

# CHESTER & DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Chester & District Badminton League held on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017** in the Clubhouse of the Cheshire County Sports Club.

## Attendees:

Ian Regan (IR)	Chairman	Brian Johnson	Britannia
Jan Bridge (JB)	Secretary/CCO	Tim Mee	Delamere
Lyn Brown (LB)	Match Sec/West Cheshire	Mike Denham	CCO
George Williams (GW)	Tournament Sec/Cap.Vaux	Jean Blenkley	Hawarden
Jeremy Pearson (JP)	Treasurer	Dave Blenkley	Hawarden
Mark Perry (MP)	Rep to County/Norley	Alan Matthias	Rossett
Andy Hill (AH)	Rep to County/Ellesmere Port	Jo Sanderson	Rossett
Marion Tullett (MT)	Presentation Night Organiser	Christian Taylor	Rossett
Emma Hilton (EH)	Juniors/Christleton	Jane Roberts	Connah's Quay
Geoff Cookson (GC)	Juniors/Christleton	Ann Hipkiss	Connah's Quay
Colin Fowler (CF)	Rossett	Mel Mountney	Norley
Louise Nesbitt (LN)	Christleton	Howard Malyon	Tarporley
Steve Brown	West Cheshire	Colin Evans	Millbrook
Craig Young	DLCO	Tim Cope	Millbrook

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Action by:*

Apologies were received from: Steve Lacey (Delamere), Steve Eltham (Buckley), Richard Elston (DLCO), Annie Doyle (DLCO), Andy Gibbons (Stella Maris), Jamie Jenkins (Watergate), and Doreen Francey.

## 2. PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the last meeting, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, had been made available on the website. They were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising. There were also no matters arising from the 2016 AGM.

## 3. REPORTS

The Treasurer's Report, the Match Secretary's Report and the Tournament Secretary's Report are all attached.

CCBA matters - MP reported that the county wish to raise fees (from £3.75 to £4) despite having approx. £23,000 in the bank. This will be discussed at the CCBA AGM on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June in the clubhouse of the Cheshire County Sports Club starting at 7:30pm.

Presentation Night - despite reduced numbers because of the bank holiday it was agreed that the night had been a success. MT was thanked for organising the event and we are pleased that she has agreed to organise it again for us next year.

Junior Inter-League – EH reported that the Chester & District League juniors won both the U15 and U19 Inter-League competitions this year. Again many congratulations and thanks to all involved.

#### 4. MISCELLANEOUS

Men's league - it was agreed at the last meeting that we should run an informal men's league again next year.

Fixtures Booklets – some people really like them whilst others just throw them in the bin which is obviously a waste of money. In previous years clubs have been supplied with 1 booklet per team member + a few extra for officials/reserves. This year club secretaries will be asked to canvas their members and say just how many are actually required for their club.

*Clubs*

Approved feather shuttles – there were no additions or deletions so the list of approved shuttles remains as Ashaway Red, RSL, Yonex, Yehlex, Swift and New Magnum. Shuttles will be still be available for purchase from GW as part of the CCBA scheme.

#### 5. CLUB APPLICATIONS / RESIGNATIONS

There have been no applications from new clubs to join the league.

Ellesmere Port said there is a possibility they may lose one team whilst Britannia may field a second team (venue in Runcorn). Stella Maris are without a venue and still looking at options. The Christleton Development Squad will play again next season. Proposals for the league structure will be put forward at the Fixture Meeting.

#### 6. LEAGUE OFFICIALS AND TEAM MANAGERS

##### **Retirement of Treasurer and Tournament Secretary**

IR presented Jeremy Pearson with a gift on retiring as Treasurer. (George Williams, retiring as Tournament Secretary, had been presented with his gift on the Presentation Night). Please see attached write-ups outlining the badminton careers of both Jeremy and George and our huge thanks to both of them for their many years of service to the league.

##### **Inter-League Team Managers**

Geoff Cookson and Emma Hilton already manage the junior teams we enter in the CCBA inter-league competitions. They confirmed they are also willing to take on responsibility for organising our senior teams for the inter-league Baxter and Len Knight Trophy tournaments. JB to assist with names of league members registered with Badminton England.

*GC/EH  
JB*

##### **Election of Officials willing to re-stand**

As there were no other volunteers the following officials, who had expressed a willingness to re-stand, were duly re-elected:

- President – George Williams
- Chairman – Ian Regan
- Vice Chairman – Mark Perry
- Secretary – Jan Bridge
- Match Secretary – Lyn Brown
- Web Manager – Mike Allen
- County Reps – Mark Perry, Andy Hill

### **Treasurer**

Colin Fowler from Rossett volunteered to be Treasurer and was duly elected. Our thanks to Steve Brown of West Cheshire who had expressed a willingness to take on the role if there had been no other volunteers. Colin to liaise with JP.

CF/JP

### **Tournament Secretary**

Louise Nesbitt volunteered to take on the role of Tournament Secretary but only if there are changes to the way the Tournaments are run such as having weeks blocked out from other fixtures. This was discussed and the general view seemed to be that this might be difficult.

However, as there were no other volunteers, it was agreed that Louise should organise a meeting of the Tournament Committee to consider further options for the Parker and Capper Trophy competitions.

LN

## **7. PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

### **Rule 3.2**

The following amendment was agreed:

Rule 3.2 Line 3 - Change 'and Website Manager' to ',Website Manager and **Presentation Night Organiser**'

### **Rule 4.5**

The following deletions to rule 4.5 were agreed with 23 votes in favour and 2 against:

Rule 4.5 Each team representative together with the Officers of the League ~~and any club member registered to play in the league that season~~ shall be entitled to vote at the AGM or EGM ~~and take part in the discussion~~. In the event of a vote being tied the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

### **Rule 8.1**

The following new rule 8.1 was agreed 17 votes in favour and 7 against:

Rule 8.1 – ***Captains shall simultaneously exchange score sheets on which the players names have been entered before the beginning of the a match and no alteration shall be made during the course of the match.***

### **Rule 8.3**

The following deletion was agreed:

Rule 8.1 – All score sheets must be received by the Match Secretary ~~and Tournament Secretary~~ within 10 days of the match being played.

### **Rule 9.6**

The following proposed new rule was not passed as LB considered rule 9.1 covers this sufficiently.

**9.6 No matches shall be rearranged after the last day of February.**

### **Rules 5.3 & 5.4**

Craig Young presented a proposal for changing the way points are awarded to the winning team. Instead of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss each team shall score 1 point for each game won in a match:

This proposal was accepted with 14 votes in favour and 10 votes against and the rules will be amended as follows:

Rule 5.3 replace sentence 3 with: ***Each team shall score 1 point for each game won in the match***

Rule 5.4 replace sentence 2 with: ***If points are equal then the team with the greatest difference between total games won and games lost shall be placed higher. If there is still a tie then the winning team shall be decided as that having the greatest sum of rally points scored.***

**AS THIS IS A MAJOR RULE CHANGE CLUBS ARE ASKED TO MAKE SURE THEIR MEMBERS ARE MADE AWARE.**

*Clubs*

### **8. A.O.B**

#### **Colin Copping Trophy**

This year this trophy was awarded to Colin Evans of Millbrook. Colin was nominated because of his dedicated service to the club - he runs Millbrook Juniors every Wednesday and, according to the club, has 'single handedly run all things Millbrook' since 1969. As Colin wasn't able to attend the Presentation Night GW duly presented the trophy to Colin with our many thanks for all he has done and continues to do.

#### **Badminton England Memberships**

JB reported that Badminton England have changed their membership pricing structure to include a club affiliation fee and a lower individual member fee.

## ATTACHMENTS

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

This season we have seen an increase of one team in our league, to 33 teams, and two teams in the men's league. Player participation in the league has thus increased by 39 to 524 registered players. This has produced a total income of £1,448.

This season our league trophies and players trophies have been provided at a consistent cost overall of £429. We have not received any invoicing in respect of our web costs for the season. The room hire costs for our meetings have increased as the AGM is not now provided for us FOC.

There has been one senior inter-league event played this season in which we have participated, the costs decreased to £40, and we have provided T-shirts for our (successful) teams in the two junior inter-league competitions.

Total expenditure for the season is £1,596 which is in line with the previous season and this provides a final deficit of £146 which is less than the deficit of £472 budgeted for last year.

Interest rates remain low with the deposit account producing interest for the year of only £2.

As regards tournaments, entries for the Parker and Capper Trophy Competitions, income has remained static at £130 this year. The costs for the finals have also remained static this season and the competitions have, therefore, realised a surplus of £32.

The annual dance produced a very good surplus of £408, whilst this year's dance, financial details of which will be incorporated in the next financial statements, I have included in the budget at further surplus of £120, but it has in fact realised £256.

We have, therefore, finished the year with an overall surplus of £294 and this increased our overall reserves to £3,035.

With regard to my budget for the forthcoming season, I have retained the numbers of teams, maintaining current registration fees of £10 per team and maintaining player registration fees of £2 per player. I have also included the men's league at a consistent fee of £10 per team.

I have incorporated a small increase in expenditure and included rising costs against our participation in the inter-league events. This results in a working deficit of £546.

As regards other income, I anticipate interest of £3 and with the Parker & Capper Trophies breaking even and a surplus on the end of season dance, the total budgeted deficit for the coming year amounts to £426. However, as previously reported, the league retains reserves which can currently absorb this deficit.

Once again, I would like to thank Jan Bridge, Lyn Brown and George Williams for their assistance during the year, and Marion Tullett whose efforts with the annual dance at the end of the season will be reflected in next year's financial statements.

Jeremy Pearson  
Treasurer

## ATTACHMENTS

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### **MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT**

#### **Players of the Season 2016/17**

A list of the winners has been published on the website and I hope those players that weren't at the presentation evening have been informed by their team colleagues.

#### **Divisional Structure**

We will be proposing a divisional structure for the forthcoming season in time for the Fixtures Meeting on 4th July. Depending on applications or resignations etc. it should be the usual two up and two down in each division.

In Div 1 Stella Maris are now currently without a venue, however we are hoping not to lose them next season and they are very keen to continue in the league... they are currently exploring options and if any teams have any suggestions please let us know.

#### **Registrations**

Team registrations will take place in September... a reminder that we do ask for registrations 7 days prior to your first match... so for clubs with multiple teams, please be mindful of timescales when setting any early fixtures in relation to your team selection meetings.

#### **Fixtures**

We'll cover this at the fixtures meeting but just a reminder that, for clubs with more than one team in a division (e.g. A&B or B&C) then these fixtures need to be fulfilled by 31st December.

#### **Treasurer and Tournament Secretary**

I would just like to end by thanking George and Jeremy for all their hard work and commitment over many years in their roles for the Chester League. Their support personally to me as Match Secretary has been very much appreciated and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this and wish them both all the very best as they "retire" from their roles.

Lyn Brown  
Match Secretary

## ATTACHMENTS

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### **TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

#### **Parker and Capper Trophy**

The entries were down on the previous season. There were 13 entries in all, 7 in the Parker Trophy and 6 in the Capper Trophy. Only 8 clubs entered.

The Parker Trophy was won by Cap/Vaux. The Parker Trophy Plate final is still to be played. The Capper Trophy was won by Christleton C and the Capper Trophy Plate was won by Ellesmere Port C.

At the Executive Meeting on 2 March 2017, I reported that the Parker and Capper Trophy tournaments were progressing satisfactorily and would be completed in time for the finals. I also reported that the Plates would be completed. Unfortunately this did not happen in the case of the PT Plate due to fixture congestion and the Easter Holiday period.

#### **Inter-League Tournaments**

The League did not enter the Len Knight Trophy (for veterans). The League were unable to field a team due to there being several County Veteran tournaments being held on the same day.

The League fielded a team in the Baxter Trophy (for moderate players) and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. My thanks to all the club members who helped to field this team.

#### **Men's League**

It was decided to run a Men's League again this season and 6 teams entered the competition. They were Britannia, CCO, Christleton, Norley, Buckley and Millbrook.

The eventual winners were Britannia by a very small margin.

I will be happy to run the Men's League in the future if needed. I would like to thank all the people who have been part of the tournament committee during my time as Tournament Secretary.

George Williams  
Tournament Secretary

## ATTACHMENTS

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### **ITEM 6 – RETIREMENT OF TREASURER & TOURNAMENT SEC.**

As you know, Jeremy Pearson is standing down as Treasurer after many, many years of service [I think we're talking 40 years] and George Williams as Tournament Secretary after many years of service [tens of years] – neither Jeremy nor George could remember the length of time when I asked them in a round-about way - and so I think it is fitting to write a few words about the both of them.

First, **Jeremy**, with many thanks to Geoff Cookson (Secretary of Geoff's club, Christleton) and Fliss Morrissey, Jeremy's sister, for providing much of this write-up.

Jeremy started his badminton as a teenager playing occasionally at the weekends with his parents at St Mary's in Handbridge (was a non-league club which his parents had recently joined to learn to play). In his earlier days his preferred sport was cricket but when he returned from University he started playing more regularly at St Mary's. Unfortunately the hall at St Mary's had to be rebuilt and the new hall was not suitable for playing badminton and he moved on to playing at Farndon and for Black Diamond in Newton. After playing in a number of their teams he moved on to Christleton where he joined his friend Joy Connah and formed his mixed playing partnership with Jean Coward.

It was in the early 80's that Jeremy received his coaching qualifications and became involved with Junior badminton. He was the junior leader at Christleton Junior Badminton and with the decline of traditional junior club badminton introduced Christleton to the Welsh Badminton Association competitions. For over 30 years Jeremy has been involved and continues to take an active interest in Junior Badminton and the Christleton Club. Jeremy has held the position of Treasurer and Chairman and continues as an Honorary Member.

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Next, **George**, with many thanks to Helen Williams for providing this write-up.

George joined Blacon Badminton Club in 1966 (51 years ago) and has played or been involved in the Chester League and Cheshire County ever since.

When Blacon BC folded he joined Overleigh Badminton Club and after that he joined St Mary's. He had always played for Vauxhall Badminton Club, (he worked at Vauxhalls until he retired) which was then in the Birkenhead League (now Wirral) and then Vauxhall joined with Capenhurst and became Cap/Vaux and have been in both the Chester and Wirral Leagues for many years. During this time George has played in 3 leagues, Chester, Wirral and Clwyd (for Mold). He played in the over 65s for Cheshire until his knee operation in 2007 which brought an end to him playing.

He was Tournament Secretary for Cheshire County which he took over from Cliff Fairbanks (about 25 years ago) and gave that up approx. 5 years ago. He organised many national tournaments in Chester and also an England v China match held at the Northgate Arena. He has also been C&DBL Tournament Secretary for many years organising Inter-League events and running them for the Cheshire County. He has now decided to retire from the post of Tournament Secretary (he is now 81) but is happy to remain as President in Chester.

**Ian Regan, Chairman**