

Date: Thursday 22nd June 2023

Time: 7:30pm

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

1. Club & Committee Apologies

Chris Osborne (Committee), Seaforth Dale (AT7/Committee), Phil Pelton (QDJ)

2. Minutes of 2021-2022 AGM

Ross Harrison-Keefe (Emvigo) queried the lack of accounts being published with the previous minutes. It was confirmed that the last audited accounts related to the 2018-19 season due to Covid.

Proposed: Neil Lawrence (Monsoon)

Seconded: Ryan Smith (St Philips)

3. Chairman's Address

Welcome to the 73rd AGM of the Coventry Badminton Association.

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in running their club or the league over the past 12 months – it would be impossible to have such a successful League without the very many volunteers who work tirelessly often behind the scenes to organise matches, players, venues etc and I would encourage more people to get involved to reduce the workload on everyone.

I'm incredibly proud that we have been able to maintain such a healthy badminton league in the area and am delighted to see that we have formerly affiliated clubs looking to enter teams back into the league as well as new clubs enquiring about entering teams...we'll get onto that in more detail later in the agenda.

It is however with disappointment that I note a lack of interest and appetite for the end of season celebration this season. Numbers have fluctuated significantly over the past few years but we seemed to be on an upward trend more recently so it concerns me that numbers are so low this year and would welcome feedback from clubs as to the reason. We are holding the event outside of Coventry for the first time but this was driven by a desire to keep the cost reasonable given the rate at which prices are rising for everything at present, but the low uptake means the league will take a significant financial hit in order to cover the minimum number of attendees. It would save us all (well Louise mostly!) a lot of work if we didn't organise a presentation event and simply awarded trophies at the AGM instead but clearly this would take away the opportunity for us all to come together once a season to socialise with our friends from across the league.

Finally, I would be happy to continue to represent the Association as Chair for the coming season unless there is someone else keen to take this on (and of course 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.

Rachael also acknowledged the sad passing of John Ross, former League Auditor and member of AT7 and Kate Morris, former League Secretary for the LDBA and member of Warwick Bears.

4. Secretary's Report

Report from Louise Taylor

Please remember that shuttles for matches should be the same brand and speed for knocking up and playing the match. There should be no swapping of brand, or speed during the match, please ensure you have enough match shuttles available to cover matches as per your shuttle declaration to the league for the brand used.

We have had a mixed bag of penalties and fines this season.

The following rule penalties have been issued this season:

2022-2023 season		Ladies	Mixed	Mens
1	Non registered player (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	3	7
2	Nominated player playing below nomination (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	1	2
3	Player playing more than permitted number of matches (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	1	0
4a	Conceded match - did not turn out a team (£20 fine)	1	3	5
4b	Conceded match - incomplete team turned out (£20 fine)	0	0	0
4c	Incomplete team (£10 fine)	1	3	0
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	3
6	Nominated player not playing the required number of matches in the season	0	2	2
7	Club playing matches before fees, nominations or fixtures received	0	0	0
8	Not completing intra-club matches (where 2 teams in same division) before playing another team	0	0	0
		3	17	19

2022-2023 season		Mixed	Mens
Total Penalties (59)		6	31

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's name and the home team's name correctly, rather than "home" please ensure it shows "**Balsall Common 3**" for example not "BC3" or "Balsall 3" or "Balsall Mens 3", as all these have to be 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 it's 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 these have 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.

If your Match Secretary 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 personally won't be around the first two weeks of September this year, as I'll be on honeymoon, so any queries or help you need, please contact Rachael or a fellow member of the committee.

I hope you all look forward to the new upcoming season soon and I hope to see you at the end of season presentation dinner and disco in a couple of 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 7th July at Holiday Inn, Kenilworth

5.2 Numbers need confirming ASAP

It was noted that the League will need to cover the cost of the shortfall on ticket sales as we have not met the minimum 100 required for the booking. If clubs/members are not interested in a social event to celebrate the season we will not book this going forward and instead, trophies will be presented at the AGM. This would be a shame as this used to be a very well attended event, giving everyone the opportunity to socialise with their badminton friends.

6. Juniors' Report

Report from Chris Osborne

At county level, our juniors are undergoing a restructure. From the highpoint of winning the national ICT competition in 2019, the WSBA feel that last season's relatively poor success rate in county tournaments was the call for a rethink.

Our age group squads this coming season will be leaner, and hopefully meaner. The accent will be on quality over quantity with the number of players in the various squads, half what they were ten years ago.

At club level, although there are fewer junior clubs in the area nowadays, they do have waiting lists, which is a healthy sign. Jubilee Juniors have recently added a new weekly session to help cope with demand and Kim Mort tells me they have a healthy mix of male and female players. Weekly attendance is 45-50. She's also asked if there are any players out there who would be interested in joining them as a volunteer coach, to get in touch. They may be able to help out with the cost of gaining your coaching badge.

More volunteers would also be welcome across the city at Racqueteers JBC. Sak Wathanasin is particularly keen to recruit players who could help out with the beginners, which is more labour intensive than working with the established players. A couple of helpers on the admin side would also be useful. The club has approximately 90 members and the average weekly attendance is around 65.

Both Coventry clubs have waiting lists of around twenty.

John Wardropper who runs Rugby Youth BC, tells me that although they have around 90 members and a healthy waiting list, they would like to attract more female players.

Another club in the CBA with a junior club is Paul Harris' Solihull and Shirley. They too have a waiting list despite running a number of weekly sessions.

The overall picture is one of demand from our younger would-be players and I would encourage all CBA clubs to welcome these coached individuals to their sessions to help them develop their skills upon leaving junior set ups. If you have concerns about Child Safeguarding issues etc, then these are easily addressed by having their parent(s) present in the hall during the session – better still enrol the parent as a playing club member too!

It was also noted that if clubs have junior members that want match experience, the Solihull Badminton League have a Junior Division and clubs are welcome to enter teams (a match is played by 4 players of any gender) – matches are played on a Sunday evening at Langley School, Kineton Green Road, Solihull, B92 7ER.

7. Warwickshire Badminton Report

Report from Chris Osborne, Warwickshire County Liaison Officer

The headline for Warwickshire's season has to be the fact that our 1sts regained their place at the top table, winning promotion back to the Premiership after finishing second to Leinster with seven wins out of nine. Clinching it was a 10-1 final match result against relegated Derbyshire.

Established CBA players such as Ewen Stephen, Nathan and Phoebe Moore joined national championship winners such as Wales' Will Kitching and England's Sam Parsons. They were joined by three Chinese students currently studying at Warwick University – Jingchen Lu, Zi Yang and Kelvin Ho - and such was the strength of the squad, we were able to cope with the loss of county captain Andrew Wainwright through injury for much of the season. Congratulations to the management team of Andy Moore and Paul Harris

The second team retained their place in Division 1...just! Ryan Parson's side won two of their nine matches and thus relegated Lothian by just two rubbers over the season. Many of the squad were not long ago still playing in the WSBA county juniors and some such as Tighe, Robin and Caitlyn are still at school. They should hopefully improve yet further and ensure a less nervous finish next year.

Our thirds under player-manager Alisha Johnson had a relatively successful season, winning five of their seven matches in Division 2. Sadly, they missed out on promotion, finishing behind Norfolk and Northamptonshire on rubbers. Her squad was a classic mix of youth and experience. Players with first / second team experience took to the court alongside recent juniors and we even had a mother and daughter combination – Ali and Tessa Franks.

Our fourth team, coincidentally, also won five of their seven Division 3 matches, having won promotion last season. With standings based on rubbers however, they finished mid table, bittersweet when Gloucestershire 2nds were promoted having won only four games! Sue Spink's team also contained a mix of experienced players alongside players barely off the junior county's talent conveyor belt.

There have been discussions recently between the WBA and WSBA on how our young players can be even more integral to the future success of the seniors at county level. Many have already made the step up, but we still have many on the pathway. Onwards and upwards.

Covid took its toll on membership of our Masters' teams as a number of players stopped playing during Lockdown and didn't return to competitive play, particularly our ladies. We were only able to field three teams (O40, O55 and O65) and for the first time in living memory, all our teams finished winless and bottom of their age groups. Coordinators David Wilson and James Savin are extremely keen to hear from experienced league players who would like to play at county level and fear that otherwise, this side of the county may not survive. If you are forty or over, please do give this consideration.

It would be a sad end of an era if our Masters' teams were to disappear – and where would our juniors play in forty years' time?

Please note the following vacancies on the Warwickshire Committee. As with all the roles at County, CBA and club level the roles are voluntary but please do consider whether you could help for a year or two.

- 7.1 Warwickshire is in desperate need of a Treasurer. You don't have to be an accountant by trade, it's largely a bookkeeping role of monitoring income from BE and expenditure on shuttles, court hire etc. It averages around five hours work per month.
- 7.2 There is a new WBA web site, however the WBC are looking for someone who could help get it up to speed and fit for purpose.
- 7.3 If you are interested in joining the CBA committee and would like to get more involved in County, we could do with a new Coventry representative as the WBA Committee are looking for new member with new ideas.

8. Treasurer's Report

8.1 Overview of league accounts for the season (see appendix for detail)

Last audited accounts were 2019 due to Covid. Numbers presented look at a comparison between 2019 and current position. It was proposed that there would be a higher contribution to

Junior clubs this season as firstly, no contributions were made last year and secondly, the league has a healthy balance.

The Committee were asked to consider options for spending some of the funds. It was noted that some funds were spent in 2019 launching a new website and further enhancements could be made to drive more automation of player registration, nominations and results processing which the Committee will investigate over the coming season and bring back a proposal to the next AGM.

A reminder was also made from the floor that due to the demand for coaches, the County will contribute half the cost of a Level 2 coaching award (current cost is £450) and clubs can also access three coaching sessions for their club each season via the county (at no charge).

8.2 Proposed league fees for 2023-2024 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: Steve Best (Balsall Common)

Seconded: Oliver Moore (Envigo)

9. Election of Officers for 2023-2024 season

Chairperson: Rachael Jenkinson (Central Sports)

Proposed: Clive Gravett (Central Sports)

Seconded: Ross Harrison-Keefe (Envigo)

Secretary: Louise Taylor (Balsall Common)

Proposed: Ryan Smith (St Philips)

Seconded: Rob Case (Windy Arbour)

Treasurer: Nicola Smith (AT7)

Proposed: Steve Best (Balsall Common)

Seconded: Mo Ajmal (Jubilee)

Auditor: Terry Duckmanton (Warwick Bears)

Proposed: Chris Rees (Stratford)

Seconded: Neil Lawrence (Monsoon)

Committee for up to seven people: Ryan Smith (St Philips), Steve Best (Balsall Common), Neil Lawrence (Monsoon/Balsall Common), Seaforth Dale (AT7), Chris Osborne (Warwickshire County)

Proposed: Ross Harrison-Keefe (Envigo)

Seconded: Mo Ajmal (Jubilee)

10. Proposed Rule Changes and additions for 2023-2024 season

10.1 Note: Deleted text is shown as strikethrough and additional text is shown as underlined

There were 25 attendees present and eligible to vote plus the Chair.

10.2 Proposed amendment (by Warwick Bears) to Playing Rule 13.

It is proposed that the wording of paragraphs b and d of **Playing Rule 13** are amended as follows:

- a. The definition of a conceded match is when a team fails to fulfil an agreed fixture or fields 3 or less players in the Men's & Mixed Leagues and 2 or less players in the Ladies League. The definition of an incomplete team is when it comprises 4 or 5 players in the Men's and Mixed Leagues and 3 players in the Ladies League.
- b. There will be a fine of ~~up to~~ £20 plus £18 (Mixed/Mens) or plus £12 (Ladies) for conceded matches and ~~up to a fine of~~ £10 for incomplete teams.
- c. There will be a penalty of TWO league points for conceding a Men's or Mixed Match and FOUR league points for conceding a Ladies Match.
There will be a penalty of ONE league point for fielding an incomplete team in a Men's or Mixed match and TWO league points for fielding an incomplete team in a Ladies match. The penalties will be deducted from the offending team's total League points.
- d. ~~Penalties for conceded matches will be applied at the discretion of the~~ The £18 / £12 penalty for conceded matches will be paid by the Committee to the non-defaulting club to compensate towards match fees not collected. Where the non-defaulting team was the home team, the club may also apply to the Committee for payment of all, or part, of the £20 fine towards hall rental costs suffered directly in respect of the conceded match which may be granted at the discretion of the Committee. Clubs may apply to the Committee in respect of a claim for costs in excess of £20 for a conceded match or for circumstances surrounding an incomplete team, which may be applied at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee may, at their discretion ~~who may~~ relegate or expel from the League any team or club for repeated infringements.

Rationale:

- *The values of fines in the existing rule were brought in many years ago when their monetary value had more significance than today's inflated costs of hall rents and the higher income clubs need to generate from their members.*
- *At this point there is no intention to open up a debate about the £10 and £20 values of the fines, that could well be a consideration for a future AGM.*
- *The wording of paragraph b. has been amended to exclude the concept of "up to" – the fines are definitive.*
- *In paragraph b. the fine in respect of a conceded match is amended to become a two-tier fine, each element being in respect of values associated with a conceded match, as itemised in paragraph d.*
- *Most clubs' budgeting makes use of charging a match fee to those members playing in the match. Where a match is conceded the non-defaulting club (presumably) would not charge the selected team players that match fee. It is only right that the club receives something in*

compensation. It is also only right that the Committee automatically passes that fine over to that club.

- *A non-defaulting home team may incur hall rent costs unnecessarily in respect of the conceded match. The obvious circumstance is where hall rent is paid out specifically for the match and cannot be cancelled with the venue provider. The club must explain to the Committee the circumstances as to why the hall rent could not be mitigated and the cost. Where a match was to be played on courts within an 'all inclusive' hall rental and other courts were for the clubs' own use, and so the match courts become club courts, any claim considered justifiable would have to persuade the Committee accordingly.*

For: 15	Against: 9	Abstain: 1
Outcome: Adopted into the League Rules		

10.3 Proposed amendment (by Nuneaton) to Playing Rule 9.

It is proposed that the wording of the second paragraph of **Playing Rule 9** is amended as follows:

A team must play not less than half its fixtures before Christmas in each season.

A match once arranged shall not be postponed except for the unavailability of hall, or in the case of other exceptional circumstances by permission of the Honorary Secretary. The Honorary Secretary is entitled to request documentary evidence if considered necessary. A team may submit 2 rearrangement requests to the Honorary Secretary per season, if and only if both teams agree (written confirmation required).

All postponements and rearrangements must be notified to the Honorary Secretary and the relevant Fixture Secretary within 2 days of the date of the postponement or rearrangement being known or confirmed (i.e., not the match date). (See rule 12)

Rationale: For smaller clubs where injuries/holidays may have a significant impact on the ability to field a team it would be beneficial to allow a small number of matches to be rearranged with the agreement of both clubs to ensure the maximum number of matches can be completed. There is no perceived competitive advantage to rearranging a match if both teams are in agreement to do so.

For: 2	Against: 22	Abstain: 1
Outcome: Failed		

During the discussion of this proposal, it was suggested that if the original proposal didn't reach the required threshold, a second vote could be held on a slightly amended proposal.

The proposal was to amend the wording as follows:

A team may submit 2 rearrangement requests to the Honorary Secretary per season, if and only if both teams agree (written confirmation required) and subject to the Committee's discretion.

Proposed: Mark Lawton (Avon)

Seconded: Ryan Smith (St Philips)

For: 11	Against: (11) 12	Abstain: 3
Outcome: Failed following Chair's deciding vote against.		

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 (existing season): 6	Against: 14	Abst: 5
Outcome: Failed		
For (summer competition): 13	Against: 6	Abst: 6
Outcome: Accepted into the League Rules. Nuneaton have confirmed they will support the running of the competition and a Combined Summer League will run in Summer 2024 subject to enough entries.		

10.5 Proposal for change to nominations requirements (by Nuneaton).

A discussion is requested to identify any options for reducing the impact of the current nomination requirements on smaller clubs at the lower end of the leagues to make it easier for them to field full teams by utilising players more regularly.

Following discussion, a vote will be held if required subject to any formal proposals being made during the meeting.

A proposal was tabled as follows:

The total number of matches played by any first team nominated player is limited to the total number of first team matches, for second team nominated players in any one league the total must not exceed 16, for each additional team in any one league the number of matches will be increased by 1 (e.g., a third team nominated player must not exceed 17).

For: 16	Against: 3	Abstain: 6
Outcome: Accepted into the League Rules		

11. Rule clarifications for 2023-2024 season

11.1 Note: Deleted text is shown as ~~strike through~~ and additional text is shown as underlined

11.2 No Rule clarifications included this year

12. Additions and Withdrawals for 2023-2024 Season, deadline 25th August 2023

12.1 All additions/withdrawals are tentative only at this stage and subject to confirmation via the team entry form by the 25th August deadline

12.2 New Club: Request from Badminton Bears to enter the League. Venue TBC potentially within the permitted radius from Coventry City Centre.

Venue confirmed as being within the permitted radius and therefore no vote required.

For:	Against:	Abst:
Outcome:		

12.3 Additions: Solihull & Shirley Mixed 2, Hunters Mixed 1, Badminton Bears Mens 1, Envigo Mens 4, Envigo Mens 5

12.4 Withdrawals:

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.

Appendix

Coventry Badminton Association

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Season 2022/23 (June 2022 - May 2023)

	2019	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Note
Income						
Affiliation Fees	£649	£649	-	£571	£644	1
Building Society Interest	£26	£26	£4	£1	£8	2
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-	3
Profit/(Loss) on Dinner Dance (2021/22 season)	(£47)	-	-	-	(£128)	4
Fines (received less paid out)	£210	£10	£160	£290	£250	5
Total Income	£838	£685	£164	£861	£774	
Expenditure						
Honorarium and admin (Secretary/League Admin)	£140	£284	-	£140	£140	
Website	£150	£150	£150	£150	£150	
New Website and Brand Re-design	£1,140	-	-	-	-	
AGM	-	-	-	£100	£100	
League Trophies and engraving (2021/22 season)	£134	-	-	-	£111	
Loss/(Profit) on Tournaments	£130	-	-	-	-	6
Affiliation Fees	-	-	-	-	-	
Bank Fees	-	-	-	£25	£60	
Juniors	£90	-	(£90)	-	£90	7
Charitable Donations	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Expenditure	£1,784	£434	£60	£415	£651	
Profit/(loss)	(£946)	£251	£104	£446	£124	

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st May 2023

	2019	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Note
Current Assets						
Cash at Coventry Building Society	£5,282	£5,309	£5,313	£5,314	£5,322	
Cash at Bank	£2,215	£2,517	£2,367	£3,013	£1,643	
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	-	
Debtors/Prepayments	£77	-	-	£160	£1,675	
Total Current Assets	£7,575	£7,826	£7,680	£8,486	£8,640	
Current Liabilities						
Creditors/Accruals	£387	£387	£137	£497	£527	
Total Current Assets	£387	£387	£137	£497	£527	
Net Current Assets	£7,188	£7,439	£7,543	£7,989	£8,113	
Surplus (Deficit) - Income over expenditure						
Balance Brought Forward	£8,133	£7,188	£7,439	£7,543	£7,989	
in year	(£946)	£251	£104	£446	£124	
Balance Carried Forward	£7,188	£7,439	£7,543	£7,989	£8,113	

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Season 2022/23

	2019	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Opening Balance Current Account and BS Account	£8,323	£7,498	£7,826	£7,680	£8,326
Profit/(loss)	(£946)	£251	£104	£446	£124
Plus decrease/(Less increase) in Debtors	£22	£78	-	(£160)	(£1,515)
Plus increase/(Less decrease) in Creditors	£98	-	(£250)	£360	£30
Closing Balance	£7,498	£7,826	£7,680	£8,326	£6,965

Notes:

- Teams: 37 Mens, 32 Mixed, 18 Ladies
- Coventry Building Society Interest rate as at April 23 is 2% gross p.a
- HSBC Non-interest bearing account
- 80 attendees at the dinner dance - re. 2021/22 season 8th July 22
- All fines less conceded match claims
- No Chilvers Cup in financial year
- 3 Junior club contributions: Alveston, Raquetteers and Jubilee Juniors

T.P. Duckworth
22/6/23