

Date: Thursday 27th June 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Village Hotel, Dolomite Avenue,
Coventry, CV4 9GZ

Meeting commenced at: 19:36

1. Club & Committee Apologies

Paul Baker, Chris Osbourne, Adders, QDJ
Knowle did not attend and did not send an apology

2. Minutes of 2017-2018 AGM

Proposed: *James Wilkinson (Whitestone)*
Seconded: *Steve Turner (Hunters)*

3. Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 71st AGM of the Coventry Badminton Association.

The 2018-19 season has been another successful one for the League – not only for those of you whose clubs won trophies but we have launched our new look website, developed branding for the Association and saw the Presentation Evening well supported again with 102 attendees. We are looking to continue to make this event bigger and better each year – and I think it's fair to say the ante was upped by Nuneaton this year with their party popper celebrations for their 2 trophies.

Furthermore, penalties were down a third on last season with penalties for conceded or incomplete teams down by almost half which is definitely a step in the right direction as we are all in it to play and there's nothing more frustrating than turning up for a match and not being able to play. Thanks to all those who have moved mountains to put out full teams even when players may not be eligible.

Thank you to Silver Innovation who have designed and built the new website for us – I hope you'll agree that the fresher (more colourful) appearance is an improvement – we have also linked a feed from the CBA Facebook Page to the website too and will be trying to make greater use of the new features to keep content fresh. Please do take a look and let us have any feedback – including any content you'd like to see added, any club logos you want to add to your club details, photos promoting league activity etc.

Chairman's Trophy: This year I was proud to award the trophy to our U18 Bears who were triumphant at ICT for the first time in the 53-year history of the competition. For me, this was the standout achievement of the year and demonstrates how we as the CBA are helping, through our strong network of junior clubs, develop younger players and hopefully ensure the future health of the association. I'm even prouder to say that 7 out of the 10 players (and all 3 of their coaches) are members of clubs within our Association! 4 of the squad were at the presentation evening to collect this surprise award.

I am delighted to see that their amazing season has continued with further success as 2019 winners of the Shires League.

I would be delighted 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. Whilst the current Committee are all willing to continue in their positions, we would still love to have new members as we value the breadth of opinion and ideas this drives.

4. Badminton England Update

Helena Russo, our regional Badminton England Relationship Manager joined us to give an update and provide an opportunity for clubs to ask questions directly.

Helena shared details with us of the various activity BE is supporting including the National Schools Badminton Championship and an all new women's social level team event to be held in Milton Keynes. There has been a change to the BE membership pricing this year to reduce the burden for larger clubs with the addition of a new club size tier.

Helena's presentation will be shared with the minutes and will be available as a download from the CBA website.

Helena is more than happy for individual clubs to reach out to her with questions and she can be contacted at helenarusso@badmintonengland.co.uk or 07825 312258

5. Secretary's Report

I hope you have all had a fun and successful season, it was nice to see another well-deserved spread of trophies this year after I cleaned them all ahead of the presentation dinner last month!

We have had a mixed bag of penalties and fines this season. There have been a number of clubs not putting out teams or playing ineligible players or even players not playing enough games to meet their nominations. The following rule infringements have applied this season:

2018-19 season		Ladies	Mixed	Mens	Total
1	Non registered player (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	3	2	5	10
2	Nominated player playing below nomination (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	4	2	2	8
3	Player playing more than permitted number of matches (<i>offending player concedes any rubbers won</i>)	0	1	0	1
4a	Conceded match - did not turn out a team (£20 fine)	4	3	4	11
4b	Conceded match - incomplete team turned out (£20 fine)	0	0	0	0
4c	Incomplete team (£10 fine)	1	1	4	6
5	Late score card (<i>points not awarded for the match win - shown as a penalty in league table, rubbers still awarded</i>)	1	0	1	2
6	Nominated player not playing the required number of matches in the season	0	0	2	2
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	1	0	1
		13	9	18	40

Last season we had the following totals, so we're down on the number of penalties this past season, which is good news for all the clubs I hope!

2017-2018 season	Ladies	Mixed	Mens
Total Penalties (59)	6	22	31

Can I remind you all that the submission date is set for a reason - It's so 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 find a lot of mistakes (particularly on dates) on the submissions which take time to resolve – can you please remember to double check everything before submitting and ensure these are received by the deadline to avoid the need for the Committee to chase.

I hope you all look forward to the new season, and I hope to see you all on court very soon!

6. End of Season Celebration and Presentation Evening

- 6.1. Clubs are thanked for their support in providing a single point of contact this year and making reconciliation of payments significantly easier.
- 6.2. However, it has once again been exceptionally difficult to finalise numbers and food choices from a number of clubs which has caused a lot of work for Steve and others in terms of chasing clubs.
- 6.3. 102 (up again on last year and an additional club represented) attendees at the event which is a great turnout but we would still like to see even more of you there next year as we still only had 12 of our 22 clubs represented.

The Event Itself:

We booked the Inspiration Suite at The Village Hotel which has a large room and a separate bar area. Guests enjoyed a red-carpet reception with sparkling wine on entry to the event. We sat down for a 3-course meal, followed by presentations and the launch of the new website and CBA brand.

Unfortunately, due to technical problems we were unable to use the photo booth.

The feedback so far is very positive. The room was easily large enough for everyone with the dance floor and DJ booth. The separate bar area allowed groups to congregate for chats away from the music.

We believe this venue was the best so far for the event.

Organisation:

Organising the event this year has again been challenging with clubs not getting numbers to us in a timely manner with some needing heavy amounts of chasing by multiple members of the committee before responding to communications.

We appreciate the date didn't help us much this year being on a bank holiday, but the date was published well in advance and we would expect clubs to get their initial numbers together from the time the date is published to avoid the last-minute rush.

We probably need to understand why there is a last-minute rush... Is the event too early in the year? Do we need to delay to a similar time to the AGM? Would be happy to hear thoughts on this following the report.

To end on a few good points:

The money seems to have been a bit easier to track this year as clubs were using a single point of contact on the most part to send money to the association account.

During the negotiations with the hotel this year, we have formed a partnership with the hotel which gives us preferential rates for event bookings and give the association free use of meeting facilities for the AGM and committee meetings as required. In return we will publicise The Village Hotel on the website as one of our sponsors/partners.

7. Juniors' Report

Report from Chris Osbourne

As you may have seen via our channels or in the local press, our U18 squad made history by becoming the first Warwickshire side to win the prestigious ICT event in 2019. Out of 35 counties who entered this season, we came out on top, emphatically knocking Leicestershire and frequent champions Yorkshire into 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Both these counties were crushed 9-1 in the final round. The team was managed by CBA's Andy Moore and Ryan Parsons, assisted by Phoebe Moore. With many of the squad already playing senior county matches, the future looks bright for Warwickshire at that level.

I personally remember seeing team members Nathan Moore (at Racqueteers) and Caitlin Harper and Joe Scott (at Alveston Juniors) starting out on their badminton journey as very young beginners. Ewan Stephen (Jubilee) and Milly Evans (Knowle/David Lloyd) were another two local players involved. It's a testimony to the quality of the coaches locally, both within our junior clubs and the WSBA that their potential has been turned into success

I'm pleased to report too, that Joe also won his first junior England cap this season and his autographed international shirt is now framed and displayed at North Leamington School. Coincidentally, a few weeks later, Robin Harper also won his first junior England cap – he too took his first steps from tennis into badminton at the Wacky Racquets sessions at the same school.

Far from resting on its laurels, the WSBA recently took the decision to concentrate its efforts on a smaller, but higher quality squad system. For many years now, they have worked on squads of 24 at each age group. Now, that number has been cut to 16 and it's anticipated the extra competition for places will lead to more accomplished players going forward

Locally, the junior club scene is thriving with the majority of them operating a waiting list for new members. It's important that as they become teenagers, they continue to be welcomed into our league clubs and form the basis of tomorrow's teams.

The quality of junior talent locally is currently very encouraging. Long may it continue to flourish.

8. Warwickshire Badminton report

Report from Chris Osbourne, Warwickshire County Liaison Officer

This season was a case of déjà-vu for Warwickshire. As we did the previous season, the 1st team reached the Division 1 playoffs but failed to take the extra step of returning to the Premier Division - Hampshire and Cheshire taking the two promotion places ahead of ourselves and Nottinghamshire

..and as last season, the 1st team included local youngsters such as Caitlin Harper, Nathan Moore and Milly Evans who joined experienced local players such as Chris Roe and Claire George who was returning following a maternity break.

In Division 2 the 2nd team had a fantastic season, winning all their games and finishing comfortably ahead of second placed Shropshire. Local youngster Ewan Stephen was one who stepped up to play at this level, in a team managed by local players Tim Ward and Andy Moore.

Our 3rd team finished very much mid-table in Division 3 (Central), a team that includes one of our very own CBA committee members (Helen Fulker).

Next season, the county is expecting to run a 4th team (after an absence of a few years) – this will increase the opportunities for both our up and coming youngsters and also, solid Premier Division players looking for a challenge. We will share details of how to get involved over the next couple of months.

Overall, the Masters had a season to forget with only the Over-50s troubling the top two places in their divisions. John Brown has stepped down after many years running this side and after concerns that we wouldn't be able to continue, James Savin of Stratford has agreed to take over the running of these teams. Details of practise sessions for squad selection will be publicised before the start of the season. A reminder that we run teams starting at "Over 40" through to "Over 65" so there's plenty of opportunity for CBA players to get involved.

At long last, the WBA has a new website. The structure has been set up, although it still requires more narrative before it goes live. It's hoped that newcomers to the area and / or the sport will discover the site and follow the links to league websites such as our own revamped one, which in turn will lead them into playing at local clubs.

Finally, Colin Jones is stepping down as the county's President after over 30 years' service and I would like to place on record my thanks for his contribution and dedication to the sport locally. At the time of writing, no successor has been appointed.

9. Treasurer's report

9.1. Overview of league accounts for the season (see end of document for accounts)

9.2. Proposed league fees for 2019-2020 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: *Seaforth Dale (AT7)*

Seconded: *Mark Hope (St Philips)*

10. Election of Officers for 2019-2020 season

Chairperson: Rachael Jenkinson

Proposed: *Seaforth Dale (AT7)*

Seconded: *Fiona Morris (Central Sports)*

Secretary: Louise Taylor

Proposed: *Helen Fulker (Solihull & Shirley)*

Seconded: *Mo Ajmal (Jubilee)*

Treasurer: Nicola Smith

Proposed: *Stewart Edris (Jubilee)*

Seconded: *Bruce Armstrong (Windy Arbour)*

Auditor: John Ross

Proposed: *Steve Turner (Hunters)*

Seconded: *Mark Hope (St Philips)*

Committee for up to seven people:

The following were elected to the Committee en-masse: Helen Fulker, Chris Osboure, Seaforth Dale, Steve Turner, Neil Lawrence and Paul Baker

Proposed: *Alex Robertson (Nuneaton)*

Seconded: *Kamal Uddin (KR Alliance)*

11. Proposed Rule Changes and additions for 2019-2020 season

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

11.2. Proposed amendment (by the Committee) to Playing Rule 5.

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

5. Teams

The total number of matches played by any nominated player in any one league must not exceed 15 (with the exception of players nominated for a team in a division of 8 teams where a nominated player will be permitted to play an additional 2 matches in that league)

Rationale: This will ensure that clubs with teams in larger divisions are not unduly impacted as a result of the higher number of matches meaning they have fewer players with the flexibility to play additional matches.

For: 2	Against: 21	Abstain: 5
Outcome: Not passed		

Discussion centred on the impact of the Rule not benefitting the teams as intended as 8 team divisions are typically at the bottom of the league and players are less likely to need to be nominated as nominations are completed on the basis of the strongest players in the club. The unintended consequence of the Rule change would therefore benefit teams in higher divisions.

11.3. Proposed amendment (by the Committee) to Playing Rule 5.

It is proposed that the wording of the final sentence of the second paragraph of **Playing Rule 5** is amended as follows:

5. Teams

Where a nominated player fails to play the required number of matches the League Committee shall impose a 1 point penalty per match no played and £20 penalty per player per team.

Rationale: This would ensure that the penalty is differentiated based on the scale of the rule violation – under the current penalty wording, a team who have a nominated player who misses just one of their matches are penalised the same as a team with a nominated player who doesn't play any matches at all. The proposed change will ensure that the rule cannot be used to gain advantage by having players nominated lower with a non/lesser playing individual occupying a higher spot.

For:	Against:	Abstain:
Outcome: Passed and new wording will be added to the Rules		

11.4. Proposed amendment (by Warwick Bears) to Playing Rule 4

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

4. Divisions

a. Within a division each team shall play every other team, on a home and away basis during a season. The home team shall supply shuttles ~~and liquid refreshments~~. Wherever possible a division shall consist of 6 or 7 teams.

Rationale: It has become increasingly rare to find a home team providing any form of liquid refreshments (even in venues where there is no drinking water available) and it's a reflection of modern-day life that most players bring their own drinks to meet their own preference, taste, diet or energy supplement requirements. There is no monitoring of non-provision or penalty documented and therefore there is no impetus for the home team to provide nor the visiting team to make a complaint to the Committee (and none has been received to date). Therefore, in order to simplify the Rules, the wording should be removed and clubs can decide whether or not they wish to provide liquid refreshments.

For: 21	Against: 3	Abstain: 4
Outcome: Passed and new wording will be added to the Rules		

11.5. Proposed amendment (by Stratford) to Playing Rules 5 & 7

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 ~~68~~ 68 rubbers (see rule 7). Each player must play ~~34~~ 34 rubbers. The result of a match shall be a draw if each team wins ~~34~~ 34 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 would like to see this replicated in the CBA.

For: 4	Against: 16	Abstain: 8
Outcome: Not passed		

The general feeling around the room was mixed with some admitting that whilst their ladies would enjoy the additional games, hall capacity and playing time when accommodating multiple matches on the same night would make it difficult to complete the additional rubbers without impacting these or other matches or availability of courts for club play.

Furthermore, some clubs expressed concern that with an ageing membership, the ladies didn't want to play additional games (and a reason for withdrawing the team from the LDBA). The point was also made that across all disciplines, all players currently play 3 rubbers per match and this Rule change would give ladies an additional rubber each which other members may not like.

12. Rule clarifications for 2019-2020 season

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

12.2. A clarification is to be made to the final sentence of the fourth paragraph of **Playing Rule 5**

Changes to player nominations will only be accepted up until the earliest of the 28th February or 3 days before the match at which point there would be insufficient matches remaining for the team the player was originally nominated for in order for the originally nominated player to complete the required number of matches.

Rationale: Removing potential for the rule to be interpreted in different ways

Warwick Bears proposed an alternate version of the updated wording as follows:

Changes to player nominations will only be accepted up until the earliest of the 28th February or 3 days before the match at which point there would be insufficient matches remaining ~~for~~ of the team the player was originally nominated for to enable the ~~originally nominated~~ player to complete the required number of matches.

The Chairman accepted that the alternative wording put forward by Warwick Bears was simpler and this will be the wording reflected in the updated Rules for the 2019-2020 season.

13. Additions and Withdrawals for 2019-2020 Season, deadline 25th August 2019 (subject to proposed rule change 10.2 above) (Potential subject to confirmation)

- 13.1. **Additions:** Balsall Common (Ladies 2), Solihull & Shirley (Mens), Solihull & Shirley (Ladies), QDJ (Mens), David Lloyd (Mixed 2), Stratford (Mixed 2)
- 13.2. **Withdrawals:** QDJ (Mixed), AT7 2 (Ladies), AT7 3 (Mens), St Philips 2 (Ladies), St Philips 2 (Mixed), St Philips 3 (Mixed)
- 13.3. The point was raised that Solihull & Shirley are entering additional teams as they see the CBA as being a much healthier League than the Birmingham League and we may be able to attract additional teams to join.
- ACTION:** Rachael to reach out to the nearer Birmingham League clubs to gauge interest in joining the CBA

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1. The League reminds all clubs that they need to be respectful of published match start times and are subject to penalty under Rule 8 if players are not ready at the appropriate time.
- 14.2. Please save the date for the Presentation Night – 5th June 2020
- 14.3. 2019 Jon Froggett Friendship Tournament will take place on Sunday 1st September at the AT7 Centre, 12-7pm. Further information and entry forms are available on the CBA website.
- 14.4. Louise Taylor (Secretary) suggested that the new sports centre at the University of Warwick could be a venue for the Chilvers' Cup going forward as the facilities are excellent. Louise will also look to negotiate free parking etc for players.
- 14.5. Mo Ajmal (Jubilee) asked why the club details were only available as a download now. From the discussion it was apparent this was being viewed on a mobile device. Upon further investigation, all club details are available via the mobile site (at least on Apple devices) and no further action to be taken.
- 14.6. Clubs are encouraged to submit photos for inclusion on the website – we will include details of which club they relate to as a form of advertising for clubs. Furthermore, clubs are encourage to continue to provide feedback on the website to enable us to continue its development.
- 14.7. Terry Duckmanton (Warwick Bears) asked the League to consider how we safeguard the further of the League and look at ways to avoid reducing the number of divisions in future seasons (for example having 2 divisions of 4 rather than a division of 8 to ensure everyone plays 12 matches during the season and giving greater scope of players who want to play at a lower level to still compete). A lengthy and productive discussion followed with lots of ideas tabled including a new “social” league which could act as a feeder division and could include junior clubs, social clubs, mixed club teams and teams formed from players

regardless of gender (i.e. 3 ladies and 1 man, 4 men....competing against each other) with the only limitation being on using players from the main League. The Committee will take this forward as an action with the aim of introducing something new for the coming season. We will also liaise with Badminton England to get their help.

Meeting closed at 21:22

Coventry Badminton Association
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
Season 2018/2019

	2018	2019	Note
Income			
Affiliation Fees	681	649	1
Building Society interest	17	26	
Bank interest	-	-	
Profit/(Loss) on Dinner Dance	(57)	(47)	2
Fines (received less paid out)	570	210	3
Total Income	1,211	838	
Expenditure			
General admin expenses	216	90	4
Website	150	150	
Website and brand redesign	-	1,140	5
Secretary honorarium	50	50	
League Trophies and engraving	125	134	
Loss/(Profit) on Tournaments	-	130	6
Affiliation Fees	-	-	
Juniors	90	90	7
Charitable Donations	-	-	
Total Expenditure	631	1,784	
Profit/(loss)	581	(945)	
Note: Profit/(loss) excl. website and logo investment		195	

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st May 2019 (Season 2018/2019)

Current Assets			
Cash at Coventry Building Society	5,256	5,282	
Cash at Bank	3,067	2,215	
Cash in Hand	-	-	
Debtors	100	78	
Total Current Assets	8,423	7,575	
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	290	387	
Total Current Liabilities	290	387	
Net Current Assets	8,133	7,188	
Surplus (Deficit) - Income over expenditure			
Balance Brought Forward	7,553	8,133	
in year	581	(945)	
Balance Carried Forward	8,133	7,188	

CASH STATEMENT

Season 2018/2019

Opening Balance Current Account and BS Account	7,920	8,324
Profit/(loss)	581	(945)
Plus decrease in debtors	7	23
Less decrease in creditors	(184)	98
Net Change	403	(825)
Closing Balance	8,324	7,500

Notes:

1. Teams: 37 Mens, 29 Mixed, 22 Ladies (Last year: 41 Mens, 31 Mixed, 20 Ladies)
2. 102 attendees (Last year: 100)
3. All fines less conceded match claims
4. No scorecards required
5. Investment in new website and logo
6. No Chilvers' Cup in 17/18 financial year
7. 3 clubs: Alveston, Racquetees, Jubilee Juniors