

Lewes Badminton Club



Annual General Meeting – 16th May 2016

8:15pm, St Marys Supporters Club, Christie Road, Lewes, BN7 1PL

Present: Philip Huggett, Annette Huggett, Glenys Taylor, Sue Awcock, Neil Warwick, Linda Pettigrew, Maggie Fisher, Steve Horne, Sue MacGregor, Peter Lacey, Laura Pettigrew, Ruth Kerr.

Apologies for absence: Bob MacGregor, Esther Fisher Barham.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM: The Minutes were accepted. (SA proposed acceptance, LP seconded).

Matters Arising: Will be addressed during the reports.

Chairman's report: My apologies for not being present at the AGM as unfortunately Brighton FC's progress in the play offs left me with a difficult decision but as I've paid for my ticket the football has taken preference.

My duties have not been onerous as things have generally run smoothly and I could leave it to the committee members to carry on their good work.

Special thanks to Annette and Sue for looking after the finances and sorting out the league matches. I know they both put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

I know that team captains have been having problems in fielding teams this year due to players not being available or injured. As a result of this the teams have not been as successful as in previous years. The committee have again discussed the possibility of reducing the number of teams but feel that if we can get commitment from the members who initially say they will play in the teams that we should easily be able to fulfil all of our fixtures. This is a point for discussion later in the meeting.

Also thanks to Philip for organising us and for the other committee members for their input.

The end of season tournament was organised at short notice this year so thanks are due to Philip and Neil for organising it and congratulations to those who won.

As you all know the Junior Section has thrived over the last few years due to the hard work of Neil and his team and the Senior Club continue to see the results of their endeavours. The quality of their play and enthusiasm has definitely added something to the club and it ensures that the club will continue to prosper.

The Junior Club itself continues to prosper and Neil will give you details of all their achievements in the last year.

Again my apologies for not attending but thanks for those you have.

Treasurer's report: This season we've made a surplus of £1,301.37.

Income

Income from subscriptions was increased compared to last season, partly due to the increase agreed at the AGM last year but mainly due to the number of junior subs being collected plus a grant of £400 which Neil obtained for the juniors from Wave Leisure. There was drop in income from match fees this season due to a few cancellations and no junior matches being played.

Expenditure

There was an inflationary increase in court hire costs. Coaching costs were increased as Neil had kept his fees to the club the same for several years but we agreed an increase to bring his fees in line with the normal rate. Spending on shuttles was lower than last season mainly due to eking out the junior shuttles but also through negotiating a discount when buying shuttles for the senior club. The ordering of shirts this season was handled directly by Neil so no costs were put through the club accounts. Other expenditure was similar to last season.

At the end of the accounting year overall monies held by the club amounted to approximately £5,000.

Junior Club report: Overall numbers in our junior section have continued at maximum level over the year with 60 juniors regularly attending our weekly sessions on either a Monday or Thursday. This year also saw our largest number of experienced juniors make the successful transition up to seniors making a total of 14 young players currently in our senior session.

It is likely we will bid farewell to 4 of these players this coming year as they go off to university but that still leaves a healthy number with the prospect of one or two new players moving up next year

Our Monday "Beginner" session is a much younger group this year with nearly half this group aged either 12 years old or younger. I am pleased to report that all but one of this group who started with us at the beginning of the season are still with us. With the experienced support of Sue Awcock, and our younger helpers Tom Hills, Ben Maltby and Ephra Charlton our newer, less skilled players continue to improve and enjoy their badminton.

Our "Development" group meet on a Thursday evening and I am pleased to say we have had several new players join this group over the year. We have also seen a number of players from our Monday group rewarded for their hard work with progression to this group. It is envisaged that players invited to this group have reached a certain playing level, are keen to improve, and are eager to participate in matches and tournaments. I am delighted to report there have been numerous successes from within this young group all of which can be found on our Facebook pages.

Our later Thursday group saw a significant change at the beginning of the season. With several experienced players moving off to university and the progression of a larger number of juniors to our seniors, this left our later Thursday session somewhat weakened and with less players. We have also faced the dilemma that several of our much younger juniors who attend our earlier Thursday group are more experienced and more advanced than our later group. The good news is that we have seen a good attendance and we have gradually migrated a number of our older players to this group. We have also recently invited our young experienced juniors to continue playing with our older juniors for a short period after their own session has finished.

And so to our results

With all our triumphs and successes in last year's junior leagues, and the strength and depth of play in our junior section at an all-time high this year, it has been slightly disappointing that we have not been able to let our players showcase their abilities in many team competitions this year. With the demise of two junior clubs and a lack of teams willing to participate, the Mid Sussex junior league has been put "on hold" for the time being.

Our "Friendly" match held against Hastings Junior Club at Helenswood School earlier this year was a good opportunity for our younger and less experienced players to compete in a team competition. In all 15 players Lewes Juniors attended with a mixture of singles and double matches played during the day. Everyone enjoyed the experience and Lewes came out winners of the event.

Mens combi Division 2 – In total, 11 junior boys (of varying ages and experience) have played in this team this year. All have contributed to our team successfully coming Runner-up in the league.

Team Challenge event – Last weekend saw two teams of six juniors from Lewes enter a Quad tournament against teams from Tunbridge Wells, Worthing and East Sussex. Although a non-county event, our U15/U17 team was still made up of some very experienced players and they won all 3 matches against some strong opposition. Our U13 team only had one player who had previously played in this event; however they all played exceptionally well winning two of their three matches, and with a 3-way tie in the group it came down to countback. After several nail-biting minutes we were very pleased to be told that our young U13 team also won their event by 1 game. A very pleasing day and one we look forward to competing in again next year

There is a tremendous spirit within our junior club and our young players continue to push each other. With the changes to County squads, selection has been more difficult but we do have 2 players currently representing their counties in matches. We also have an outstanding group of young players regularly competing at the highest level in National tournaments with varying successes. Our newer and younger players have been encouraged to take on the challenges of tournaments at Hayward's Heath, Eastbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Portslade and Crawley again with some excellent results.

This year will be a very hard act to repeat, but with the enthusiasm at the club I know we will continue to offer playing and coaching facilities to our younger players (Mention HAPPINESS) what do we feed our players.

So, another terrific performance all round from our juniors and I am proud of every one of them. I applaud them for their commitment, attitude and friendliness towards their opponents. But none of this continued success would be possible without the help of others, especially Sue Awcock who attends most junior evenings to help me coach, collect fees and discuss new groupings.

As I have said many times in the past it is not the winning but the taking part (although I can be quite competitive!!). A club that was started in 2007 with only 3 juniors has grown into a recognised and extremely well supported club and I look forward to next season

Match Secretary's report: This year has been one of mixed fortune in terms of Lewes Badminton Clubs matches and results. Matches have been hard fought with many results not reflecting the closeness of scores.

To my knowledge we have fulfilled all our fixtures which is an achievement and not as easy as it seems.

One team cancelled on us at very short notice and as we can't cancel the hall, I am pursuing this for some costs.

My thanks go to all the people who have played and the hard working captains who have persuaded and supported people in playing and helped us as a club to maintain our fixtures.

Thank you to people who have turned out at the last moment or acted as reserve. I include Laura who travelled miles on a work night for a difficult and unrewarding ladies match.

Bob Mac played unexpectedly when a player didn't turn up. He played wearing borrowed shoes, shorts from Peter and using a racket from Tom to enable us to gain a win.

As usual my thanks go to the selection committee, the team captains and our treasurer for helping to maintain our teams.

We have played around 60 matches, a few rearranged with the last match played in May.

We enter teams in 3 Badminton Associations. This season we have fielded 6 teams.

Brighton

Eastbourne

Mid-Sussex

A special well done to the Eastbourne Team who will remain in Division 1 next year.

Brighton- Men's and Mixed.

Mixed Div. 2 – 4th won 4 lost 4. Very close in points to 3rd.

Men Combi Div. 1 – 4th

Eastbourne

Mixed Div. 1 Mid table played 8 won 5.

Mid-Sussex

Mixed Combination Div.1 -5th Very difficult division, teams included Hassocks and Lindfield

Ladies- 7th out of 7 – A very hard division with strong Ladies teams

Men's Combi. Div.2 -2nd, won 4.

I would ask everyone to really think about teams for next year. We still have enthusiasm but we need commitment to play. It is important that we field regular pairs especially when we are up against strong and experienced opposition!

Well done to everyone for this season and good luck in the new season. My special thanks go to Philip, Annette, Sue, Glenys, Peter and Neil.

Election of Officers:

Chairman – Bob MacGregor

Secretary – Philip Huggett

Treasurer – Peter Lacey

Match Secretary – Sue McGregor

Junior Club Rep – Sue Awcock

*Club Coach – Neil Warwick
Child Protection Officer – Laura Pettigrew
Social Secretary – Vacant
Committee – Annette Huggett*

The above officers were elected on block. (RK proposed acceptance, MF seconded).

Subscriptions / Match Fees 2016 – 2017: Badminton England affiliation to rise by £1 to £16 and Sussex Badminton affiliation to remain the same.

Annette provided estimated costings (attached) and a £5 increase in the Senior Members Subscriptions was agreed as follows:

£115 for Seniors Members.

£90 for Student Members of the Senior Club.

Monday Juniors £4 per evening.

Thursday Juniors (8.00pm to 10.00pm) £40 subscriptions and £3 per evening.

Thursday Juniors (7.00pm to 8.00pm) £4 per evening.

Match fees would remain at £5.

(SH proposed acceptance, LP seconded)

League Teams: Teams to remain as previous season:

Brighton – Mixed and Men’s Combination

Eastbourne - Mixed

Mid-Sussex - Mixed Combination, Ladies, Men’s Combination

(SM proposed, MF seconded)

Fund raising: Not required at present.

Social Events: Get together at Bob and Sue’s House on 17th July 2.00pm – all welcome.

Any Other Business: Thursday 23rd June is Sussex County AGM.

Pegboard policy needs to be reiterated to members – games need to be varied and not same players every time.

SH will carry on with Summer badminton for as long as members turn up.

Ron sent his thanks to the club for his card and wished the club well for the future.

Meeting closed 9.37pm