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# SUSSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021/22

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of SCBA, held via Zoom on Thursday 28th June 2022, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Mark Russ (Chairman) and various members from clubs, leagues and coaching groups

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

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

King Alfred Badminton Club

Brighton Valiants

Julia Alkema

**3. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 AGM:**

The Minutes from the 2021 AGM were discussed and had been shared online in advance.

The minutes were agreed (proposed by Sylvia – Chi Wing and Seconded by Jonty Russ – Committee member). Sara will send a copy to Mark for these to be physically signed off.

1. **The Annual Report:**

The annual reports were sent to all club officials and have been shared on the SCBA website and were available on request. The report was accepted and adopted.

The Chairman reported that the county plans to set up a five year plan and to set up a definite direction as its felt the county is a little rudderless at present. Vice Chairman, David King will set up a sub committee with the main focus to service top end badminton to grass roots. Questions raised was how do we set that up and get that going. We want Sussex Badminton to be proactive not reactive.

By the lst September it was hoped that a 5 year or 1 year plan would be ready to address the need to connect to all players from top to bottom.

1. **Senior Teams**

It was a tough season coming out of the pandemic and the absence of the captain both from a leadership and playing strength roles

The focus next year will be on regaining Prem status. The county have been well supported by university players but the focus needs to be on bringing home grown players through and encouraging them to stay loyal to Sussex even when they go to university themselves.

The restricted tournament is back on and being promoted and publicised.

1. **3 Series Plus**

Well attended at all events except Crawley. 36 different women entered which is encouraging. The event overall didn’t make the usual profits to put back into the local leagues because of Crawley (attributed to court costs and running it on a Saturday)

The 3 Series desperately needs volunteers to help run the 4 events.

1. **Juniors**

In addition to Neil’s report, the challenges faced by juniors were highlighted. The closure of Virgin action impacted hugely with a new venue needing to be sought at short notice. It’s felt that things are now back on track and its encouraging that there is a 2nd U12 team and a new event in Lewes. Holding county and non-county events works well and there are plans for a tournaments in September and April.

Teams in Under 17 ages groups reached play offs.

1. **Masters**

Thank you to Mike Stoneham and Paul Moss for taking on the Master Co-ordinator role.

There is now a 75’s team

We’ve had a small influx of new faces with masters membership standing at around 145 players

Sussex now has many representatives at tournaments and international events and these players are having great success.

1. **Development**

The Development officer role is being reviewed and Mark is trying to get a bit of steer and lead from Badminton England in this area.

There is a planned meeting with Sue Storey, the new CEO, who is keen to look at the county badminton set up.

1. **The Treasurer’s update:**

In addition to the annual report already submitted, the treasurer reports that the accounts for 2020 and 2021 are currently being audited by Maurice Gale

There is a loss overall of £680 with £9544.32 in the account

Seniors were pretty close to budget with sponsorship totalling £1400

Masters self-supporting

Tournaments overall loss of £4.60 which considering Crawley issues wasn’t bad

He noted that no one seems to claim for any admin costs.

Membership income was £2761 but we were hoping for £3k

Its clear that more income is needed to sustain the county teams

Tim Leakey raised a question – if its £470 contribution per player – is there really only 560 members in Sussex? Phil will raise the question with Badminton England.

Sylvia Pyne questioned why players would join BE if they play for a club as a social member only and no intention of playing matches. There needs to be a worthwhile reason for players to pay the extra BE fees.

Janice Byerley commented that if your club is affiliated to BE then your players should affiliate as well

Derek Webb commented that clubs who don’t ask players to affiliate with BE are cheating BE and Sussex.

Simon thought it was mandatory to affiliate for insurance purposes.

Chris Byerley commented that Worthing Juniors had 60 youngsters affiliated so another reason to think the numbers might be wrong. Also question raised whether contributions for Juniors and Seniors was the same

**Action** : Phil will check with BE that we have received all our correct membership contributions and if the contributions are different for seniors and juniors.

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

The management committee all agreed to re-elected and their nomination was accepted.

Chairman Mark Russ

Deputy Chairman David King

Secretary Sara Foster

Treasurer Philip Huggett

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

Mark Russ reached out again for more volunteers and if there was anyone out there who wanted to get involved to please contact one of the above.

1. **Election of President**

Derek Webb, the current President, was willing to stand for another 3 years.

1. **Badminton England Update:**

A new CEO, Sue Storey and Performance Director , Morten Frost have been appointed.

This is encouraging for badminton in England and could be a new way forward

Yonex are sponsoring the All England for the next 4 years. This tournament is a good profit maker for Badminton England.

BE are looking at a new membership structure and there is likely to be a 10% increase

Mark thanked Derek for attending the meeting.

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1. **Affiliation Fees:**

William Brown raised the question via email (as he was unable to attend) why the county was proposing to raise affiliation fees. He felt that clubs don’t benefit from it and wanted to know why this increase was required and how it would be used. He also noted a large amount of spend was on the senior county team and he didn’t feel the badminton populace of Sussex should subsidise. He felt that if Masters and Juniors can balance then why shouldn’t seniors. He also felt that the fees should be used on development, better communication and club/league support. He had stats available which suggested that 27 counties who pay less than £5.00, 5 under £6 , 5 who pay £5-7 and 4 who pay over £7. The average fee is £3.81 according to his statistics. He commented that that another area where County fees are collected is via Regional leagues. Sussex has let a couple of these slip away over the years and he felt that must have been a considerable financial loss. He felt that he might make sense to get everyone back on board but to do this there needs to be a tangible benefit to those clubs and players. Cost of living will rise by 8% so the maximum we should be looking to increase is £6 to £6.50

With £9k in the bank and plans to have tighter control over purse strings it was agreed at the AGM the committee would not raise the fees this year.

1. **Awards:**

Nominations for the Bruce Peapell award were being requested and the award would be presented at the Sussex Restricted

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1. **Any Other Business:**

* The Mark Allen Memorial – it was a agreed that the county would put forward a small amount of sponsorship to enable a suitable candidate to complete an umpiring course as a legacy to Mark. Evan Gill agreed to lead on this project and would look at drawing up a suitable scheme/plan.
* Derek noted that he may have a suitable candidate but if there were any other candidates they should contact Derek or Evan (through the [SCBA\_secretary@mail.com](mailto:SCBA_secretary@mail.com) email.
* Tim Leakey commented on the planned 10% rise in BE membership fees and asked if the county would get 10% more contribution.
* Increasing participation in leagues – Eastbourne commented that they are losing clubs , in Bexhill it’s the same. It was noted that there was a lack of people happy to take on roles in clubs. This will be part of David Kings sub committee plans going forward.
* Welfare Officer – the county has appointed Julia Alkema as WO. An action for future is ensure clubs, with Juniors , set up their own procedures for managing welfare concerns.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 20.30 pm.

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