

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at Bucks County Council Sports & Social Club, Lower Road, Aylesbury on Wednesday 6 June 2007.

Present: Jim Mann – Chairman  
Gwen Mann – Secretary  
Tony Coyne - MKDBA Rep & Shenley B.C  
Fiona Foy – Honorary Treasurer.  
Clare Halewood – Aylesbury Rep  
Ruth Jefferies – BSBA Chairman & MK2000 B.C.  
Mark Lawrence – County Match Sec, BSBA & South Bucks B.C.  
Ian Moody – County Vets Co-ordinator & Dragons B.C.  
Liz Walmsley – HWDBA Rep & Wooburn Monday B.C.

Michael Battye – Badminton England  
Tom Duggan – Badminton England  
Chris Ford - County Captain & Wycombe Originals B.C.  
Beryl Green – Shuttlecocks B.C.  
Kate Griffiths – Wednesday B.C.  
Robyn Gilders – BSBA Treasurer  
Don Gilders – BSBA Secretary  
Andrew Statham – Dragons B.C. & BCBA 4<sup>th</sup> Team Captain  
Julia Strong – Mandeville B.C.

Apologies: Brian Moscrop –Mandeville B.C.  
Rainbow B.C.  
Wingvale B.C.  
Isis B.C.

## 1. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

Mark Lawrence pointed out that there was a small typographical error in the second paragraph of point 2 “Annual Report”. The first sentence should read “..with the 1<sup>st</sup> team unlucky **not** to gain promotion...”.

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 were agreed and will be signed following correction.

## 2. Annual General Report

Jim Mann informed the meeting that, due to increasing work commitments, he would be standing down as Chairman after this AGM. He had been involved with Bucks CBA since 1976 and intended to remain on the Committee, but felt he was no longer able to give the role of Chairman the time that it deserved.

This last season had been a good one for Bucks and it should be noted that, since 1999, membership had increased by 50%. This could only be a tribute to all the hard work from the coaches, junior clubs and everyone else who was involved in badminton in Bucks. Special thanks should go to Michael Battye, our Badminton Development Officer, about whom Jim had received very good feedback. Bucks

had good prospects for future international players and the next decade should be an exciting one.

Financially, Bucks CBA was in a good position with the reduction in profit being due to the amalgamation of a number of bills which would normally have been paid over the last couple of years (website). The Bucks CBA website is a really important and valuable tool and it really needs all the clubs to get their details input. Thanks to Ian Moody and Fiona Foy for looking after the finances.

Ian Moody added that he and David had now got all the club names onto the website, but as yet there are no individual contact details for data protection reasons. However, the first step was to get all the club names in and that has been completed.

Jim emphasised that the website is a really important tool for all clubs, currently callers request details of clubs in their area and the website would be a great help. Can all clubs please make a real effort to get contact details and club details onto the website. Thanks to Ian for his work on the website.

The meeting agreed that the Annual Report should be adopted.

**Proposed:** Tony Coyne

**Seconded:** Mark Lawrence

### **3. Financial Report**

Fiona reported that, although the accounts had moved from a positive balance to a negative one, this was due to a number of factors. Affiliation fees were down and the funding for our Badminton Development Officer had risen to £1,750 this year as well as website costs of £1,727 (although this was more than one year's worth).

Fiona thanked Lee Holloway for Auditing the accounts and also thanked Ian for his handover of the role of Honorary Treasurer.

Ian Moody added that the website costs comprise three main areas: the website creation cost, payment for the badmintonbucks domain name (payable every 2 years) and payment to the domain host (payable every 2 years). The website costs of £1,727 had brought us up to date. Subsequently website costs would normally run in the region of £300 per annum. Financially, this "catchup" cost has meant that we are now back in the same position we were in two years ago. The payment for our BDO comprised £1,000 for office space and £750 for salary. This was considered money very well spent for the future of badminton in Bucks.

The meeting agreed that the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 should be accepted.

**Proposed:** Julia Strong

**Seconded:** M Lawrence

### **4. Report on the Badminton Development Committee**

Michael Battye (Badminton Development Officer) reported that the Development Sub-committee had met a number of times and had now formulated an Annual Plan. This would be presented to the Bucks CBA and would then be released on to the website. Michael thanked all those who had helped him and was pleased to report very positive interest from many schools in the area. There was discussion on the accreditation of clubs, 9 of which had now attained Silver Mark status and a

reminder that the junior event held at the WBC earlier in the year had seen 89 children at the centre all day, the majority of whom were not in clubs. There was great scope for the future.

Jim Mann thanked Michael Battye for all his hard work.

## 5. Election of Officers and Committee

Jim Mann would not be continuing as Chairman and his successor would be Ian Moody. In accordance with procedure Ian Moody had been formally proposed and seconded as Bucks CBA Chairman. Mark Lawrence would be taking over Ian's role of Veterans' Co-ordinator and this had also been formally proposed and seconded. The role of Bucks CBA Secretary had been split, with Gwen Mann retaining the affiliation and correspondence roles and Liz Walmsley taking over the role as Minutes Secretary. Sarah Sankey would be leaving the committee as her current role is leaving her no additional time. Ian Hird would also no longer be on the committee. Both were thanked for their work in the past. Prior to the AGM Julia Strong (Mandeville B.C) had volunteered to join the Committee and, following a meeting request from Ian Moody for additional committee members, Andrew Stratham (Dragons B.C and BCBA 4<sup>th</sup> Team Captain) also volunteered to serve on the committee.

Ken Brooks	President
Ian Moody	Chairman
Gwen Mann	Hon. Secretary
Fiona Foy	Hon. Treasurer
Mark Lawrence	Vets Co-ordinator and County Match Secretary
Ruth Jefferies	Chair, Bucks Schools Badminton Association
Michael Battye	Bucks Badminton Development Officer
Chris Ford	County Captain (see also 7. below)
Tony Coyne	County Coaching Co-ordinator and MK Rep.
Clare Halewood	Aylesbury Rep.
Liz Walmsley	Wycombe Rep. and Minute Secretary
Jim Mann	Child Protection Officer and Committee member
Julia Strong	Committee member
Andy Statham	Committee member

The above committee was duly elected

**Proposed:** Mark Lawrence

**Seconded:** Ruth Jefferies

### Comments by Incoming Chairman

Ian Moody proposed a vote of thanks to Jim Mann in his work as Chairman and was pleased that Jim would be continuing as a Committee member so that his wealth of experience would remain available. Ian thanked Karen Morris (in absentia) for her work on the Bucks CBA over many years and also for the kind use of her home for its Committee meetings. Ian Moody welcomed both Julia and Andrew to the Bucks CBA and also thanked all other members for continuing on the committee.

One of Ian's main aims is to provide a conduit from grass root opinion in Bucks up to Badminton England. He is currently Chairman of Dragons B.C, is a member of the HW&DBA Committee, sits on the Badminton England Council with Jim Mann

and is on the Badminton England Development Committee – which, together with being Chairman of Bucks CBA, means he has access to views and opinions at all levels of the game. Badminton England has 41 counties under it and is very keen to get opinions, comments and concerns. Ian wishes to focus on raising the profile of Bucks CBA at county, league, club and individual levels. The intention is to carry on the work that both Jim Mann and Bill King (his predecessor) did by continuing to move badminton forward in Bucks. Ian is scheduling to attend all the Bucks leagues AGMs to help further these aims.

The Bucks CBA website is of great importance to the future and work has already begun on improving it by setting up links and downloads. Bucks CBA has a sub-committee set up to progress the website and one of the initial major tasks is to provide good information about clubs in Bucks. Club information will be collected to be entered on the website (contact details, club details etc). It is intended that the information will be put on centrally and the subcommittee will liaise with Gwen so that as much information as possible from the affiliation forms can be put onto the website. Michael Battye is producing a Newsletter which will be circulated as hard copy and also on the website. Bucks CBA will also be made more “visible” by putting information re meetings, minutes etc on the website so that clubs can see that Bucks CBA is an important focus for area opinion and representation.

Ian referred to the Badminton England 10 Year Plan for badminton in England, taking Badminton forward by changing and providing additional structure at all levels of the game. Its aim is to make England the number one badminton playing nation by 2016 and it wants input from clubs and leagues to achieve this goal. Bucks should be supportive but also constructively critical of the Plan to help Badminton England achieve its aims.

Tom Duggan (Badminton England) emphasised that Badminton England genuinely wants, and indeed needs, to engage at all levels if it is to implement its Chief Executive’s 10 year plan (also called the 100 point plan). Tom and Michael Battye are both Bucks based and would like to invite all badminton clubs, leagues and individual players to get in contact and talk to them. Andrew Christie (BE’s Chief Executive) is holding a meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 1900 hrs in Room 3 of the Stoke Mandeville Stadium and would like as many representatives of clubs, leagues etc to attend – all are welcome.

Tom advised that under the 10 year plan structure there is a £1.5 million budget available to develop 39 Performance Centres, of which 7 will be based in the South. The envisaged structure will consist of a pyramid tier of Performance Centres, Silver Clubs and Foundation Clubs. Julia Strong is the new Club Support Manager at Badminton England. The focus is on what all Bucks clubs want to achieve – club development being the foundation stone for the future.

Ian Moody asked what this would mean for clubs within Bucks – was the intention, for example, to consider Wycombe Badminton Centre (which currently houses 8 or so clubs) as a Performance Centre. This would effectively create a Club that comprised of 8 existing clubs and it would be able to provide coaching, support, advice etc to these clubs. However, it should be remembered that there are many

clubs who just want to be “teams” and who will also need support and encouragement. All players are important to Bucks.

Tom Duggan replied that the above were good points and that one of the possibilities under consideration (bearing in mind that Milton Keynes already has the NBC) was creating WBC into a Performance Centre.

Julia Strong added that Performance Centres will get most time from her as the Club Support Manager at Badminton England and that the Silver and Foundation Clubs will benefit from Michael Battye’s time as the Badminton Development Officer. Support for “Teams” will exist but is unlikely to get dedicated officer time.

Ian Moody considered that communication was very important as the changes underway are the biggest in badminton for a long time. He reiterated that part of his role will be to facilitate communication between individuals, clubs and leagues in Bucks with Badminton England.

#### **6. Confirmation of appointment of Hon. Auditor for 2007/08**

It was confirmed that Lee J Holloway would be appointed as he had become independent from Whittlebury & Co.

#### **7. To Elect a County Team Captain and Senior County Selection Committee**

Chris Ford (County Team Captain) reported that it had been a great year for Bucks County Badminton. Although last seasons’ selection process had resulted in some heated issues, he believed that the results vindicated the decision of the selection committee. He distributed copies of the BCBA Squad Selection Proposals (Selection Board, Selection Process and Elite Players) for 2007/08 (see attachment) for discussion. This covered the Board of Selectors, Selection Process and Elite Players.

Ian Moody asked what the issues had been and reminded the meeting that, although the Constitution covered appointing a Selection Committee at the AGM, there was a fallback that allowed such a committee to be selected later by the County Captain.

Chris advised that the selection process last year had been a very open process and this had resulted in long, drawn-out and, ultimately, counter-productive arguments on some occasions which had raised some heated issues. The intention this year was to be reasonably transparent, but not to be an open forum.

Andy Statham responded that his intention was to bring up the strongly held views of a number of players. He stressed that it was important to set up some selection guidelines this season in advance of the process and to review the selection process to ensure that it was truly democratic and absolutely transparent.

Chris pointed out that if selection was made on a truly transparent basis the same problems would occur again, resulting in exactly the same issues.

Jim Mann agreed that selection was always going to be a difficult issue – it would be a good idea to talk to the players who had not been selected and explain why but



Bucks CBA supported moving to rally point scoring. The Milton Keynes league had already adopted rally point scoring last year. The Aylesbury league, at its AGM on 23 May, had voted to adopt rally point scoring next season but this was before the second Badminton England letter had been written. The position for the Aylesbury league may be reviewed. The Wycombe and Chalfont leagues would be deciding at their AGM's. As last year all County matches will be played using rally point scoring.

Gwen Mann wished to share with the meeting a letter from Jane Hilton of Wing Vale B.C. to the Bucks CBA thanking them for their efforts on behalf of Bucks badminton.

In conclusion, Ian Moody thanked all attendees. He also suggested that clubs might like to try the on-line affiliation procedure to Badminton England.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.05