

Cambridgeshire Badminton Association

(Affiliated to Badminton England.)



The Cambridgeshire Badminton Association AGM for the 2021/22 season was held online **via Zoom on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7:30pm.**

Agenda

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last meeting
4. Annual Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Registration Secretary
 - d. Match Secretary
 - e. Tournament Secretary
 - f. Coaching Coordinator
 - g. Masters Coordinator
 - h. Badminton England Representative
5. Award of County Colours
6. Award of the Eric Raynor Trophy
7. Election of Officers, Committee Members & Independent Examiner
8. Affiliation Fees
9. Any Other Business

Welcome & Apologies

Meeting started at 7:30pm.

Attending:

Committee Members: Daniel Bates (DB), Graham Barr (GB), Campbell Wilson (CW), Zoe Foote (ZF), Neil Place (NP), Sandra Dennis (SD), Chris Lim (CL), Helen Taylor (HT), Julie Pike (JP - Badminton England),

County Member: Sara Cunnington, Adele Woodhams, John Harvey, James Wilson, Sara Moore, Oscar Keys.

Apologies were received from Philip Gray (Aspire BC), Sharon Chandler (Cambridge City BC), Matthew Mace & Lauren Carey-Love (Peterborough Central BC), Hilary (Burwell BC).

Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2020/21 AGM were approved.

Matters arising from the last meeting

CW raised the following matters:

- 1) Christine Rickwood being approached for the President role.
- 2) Katrina being awarded a Coaching Grant via Sandra Dennis.
- 3) Any remaining club money from St Ives BC who have folded.

DB responded as follows:

- 1) DB has spoken to Christine about the President's role and she seemed quite warm to the idea. DB attempted to organise an in-person meeting to discuss further but this hasn't happened yet. The intention is still to award the President role to Christine if she is willing to accept.
- 2) DB, HT, and GB have been in correspondence about the funding grant and this will be going forward. Katrina has responded with the relevant information.
- 3) DB spoke to John Pickering and Mark Edwards (club committee members) regarding this. They confirmed that any funds the club had remaining had long been spent before the club officially folded, and that the club had been supported using their own money.

Regarding point 3, SD queried whether there is anything available funding wise if there was an effort to get the club going again. The club was running for around 75 years, so it would be a shame for it to disappear completely.

DB asked whether JP has spoken to them. JP confirmed that she had not had any communication with or from the club.

CW mentioned that just before the Covid pandemic, funding had been secured from Badminton England to attempt to attract more members to the club via an open social session that would act as a feeder session for the club. It was unknown whether the funding ever reached the club due to Covid. JP confirmed that the relevant funding pot is no longer available. DB added that St Ives BC were offered support from the county, but the club never felt that this would have made the difference. If the club approached the county again it's certainly something that would be considered. The funding secured by HT last year has proven very successful in supporting new junior clubs, so perhaps a new funding application could be put in towards senior clubs.

No other matters arising.

Annual Reports

Chair

It has been a really difficult year. Come out of Covid, struggling club scene, struggling junior scene. One of the major junior clubs is struggling due to the coaching having to stop, another has only just re-started after Covid. Also a number of injuries across the county teams. A number of difficult challenges. Despite this, the county generally has made some considerable progress competitively:

- 2 out of the 3 senior county teams did very well;
- 2 of the Masters teams reached the National Play-Offs;
- We have fielded the most number of county teams for a long time (30 years?). 3 junior teams in Shires League, 3 senior teams, an extra Masters team added this year (Over 40s).

The training and practice sessions at Northstowe and Swavesey have continued and been very successful. The older juniors at the Adults practice one a fortnight respectively at Northstowe, whilst the Under 15s are practicing weekly at Swavesey. In this younger group there are some promising players and the group has progressed very well. Ages vary from 6 to 14 in this session which has proved to be challenging. As a County we are hugely grateful to Paul Martell who has put so much effort into running these two sessions and recruiting new players. The younger group has gone from 6 to 16 regular players since September.

County Kit was also launched this season across all county teams at all ages. This kit will also be available for the foreseeable future.

DB gave thanks to everyone who is on the committee, but also a few who are not on the committee, as some people undertake large roles but don't necessarily get the recognition for it. This includes the Team Managers for the Junior teams, and the Team Captains for the senior teams.

DB confirmed that after a number of years on the committee, he is finally stepping down as County Chair, and that CW will be stepping into the role, being supported

by a number of new faces as well: Steph Jong who will be taking over the Secretary role; Zoe Foote will be taking on the Press and Publicity Officer role; Chris Lim will officially be taking on the Match Secretary role. Having said this, new volunteers are always a challenge. GB will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of this season, and NP has already stepped down as Tournament Secretary.

DB gave additional thanks to Neil Place, often referred to as 'Mr Cambs Badminton', due to the fact that he has done almost every committee position over a total of almost 20 years.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has helped DB in his roles throughout the years. Also those who have helped club and county badminton in any way.

Several committee members praised Daniel for his efforts over the years.

Treasurer

All of the accounts have been moved onto Google Sheets. Anyone with the link can view the accounts, and it should be very easy to replicate each year.

No reports were generated last AGM due to the lack of badminton activity due to Covid, so this report covers the whole period since the AGM in the 2019/20 season. As of 1st May 2022, we had a small surplus of around £2,000, however this does not account for £1,500 of recent/outstanding invoices from April, meaning the final balance will be a surplus of around £500.

GB went through the analysis from the income and expenditure report which gives the breakdown for both across a number of different categories and is comparable from year to year. Generally speaking, the amount of badminton activity as a county can be correlated with how much we spend, and this season is the most we have ever spent in a year - total of £21,000. This is even with only running a senior restricted tournament, and no others. In a previous season (2019/20) we spent around £20,000, but £5,000 of this was on tournaments. Therefore we have clearly been very active this season.

Senior county matches have been subsidised to a small extent. Masters county matches have been fairly balanced. Nearly £11,000 has been spent on junior development activity (which covers coaching fees, courts, and shuttles).

Shuttles is one of the biggest expenses as a county. In total, 236 tubes of shuttles were used by the county this season - 188 were purchased, and 48 were carried over.

GB recommended that from a financial point of view, nothing needs to change. Affiliation and match fees can remain at the current values (Affiliation - £4 for adults and £0 for children; Match fees - £4.50 per rubber for Senior county teams (£2.50

per rubber for students), £3.50 per rubber for Masters county teams, £1.50 per rubber for Junior county teams.

The only change is that we are increasing the mileage allowance from 20p per mile to 30p per mile.

DB added that whilst county fees will remain the same, Badminton England have increased their affiliation fees.

SD gave thanks to GB for his efforts on the accounts as he has put a lot of time and effort into his role.

Registration Secretary

As of 18th May 2022, as a county we are in a very similar position to the 2019/20 season (stats from 2020/21 season were not counted due to Covid). We have lots a few clubs but we have also gained a couple of new clubs in their place.

Clubs overall seem fairly healthy in terms of membership numbers. Average number of members per club was 42 across both senior and junior clubs. 70% of all members are male, 30% are female, again this is consistent with previous years. In total as a county we have 975 players 'linked' to a club, but only 646 with active memberships. This suggests there are a lot of members attached to clubs who are not affiliated, or previous members who need to be removed by that club. It also suggests we have a large number of players who are linked to more than one club.

Again, figures across memberships and types are fairly consistent. 'Club' membership types are slightly lower, but 'Compete' membership types are higher. There are fewer registered coaches - only 16 currently. It's possible that there are some qualified coaches operating in the county that haven't renewed their BE membership and therefore aren't insured. Out of the 16 registered coaches, 14 are Level 2 and only two are Level 1. Nine of the 16 have DBS certificates that will be expiring this year, meaning they will have to renew in order to re-affiliate next season.

Match Secretary

Overall a good season - lots of teams in various competitions at different age ranges. It was also a challenging season due to injuries, scheduling issues from Badminton England, interesting venue choices, and of course Covid.

Despite this, all teams did well. In terms of the Senior County teams: the 1st team narrowly missed out on promotion from Division 2 Central; the 2nd team were successful in gaining promotion from Division 3 South East; and the 3rd team put up a good fight also in Division 3 South East, but unfortunately will be relegated to Division 4 for next season after finishing 7th in their division. A number of players represented the county for the first time, and many others represented a higher team for the first time.

The junior teams didn't enjoy as many wins sadly, but a number of players represented the county in various age ranges.

Tournament Secretary

The County Restricted tournament was run for the first time since Covid. It wasn't as well attended as we had hoped, but it was still a good day. A priority moving forwards needs to be increasing the number of entries into Ladies Singles. The winners were as follows:

Men's Singles	Chris Lim
Women's Singles	Alison Meijers
Men's Doubles	Chris Lim & Abu Kaher
Women's Doubles	Zoe Foote & Sara Moore
Mixed Doubles	Campbell Wilson & Zoe Foote

No other tournaments were run this season, but a lot have been run over the time that Neil has been in post, and these wouldn't have been successful without the support of a large number of helpers. NP gave particular thanks to DB who has turned up to help at just about every tournament that has been run since NP has been in post.

Sara Cunnington praised NP for his efforts in the Tournament Secretary role.

Coaching Coordinator

There has been less than a dozen enquiries via the county website for coaching or clubs in the past year. All have been directed to the Badminton England 'Find a Club' tool. Most players are contacting clubs directly or searching online for clubs.

There is one person currently undertaking their Level 1 Coaching Course, currently awaiting their assessment. There is another who has recently completed their Level 2 coaching course, but so far hasn't registered. Both have received financial help from the county and as a result are helping regularly at clubs within the county.

There are several people (known to the committee) who are coaching within the county who are not registered and/or qualified as a coach. It is disappointing that they are continuing in this manner and that there is nothing which can be done. The danger is that these people are putting players at risk by not being properly trained, possibly not insured, most likely not having a valid DBS certificate, and probably haven't been on any safeguarding courses.

Cambridge Community Foundation gave the county some funding which can be used to help aspiring coaches gain their coaching qualifications. The Foundation have also provided funding for a Badminton Inclusion workshop which is aimed at clubs and

coaches to help them become more inclusive. The workshop will be taking place on 28th May at Trumpington Sports Centre.

Masters Coordinator

Nationally there were 161 teams entered into Masters competitions this season. 20 Teams ended up withdrawing due to Covid. Cambridgeshire entered a total of four teams, with two in the Over 40s division, one in the Over 50s division, and one in the Over 55s division.

Sadly the annual Masters tournament in November was cancelled due to Covid.

The Over 55s team, captained by Angela Sharman, had a very tough season losing all their matches. This was largely due to four out of the six regular male players being injured. Five substitute players were found, although three of these also ended up with injuries and/or Covid throughout the season.

The Over 50s team had a good season in a small division with only four matches player. The team qualified for the Play-Offs but were sadly beaten in a close battle by a strong team from Nottinghamshire. As a result they will remain in their division next season.

The Over 40s added a new team for the first time. The second team were in a division with Essex, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire, finishing second in the division behind Bedfordshire. The first team won their division against Norfolk, Suffolk, and Lincolnshire, and progressed to the Play-Offs but sadly lost a very close match 7-5. The plan is to remain with two teams in the Over 40s category next season, although one may change to an Over 45s team.

HT confirmed that the Over 40s team will still be able to use players over the age of 38 (new rule implemented by Badminton England). HT has asked Badminton England whether the same rule can apply for the older teams, but she has not yet has a response.

The January Challenge competition has been set for 14/15 January.

Badminton England have confirmed that there is a new report available through Azolve which will allow counties to access and contact all active club members who would qualify for Masters teams given their age. HT and DB confirmed it would be a good way to attempt to recruit new players into the Masters teams.

Badminton England Representative

JP began by introducing herself as the Badminton England Relationship Manager for the East region, covering Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire. Her role is to help support local badminton including clubs and

coaches. So far, she has had minimal communication with clubs and coaches from Cambridgeshire, but she has been involved in projects at Northstowe, Aspire, and Burwell, as well as a few coaches. Outside of this, generally speaking, people seem content and happy to just get on with things, or they still don't seem to know that she is there despite multiple emails.

In terms of recent projects/activity, these include adding new No Strings Badminton sessions in both Wisbech and Neal Wade Sports Centre in Peterborough. She has also been in contact with Living Sport (County Sports Partnership) whose main priorities are Healthy Communities and Children & Young People with funding potentially available to help activities that fit into these categories.

There's an upcoming Level 2 coaching course in Bury St Edmunds, starting 16th of July. New courses can be organised, but there must be evidence of demand - nine learners for a Level 1 and six a Level 2.

Sue Storey has taken over as Chief Executive for Badminton England. She has a very strong background with Volleyball England and has a big focus on community/grass roots. Morten Frost has also taken over as Performance Director.

There is no National Schools Championships competition running this season due to funding constraints. Some counties are running their own competitions, but there will be no Regional or National finals.

Membership prices will be going up by 10% for the new season.

Award of County Colours

County Colours were not awarded at the AGM, but this has been added for discussion at the first committee meeting.

Award of the Eric Raynor Trophy

The Eric Raynor Trophy is one of the longest-running awards for the county, dating back to 1969. This year it was awarded to Stephanie Faulkner for her hardwork and determination on and off court, as well as her positive attitude towards helping others. Whilst there were a couple of other strong contenders, Stephanie stood out from the crowd.

Election of Officers, Committee Members & Independent Examiner

The committee for the 2022/23 season was proposed as follows:

Chair	Campbell Wilson
Secretary	Stephanie Jong
Treasurer	Graham Barr
Tournament Secretary	(Vacant)
Press & Publicity Officer	Zoe Foote
Match Secretary	Chris Lim

Masters Coordinator	Helen Taylor
Coaching Coordinator	Daniel Bates
Registration Secretary	Campbell Wilson
Safeguarding Officer	Sandra Dennis
Inclusion Officer	Philip Gray
BE Representative	Julie Pike
Committee Member	John Pickering

The nominations were proposed by NP, and seconded by Sara Cunnington.

Affiliation Fees

The affiliation fees will remain the same for the upcoming season (£4 for adults and £0 for juniors).

DB Proposed, CW Seconded.

Any Other Business

Summer Clubs

CW stated that a couple of clubs had enquired about advertising their summer clubs via the county. In order to be fair, all clubs will be given the opportunity to advertise their summer club. CW will contact all clubs requested for any details if they wish to advertise.

South Cambs League

A friendly league was run this year to allow those clubs who had returned from Covid the opportunity to compete, without disadvantaging those who hadn't yet been able to return. It would also serve as an opportunity to trial a new online results system, and a new match scoring system (points per rubber).

Report from Tom Wade, acting secretary:

“There has been significant activity across all the leagues. There appears to be a decent number of active teams (6 womens, 17 mens, and 9 mixed playing at least 1 match throughout the year). The season will officially end at the end of this month. Both cup competitions are coming to a close, with the finals left to play”.

It is expected that there will be a 'normal' season next season. The league will aim to get feedback from clubs on the new system and make any changes necessary.

Welfare Officer

SD has completed the Welfare course run by Badminton England. They would like to encourage all clubs to have a nominated Welfare Officer, with contact details on

their website. It is also advised for junior clubs to seek permission from parents to allow their child to leave the club without being picked up from the door, otherwise the club would be liable should anything happen to that child.
No other business.

DB thanked all for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.