

# **Avon Badminton Association**

## **Minutes of AGM held May17th 2007 at BAWA Southmead Road, Filton**

### **Apologies:**

Avon Jets, Zia Haque, Owen Parcell, Link Ladies.

### **Minutes of 2006 AGM:**

Minutes approved with no comment from floor.  
No matters arising.

As has been the policy for several years now, we produced a booklet reports and this was given to all present at the meeting and will be circulated to those clubs who did not attend.

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the booklet

### **Chairman's Report. (Full report in booklet)**

As the booklet shows we have been as busy as ever. Congratulations to June Malborn on achievement of BE's Badminton Award for her contribution to Badminton in the area. Adrian Christy presented the award to June at the North Somerset League meeting.

We now have a Development Officer Penny Shears on board, and I am sure her report will convince you that your decision at last year's AGM was well made.

Congratulations to Gary McDonald and Malcolm Perry of Keynsham Junior Badminton Club on obtaining club accreditation.

Thanks to Brenda for her contribution to the efforts of Avon Badminton, she works tirelessly for the county and is much more than club registration officer.

We have built up a dialogue with Westport and Mark Marsh is our principal contact with them. It is important that we maintain strong links with them as they will be the channel for much of the promised funding and sports development.

I am hoping that soon we will see the fruits of our labours.

### **Development Officers Report (Full report in booklet)**

Penny commenced by thanking Ken Stott for his assistance in setting up the Royal High School club (Bath) Also thank you to Beaufort for their help in funding the Bristol club.

Following presentation of her report, Penny took questions from the floor.

- Q:** Jeff Malborn asked why North Somerset has yet to be included in the Development Officer's activities.
- R:** Penny replied that she had not forgotten North Somerset and was talking to people in the authority area. There is already some good work going on in the area, and she hoped to add to it in the future. Given the limited time available to her it was not possible to cover everything she would like to, all at once.
- Q:** Moira Roberts enquired whether Penny felt she would be able to do more if more money (time) were available.
- R:** Penny declined to engage in a discussion on this as the subject of funding is one for Avon, but obviously with more time available more can be done.

After the question and answer session with Penny Ken Stott advised the floor that council had been discussing the subject of funding Penny and other development and coaching work. One of the topics under discussion is the funding by Avon of coaches to obtain higher qualifications in return for some of their time.

### **Finance (For full financial report see booklet)**

Di presented a brief overview of the accounts as presented to the assembly.

There were no questions from the floor.

Moira Roberts proposed acceptance of accounts, June Malborn seconded. Majority accepted with no objectors or abstentions.

### **Badminton England Agenda.**

Only information we have is a proposal to increase fees by RPI (4.8%). £8.90 senior fee from £8.50

There is a league fee introduced of £44 which we are unclear on. Floor wish this to be opposed at BE meeting, if this means that local leagues will have to pay. Brenda / Ken Stott will clarify and act on the meeting's wishes.

Ken advised that Adrian Christie is coming to Wesport offices as part of a national tour to explain BE's 20 point plan.

### **Fees.**

As itemised in the agenda for this meeting, the council proposed a £1 increase of fees with an alternative proposal of 50p. Under the constitution we are automatically able to up the fees by the RPI (15p).

The council had proposed the £1.00 increase with the belief that it would be matched by BE to increase Penny's time. Earlier in this meeting we have discussed the good work that Penny is already doing, and there is an undercurrent that we would like to do more. Any increase we make to Penny's funding would not automatically

be met by BE. In the current financial climate it is considered to be unlikely. Also as mentioned earlier we feel that it would be valuable to have a fund for assistance to coaches in return for some of their time. There followed a lengthy discussion:-

- Q: Piers Hutton;-** The council have asked for more money, but we have an increase of £2500 in the balance. How can you justify this request.
- R:** This increase is principally due to not spending on a DO for a year or so, although some funds were used for other development work. Also at this time the BE have not invoiced us for our part of Penny's fees to date. Penny is paid by BE....we pay BE our portion.
- Q: Piers Hutton:-** Should we not be funding this extra time by using the excess money in the main account and the events committee account.
- R: Brenda Bird:-** We have to be fair to Penny. If we did it that way and funded her for 2 days this year, we would have to reduce it to one day next year as we could not sustain the level of funding from the surplus.
- Ken Stott:-** Currently we spend £1500 with £1500 from BE. On the basis that there is no matching funding from BE should we spend £3000 of our own funds. We could only do this for a year without increasing fees.
- Q: Janet Stables:-** Should we not be badgering BE to put us on an equitable basis with others in the region.
- R; Brenda Bird;-** There is no more funding available at the moment with contracts secured until 2009.
- Q:** Would any additional funding be ring fenced for coaching.
- R; Ken Stott:-** Yes we could make that undertaking.

Following this discussion Mark Marsh made the following proposal:-

*We increase funding to two days a week for the remainder of Penny's contract from our existing funds.*

Seconded by Kingsdown. A vote was taken 15 for, 0 against and no abstentions.

There followed a discussion on whether in the future we should have a significant raising of funds to continue the two days per week. Views included that it would lose us members. That we should not just concentrate on juniors, but include adults as well.

Neither of the council's proposals for fee increases were seconded from the floor, so fees for next year will go up by 15p for seniors, 10p juniors in line with inflation as per the constitution.. The fees will therefore be £5.25 and £2.40 respectively.

Council felt obliged to explain to the floor the significance of the preceding vote and non acceptance of fee increase. Council already had a mandate to spend the £1500 income on development and could therefore use it to increase Penny's hours without referral to the AGM. Council therefore would have to review the funding to maintain a viable account.

Many members of the floor advised that they needed to receive information earlier to discuss with their clubs and it was agreed that briefing information needs to be sent out in March to facilitate this.

Brenda gave an assurance that we shall we be going for matched funding from BE to attempt to maximise the number of hours we can fund Penny.

### **Election of Officers**

Proposals and Seconders were taken on an individual basis with voting 'en block' if there was only one nominee for a position.

Chairman:-- Ken Stott prepared to stand one more year, but advised the floor that he would be unable to stand next year and we should be looking to the future.  
Proposed Brenda Bird, seconded Moira Roberts.

Secretary:- Alan Busvine proposed Alan Kitley, seconded June Malborn

Treasurer:- Di has decided to stand down. Ken thanked Di for all her efforts over several years. Council have a proposal for the position of John Forster. Unfortunately John was not able to attend the AGM due to work commitments.  
Proposed Brenda Bird, seconded Nailsea & Yatton

Registration Secretary: - Brenda Bird, proposed Mark Marsh, seconded Naomi Leppier (St Lukes)

Coaching Secretary:- Ken Howse is prepared to stand for one more year, and will have an assistant alongside him for the year (Gary McDonald). It is hoped Gary will fill the role vacated by Ken next year.  
Proposed Steve Bird, Seconded Alan Busvine.

Zia Haque currently an ordinary member has been proposed by council as publicity officer. Proposed Alan Kitley, seconded Mark Marsh.

Jeff Malborn advised the meeting that he did not wish to be considered for re-election. With Jeff Malborn standing down this left two vacancies for ordinary members. Naomi Leppier (St Lukes) and Louise Parcell volunteered. Formally the proposer was Brenda Bird, seconded by Chew Park.

A vote from the floor was taken on the election of the nominated officers. There was a unanimous vote in favour with none against and no registered abstentions.

### **Any Other Business.**

It is intended to run a county restricted tournament on 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> September. This is the first time for many years. Details can be obtained from Steve Bird.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Post Meeting Note.**

15 members signed in to the meeting as representing clubs, with a further 11 people signed in as council members or league reps etc. The constitution requires 15 clubs to be present to make a quorum. There was some concern post meeting regarding the validity of the club signatories. Investigation showed that in fact there were only 14 valid club signatures, and thus a quorum was not present. The council concluded that the only significant constitutional vote was the election of officers, and since the vote in this instance was unanimous, that it was unnecessary to reconvene the meeting at a later date.