 4 years has established a very successful Junior section of the club, entered Junior members in various competitions (including a graded tournament in Germany which they won) and was also fundamental in achieving Silvermark status for the club.

The Committee members considered both applications and unanimously felt that, whilst Abdul's achievements so far were significant, his opportunities still lay in front of him; whereas Paul had returned to the club where he had been a Junior member and having found, as so many of us are finding, that there were a dearth of Juniors playing badminton, tried to do something about it. He did this by not only forming a new junior section, but also by, for example, helping to organise

tournaments so that the Juniors could get competitive experience and also by introducing them to the adult leagues when appropriate. Accordingly the Committee felt that Paul's contribution was much akin to what Steve's aims were and that Paul should be the inaugural recipient of the Steven West award. The presentation to Paul was made to him during the late summer last year. I believe nominations for this year's recipient close shortly, and the new Committee will have the pleasurable task of determining the worthy recipient in due course.

So having looked back over the last 12 months, what about the future? I see 2 major issues on the horizon which we will need to address urgently, namely the continuing falling popularity of badminton generally and the facilities at Park Hall school.

Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the likes of Gail Emms and Nathan Robertson, Badminton remains a minority sport in the UK, with clubs generally finding it increasingly difficult to attract newcomers, particularly juniors, to the sport when football, rugby, cricket etc. have a much higher profile. This is not just an issue for CBBC, in fact I believe most of the badminton clubs in the area are feeling these pressures and there's no easy answer. That we have managed to increase our membership over the last 12 months is of course good news, and my thanks go to everyone who has helped promote CBBC as a competitive yet friendly and sociable club. However to survive we need to continue to attract new members and this is not just the responsibility of the members of the committee. CBBC is a member's club, and it is therefore the responsibility of all members to try and find and encourage as many new members as possible. I would also ask you to bear in mind that, whilst we would all like newcomers to be proficient at the game, I think in this day and age this is an unreasonable expectation, and as long as prospective members show a desire to learn and improve at the game we should not discriminate against them just because that are not very experienced. After all, please remember we were all beginners once.

However the biggest issue of the last year and the one that the vast majority of members were most unhappy with has to be the quality of the present facilities at Park Hall school. We are all aware that a new school, together with a new sports hall are currently under construction. Whilst I can imagine you are all looking forward to playing in a new, modern sports hall with fully functioning hot showers and toilets, this will also not be without its own problems. We have been very fortunate over the last few years in that the cost of renting the current sports hall on Monday and Friday evenings has remained both fairly static and competitively priced when compared with comparable facilities in the vicinity. However initial indications are that the cost of the new facilities will be significantly more than we are currently paying. This is not helped by the fact that the City Council seem to be focusing more on attracting 'pay-as-you-play' hourly rentals rather than block bookings by clubs like ours. Roy and Colin will take you through the various options later, and whilst it is not appropriate for me to influence the debate you will be having, I would like to make it quite clear that for us to continue 'as is' once the new sports hall is operational will not be an option.

As most of you will know, my company is in the process of reorganising its various regional energy trading businesses into a single Europe-wide operation. Accordingly Lynne and I will be relocating to Düsseldorf in north-west Germany for a period of at least 2 years around late August, early September. However this does mean that we will not be rejoining the club in the autumn and I will also be standing down as Chairman with effect from this AGM. The club therefore needs to find itself a new Chairman and I trust someone will be prepared to volunteer themselves. I can honestly say that this role has proved to be one of the least intrusive volunteer roles I have undertaken; there were no formal meetings held during the last year and only a handful of 'discussions' between Committee members generally either during club night or via email. This is principally due to the positive and co-operative attitude all members have demonstrated, which does help

significantly in running and administering the club. To all of you, thank you for your co-operation. In addition, Lynne has acted as Equipment Secretary for the last few years. She will also be standing down tonight and again we are looking for someone to volunteer to take over the role. The principle responsibility is the ordering shuttles and ensuring that there are always enough shuttles of appropriate quality for club nights and to provide match shuttles to the team captains.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to express my personal thanks to my fellow Committee Members, Roy, Colin, Cyril and Les. Roy does a superb job in the 'day-to-day' running of the club as well as maintaining the club web site and also the sending of numerous emails to members keeping them informed on what is (or is not) happening. Colin has performed the role of Club Treasurer for a number of years now and yet again has provided us with a comprehensive set of accounts. Cyril readily takes on the organisation of any social functions and is also a major interface with both the school and the caretaker and Les performs an excellent job in his role as Match Secretary. Although not a formal Committee Member, I would also like to thank Dave Rogers for his assistance in the collection of both membership and visitors fees.

Well it only remains to wish you a successful meeting. Whilst Lynne and I will be relocating to Germany, we will be returning 'back home' to the UK on a regular basis, and should we find ourselves with either a Friday or Monday evening free we will certainly come along to meet our old friends and see if we can remember how to play this wonderful game of badminton.

Thank You.