

Date: Tuesday 21st June 2022

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Old Coventrians Rugby Football Club, Tile Hill Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry, CV4 9DE

1. Club & Committee Apologies

Meeting Commenced 7.35pm

Clubs: University of Warwick, KR Alliance, QDJ

Committee: Steve Best, Neil Lawrence, Seaforth Dale

2. Minutes of 2018-2019 AGM & 2021 EGM

Proposed: Terry (Warwick Bears)

Seconded: Ross (Aerotech Labs)

3. Chairman's Address

Welcome to what should have been the 74th AGM of the Coventry Badminton Association but is actually our 72nd due to the pandemic disrupting play for so long.

As I reflect on the past couple of years, I'm proud that we've been able to re-start competition this season (albeit a little later than usual) and have most of our clubs back in action and am looking forward to picking up where we left off in terms of securing the future of the League and Association through increased participation. I'm also proud to be part of an Association that's been around even longer than Queen Elizabeth II's reign!

It is with disappointment that my reflections also consider a range of complaints received to the Committee this year in relation to unsporting behaviour – and in a couple of instances, my own discovery of abuse of the rules/unsporting behaviour which resulted in us intervening and attending a match to follow up – the first time we've had to do this in my term and something I would hope will not be repeated. The Committee takes all complaints seriously and investigate and follow up despite the time this takes, but in many cases we can only really take one account against another and so it is difficult to take action unless we identify a recurring theme. We also received complaints regarding slippery courts and I would remind all clubs they should ensure their courts are fit for purpose and if their venue isn't taking action, they take their own measures to create a safe environment as this will be beneficial to their own members as well as visiting teams.

On a more positive note, it was great to be back on court for another successful season and great to welcome a new club (University of Warwick) to the League and thankfully we didn't experience too much disruption due to Covid. We have divisional winners from seven of our clubs this year and teams from different clubs winning each of the Premier Divisions – I hope that we will see many of your members at the end of season celebration on 8th July.

I am happy to continue to represent the Association as Chair going into next season (if you'll have me!), but I couldn't do it without the support of the amazing Committee – thank you as ever for all you do for our League – and I would encourage and welcome greater representation of our clubs on

the Committee (I know the people in the room already give their time to run their clubs so it's a broader shout out to our members) to ensure we have as much diversity of opinion as possible and a pipeline of new blood to step into roles in the future.

4. Secretary's Report

I hope you have all had a fun and successful season back after all that time off during Covid lockdowns and getting a jab, it was so lovely to see most of you back on court playing and enjoying our sport again.

I want to thank Rachael especially and my fellow committee members for all the hard work and hours of work behind the scenes that happen, this "return" season has been harder than previous I have to say, with overwhelming work commitments and house moves making time impacts on the of day-to-day running of the league. Apologies for anyone who has spent time chasing us up for results on scores, or anything else anyone has suffered a delay with, please understand we're human and also work full time and have family commitments as well as run the league for everyone's enjoyment. At the end of the day we're all here to enjoy our badminton and the game we love, nothing is so critical that its worth screaming and shouting about compared to what some of us have endured or those we've lost over the last 2 years.

We have had a mixed bag of penalties and fines this season. The following rule penalties have been issued this season:

2021-2022 Season		Ladies	Mixed	Mens	Total
1	Non registered player (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	1	0	4	5
2	Nominated player playing below nomination (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	5	3	8
3	Player playing more than permitted number of matches (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	0	0	0
4a	Conceded match - did not turn out a team (£20 fine)	1	3	3	7
4b	Conceded match - incomplete team turned out (£20 fine)	0	0	0	0
4c	Incomplete team (£10 fine)	1	1	0	2
5	Late score card (<i>points not awarded for the match win - shown as a penalty in league table, rubbers still awarded</i>)	1	4	1	6
6	Nominated player not playing the required number of matches in the season	0	2	6	8
7	Club playing matches before fees, nominations or fixtures received	0	0	0	0
8	Not completing intra-club matches (where 2 teams in same division) before playing another team	0	0	0	0
		4	15	17	36

Last season we didn't get to finish as you know and all had to stay home, we're down on the number of penalties from 2018, which is a testament to the clubs and players commitment considering the ups and downs with Covid isolation, team issues and hall issues that nearly all the clubs have suffered to some degree getting us all back to playing!

Can I remind you all that the submission date is set for a reason - It's set so that it gives us the time to verify the match dates submitted by each team, load them into the website and check the player names as well. Can you ensure that you mark your team name and the home teams correctly, rather than "home" please ensure it shows "Balsall 3" for example, as all these have to manually corrected as well. We unfortunately still find mistakes on dates found on the submissions – can you please remember to send the files as Microsoft Excel files please, so we can then combine them all into one main file to double check everything before its uploaded to the website. If you send them in handwritten, or as a PDF or another file format from what we send out, then it makes it far harder as this has to be manually re-done for you – I'm sure you can imagine the time it takes to check, correct or re-do them. So your co-operation would be appreciated on this as always. If you have any issues please contact me before sending them in and I will do my best to always help. Can I also remind you to enter your team name, rather than "home" onto the spreadsheet for submission, e.g.: "Balsall Common 1"

If your Match Sec is going to be away the first two weeks of September, then please arrange for another member of your club to cover them, so the fixtures are done and send in on time, thanks.

I hope you all look forward to the next season after this summer, and I hope to see you all at the end of season presentation dinner and disco in a few weeks. I shall continue to chase those clubs who haven't replied to me yet for their numbers and food choices, including allergies etc, and payments into the bank. As per previous award dinners, anyone winning trophies and not attending the celebration dinner won't get their trophy I'm afraid.

5. End of Season Celebration and Presentation Evening

- 5.1. Event taking place on 8th July at Hearsall Golf Club
- 5.2. Numbers need confirming ASAP

6. Juniors' Report from Chris Osborne

Like all the adults clubs, Covid disrupted the junior scene with a number of venues slow to re-open following the pandemic.

WSBA, who run the county junior squads, had previously been based at Whitley Abbey school and this venue was one that wouldn't admit external users. Fortunately, they were able to negotiate a replacement residency at Ryton Connexion. Tim Ward and his team of coaches have done very well to get Warwickshire's juniors back in operation. There were a couple of false starts as lockdowns were re-introduced but from a tentative start, things are almost back to normal.

Last month, WSBA held its first trials for new players since 2019 and squad sizes are similar to pre-pandemic levels.

On court, there have been a number of relatively successful campaigns with squads reaching the finals of the national ICT and Shires competitions. Although no actual trophies were won this season, it has to be seen as an achievement to be even up and running again, let alone doing so well.

For local clubs, the pandemic directly, or indirectly, brought about the closure of Alveston, Clifton and South Warwickshire. I'm pleased to say though, there is a healthy demand for junior coaching and I understand that clubs such as Racqueteers and Jubilee in Coventry, Mid-Warwickshire in Leamington and Rugby Youth are all running at full capacity with waiting lists.

As mentioned in the County report, there's an encouraging flow of talent from our junior clubs, into WSBA and from there, into our league clubs and indeed, to representing Warwickshire at senior level.

Long may that continue!

6.1. It was agreed that donations would be made to eligible Junior clubs as in previous seasons, junior teams advised to contact treasurer directly with BACS details.

7. Warwickshire Badminton Report

Report from Chris Osbourne, Warwickshire County Liaison Officer

It was a strange environment as senior county badminton emerged from the pandemic with this season's matches not starting until January, and finishing in March. Warwickshire were relieved to be back playing again - and to be able to enter four full teams. Other counties dropped teams and / or entered incomplete matchday squads.

Judged against our peers, we did well in that respect.

The 1sts welcomed back Coventry's own former national champion, Sam Parsons following completion of his degree and this strengthened our Mens' Singles. Our Achilles heel however was our Ladies' Singles and this is an area we need to strengthen – so any Premier Division ladies who would like to test themselves in this discipline are encouraged to enter the county's Restricted tournament in a couple of months' time. Overall, we were very much "middle of the table", winning five and losing four and finishing 5th out of ten teams.

The second team narrowly avoided relegation from Division 1. Despite winning five of their seven matches, they finished the season in an adverse rubbers situation (38-39). Therefore, like the 1sts, they will continue at the same level as they were pre-Covid.

The thirds swept all before them in Division 3, winning all seven games in their group and have earned promotion for next season.

As a result of some counties pulling teams, the 4th team were left in a division of just six counties. Winning four of their five matches meant they finished second and they too will be promoted.

Given the circumstances, two teams getting promotion and the other two holding their position in the county structure has to be seen as a relatively successful season.

As has been the pattern over recent seasons, there were plenty of current and recent county juniors in all four senior teams and they will only develop further with experience.

Here's to a successful (and more normal!) 2022/23 season.

8. Treasurer's Report

8.1. Overview of league accounts for the season

Discussion took place on bank accounts as lots of clubs are struggling to find community accounts that aren't charging fees. NatWest or Metro seem the current only two clubs.

8.2. Proposed league fees for 2022-2023 season

It is proposed that the league fees will remain unchanged for the coming season:

- £7.00 per Ladies team
- £7.50 per Mens team
- £7.50 per Mixed team

Proposed: Mark (Avon)

Seconded: Louise (Stratford)

9. Election of Officers for 2022-2023 season

Chairperson: Rachael Jenkinson

Proposed: Hillary (Windy Arbour)

Seconded: Clive (Central)

Secretary: Louise Taylor

Proposed: Chris Osborne

Seconded: Louise (Stratford)

Treasurer: Nicola Smith

Proposed: Ross (Aerotech Labs)

Seconded: Rosh (Jubilee)

Auditor: Terry Duckmanton

Proposed: Clive (Central)

Seconded: Oliver (Aerotech Labs)

Committee for up to seven people: Neil Lawrence, Steve Best, Ryan Smith, Seaforth Dale, Chris Osborne

Proposed: Hillary (Windy Arbour)

Seconded: Mark (Avon)

10. Proposed Rule Changes and additions for 2022-2023 season

10.1. Note: Deleted text is shown as ~~striketrough~~ and additional text is shown as underlined

10.2. Proposed amendment (by the Committee) to Playing Rule 4c & 4d.

It is proposed that the wording of the final sentence of the final paragraph of **Playing Rule 4** is amended as follows:

4. Divisions

- c. Promotion and relegation shall apply to all divisions except the highest and lowest respectively. The top two teams of each division shall be promoted. (Except for divisions with fewer than 6 teams where one team shall be promoted. Where the division above has 6 or more teams, 2 teams shall still be promoted.)
- d. The bottom two teams of each division shall be relegated. (Except for divisions of fewer than 6 teams where one team shall be relegated.)

Rationale: Over time we have had to introduce more divisions with fewer than 6 or 7 teams. For divisions of 4 or 5 teams, promoting and relegating 2 teams will result in a complete change in the make up of that division and potentially mean that there is a greater difference between the standard of teams. There is already a principal of the higher divisions having more teams and so this will likely impact the lower divisions only.

For: 17	Against: 4	Abst: 4
Outcome: CARRIED		
POI: Consideration to be given to newly entered teams in the bottom division to avoid penalising by taking longer to gain promotion where divisions are smaller		

10.3. Proposed amendment (by Leamington) to Playing Rule 5.

It is proposed that the wording of the fourth sentence onwards of the first paragraph of **Playing Rule 5** is amended as follows:

A team in the Ladies' league shall consist of 4 players, when the two pairs play both pairs of the opposing side, after which the two pairs split to form two new pairs which play ~~only one rubber each~~ both new pairs of the opposing side, thus giving a total of ~~6~~ 8 rubbers (see rule 7). Each player must play ~~3~~ 4 rubbers. The result of a match shall be a draw if each team wins ~~3~~ 4 rubbers.

The order of play documented in **Playing Rule 7** for Ladies Doubles would be amended accordingly with rubber 7 being home team 2&3 v away team 1&4 and rubber 8 being home team 1&4 v away team 2&3.

Rationale: The current format of 6 rubbers (compared to 9 in a mens or mixed match) can make the night quite short. We enjoy playing the extra games in the LDBA ladies matches and find it a shame not to play these in the CBA and would therefore like to see this replicated in the CBA.

For: 10	Against: 11 (10)	Abst: 5
Outcome: NOT PASSED		
Note: Chairpersons deciding vote		

10.4. Proposal for new competition (by Nuneaton).

It is proposed that a new Combined League is created featuring 2 men and 2 ladies.

Each player would play 3 rubbers as they do in all other formats – one level doubles and two mixed doubles – and would play with every member of their team. There would be six rubbers in total meaning a similar structure to the current ladies league and points could be managed in the same way (i.e. two points for a win, one point for a draw). This is a similar construct to the Solihull Combined League.

Proposed order of play:

M1/L2 vs M3/L4

M2/L1 vs M4/L3

M1/M2 vs M3/M4

L1/L2 vs L3/L4

M2/L2 vs M4/L4

M1/L1 vs M3/L3

Rationale: A new competition involving teams featuring just 2 ladies would benefit the league by enabling more ladies to play matches and remove the pressure on the ladies league. The shorter duration of the match (six rubbers compared to 9 for mixed and mens level doubles matches) could enable the match to be played on a single court.

Points for discussion:

- Could this run in parallel to the existing leagues?
- Could this be considered for a summer competition?

Following discussion, a vote will be held to determine the appetite for establishing a new combined league competition during the existing season limits and a separate vote relating to establishing the competition during the summer months. Further amendments to the proposal may also be considered.

For:	Against:	Abst:
Outcome: No vote took place, a discussion was undertaken to gauge the interest. It was agreed that a pilot would be run in the coming season should there be sufficient appetite for a new league competition. Entries will be made using the existing league process and fee will be £7 per team (in line with Ladies team fee as same number of players in team). To limit any detrimental effect on the Mixed/Mens/Ladies, it is expected that the majority of entrants to this league will be from clubs unable to field both mixed and level doubles teams. Committee/clubs to report back at AGM next year on how this trial season has gone and to determine the future of this competition.		

11. Rule clarifications for 2022-2023 season

- 11.1. Note: Deleted text is shown as ~~striketrough~~ and additional text is shown as underlined
- 11.2. No Rule clarifications included this year

12. Additions and Withdrawals for 2022-2023 Season, deadline 25th August 2022

12.1. Additions:

Warwick Bears: 1 (possibly 2) Ladies, 1 Mens, 1 Mixed (LDBA dependent)

Nuneaton: 1 Combi

Whitestone: 1 Combi, 1 Mens

Leamington: 1 Mens, 1 Mixed (LDBA dependent)

David Lloyd: 1 Mens, 1 Mixed (LDBA dependent)

Solihull & Shirley: 1 Combi

Alveston: 1 Combi

University of Warwick: 1 Mens

12.2. Withdrawals:

Aerotech Labs: 1 Ladies, 1 Mixed

Stratford: 1 Mixed possibly (but may be interested in the Combi)

13. Any Other Business

13.1. The League reminds all clubs of the need to familiarise themselves and their members with the Rules of the association – particularly new team captains with the deadline and process for submitting match cards and rules relating to nominated players. The Committee are happy to answer any questions relating to the rules.

13.2. Jon Froggett Tournament provisional date 4th September – further details to be circulated when available

13.3. Aerotech Labs noted they will have a name change for this coming season, due to a new sponsor

13.4. Notification to opposing team of use of ineligible players (raised by Warwick Bears).

A lengthy discussion took place and it was generally agreed that as a courtesy to the opposition, teams should let their opposition know there is an ineligible player (where known) once the score card has been completed by both teams. This prevents pairings being altered prior to play commencing. It was requested that pairs should still compete in rubbers involving ineligible players for the benefit of everyone on court. There is no Rule in this respect and as such there will be no penalty if teams are not notified.

Meeting Concluded 9.09pm