RDB

Rugby & District Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting 2023: Minutes

Date: Tuesday 20th June 2023

Time: 19.15 for 19.30 start

Venue: Dunchurch Social Club

Attendees (11 votes):

Club	**Representative(s)**
Avon B.C.	Tim Gordon *(Chairman)*
Crescent B.C.	John Wardropper *(Youth Officer)*
Harris B.C.	Mark Hope *(C)*, Tracey Hope, Ajit Barot.
Hunters B.C.	Simon Piercy, Steve Turner *(Secretary)*
Lutterworth B.C.	Darren Hawes *(Fixtures Secretary)*, Rupert Heath
QDJC B.C.	Not present
Rugby Badminton Coaching	Steve Turner *(Secretary)*
Rugby Ladies B.C.	Not present
RYBS	John Wardropper *(Youth Officer)*
St Philips B.C.	Ryan Smith
Trinity B.C.	Phil Hutchinson
Apologies:	Simon Outhwaite *(Treasurer)*
	Phil Pelton (QDJC BC)
Guest Speaker:	Tom Parker *Sports Development Officer for Rugby Borough Council*

Agenda:

1) Welcome/Intro

Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Tom Parker for attending as our guest speaker.

2) Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Proposed by:	Mark Hope
Seconded by:	Darren Hawes
Votes for:	11
Votes against:	0

Abstentions:	0
Didn't vote:	0

3) Matters Arising:

a) RDBA Committee Roles and Responsibilities – copy attached to this agenda.

No queries were raised about the document. This information will be written into the RDBA Rules at the earliest opportunity.

4) Chair's Report – Tim Gordon

It has been another good year for the RBDA with clubs beginning to find their stride again following the disruption due to Covid. For some this has meant a change in membership and others' venues, with most clubs now operating successfully.

A notable mention must go to Steve Turner for the excellent work he has done in establishing a regular coaching session for over 18s. Getting something started is always a taxing endeavour and Steve should be commended for the excellent work he has started. This has already added great value and I look forward to seeing that continue.

The Britannic tournament made a welcome return this year and was incredibly well attended with representation from all teams in the league. Credit must go to Mark Hope for the excellent organisation of the day, including the raffle, where there was a real buzz and lots of quality matches that were enjoyed by all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for his years of service to the league. Competitions like the Britannic take a lot of time and energy to make happen and it is but a small demonstration of the contribution Mark has made over the years, for which he should be highly commended. On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mark for his service. I have always enjoyed competing in the RDBA leagues due to its combination of competitive fixtures played in the right spirit, this spirit is in no small part due to Mark's leadership over the years. For this, I thank you.

It is also worth noting the excellent work done by John Wardropper for juniors. The waiting list speaks volumes for the quality of the provision by John and his team and the only problem is working out how to accommodate more juniors in the already burgeoning setup!

Finally, my thanks to the committee for ensuring that the league continues to function in an orderly manner and to the clubs, for providing people with opportunities to play badminton.

5) Treasurer's Report – Simon Outhwaite

Rugby & District Badminton Association
Income & Expenditure 30th April 2023

	2021-2022		2022-2023	
Income				
League & Affiliation Fees	0.00		0.00	
Britannic Tournament	0.00		1068.00	
		0.00		1068.00
Expenditure				
Britannic Tournament Courts	0.00		520.00	
Britannic Tournament & Raffle Prizes	0.00		269.34	
Britannic Tournament Shuttles	0.00		76.00	
Britannic Tournament Trophies	0.00		101.86	
Trophies	0.00		0.00	
		0.00		967.20
Surplus Income/Expenditure		**0.00**		**100.80**
Association Funds				
Balance B/F	659.73		659.73	
Surplus/Deficit	0.00		100.80	
Balance C/F		**659.73**		**760.53**

Approval of the accounts:

Proposed by:	Ryan Smith
Seconded by:	Simon Piercy
Votes for:	11
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Didn't vote:	0

6) Fixtures Secretary's Report – Darren Hawes

Very few problems this year with no issues of players going over their allowable games or players playing in lower leagues. Only a few match cards had to be chased up but the new WhatsApp group made this very easy, so was a big improvement.

Winners of each Division were,

Division 1 - Lutterworth

Division 2 – St Philips 2

Division 3 – Trinity 3

The only issue was down to me putting the wrong start time in a couple of fixtures, so I urge everyone to check the fixtures when released all have the correct start times and locations please as it is a very manual job to enter all the details.

7) Youth Officer's Report – John Wardropper

There are now only two clubs for junior players in Rugby: Rugby Youth Badminton Squad and No Strings.

RYBS serves around 90 junior players across the 4 sessions on a Saturday with a waiting list of around 50. Taking around 2 years for a junior player on the list to get a place.

There is a junior session in Daventry, run by Roy Bullock and a session in Nuneaton which we believe has now stopped running.

Steve informed the meeting that he is working with Badminton England to get a junior arm of Rugby Badminton Coaching started in September. This is proving difficult due to the lack of venues and the limited number of coaches nationally who are prepared to volunteer more of their time.

This conversation let onto AOB item b).

This discussion was finalised with a discussion about coaches. It was agreed in principle that between the RDBA, RYBS and Rugby Badminton Coaching that funds could be made available for sponsorship for someone who wished to become a coach. This would need to be discussed and vetted accordingly.

8) Club Update:

Each club to present their update and availability of teams in September – 2 mins per club.

a) Avon BC (Tim Gordon)

The club is struggling for members, down to around 6-8 members now. Club nights are only just paying for themselves. Single court for club night.

With this in mind, only one team will be entered next season (Avon 1).

Coventry league will be a challenge to get a team together.

b) Crescent BC (John Wardropper – for Patrick Deery)

Crescent is running with over 20 players, so the block on new members is still in place.

There are some juniors that attend the session so they can get used to playing games with adult players.

Only play socially, no intention to play in the league.

c) Hunters BC (Simon Piercy)

Hunters is very well attended by over 20 players most weeks.

Had a reasonable season with teams finishing mid table respectively.

We are looking to enter 3 teams next season with a desire for a team in each division, which means we will be re-introducing a separate match night.

We are also in the process of moving to feather shuttles for next season.

d) Harris BC (Ajit Barot, Mark Hope, Tracey Hope)

Harris BC play at Harris on a Tuesday and the College on a Thursday. Tuesdays are a challenge due to court availability.

Looking to return to 2 teams next season with one being a juniors' team.

e) Lutterworth BC (Darren Hawes)

Have 23 members attending.

Looking to enter 4 teams into the league next season. Needed them this season after some players appeared after teams had been entered last season.

f) QDJC BC/No Strings (points provided by Phil Pelton by message)

Due to dwindling numbers who wish to play competitively QDJC are looking to only enter 1 team next season, although if there is enough interest then the second team will remain.

QDJC have raised a query over who should be playing in the 3rd division. Darren reported that no issues had been raised to him during the season. It should be reiterated that Division 3 is aimed at improving players who would not normally play in league competition.

g) Rugby Badminton Coaching (Steve Turner)

Have been running adult coaching sessions since November 2022 on Wednesday nights at Avon Valley School. Managed to gain BE funding for initial start-up. Sessions have been well attended by a mixture of player levels from beginners to league players, although places are now given in favour of beginner/non-league players to get them to league club level.

Challenges: unable to take anyone under the age of 18 as I cannot guarantee that a L2 coach will be in attendance at the session due to my work commitments. Venue is a challenge as it is not ideal, although being very cheap. Sports hall is in a poor state of repair, floor is sometimes slippery, and a climbing wall has been installed at one end of the hall which fouls the end court.

Future: currently working with BE to start up a junior session from September. They have agreed to again fund the start up, and also assist in the search for coaches. I need a L2 coach to co-run the session to cover my work commitments, and also split the group if needed. Helpers/L1 coaches will also be needed, ideally one coach/helper per court. Further details to come.

h) Rugby Ladies BC

Invited but not in attendance.

Believed to still be running at Lawrence Sheriff on a Monday night for female players only.

i) St Philips BC (Ryan Smith)

St Philips are running well with lots of members, after a shaky start to the season regarding venues.

Looking to enter 3 teams into the league next season.

j) Trinity BC (Phil Hutchinson)

Trinity BC are running with around 30 members.

Looking to enter 2 teams next season along with their Leicester league teams.

9) Rugby Borough Council Sports Development Officer – Tom Parker

- Sports Development Officer role is to support clubs and help identify/tackle areas of need and help them grow.
- Can be 'go between' for clubs and NGB to discuss growth and/or grant opportunities.
- Predominant focus on grass roots, increased participation and physical activity levels.
- RBC maintain a strategic plan to make sure there are enough indoor/outdoor facilities to cope with rising demand and growing population.
- We can help support any programmes that promote participation, organisation development, coach training or equipment.
- We can help with promotion via social media.
- We run sports awards each year to help recognise success of athletes, coaches, volunteers or 'unsung heroes'.
- Will circulate email information regarding grants/training/opportunities throughout the year.
- I will be looking to deliver a "Club Development Evening" later on in the year to help clubs network with other clubs and support organisations.

Following the discussion around safeguarding challenges Tom reported that the council can look to provide training and possibly sponsorship for safeguarding, club management, coaching and other areas to enable clubs to increase their numbers.

It was discussed that as an organisation the RDBA is trying to get people on court with sessions specifically organised for beginner players and juniors. Although these sessions are limited due to coach availability.

We discussed that our main issues lie around venues and the cost of venues, with a lot of venues not responding to requests or not publicising that they hire the hall out. Also, that costs are relatively high in some cases.

Tom was asked for a list of sports venues that provide private bookings to organisations.

Tom also mentioned, whilst some of our clubs are not under the immediate jurisdiction of RBC, he would be able to assist either directly or provide contact details for those in the respective councils.

We thanked Tom for attending the meeting and look forward to future collaboration between Rugby Borough Council and the RDBA.

10) Proposals:

a) Retire the existing league trophies and procure new trophies:

Rationale: to have the Division 1, 2 and 3 trophies/shields altered to remove "Mens' Division" will cost a fair amount of money and will tarnish the history of the trophies, some which have been in circulation since the league was formed in the early 1970's.

Instead, we propose to retire the "Mens' Division 1" cup, Mens' Division 2 shield and Men's Division 3 shield, and replace with new shields for "Division 1 Winner", "Division

2 Winner" and "Division 3 Winner". These will be engraved with winners back to 2015. Division 1 will play for the "Association Trophy" (silver shuttle).

Costs:

3 x 10" wooden plaque trophies: £195 (£65.24 each)

3 x Centre Plate engraving: £15 (£5 each)

21 x shield engraving (team names): £21 (£1 each)

50pk customised centre disks: £12.50 (25p each)

TOTAL COST: £243.50

Retired trophies will be stored with the other trophies no longer in circulation in an appropriate place, yet to be determined.

The Britannic Assurance Cup will continue to be used for the Britannic Tournament.

Proposed by:	Steve Turner
Seconded by:	Mark Hope
Votes for:	11
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

11) Nominate and vote in the committee for next season.

All officials and committee members offered to stand again. Simon Outhwaite caveated this with unless anyone else wishes to do the Treasurer's role.

Steve mentioned that Simon has been Treasurer for the RDBA for some time and that he no longer plays Badminton and instead is primarily involved in Hockey after the dissolving of Lawford Badminton Club some time ago. It would be great if we had someone who is actively involved in the league in the role so that Simon could focus on Hockey.

Steve also mentioned that St Philips, Trinity and QDJC were not represented on the committee and even if they didn't want to become an official, they could stand as general committee members.

Ryan Smith (St Philips BC) volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer.

Officials:

Chairman - Tim Gordon (Avon BC)

Treasurer – Ryan Smith (St Philips BC)

Association Secretary - Steve Turner (Hunters BC)

Fixtures Secretary - Darren Hawes (Lutterworth BC)

Youth Officer – John Wardropper (RYBS/Crescent BC)

Committee Members:

Tournament Co-ordinator (Britannic Tournament) - Mark Hope (Harris BC)

Webmaster (Association website) - John Wardropper

Proposed by:	Mark Hope
Seconded by:	Tracey Hope
Votes for:	11
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Post meeting note: We will begin handover of the role of Treasurer from Simon to Ryan prior to September 2023.

The RDBA would like to thank Simon for his years of dedicated service as Treasurer for the Association, long after he stopped playing Badminton. We have since been informed that Simon and his predecessor Mick Adams had covered the role for around 50 years! We sincerely thank him and wish him well with his Hockey commitments.

12) AOB:

a) Trophies

Steve reported that unfortunately, we are not able to hand out any trophies at this meeting as we have not been able to get them engraved. This is partly due to a player taking one of the trophies outside of the Rugby and District area to his university accommodation in Sheffield.

It took an unacceptable about of time to get the trophy returned to us, so we were not left with enough time to engrave them.

We are also concerned about the condition that the trophies are being returned in. While we will have them professionally cleaned and polished when they are engraved, it is customary and respectful to return the trophy having been lightly cleaned by the holder.

b) Junior players in adult clubs:

Steve raised the point that it seems to be difficult to get juniors playing in adult clubs – seems to be a national problem judging by BE forums and other local areas e.g. South Warwickshire.

Many of the clubs in the area have juniors playing in them. Some do not due to the safeguarding requirements. It appears that some may be welcoming juniors without a formal safeguarding policy in place and welfare officer, but these clubs do have L2 coaches in attendance so would likely be covered.

Steve advised the meeting that any clubs that take juniors need to have a safeguarding policy and a welfare officer. John added that it is for the club's protection as well as the junior players. The clubs that take juniors will take that away.

Badminton England have released a new safeguarding policy and information. Clubs are advised to take a look and implement this if they have juniors playing.

Discussion was had around the necessity of having DBS checked people at club night sessions, which is a challenge for some clubs. It was decided that this point needs further investigation.

It was noted that DBS checked people could register as volunteers with Badminton England so they would be subject to the volunteers' DBS checking fee as opposed to the more expensive standard DBS checking fee.