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# SUSSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019/20

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of SCBA, held via Zoom on Tuesday 8th December 2020, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mark Russ (Chairman) and 19 members.

1. **Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman:**

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Wendy Adams

**3. Approval of Minutes of the 2019 AGM:**

The Minutes from the 2019 AGM were discussed and had been shared online in advance. Adrian highlighted that a point was made to him via email regarding the need for improvement of communication from Sussex County Badminton. Adrian said that he didn’t recollect the comment and asked those in the room who had been present at last year’s AGM if they recalled this. As there was no recollection of the comment it was not added to the minutes.

The minutes were agreed, and Adrian will send a copy to Mark for these to be physically signed off.

1. **Reflections on Mark Allan:**

Derek and Mark shared reflections on Mark Allan and the contribution he had made to Badminton.

1. **The Annual Report:**

The annual reports were shared on the SCBA website and were available on request. The report was accepted and adopted.

In regard to Teams Sarah referenced how competitive training sessions had been and that a waiting list at been required to manage attendance. Adrian congratulated all those who had represented the county and those who won the restricted competitions.

There were discussions in relation to the three series. Sarah Addison asked about the entry criteria for the various events and if this was consistent across all the series. It was referenced by Derek that rules were consistent, albeit people did try and flex them. Players needed to be registered with a Sussex Club to enter. There was a request to review the T’s and C’s in order that entry terms are clear for local clubs and leagues as some people were put off attending due to concern over the standard.

It was referenced that last year discussion had taken place with the Crawley League about adding a fourth event to the existing three series. In order to add a Crawley event a volunteer would be needed to own this. Due to Covid these discussions are on hold at the present time and will recommence when the situation is clearer.

A number of the reports including those related to Development, Teams and Juniors all referenced challenges and initiatives that have either been put on hold or are under review as a result of the Covid situation.

1. **The Treasurer’s Report:**

Philip Huggett shared the accounts. He highlighted that while last years financial position was overly positive the £11k drop in income in the latest year is a major concern and requires spending cuts to be agreed before 2022/23. Income from registrations has fallen significantly and Covid has clearly had an impact. However, it is also the case that a number of purses, including the senior’s purse, are running at an expenditure level well in advance of income.

Philip highlighted the need for increased governance in relation to match fees in order that the various purses all cover their costs.

The finance report triggered a number of discussions in regard to improving the situation. The headlines of which are detailed below:

* Maurice Gale asked if we could put up the fees for the three series. While this wasn’t discounted it was referenced that the three series had made a profit and that profits from these events are given back to the respective leagues.
* Paul Fletcher asked if the county could consider a masters tournament that gave club players the opportunity to partner better county players. He felt this would be well supported and could generate income for the county. This idea will be discussed by the management meeting.
* Maurice Gale made the point, which was supported by a number of others, that the committee need to enforce budget accountability and that budget holders need to be aware of their budget and they cannot spend beyond this level.
* Sarah Addison said that match and training tariffs should be set at the start of the season, plus allowances for petrol fees.
* Neil Warwick asked how much money from the existing funds was required for Badminton development next year. Philip responded that £2.5k was required, which was less than in the past 12 months.

Philip reiterated the point made at last year’s AGM, that the accounts haven’t been audited for a number of years. Adrian asked if we needed to “bite the bullet” and pay to have accounts audited. Paul Fletcher asked if we could find a volunteer. Adrian responded by saying that we had asked league and clubs previously and had not had any response. However, he was happy to ask again. Jasper Tandy made the point that if we couldn’t find someone to audit the accounts, perhaps we could find someone to design an auditing process that someone could take on. Maurice Gale kindly agreed to help with accessing an auditor. Adrian will connect Philip and Maurice in order to take this forward.

1. **Election of the Management Committee:**

Voting was carried out using the hand raise function on Zoom. The following were elected to the management committee:

Chairman Mark Russ

Deputy Chairman David King

Secretary Sara Addison

Treasurer Philip Huggett

Chair of Sussex County Junior Badminton Mark Russ (appointed by SCJBA)

Mark Russ also confirmed that he would also be seeking to bring new blood onto the management committee to help bring in some new ideas. To this end he was looking for Dean George and Jonty Russ to join the group to help drive development.

1. **Badminton England Update:**

Derek and Mark shared some of the changes at BE over the past year. These changes have resulted in Sussex and other counties, having far less resource as BE have had to restructure. Lee Chalens is Sussex support now, but unfortunately Lee also covers 7 other counties, as well as Sussex, so his time is spread thinly.

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1. **Affiliation Fees:**

Philip shared with the meeting that given Covid county fees were left unchanged at £5.00 per member for the 2020/21 season. This fee has remained at £5 per member since 2015.

1. **Awards:**

Adrian shared details of an email he received regarding the involvement of members in the nomination of awards. He referenced that given the circumstances of this year and the disrupted nature of the season the management committee had decided not to issue awards this year but would involve clubs and leagues, once it was appropriate to get back to awards.

It was also discussed that as a management committee we will discuss an appropriate award or way to honour our friend and colleague Mark Allen.

Derek raised the issue that Sussex normally makes awards in recognition of service to those who have been part of the committee and that these are normally shared at the AGM. It was agreed that this decision could be made at the next management meeting.

1. **Any Other Business:**

* A question was asked in regard to the criteria for trialing for the county team. Sarah shared that the restricted tournament was used as a start point and that players can contact the team managers in regard to attending training, should they not be able to attend the restricted.
* In regard to sharing information Adrian referenced that information was shared primarily via Facebook and the website and perhaps we have relied overly on these channels rather than email communication. Paul Fletcher asked if it was worth considering a newsletter via email that could be shared directly with clubs.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman..........................................................................................Date.............................................