

Date: Wednesday 26th June 2024

Time: 7:30pm

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

Meeting Started at 19:37

1. Club & Committee Apologies

QDJ (Phil Pelton), Whitestone (Phil Brown), Solihull & Shirley (Paul Harris), Seaforth Dale (Committee), Chris Osborne (Committee)

2. Minutes of 2022-2023 AGM

Accepted as a record of the meeting.

Proposed: Neil Lawrence (Monsoon)

Seconded: Oliver Moore (Envigo)

3. Chairman's Address

By Rachael Jenkinson

Welcome to the 74th 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.

I'm incredibly proud that we continue to maintain such a healthy badminton league in the area and am delighted to see that some of our clubs seem to have grown their membership over the past season. We have also seen a marked increase in the number of enquiries via the website about joining clubs and playing badminton.

I am once again dismayed by the ambivalence towards the end of season celebrations and the amount of effort it took the Committee (and in particular Louise) to chase people up to get responses and sufficient attendance to run the event. This event used to attract well in excess of 100 attendees (and nearer 150 going back 10 years or so), but more recently has struggled to reach 80 and I am keen to understand whether this is something people want to continue or not. Fortunately this year we were able to reduce the minimum number of guests required to secure the booking as we were very low on numbers – otherwise we would have been faced with a substantial deficit to cover. We have an item on the agenda to discuss this further.

I would like to remind everyone that whilst we are a competitive League, it is in everyone's interest to approach matches with the highest level of sportsmanship. There have been a couple of complaints received this season and whilst no formal action has been taken after investigating, I feel there is a general need to remind everyone that they should always behave respectfully towards their opponents even when they might not agree. I was personally witness to a pair conceding a rubber after their team had won a match but subsequently walking onto an adjacent court to play

club night – this is not acceptable behaviour and if the Committee become aware of this happening again, further action will be taken.

On a more positive note, and why (despite the above) I feel privileged to be part of such a great badminton community, I've been personally inspired this season by one person's resilience and positivity in the face of adversity. For those that don't know, a rare illness resulted in one of our members requiring an above knee leg amputation. They approached the League early this season about returning to court, initially using a sports wheelchair, and subsequently using a prosthetic. It was incredibly motivating and humbling to, with the support of the Committee and opposing clubs to ensure that we could be inclusive and enable the player to continue to play. That's why I chose to award the Chairman's Trophy to Curnow Pirbhai-Clarke from Jubilee (the award was presented to Curnow at the End of Season Celebration).

As ever, our league only runs smoothly thanks to the amazing Committee we have – thank you as ever for all you do for our League. As you will have seen on the agenda, this year we say farewell to Chris Osborne who has been a key part of the badminton community in and beyond the CBA and I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for everything he has done and wish him well for the future. We therefore do need someone new to stand on the Committee. I would like to encourage a broader representation of our clubs onto the Committee to ensure we have as much diversity of opinion as possible and a pipeline of new blood to step into roles in the future (we currently have 20 member clubs and only 5 of these are represented on the Committee).

4. Secretary's Report

By Louise Lawrence

It's been a good season, as far as I have seen. We've had a few penalties as normal, so here's breakdown for you.

2023-2024 season		Ladi8es	Mixed	Mens	Total
1	Non-registered player (offending player concedes any rubbers won)	0	3	6	9
2	Nominated player playing below nomination (offending player concedes any rubbers won)	1	4	8	13
3	Player playing more than permitted number of matches (offending player concedes any rubbers won)	0	0	0	0
4a	Conceded match - did not turn out a team (£20 + £18/£12 fine)	1	1	2	4
4b	Conceded match - incomplete team turned out (£20 + £18/£12 fine)	0	0	0	0
4c	Incomplete team (£10 fine)	0	0	2	2
5	Late score card (points not awarded for the match win - shown as a penalty in league table, rubbers still awarded)	0	1	1	2

6	Nominated player not playing the required number of matches in the season	0	1	2	3
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
		2	10	21	33

2022-2023 season	Ladies	Mixed	Mens	Total
Total Penalties (59)	3	17	19	39

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. We unfortunately still find mistakes on dates and names within the submissions – can you please remember to check yours before sending the correct Excel file please, as we 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 need to be manually re-done for you – I'm sure you can imagine the time it takes to check, correct or re-do them. 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 hope you all look forward to the new upcoming season soon and I hope you had a lovely time for those of you who supported and attended the Presentation Dinner.

5. End of Season Celebration and Presentation Evening

- 5.1. This year the event took place on 14th June at the Holiday Inn, Kenilworth – attended by 83 people (across 8 clubs – trophies were split across 7 of our clubs this year, one club didn't collect their trophy and 2 clubs attended despite no silverware this year – Central Sports and David Lloyd).
- 5.2. Review of event and discussion regarding future events – please come along with ideas on how to make the event more attractive and drive-up attendance.

There was a good discussion about how to evolve the event in order to hopefully make it more appealing to a wider audience – feedback included:

- Lighter food options rather than 3-course meal to help make it more of a social event and help to reduce the cost.
- Making it feel less 'formal' – again the food option could help with this.
- Promote the 'social get together' aspect above the awards element of the night to attract clubs/members who may not have won a trophy – also to continue/dial up the

games/music/ drinks element of the evening. **Any suggestions for a new name for the event would be welcomed.**

- Make it clear that partners are welcome to come along too (a lower price point was likely to encourage people to bring partners).
- Consider an afternoon fun-day type event where the trophies are presented instead (view was that this might represent too much of a change and smaller changes to evolve the event step-by-step may be better).
- Fixing the date for the event (e.g. second Friday in June) may help with people planning (although this would be subject to venue availability etc).

5.3. Please also consider with your clubs whether there is a desire to remove the event from the calendar completely and simply present trophies at the AGM instead.

Clubs were asked on the night to raise their hand if they thought the event shouldn't go ahead in the future and no club felt this was the case.

As a result of the discussions, the Committee will work with the current venue and DJ and other venues to see what other options could be offered. Committee will also look at the feasibility of keeping to a set timing each year. If clubs have further thoughts, please reach out to the Committee.

6. Juniors' Report

Report from Chris Osborne

It's been very much a season of change within our local junior clubs and they continue to flourish.

Jubilee Juniors have now moved to Finham Park 2 school where they have also introduced a third weekly session to try to cope with demand. Despite this, they still have a waiting list of almost thirty youngsters. Kim Mort tells me they also have four parents willing to take their coaching badges which is invaluable to such clubs.

Their city rivals, Racqueteers, have also changed venue due to the unreliability of AT7 bookings – returning to where they originally began, Ernesford Grange – albeit in new and more modern facilities. Long term Head Coach Sak Wathanasin has finally stepped down and Seaforth Dale now oversees their three weekly sessions.

Another familiar name on the local junior circuit to hang up their racquet is John Wardropper at Rugby Youth. They too run three sessions a week and can currently boast a waiting list of nearly 100. It's great to see the demand for the sport in the younger age groups.

If any CBA club would like to set up a dedicated junior section, it seems there would be no problem in getting the players, however, as these clubs will testify, you do need a willing set of qualified volunteer coaches to run the sessions to feed those younger players into senior club badminton.

And last, but not least, I would like to congratulate Robin Harper. In a season where he became a regular first team senior county player, he was also invited to compete in the World Juniors tournament in America. Quite an honour, both for Warwickshire and for him personally.

7. Warwickshire Badminton Report

Report from Chris Osborne, Warwickshire County Liaison Officer

As a general theme to the season just finished, all four senior teams retained their places in their respective divisions – none of the promotions enjoyed in recent years, but also no relegations.

In the Premier Division, the Firsts finished eighth out of ten in their first season back with a youthful squad. Robin and Caitlin Harper stepped up to join established team members such as Ewen Stephen, and Nathan and Phoebe Moore. Once again we were fortunate to be able to call on students from Warwick University such as Kelvin Ho, Feng Hong and Zi Yang. Sam Parsons and Victoria Liang continued to add experience to the squad.

As Player/Manager of the Seconds, Ryan Parsons guided his team to fourth in the eight team Division 1 North. This was very much a stereotypical blend of youth and experience, as Ryan was able to select from the likes of Helen Richmond, Alisha Johnson, Will Kitching and Andy Wainwright who could guide and encourage several young players who have been in recent WSBA junior squads. I'm thinking of the likes of Tighe Crook, Keerti Naik, Joe Scott and Tessa Franks.

Such has been the progress of our former Juniors in reaching the higher teams, the Third team now finds itself blessed with players with First and Second team experience. In Division 2 Central they finished fifth out of eight. At the other end of the spectrum, one name which caught my eye is the up-and-coming Chloe Fan who looks to be joining the WSBA conveyor belt of talent.

After a bright start, the Fourths narrowly avoided relegation, finishing seventh of the eight teams comprising Division 3 Central. Team managers Alan and Sue Spink will be stepping down and the county is considering its options for next season.

On the Masters front it was another disappointing season and for the second year running, all three age groups (O40, O55, O65) failed to win a league match. A special mention though to Fiona Morris and Andy Kitching who finished 11th and 8th respectively in terms of individual games won in the O55 age group. Masters coordinator David Wilson is hoping add an O45 team for next season and there will be trial sessions, probably in September, for any experienced CBA players who would be interested in playing at this level. Once the dates and venue have been confirmed, we will communicate these through Louise and Rachael.

8. Treasurer's Report

8.1. Overview of league accounts for the season. **See the Appendix for a copy of the audited accounts as reviewed during the AGM.**

8.2. Proposed league fees for 2024-2025 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: Ryan Smith (St Philips)

9. Election of Officers for 2024-2025 season

Chris Osborne will be standing down from the Committee at the AGM – we would like to offer our thanks for the many years of service that Chris has given to the CBA Committee and the wider Warwickshire badminton community.

The remainder of the Committee are willing to re-stand and will be available for nomination on the night and we would welcome anyone else interested to stand for any of the roles.

We will therefore be looking to recruit at least one more person to the Committee and will also need someone to take on the role of County Liaison on behalf of the CBA. Please encourage your club members to think about whether they could take on this role (particularly if they are already involved with the County in any way). Nominations can be submitted in advance or on the night.

Chairperson: Rachael Jenkinson (Central Sports)

Proposed: Hilary Budd (Windy Arbour)

Seconded: Steve Best (Balsall Common)

Secretary: Louise Lawrence (Balsall Common)

Proposed: Mo Ajmal (Jubilee)

Seconded: Emily Taylor-Lawrence (Balsall Common)

Treasurer: Nicola Smith (AT7)

Proposed: Chris Rees (Stratford)

Seconded: Clive Gravett (Central Sports)

Auditor: Terry Duckmanton (Warwick Bears)

Proposed: Mo Ajmal (Jubilee)

Seconded: Chris Rees (Stratford)

Committee for up to seven people: Seaforth Dale (AT7), Steve Best (Balsall Common), Ryan Smith (St Philips), Neil Lawrence (Monsoon), Paul Harris (Solihull & Shirley), Jon-Paul Rougeolle (Hunters)

Proposed: Hilary Budd (Windy Arbour)

Seconded: Oliver Moore (Envigo)

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

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

10.2. Proposed amendment (by Committee) to Rule F.

It is proposed that the wording of **Rule F** is amended as follows:

These rules and those in the Appendix may be amended at a General Meeting if any such amendment is approved by a simple majority of the votes cast for and against by those present and entitled to vote. In the case of a tie the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Any proposed amendment must be in writing and reach the Honorary Secretary ~~28~~ 21 days before the date of the meeting. Any proposed amendment must be supported by

an explanatory paper which sets out details from the proposer of why the amendment is required and what benefits will be achieved. This paper will be distributed with the ~~notice of the meeting~~ agenda at least 14 days before the meeting. The ~~agenda notice convening the meeting~~ must mention specifically any amendment to be made.

Rationale:

- *The current wording cannot be adhered to as it is contrary to the wording in Rule D part C which requires 7 days notice to be given for general meetings. We will give a minimum of 28 days notice for the date of the AGM and reducing the deadline for receiving proposals to 21 days allows for this to happen in a timely manner for the agenda to be compiled and issued to all clubs at least 14 days prior to the meeting.*

For: 24	Against: 0	Abst: 0
Outcome: Adopted into the League Rules		

11. Rule clarifications for 2024-2025 season

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

11.2. In order to further clarify the nomination rules within **Playing Rule 5**, the wording in the 7th paragraph is amended as follows:

Any player (nominated or otherwise) who has played 5 matches or more for a team (or higher team) shall be ineligible for lower team representation, except the next lowest. (e.g., any player who has played 5 matches for the 1st team is no longer eligible to play for the 3rd team, even if they are nominated for the 3rd team; any player who has played a combined total of 5 matches across the 1st and 2nd teams is no longer eligible to play for the 4th team but remains eligible to play for the 3rd team until they have played 5 times for the 1st team).

11.3. In order to further clarify the intent of **Playing Rule 13** part d, the wording is amended as follows:

- 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 relegate or expel from the League any team or club for repeated infringements.

Rationale: The Committee have been unable to determine a scenario surrounding an incomplete team which would warrant a claim.

12.Additions and Withdrawals for 2023-2024 Season, deadline 24th August 2024

- 12.1. All additions/withdrawals are tentative only at this stage and subject to confirmation via the team entry form by the 24th August deadline.
- 12.2. Additions:
Mens: University of Warwick 2, Solihull & Shirley 2, Alveston, Hunters, QDJ 2
Ladies: Solihull & Shirley 2, Jubilee 3
Mixed: Hunters 2
- 12.3. Withdrawals:
Mens: Envigo 5
Ladies: Central Sports 3
Mixed: QDJ, Central Sports 5

13.Any Other Business

- 13.1. Gauge interest from clubs on submitting team for summer league as limited interest received to date.

Entries to be submitted for summer combi league as part of the team entries by 24th August 2024 to enable the planning of the leagues to take place speculatively between May/June – August 2025. Team entry fee will be £7 in line with a ladies team which also has 4 players. Further details of timings will be circulated to participating clubs subject to enough interest to run the league.
- 13.2. Chilvers Cup scheduled to take place on 1st September (details on the website) – please encourage members to enter.
- 13.3. 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.
- 13.4. Chair raised a question regarding AGM attendance ahead of a potential future Rule change proposal with the idea that clubs who are not represented at the AGM being deducted one point for each team in the league the following season. It was agreed that in the first instance, the Committee could make a change to the Constitution to make it clear that all clubs MUST send at least one representative to the AGM. The situation would then be monitored, and a Rule change may be proposed in the future.

The wording of the Rules and Constitution Part D (a) has been amended as follows:

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in Coventry in May or June of each year for the purpose of receiving the Hon. Secretary's report and the Accounts for the preceding season, electing a Chairman, an Hon. Secretary and Treasurer ("the Officers"), an Hon. Auditor, electing a Committee of 7, fixing the league fees and discussing other general business. Each member club must send at least one representative (being a bona fide member of the club) to the AGM.

- 13.5. Terry Duckmanton (Warwick Bears) asked whether the Committee and clubs would be happy for him to take a look at the Rules with a view to making them easier to locate particular wording by adding more lettered/numbered sections to the lengthier paragraphs. No wording within the Rules will be changed. It was agreed that Terry could take this on once the wording changes were uploaded from this meeting.
- 13.6. There was a brief discussion regarding which feather shuttles clubs used and how long they lasted.
- 13.7. The switch to electronic scorecards was discussed. There was a general agreement that this did not need to be pursued at this time as the existing options to submit match cards 'electronically' was sufficient and the Committee was happy with the process for uploading / checking eligibility etc.
- 13.8. Terry Duckmanton (Warwick Bears) thanked the Committee for all their hard work ensuring the league runs smoothly.
- 13.9. It was noted that Envigo are introducing a 'No-strings' session from 8th July weekly 8-9pm at King Henry VIII School. Details are on the website if clubs receive interest from social players looking to improve their skills. If any other club runs similar sessions, please let us know and we will add details to the CBA website.

Meeting concluded at 20:49

14. Appendix

Coventry Badminton Association

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Season 2023/24 (1st June 2023 - 31st May 2024)	2022/23	2023/24	Note
Income			
Affiliation Fees	£644	£703	1
Building Society Interest	£8	£149	2
Bank Interest	-	-	3
Profit/(Loss) on Dinner Dance (2022/23 season)	(£128)	(£720)	4
Fines (received less paid out)	£250	£158	5
Total Income	£774	£290	
Expenditure			
Honorarium and admin (Secretary/League Admin)	£140	£140	
Website	£150	£150	
New Website and Brand Re-design	-	-	
AGM	£100	£100	
League Trophies and engraving (2022/23 season)	£111	£219	
Loss/(Profit) on Tournaments	-	-	6
Affiliation Fees	-	-	
Bank Fees	£60	£60	
Juniors	£90	£90	7
Charitable Donations	-	-	
Total Expenditure	£651	£759	
Profit/(loss)	£124	(£469)	

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st May 2023 and 2024	2022/23	2023/24	Note
Current Assets			
Cash at Coventry Building Society	£5,322	£5,471	
Cash at Bank	£1,643	£3,178	
Cash in Hand	-	-	
Debtors	£150	£288	
Prepayments	£1,525	£725	8
Total Current Assets	£8,640	£9,663	
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	£437	£271	
Accruals	£90	£180	
Deferred Income	-	£1,568	8
Total Current Assets	£527	£2,019	
Net Current Assets	£8,113	£7,644	

Surplus (Deficit) - Income over expenditure

Balance Brought Forward	£7,989	£8,113
In year	£124	(£469)
Balance Carried Forward	£8,113	£7,644

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Season 2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
Opening Balance Current Account and BS Account	£8,326	£6,965
Profit/(loss)	£124	(£469)
Plus decrease/(Less increase) in Debtors	(£1,515)	£662
Plus Increase/(Less decrease) in Creditors	£30	£1,492
Closing Balance	£6,965	£8,650

Notes:

- Teams: 41 Mens, 35 Mixed, 19 Ladies
- Coventry Building Society interest rate as at April 24 is 3.1% gross p.a
- HSBC Non-interest bearing account
- 85 attendees at the Dinner Dance 2022/23 season 7th July 23 (80 attendees in prior year)
- All fines less conceded match claims
- No Chivers Cup in financial year (had to be re-arranged)
- 3 Junior club contributions: Alveston, Raquetteers and Jubilee Juniors
- Tickets Income received and venue deposit paid for Dinner Dance held Jun-24

T.P. Duckmanton
26/6/2024