

MINUTES OF THE SENIOR ASSOCIATION

Held at Chilwell School

3rd July 2023

Present Officers: John Briggs, Paul Adcock, Alan Hunt, Andy Tyas, Trevor Witts, Alison Bexon, Geoff Davison, Frances Fox, Sion Severn, Gill Maloney, Annabelle Hutchings, Janet Pickering

Representatives from the following Clubs: Arboretum, Beeston Braves, Beeston Fields, Beeston Valley, Bingham, Boots, Byron Carlton, Chilwell, Crusader, East Leake, Forest, Mapperley Park, North Notts Social, Radcliffe Knights, Rushcliffe Arena, Safari Badminton, Southwell, St Giles, Woodborough

1 Opening Address

The President, John Briggs, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Clubs: David Lloyd Aspley

Officers: David Martin, Rod Tyler, Caroline Bartlett

3 To approve the Minutes of last meeting on 4th July 2022

The President asked if there were any objections to the minutes of the last AGM meeting which were published in the Handbook. There were none.

4 Matters Arising from those minutes

There were none forthcoming that were not on today's Agenda.

5 Reports for tonight's meeting

These have been available to read on the NBA website.

6 Any Reports not published on the Website

The secretary confirmed that they had all been available.

Chairman, Paul Adcock, mentioned that the NBA financial accounts were published in a briefer format than usual as our new treasurer, Trevor Witts, has

only recently taken up his role and there are ongoing decisions being made about the Association finances and how these would be organised in the future. Full copies available if requested.

7 Election of Officers

John Briggs informed the meeting that a number of officers have resigned their role or wished to do so as soon as replacements can be found. It is hoped to replace the League Secretary, the Registration Secretary, and Tournament Secretary. If anyone is interested in these roles, or would like to know more about them, they are invited to speak to the current/previous holder or the Chair or Secretary for further information. In addition, on the website there is a list of all roles and the tasks they cover to help anyone interested.

With no nominations forthcoming John Briggs asked the meeting to approve en block the current post holders. This vote was carried with no abstentions.

Paul Adcock thanked Matt Tongue the previous Treasurer, and Dave Martin for his work as Tournament Secretary. Dave will continue in his role of Vice Chairman. Paul encouraged Clubs and members to consider the roles required and think about what they do to help as the Committee officers are vital for the running of the Association and new members are always welcomed. The Committee are considering ways to lighten the load of individual positions by the use of technology which will move the Association forward in the modern world. He is aware that other Counties face similar dilemmas, and the Counties can only survive with the interest and involvement of their members.

8 Committee Members to Attend the Executive Committee AGM

Alan Hunt expressed his interest to attend the meeting.

9 Amendments to Rules

There have been no requests for rule changes from Clubs this year.

The Committee proposes the following changes: -

Rule 3 – regarding the timing of the Fixture Meeting. The Rule currently states the meeting should take place on the 4th Monday of September. This year it proved difficult to book an appropriate venue for the meeting on that day. The Committee proposes the Rule should read - the meeting should take place in September. This will allow more flexibility to book a venue.

This amendment was agreed by the meeting.

Rule 3 amendment – the Committee wishes to enter an addition to this Rule – No matches should be played before the Fixture meeting. This will prevent clubs playing matches before the final League tables are published at the Fixture meeting. There are often last-minute changes because of clubs pulling out or entering teams at the last minute.

This proposal was carried.

Rule 8 Amendment – the Committee proposes that Club starrings should be put listed on the Website enabling all Clubs to check that eligible players are being played. The Fixture Secretary receives many calls to query eligible players and having this information available to Clubs would promote openness.

Andy also mentioned the intention to begin using the BE tournament software to record match results. Sion Severn is currently working on this addition to the Notts BA website. These changes will put the onus on Clubs to properly declare players and enter completed results. Paul Adcock suggested these initiatives will reduce the difficulties experienced by the League Secretary managing the queries coming in, more accurate results cards, and readily available information for all clubs to use. Extra capacity on the website has been enabled to cater for the changes and to add other information for Clubs and players to the website.

The BE Tournament software allows teams to be logged, players' names to be entered including starrings, and results can be checked and verified by both teams. Clubs can nominate a team/club member to log on and enter results and the opposition can check the information and verify the result or flag any inaccuracies for the League Secretary's attention.

Jenny Abbott has used the system for the Masters and has been satisfied it does the job required. The licence has been purchased and Sion has done the groundwork entering the tables and Leagues allowing Clubs to add players as soon as the final Leagues have been confirmed. Andy and Sion will produce a crib sheet for all clubs to help them get up and running this September. Results of individual players can also be seen which will be of interest to them and their clubs.

Paul feels these changes add to the Committee's wish to modernise the Association and make the roles less onerous and time saving in the future. The meeting agreed to the proposal.

10 Any Other Business

Centenary John introduced this topic and Andy and Paul updated the meeting with the preparations being made for the event on 25th November at the Crowne Plaza. Tickets are selling well, and monies need to be paid as soon as possible to Mark Attewell. The Chief Executive of BE has been invited along with the Chilwell School Head, England capped players from Notts, some of the Junior players following their success this year coming second in the ICT and other past dignitaries.

Sponsorship Deal John confirmed a new deal had been made with Babolat following last year's successful deal. Paul feels the new 3 year deal is even better with discounts being offered to the Association's Sponsored County Teams but also trade prices are offered to Clubs and their members. Some free kit is being provided to the Outlaws and Juniors. Paul will sign off any requests being made by Club members by email please. A cost list will be available soon. Babolat shuttles will be used in County matches and tournaments.

There was some discussion about the shuttles and how players feel about them. Overall satisfaction with the top range of feathers but there is also a new 'hybrid' shuttle which some players have used which could be useful to clubs for summer clubs. Since the Notts Rule is to play League matches with Feather shuttles the hybrid is not likely to be useful for all club play as they are very different but if some clubs wish to use them to save costs in the future they could be used for matches. This can be discussed further at next year's AGM.

New Chilwell School - John announced the Government decision has been made to replace the current School with a brand new venue within the next few years. Paul and John have forged good links with the School and it is expected that the Association will participate in future planning meetings to protect its current playing facilities. It isn't clear yet how many halls/courts will be available nor how and by whom they will be managed out of school hours, but Paul feels the Association should aim for 6-8 courts, free access to them during the evenings and weekends, and to negotiate a medium/long term lease. The Association does not ever wish to become a leisure centre operator

themselves so negotiations need to preserve our playing ability within the boundaries of the school organisation. We hope the fact that Badminton is one of the most popular sports in the school will help. Financial agreements are a long way off as yet but we hope to balance good facilities with sensible affordable contributions.

Top Tips John and Paul thanked Caroline Bartlett for her production of the Top Tips list to help clubs build and maintain their membership. It had been well received by BE. It has been added to the web site as well as having been shared with clubs. On the point about retainment, the Association through Mark Attewell and others is working hard to forge links for young County players with adult clubs to encourage ongoing play into adulthood.

Auditors Paul informed the meeting that the Club's auditors had been changed to APC to assist the new treasurer in his role.

County Teams Steve Fairey from Safari Badminton and the Senior County Group have been looking at the issue of eligibility to play in County teams and how practise should be organised to ensure standards remain high. BE are currently working on a document about eligibility which we will reflect on in September when published. Meanwhile Steve and the other County organisers are considering how to improve the County set up to regenerate the interest and enthusiasm of players at this standard to maintain commitment and results.

Fixtures meeting John reminded Clubs that the meeting takes place on Monday 11th September at 7pm at Arnold Liberal Club.

Volunteers Helen raised the issue of volunteers following her attendance at a BE meeting on this topic. It was generally agreed that BE are making this agenda complicated as has happened before on other issues and it needs a simple plan to achieve a positive change to encourage new people into the organisation at all levels.

Restricted 21st/22nd October being organised by Geoff Davison and Mark Attewell. Application forms on the website.

John Briggs closed the meeting at 20.21 by thanking all for their attendance and contributions.