

Cambridgeshire Badminton Association

(Affiliated to Badminton England.)



AGM 2020/21
1st September 2021

Campbell Wilson
Secretary

Meeting opened at 19:10.

Attending

Officers

Daniel Bates	Chair, Publicity
Campbell Wilson	Secretary, Registration
Graham Barr	Treasurer

Club Representatives

Sandra Dennis	St Neots, St Ives & Ramsey Juniors
Sharon Chandler	Cambridge City Badminton Club
Yuki Lin	
Philippa Millerchip	Hurst Badminton Club

County Members

Stephanie Jong
Adele Woodhams
Alex Wilson

Badminton England Representative(s)

Julie Pike	Relationship Manager
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1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Paul Abbott, Philip Gray, Colin Millerchip, John Pickering, Neil Place, and James Wilson.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 17th June 2020

The minutes of the AGM 2020 were accepted as being correct.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising that won't be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. Annual Reports

- a) Chair
- b) Treasurer
- c) Registration Secretary
- d) Match Secretary
- e) Tournament Secretary
- f) Coaching Coordinator
- g) Masters Coordinator
- h) Junior Subcommittee
- i) Badminton England Representative

Annual reports were presented from designated officers. An overview of each can be found below:

The Chair

The County has done very little as there has been almost no badminton since the last AGM. A more comprehensive practice and training programme for the juniors and seniors has been put in place. Northstowe Hall has finally been completed and a block booking has been made for Wednesday evenings to avoid clashes with most club nights.

The Juniors started on 15th April at Swavesey, and moved to Northstowe on May 5th. So far 28 Junior sessions have run, with a total of 418 players attending, and an average of 15 per session.

Block booking have been made for Wednesdays and Thursdays. From May 19th, the Wednesday session have alternated between Seniors and the older Juniors (Over 15s). The younger juniors (u15s) play every week at the Thursday session. This is to accelerate the development of the younger players.

Adults session started on May 19th and have been open to anyone who was in the county squads (seniors and masters) from before lockdown. They have also been opened out to any players who are county standard and reside in the county but don't currently represent Cambridgeshire. This has been for two reasons – helping current county players with county standard practice; and helping with recruitment of these players. So far the sessions have been very well attended. Eight sessions have run so far, and have averaged 17 players per session.

Now that things are starting to open up again, conversations will start to happen about clubs restarting and tournaments/county leagues restarting also. The main focus for now needs to be on encouraging as much activity to restart as possible, and supporting those who need assistance.

The Junior Subcommittee no longer exists so this report was covered by the Chair. There are volunteers and enough players to put U12, U14, and U16 teams into the Shires leagues this year. This is largely due to the success of the sessions at Northstowe – thanks to Paul Martell for his work on this. Several parents are going through their Level 1 and Level 2 coaching qualifications, as well as DBS checks, so they can help out with the sessions. This has proved very helpful so far.

One of the main discussion points for the AGM was the committee positions and the lack of volunteers coming forwards (an ongoing issue). The County once again is very threadbare and more volunteers need to be recruited into the committee and selection committee. The committee currently consist of a small group of people each doing a lot of roles. On top of this, several of the current committee members are either stepping down now, or at the end of the following season. Simon Parker has stepped down after several years of service in numerous roles, Daniel Bates and Neil Place will also be stepping down for their current roles at the end of the 21/22 season after 15+ years on the committee. Daniel Bates has indicated an interest in continuing in other roles, but someone else will need to take the strategic lead as Chair. Neil Place has offered to help train a person or group of people to take on the Tournament Secretary role, something which will be organised for a later date.

The Treasurer

Usually the Treasurer would present a full report of accounts, but as there has been little activity over the past year, it was decided that a brief statement of accounts would be more useful.

The county account balance at the end of last season was £16,073.52.
As of 7th August 2021 it was £15,746.07.

There has been very little financial movement this year, but this is expected to change next season.

The Chair pointed out that The Grant from Cambridge Community Trust has been very well received, and there is still money available to allocate. The GVC grant awarded to CBA through Cambridge Community Foundation has allowed us to develop the pathfinder junior badminton county coaching and any income this generates will be fed back into future initiatives.

The Chair posed a question to the attendees - what can the county do to help clubs or coaches that want to get restarted?

Sandra Dennis asked whether the county would be able to support one of her Level 1 Coaches (Katrina) that is aiming to complete her Level 2 qualification very soon. As there are almost no courses running, she is having to travel to Harrogate to complete her qualification, and is paying for her accommodation and travel herself. St Neots Junior Club have contributed towards her course cost, but as she plays such a key role to the club, and her gaining her Level 2 qualification is vital to the continuity of the club, will the county be able to support as well?

The Chair explained that Sandra will need to put the request in writing and the committee will discuss to see how the county can support Katrina.

This led to a further discussion around the other juniors clubs. Ramsey has not restarted due to the hall being unavailable due to building works. St Ives has also not restarted as the main club has folded. It is Sandra's understanding that there was money left in the club account, which should be payable back to the county if the club has folded.

The junior clubs really need more coaches. Currently they have two people running four courts, and Christine Rickwood would like to take a step back. More volunteers and coaches need to be recruited to keep the sessions running longer-term.

Registration Secretary

As expected, an unusual year for affiliation/registration. Normally facts, figures, and statistics would be presented on club and member affiliation, but this is not appropriate this season.

Some clubs did come back and affiliate, but CW was unsure on exact figures. The County has lost some clubs – particularly St Ives. It was agreed that it would be good to see where we are as a county – which clubs are active, before pushing affiliation. As things start to open up again, a more thorough report should be possible at the next AGM after a full season without (hopefully) any further lockdowns or Covid restrictions.

The Treasurer pointed out that affiliation fees from clubs makes up a large proportion of the county income, so the county will likely see a drop in income this season due to that.

The South Cambs League has decided to run a friendly season for the 2021/22 season – not going to count towards anything but will give clubs who can play the opportunity to get back to competing and getting used to the new online results system.

It was asked whether the county would still enforce county/BE affiliation even if it's not a competitive league. It was decided that things should be kept consistent and that the rule should still be enforced, particularly as things are starting to open up again including county matches and tournaments.

Hurst Badminton Club have decided to start with a Pay and Play format. Annual subs/affiliation will still be available for those who want to, but they will not enforce it as it is too unknown for this season. A discussion was held around whether this could have insurance implications for players who are not affiliated, and for the club as a whole. Julie Pike (Badminton England representative) confirmed that if someone who wasn't affiliated got injured, they wouldn't be insured. Halls should have public liability insurance but as a Club they may not be covered.

Sandra Dennis commented that as a junior club (St Neots), they have to show proof of affiliation and therefore insurance to One Leisure before they can make court bookings for their club.

It was agreed that realistically clubs cannot enforce affiliation at this stage, but they should point their members in the right direction and ask them to sign themselves up if they are able to. A membership costs £10 for the season, so it's very reasonable to expect this from members.

Match Secretary

No formal report due to no matches being played.

There was a vote held by Badminton England as to when county fixtures should resume. The general consensus was January 2022.

Tournament Secretary

Normally as a County a senior restricted, junior tournament, and senior bronze would be run. No tournaments were run over the last season due to Covid.

This season the Senior County Restricted tournament will be held on 2nd & 3rd October at Swavesey Village College. Singles and Mixed Doubles will be played on the Saturday, followed by Level Doubles on the Sunday.

Currently a summer bronze has not been scheduled as this falls in the following season, and Neil Place will be step down at the end of this season (May). The Chair commented that we should ideally aim to still run the bronze tournament and aim to train someone/a group of people in time for them to run it. Neil has volunteered to train people if a suitable date can be found. Jonathan Shears was in the process of doing this for the junior bronze, but this was cancelled due to Covid. Daniel was unsure whether he would still be willing to pick this back up again.

Coaching Coordinator

A Cambridge Disability Badminton Festival will be taking place on 19th September at Trumpington Sports Centre from 12:30 – 3:30pm. This will be publicised on social media and email. This is also supported by the grant funding that was received.

Nothing else to report.

Masters Coordinator

Nothing to report. No Masters badminton played over the 2020/21 season.

The Masters O50 team has been training once per month since June 2021 which has been well-received.

Junior Subcommittee

No report – covered by Chair.

Badminton England Representative

A few county specific updates, and then a few generic updates.

As mentioned, an Inclusive Badminton Festival will be held in September. The Cambridgeshire festival will be one of seven across the country. Aiming to capitalise on the success of the Paralympic

Games as badminton is now included. Philip Gray is running the Cambridgeshire festival. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome to. Also partnered with Mike McCarthy (Suffolk) who is part of the Special Olympics team and runs a Learning Disabilities group in Suffolk. They will be attending. All festivals funded by Badminton England. Also running a Disability CPD Coaching Course on the back of this – BE funded. Might not be in Cambridgeshire but somewhere in the region.

Peterborough Foundation (Level 1) Course running 4/5th September, currently 8 booked on.

There's almost no funding available at the moment. The only funding pot currently is specifically being used to help restart No Strings sessions and start new sessions particularly targeting key areas such as low income, ethnic minority, and harder to reach areas. Peterborough has been identified as a target area within Cambridgeshire. Badminton England are aiming to get a No Strings session running in Peterborough, but have had issues with facilities and workforce. The sessions will start with a minimal amount of funding, but must aim to become self-sustainable.

Julie has initiated contact with a few clubs/coaches, particularly Naveen from Northstowe Badminton Club, Oli Stevenson from Swavesey, and Philip Gray from Aspire. All had quite promising development plans pre-Covid so aiming to pick this up again and see where things are up to.

Julie has also had a few meetings with Living Sport (County Sports Partnership for Cambridgeshire) to discuss Workforce in the county. They are trying to get more coordinators for recreational pay and play sessions, and leadership in schools. They're also hoping to put together a more coordinated approach to get Racket Pack sessions delivered in local Primary Schools.

The Young Leader Award is now free to deliver – this used to be a paid licence. Now coaches, clubs, and counties can deliver it for free. It's a good starting point for getting more volunteers at a younger age (14-18). Resources available through Julie/Badminton England.

Similarly, the Young Leaders Academy will be running virtually this year due to Covid and will be taking place on 26/27th October. No nominations were received from any clubs in Cambridgeshire. Nominations will remain open until the end of September if anyone wishes to put forward a Young Leader from their club or from the county.

The annual Volunteer Conference is happening on 11th September. Again, will be running virtually. There will be a number of useful webinars and discussions aimed at helping to get clubs and coaches restarted after Covid, as well as sources of support available.

In terms of what Badminton England are doing to help clubs – the feedback they have received has generally been that a reduction in players/membership retention is their biggest problem. Unfortunately Badminton England does not have any funding specifically for this – their funding pots have also been affected by Covid. There is a Club Development resource on Hive (online toolkit), as well as a monthly Club Webinar series – aimed at sharing best practice, how to utilise partners, etc.

Finally, on Tuesday 7th September there is a Snap Sponsorship webinar running. It's a platform to get help for local sponsorship. There is a monthly charge (£8) which is an ongoing commitment, but it can be a good opportunity to get extra support where needed.

Sandra Dennis asked whether Julie has contact details for schools and it has proven very hard to advertise the junior clubs. JP doesn't have details for schools specifically, but she can put Sandra in contact with local School Games Organisers who cover different districts and generally have a good relationship with their schools. It can be very dependent on how proactive the SGOs are unfortunately, but Julie will put Sandra in contact with the SGO for the St Neots area.

5. Award of County Colours

No County Colours were awarded as no county matches have been played.

6. Award of the Eric Raynor Trophy

It was agreed that the Eric Raynor Trophy would not be awarded this year as no clubs have been active.

7. Election of Officers, Committee Members, and Independent Examiner

The following officers were nominated for the 2021/22 season:

President	(Vacant)
Chair	Daniel Bates
Secretary	Campbell Wilson
Treasurer	Graham Barr
Registration Secretary	Campbell Wilson
Match Secretary	Neil Place
Tournament Secretary	Neil Place
Coaching Coordinator	Philip Gray
Master Coordinator	Helen Taylor
Press/Publicity Officer	Daniel Bates
South Cambs League Rep	Campbell Wilson
BE Representative	Julie Pike
Safeguarding Officer	Sandra Dennis

The meeting was not quorate, therefore the positions have been agreed at the AGM for the existing committee to allocate.

A discussion was held around the President position, which has been empty for several years since Ken Verney passed away. DB would like to ask Christine Rickwood whether she would be interested in taking on this role as she has 83 years of Cambridgeshire Badminton experience under her belt.

It was agreed that she should be offered the role.

8. Election of up to five Committee members.

The following were elected as general Committee members for the 2021/22 season:
John Pickering, Stephanie Jong.

No other nominations.

9. Election of Independent Examiner

Sandra Dennis has agreed to continue as Independent Examiner.

Proposed by Daniel Bates, seconded by Campbell Wilson, unanimously passed.

10. To set the affiliation fees for Cambridgeshire BA

It was agreed that there would no change in the affiliation fees. They shall remain at £4 per adult member and £0 per junior members.

Proposed by Graham Barr, seconded by Daniel Bates, unanimously passed.

11. Any Other Business

No other business.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and attendance, not just for the AGM but for their commitments to County Badminton as well.

Meeting closed at 20:15.

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