

CHESTER & DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Chester & District Badminton League held on **Thursday 2nd March 2017** in the Clubhouse of the Cheshire County Sports Club.

Attendees:

Ian Regan (IR)	Chairman	Steve Lacey	Delamere
Jan Bridge (JB)	Secretary/CCO	Dave Roberts	Hawarden
George Williams (GW)	Tournament Sec./Cap.Vaux	Steve Brown	West Cheshire
Jeremy Pearson (JP)	Treasurer	Jackie Perry	Norley
Mark Perry (MP)	Rep to County/Norley	Alan Mathias	Rossett
Andy Hill (AH)	Rep to County/Ellesmere Port	Jo Sanderson	Rossett
Emma Hilton (EH)	Juniors/Christleton	Craig Young	David Lloyd
Geoff Cookson (GC)	Juniors/Christleton	Andy Gibbons	Stella Maris
Marion Tullett (MT)	Presentation Night Organiser		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Action by:

Apologies were received from: Lyn Brown (Match Sec/West Cheshire), Brian Johnson (Britannia), Howard Malyon (Tarpoley), Jamie Jenkins (Watergate), Ann Hipkiss (Connah's Quay), Steve Eltham (Buckley), Annie Doyle (DLCO), Richard Elston (DLCO), Doreen Francey and Christian Taylor (Rossett).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2016 had been made available on the website. They were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report is attached.

JB to ask Mike Allen to submit an invoice for the website hosting fee.

JB

4. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Lyn Brown was unable to attend but her match secretary's report is attached. Discussion of the individual items are covered in Item 14.

5. BADMINTON ENGLAND REGISTRATIONS

JB reported that some clubs had been late completing their online Badminton England registrations. Next season could all clubs ensure that the BE fees for the majority of their members are paid by the **end of Oct 2017** as that is when the **insurance runs out and it cannot be reactivated until all clubs have paid.**

Clubs

All players from clubs in Wales playing in the Chester League should be registered with Badminton Wales.

6. MEN'S LEAGUE

It was agreed that we should keep running an informal men's league but that there was no need to include nominations for player of the season.

7. TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT

GW reported that the Parker Trophy and Capper Trophy are progressing satisfactorily and will be completed in time for the finals on **Friday 7 April** at the Cheshire County Sports Club at 7.00pm.

Also that the Parker Trophy and Capper Trophy Plate will be completed in ample time for the presentation night.

The Len Knight Trophy (for Veterans) – the Chester League were unable to field a team due to several county veteran tournaments being held on the same day.

Chester League fielded a team in the Baxter Trophy (for Moderate players) and finished in third position. I would like to thank the Club members who helped field this team.

8. WEBSITE UPDATE

JB reported that scores are being entered successfully (only one missing at the moment and team captain is being chased!)

There were no requests for amendments / additions to the site.

9. CHESHIRE COUNTY (CCBA) MATTERS

MP reported the following:

CCBA require affiliations to BE to be completed by 1st Nov.

The Len Knight trophy was won by Runcorn Widnes (no team from the Chester League). The Baxter trophy was won by the Wirral League.

O35 players in England are invited to CCBA player sessions to be held at the Ellesmere Sport Village on **12th March and 2nd April** – individuals will be emailed directly.

Some clubs have reported difficulties receiving their insurance certificates and have had to chase Badminton England to get them.

Last year clubs were contacted re: monies available to clubs via the **Club Support Package** (£5000 from Active Cheshire, £5000 from BE and £5000 from CCBA). 3 clubs took up the offer – Crosses, Canute and Millbrook.

Clubs to watch out for another contact from CCBA as **similar monies will be available next season**. MP & AH to report back to County that the invitation letter that is sent out to clubs should be more simply and clearly worded.

*Clubs
MP/AH*

10. JUNIOR INTER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

The Junior Inter-league tournament (for the U15 David O’Leary and the U19 Thornley Trophies) will take place at Christleton Sports Centre on Sunday 12th March between 1.00pm till 6.00pm.

The Chester & District League teams are being organised by EH/GC who reported that the U19 team is sorted and they are waiting for confirmation from 2 players for the U15’s (though the team can be completed by Christleton Juniors if necessary).

11. PRESENTATION NIGHT

The presentation night will be held on **Saturday 29th April 2017** - 7:30 to midnight in the Cheshire County Sports Club Lounge. MT confirmed that tickets are now available – clubs to inform their members. Her contact details are in the hand book and cheques should be made payable to the Chester & District Badminton League. (Note she is away 21-28 Mar).

Clubs

MT requires the money before she will be able to allocate any tickets which will be on a first come, first served basis. MT to use her own bank account to facilitate collecting money. Numbers are required by 16th April (max. number allowed 120).

MT to send an image of a ticket to JB for inclusion on the website and Facebook.

MT/JB

12. NOMINATIONS FOR LEAGUE OFFICIALS

Jeremy Pearson and George Williams are stepping down as Treasurer and Tournament Secretary this year (though George is willing to continue as President).

So could **all clubs please canvas your members** at your AGM’s.

Clubs

We **urgently need volunteers for TREASURER and TOURNAMENT SECRETARY** – without them we cannot continue!

13. CLUB FEEDBACK

Stella Maris reported that they had lost Northgate Arena as a venue for next season.

Andy Gibbons (AG) to contact Div 1 secretaries to investigate whether it will be possible to play both home and away games at the opposition’s venue. (Stella Maris to pay for courts and shuttles for ‘away’ match).

AG

Other possible venues were suggested. GW to send AG contact details for Ellesmere Port Sports Village.

GW

14. POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES & DISCUSSION RE: MATCH SEC. REPORT

Scoring System

DLCO want to propose changing the scoring system to that used in Wirral – Craig Young (CY) to put forward proposal for the AGM. JB to send CG details of the proposal put forward at the 2013 AGM (though defeated at that time).

CY/JB

It was noted that changing the scoring system in 2013 would have been difficult because of lack of control of the website at the time whereas now changing the league table calculations on the website should be much easier.

Match arrival time

No rule change proposed but teams to be reminded of the **courtesy** of arriving on time.

Re-arrangements

It was agreed that these should be kept to a minimum but that we don't want to be as draconian as neighbouring leagues because the aim is to play badminton so teams don't want to go to a match with too many players missing.

Steve Lacey (SL) to propose a rule amendment that matches scheduled to take place after 28th Feb should not be allowed to be rearranged.

SL

Ordering Events

It was agreed that there was no need for a rule re: ordering events (e.g. mixed before levels).

Order of Play (including positioning of reserves)

It was agreed that it is not possible to rank players. We are, therefore, reliant on Team Captains being honest in arranging the pairs in order of strength to determine the order of play. This includes their positioning of reserves.

If the opposition does not feel this has been fair it should be reported to the Match Secretary when the score sheet is submitted who will then provide feedback to the Executive Committee.

Conceding events through injury or illness

It was agreed that if a player is ill or injured in the first event they play we do not want anything in the rules to stop them playing their second event if they feel able to do so.

Substitutions

It was agreed that, once the game has started, if a player is injured or ill, a substitution should **not** be allowed as this benefits the home team. IR to produce a rule change proposal for the AGM.

IR

Disputes on match nights

It was agreed that in the event of any disputes on match nights discussion should take place between team captains only. Clubs will be reminded of this **etiquette** at the fixtures meeting. Score sheet to be amended to include the name of the team captains.

Clubs
JB

Correct completion of match score sheets and Player of the Season nominations

Clubs to make team captains aware of the points raised in the match sec report.

Clubs

15. A.O.B

Fixtures Booklets – some people really like them – some people never open them. Next year JB will ask clubs to canvas their members and report back how many fixtures booklets they need for their club.

Refreshments – the venue of some clubs no longer allow provision of own refreshments though other clubs want to continue providing them. It was agreed that there should be no expectation for clubs to provide refreshments though they could continue to do so if they wished.

T-shirts for Juniors – it was agreed that the league will provide T-shirts for the juniors playing in the inter-league competitions (12@£10each). The money used will be that saved by having the cost of the presentation night room hire reimbursed by the Cheshire County Sports Club (because we are using their catering).

ATTACHMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I reported at the last executive meeting, we have 33 teams participating this season and also 7 teams now in the men's league.

We have 515 players that we have received registration fees for, an increase on last season and on my projection for this season and there are a few registration fees still to be paid.

We have the league's trophies for this season and the cost is consistent with last season's cost.

As reported at the last executive meeting room hire has increased to £240 as the room hire for the AGM is now being charged to us whilst the league's handbooks are at the same cost as last year.

We have no costs charged to us so far this season in respect of the website.

Participation in the Baxter Trophy this year is at a more reasonable cost of £40.

Our financial statements are, hopefully, likely to show a break even position this season.

Finally we currently hold a balance of £2,506 on deposit, but there are still some costs that we have to meet this season, such as the finals of the Parker and Capper Trophies.

Jeremy Pearson
29th February 2017

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Registrations

The deadline has now passed for any new registrations (1st March 2017).

Please can clubs ensure any outstanding **new registration payments** are settled with the Match Secretary as soon as possible (and likewise with Badminton England as well).

Courtesy

Rule 7.5: The Committee would like to remind teams of the **courtesy of arriving on time**...and to liaise with the opposition's captain if you are aware that a player(s) may be late because of unavoidable circumstances, but not so late that it becomes an issue. Rule 7.5 states games can be claimed half an hour after the stated start time. There have been several "comments" this season (but not wanting to escalate to a formal complaint) e.g. players are "on their way" but don't arrive until over an hour after the start of a match, which if not pre-arranged results in players who did arrive on time having to wait around. In addition, there is usually a time limit on court time booked and teams may reluctantly (but legitimately) have to go down the route of claiming games as time has simply run out to fulfil the fixture. If late arrivals are not pre-arranged it is just discourteous.

Re-arrangements

Rule 9.2: There have been a number of **rearrangement requests** this season – two legitimately for non-availability of hall but the remainder have been for lack of a full team. It is possible to obtain a result (a draw) with the minimum 2 ladies and 2 men. There is nothing in the League rules about the minimum number of players required to fulfil a fixture – Wirral League rules state 5 events have to be played so this would require 3 ladies and 3 men.

Rule 9.3: There has been one instance of a match being rearranged without the knowledge or permission of the Match Secretary until after the date of the original fixture had passed.

The Committee reminds clubs that not being able to field your strongest team is not a reason to request a rearrangement. This is becoming more of an issue as more players are playing for a number of teams in different leagues and match clashes are becoming more common. A team could agree to a rearrangement and then find themselves in a weaker position if they can't then field their strongest team at the time of the rearrangement. The Committee has been lenient in the main, in the interests of wanting to see games played and not conceded or claimed, subject to the agreement of both teams involved. However, it has become apparent that the Chester & District League is considerably more lenient than its neighbouring Leagues e.g. Wirral, Flintshire, Manchester. These Leagues either take a hard line and refuse most requests, or penalise the team requesting a rearrangement by deducting points and imposing a fine.

The Committee invites comments on how rearrangements should be considered going forward and whether the rules need to be amended.

Order of Play (Events and Strength)

Rule 7.1: There have been several "comments" this season about **order of play** in terms of players' strength. The league rule 7.1 is very ambiguous and open to abuse and I would propose this needs amending.

"It is not necessary for the best two players in a team to play together but the pairs must be arranged in order of strength".

This is not so much of an issue in the levels but is becoming more apparent in the mixed. Traditionally the strength of a pairing is governed by the man, so I would expect the order of strength of the mixed pairings to be in line with the strength of the men. However a number of teams have

interpreted rule 7.1 and played their strongest first man with the weakest fourth lady at fourth mixed and argued that this is the weakest of the four pairs.

In terms of order of events, neighbouring Leagues state in their rules that the mixed events should be played before the levels or that 1st mens and 1st ladies should be played first, followed by 2nd mens and 2nd ladies, followed by 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st mixed in that order.... We don't stipulate order of events at all... should we? This is normally determined merely by which players are there at the start time. If we stated an order, this would mean in general the same players would play first and the same players would end up waiting to play last... Are we happy for Team Captains to determine the order of play on the night? Does this need mentioning in the rules?

The Committee invites comments on how order of play in terms of strength and events should be considered going forward and whether the rules need to be amended.

Reserves

This is also linked to "order of play".

Rule 7.4: Traditionally **reserves** tend to come into a team at the lower end of the order and should not play higher than a regular team member. This tends to be the case in larger clubs where the lower teams supplement the higher teams when required (C to B and B to A etc.). However, this may not be the case with some smaller clubs who have stronger players registered as "other" for reasons such as they are away at University or with work commitments are only able to play a limited number of matches. If these players are stronger than the regular team players then the League would expect them to come into the team at the most appropriate place suitable to their strength. This should be explained to the Captain on the night and an explanation written on the team sheet for the Match Secretary.

In some cases however, if for example a 1st or 2nd lady was absent, the reserve has slotted in where that player was missing, so as not to disrupt the other established pairings, and therefore played in a higher position than regular team players. Should this be allowed?

The Committee invites comments on the playing of reserves going forward and whether the rules need to be amended.

Substitutions

There is nothing in the League rules around the playing of **substitutes**. The Committee would welcome any views on the use of substitutes once a match has begun and the team sheet written out. It is recognised, however, that this only benefits the home team who may have players at a club night available at the home venue in the event of an injury or illness.

The Committee invites comments on the playing of substitutes going forward and whether the rules need to be amended.

Conceding events through injury or illness

There is nothing in the League rules around conceding games due to injury or illness. If a player becomes injured or unwell during their first event, and subsequently concedes that event, is it assumed they will automatically concede their second event? Or if they felt able to play the second event after a period of rest, should they be allowed to play their second event?

The Committee invites comments on conceding events through injury or illness going forward and whether the rules need to be amended.

Team Captains

There is nothing in the League rules, as with other Leagues, that states that "in the event of any disputes, discussion should take place between the Team Captains only". This would help to

minimise the general “free for all” and “fall-out” between all players present which has happened in fixtures this season.

Match Score Sheets

Match score sheets are still being submitted incomplete - no date, no division, games and events not added up, home and away teams points totals not corresponding! With the volume of score sheets coming in via email and post every week, it’s an additional job to have to complete these on your behalf.

In addition, there is a section at the bottom right-hand side “Team sending in score sheet”. This does not mean “home team”! If you are completing a score sheet and sending it in, this is the name of your team!!

Reminder that the score sheets need sending in within 10 days of a match....

Reminder that it’s the home teams’ responsibility to post the score on the website.... within 7 days... It’s fairly straightforward - just let me or Jan know if there is a problem... everyone appreciates when the scores and tables are up to date so this is important please...

If you do have new Team Captains, please can you ensure a proper handover so that they are aware of their responsibilities re. completing and sending in score sheets and the loading of scores onto the website.

Please use the score sheets to report anything you feel the Match Secretary needs to be aware of as part of a fixture.

Player of the season nominations

Reminder to complete this - to reiterate, in the interests of fairness, if one team doesn’t nominate any players, then the oppositions’ nominations won’t be accepted in that particular match as it would be one-sided. It’s going to be close in some cases so please keep these coming in as the season draws to a close and we’ll announce the winners at the league presentation evening!

My thanks to all the Team Captains for their hard work so far this season.

Best wishes.

Lyn Brown
Match Secretary
March 2017