**Mid Sussex & District Badminton Association**

**Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 6th June 2017**

Venue - Hurstpierpoint Village Hall

**Persons Present**

Tony Brown (TB) - Committee Member (Chair)

Brian Hobbs (BH) – Committee Member

Nick Saunders (NS) – Committee Member

Chris Cooper (CS) – Committee Member

Penny Radford (PR) - Committee member

Graeme Gardner (GG) - Forest

Jackie Burditt (JB) – Felbridge

Gordon Owen (GO) - Nomads

Trish Denyer (TD) – Dolphin

Dan Goodchild (DG) - Southover

Sue MacGregor (SM) - Lewes

Bob MacGregor (BM) - Lewes

Louis Eastwood (LE) - Hassocks

Steve Gumbrell (SG) – Virgin Active

Tracey Gumbrell (TG) – Virgin Active

Becky Simpson (BS) – Virgin Active

Amy Radford (AR) – Hassocks

**1. Chair**

BH explained that due to an injury Mark Steele had temporarily stopped playing and had stood down as Chairman with immediate effect. The Committee would like to thank him for his work and wish him the best for the future. BH then put to the meeting a proposal that TB, an experienced Committee Member and former Chairman, be appointed as Chair for the evening. This was unanimously accepted.

**2.** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Avril Caleb (Treasurer) and Paula Weller (Crossways).

**3.** **Clubs Present**

BH confirmed that with the exception of Lindfield and Crossways, all clubs affiliated to the MSDBA were represented at the meeting.

**4.** **Minutes of the 2016 AGM**

TB confirmed that those present had had a chance to examine the minutes of the 2016 AGM, which had previously been circulated electronically, and also copies available to those present. He enquired whether there were any matters arising out of those minutes. LE proposed that they be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

**5.** **Treasurer’s Report**

TB presented the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Avril Caleb. Thanks were given to Lawrence Vosper for once again auditing the accounts. TB explained the balance sheet (copy attached) and stated that as a result of expenditure, the MSDBA made a slight loss of £2.00 last year. With a balance of just over £800, the Committee proposed that affiliation and match fees remain the same as last year, i.e. club affiliation £6.00 and £5.00 for each team. This was accepted unanimously.

**6.** **League Secretary’s Report**

BH explained that as there had been no replacement as League Secretary since Vera Groves resigned last year, he had received no League Secretary’s report. However, efforts had been made to ensure that the current league positions be finalised so that players of the winning teams efforts would be rewarded.

**7.** **Junior League Secretary’s Report**

NS presented his report as Junior League Secretary (a copy of which is attached to these minutes).

BH mentioned that the Sussex branch of Badminton England (BE) were currently making efforts to recruit junior players via a programme of delivering coaching into local schools. At the last Sussex County badminton meeting, BH enquired as to what clubs BE were directing these junior players to and asked whether the MSDBA clubs were being included. A full response is awaited.

PR proposed that such junior players should be encouraged to play in the new Feeder Divisions as a way of introducing them to competitive badminton. There was some discussion as to the possible difficulties, including the need to look at child protection (safety officers) and work to ensure that junior players were not put off or intimidated by playing other adults. PR stated that she felt Faststep could possibly field a team this year and other clubs could take advantage of the rules surrounding the Feeder Divisions, whereby 2 or more clubs are able to combine players into one team.

NS agreed to propose to junior clubs that this be a viable alternative if there were insufficient teams to form the Junior Leagues, as was the case in 2016.

**8.** **Presentation of Trophies**

Trophies and certificates were awarded to the winners of each division, as follows:

Men’s Combi Division One – Winners: Hassocks A

Men’s Combi Division Two – Winners: Lewes A

Men’s Combi Division Three (Feeder Division) – Winners: Lindfield (Apologies incorrectly announced as Haywards Heath on the night)

Ladies Combi Division One – Winners: Hassocks A

Ladies Combi Division Two – Winners: Hassocks B

Mixed Combi Division One – Winners: Hassocks B

Mixed Combi Division Two – Winners: Forest

Mixed Combi Division Three (Feeder Division) – Winners: Haywards Heath A

Congratulations to all those winning teams.

**9. Election of Committee**

TB explained that currently there was a vacancy on the Committee for the positions of Chairman and League Secretary. At the Committee’s pre-AGM meeting, contact had been received from Owen Wynn who had offered to assist in a leading role. The Committee therefore proposed that Owen Wynn be appointed as Secretary to replace BH, who was willing to move across into the position as League Secretary and continue his work liaising on behalf of the MSDBA with BE. This left the position of Chairman vacant and after some discussion, PR agreed to take on this role. The current Committee therefore consists of the following people:

Chair – Penny Radford

Secretary – Owen Wynn

League Secretary – Brian Hobbs

Junior Secretary – Nick Saunders

Treasurer – Avril Caleb

Committee Members: Tony Brown, Chris Cooper

The election of these officers was unanimously accepted by the meeting. TB stated that there was no limit as to the number of Committee Members and encouraged those present to either consider joining or encouraging fellow club members to join, particularly from those clubs with no committee representation.

**10. Proposal regarding Amalgamation of Ladies’ Divisions**

BS put forward a proposal that the two Ladies’ Divisions be combined to form one larger division, in order that teams could play more matches. She explained that female players at her club had been disappointed with playing so few matches and that this may be a determining factor as to which league the Virgin ladies’ team was entered into next season. Although it was accepted that things may change between now and September, a quick reckoning from those present established that there were likely to be 7 ladies’ teams for next season, which would favour the proposal to combine these into one division.

**11. Dates of 2018 AGM and Fixtures Meeting**

A reminder was given that this year’s Fixtures Meeting is due to take place on Tuesday, 12th September 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

The date for next year’s AGM was set for Tuesday, 5th June 2018 at 8.00 p.m. and the 2018 Fixture’s Meeting was set for Tuesday, 18th September 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

All meetings will take place at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.

**12. Presentation of New Website**

BH explained that the original MSDBA website had been established for some years. It had been designed and administered by an external company, for which the MSDBA paid an annual fee. This had caused a number of issues in recent years, as the MSDBA were unable to update much of the detail on the website, including establishing new leagues, and there had often been significant delays in getting this done. As a result, BH (with the assistance of BE) had persuaded Andrew Craig (who administers the Sussex County badminton website and also Faststep website) to help create a new MSDBA website. BH explained that we had been able to keep the same ‘domain’ name and that the old site had now been decommissioned. BH showed those present the new website and some of its features, including where news items (such as AGM minutes) will now be published.

We are incredibly grateful to Andrew Craig for all of his assistance and for agreeing to continue to ‘host’ the website at cost.

**13. Any Other Business**

TB reminded those present of the annual Junior Competition, which runs for various age groups and caters for all different standards (County players excluded). Next year’s competition will again be run at the Dolphin Leisure Centre with the Under 10’s and Under 12’s taking place on Saturday, 27th January 2018, the Under 14’s taking place on Sunday, 28th January 2018 and the Under 16’s and Under 18’s taking place on Sunday, 4th February 2018. As a guide, participants play 5-6 games in order to establish ability levels before moving forward to a knock-out competition based on their ability.

PR raised the issue of the Feeder Divisions, which have now run for 2 years with some success. She asked clubs to encourage younger players and perhaps those who still enjoy competitive play, but at a lower level, to enter teams into these divisions and if there is sufficient uptake, then we can consider adding additional divisions.

JB enquired as to the rules surrounding these divisions and, in particular, the rules which allowed the eligibility of players already playing in higher divisions to take part in matches in the Feeder Divisions. TB stated that clubs are asked to be mindful of the spirit in which the matches within the Feeder Divisions should be played, i.e. they were designed to enable younger players to build up their confidence to play competitive matches and for older players to continue playing at a competitive level, but that by allowing players from higher divisions to ‘play down’ it meant that matches did not have to be cancelled if a club was unable to field sufficient players.

It was proposed that the rule in which no player from a higher division may play more than 2 matches in a lower division in any one season be adopted. This was unanimously accepted.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

Brian Hobbs

MSDBA Secretary