RDBA
Rugby & District Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting 2024: Minutes

Date: Wednesday 19th June 2024

Time: 19.15 for 19.30 start

Venue: Dunchurch Social Club

Attendees (10 votes):

Club	**Representative(s)**
Avon B.C.	Tim Gordon
Crescent B.C.	Not represented
Harris B.C.	Mark Hope
Houlton B.C.	Not represented
Hunters B.C.	JP Rougeolle, Simon Piercy
Lutterworth B.C.	Darren Hawes
QDJC B.C.	Phil Pelton
Rugby Badminton Coaching	Not represented
Rugby Ladies B.C.	Not represented
RYBS	Neil Porter
Smashers B.C.	Not represented
St Philips B.C.	Ryan Smith
Trinity B.C.	Ben Black
Apologies:	Steve Turner (Houlton BC & RBC)
	Anil Pitla (Smashers BC)
Guest Speaker:	Tom Parker *Sports Development Officer for Rugby Borough Council*

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Intro
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Proposed by:	N/A
Seconded by:	N/A
Votes for:	10
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

3. Matters Arising:
   a) None

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4. Chair's Report – Tim Gordon

The spirit of the Rugby league is the most important part of what we do and I am pleased to say this year has been another demonstration of that, so thank you to all the clubs, players and associated supporters. It is worth noting that the RDBA celebrates it's 75th Anniversary next year which we hope to celebrate with some event.

Ryan Smith has taken over from Simon Outhwaite as Treasurer after Simon had served the Association for some 20(ish) years. John Wardropper - 20 years as Youth Officer – is also stepping down from the role after retiring from coaching, leaving us with a vacant position of Youth Officer. John is also Web-master for the RDBA which he is continuing with until such a time someone else volunteers.

This year saw yet Another hugely successful Britannic tournament, so much so that there is talk of not just one but two next season. There was also very tight competition in all divisions, Division 3 was so tight that it had to be ratified by committee.

A big welcome to Smashers BC, the latest members of the RDBA. Additionally, a potential Association first, as we sponsored the launch of a new club in Houlton. Any further suggestions for how we could support and encourage new clubs are very welcome.

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5. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Smith

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Income & Expenditure 17th June 2024

	2022-2023		2023-2024	
Income				
League & Affiliation Fees	0.00		0.00	
Britannic Tournament	1068.00		990.00	
		1068.00		990.00
Expenditure				
Britannic Tournament Courts	520.00		552.50	
Britannic Tournament & Raffle Prizes	269.34		99.65	
Britannic Tournament Shuttles	76.00		0.00	
Britannic Tournament Trophies	101.86		80.99	
Houlton Open event	0.00		80.00	
League Trophies	0.00		291.57	
		967.20		1104.71
Surplus Income/Expenditure		**100.80**		**-114.71**

6. Fixtures Secretary's Report – Darren Hawes

Generally no problems throughout the season, with a couple of exceptions. Clubs need to take responsibility for their captains getting results submitted within the deadline, but ideally asap after the match. With the website this is not a difficult task. Leage rules updated with new constitution to reflect this.

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7. Tournament Secretary's Report – Mark Hope

It was suggested that BE should be notified of the successful tournament (64 players). Also noted was that CBA, despite their far larger membership, are struggling for numbers to make their tournament viable. This is testament again to the commitment of the clubs, many thanks to all for their support.

8. Club Update:

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

a) Avon BC (Tim Gordon)

Struggling for numbers massively, combination of injuries and leavers has left the club depleted. Big thank you to Hunters for supporting this year. Potentially not viable anymore, exploring merge with Harris.

1 team, if any.

b) Crescent BC

Not represented

c) Harris BC (Mark Hope)

Struggling with only a few members, potential merge with Avon to be explored over summer.

d) Houlton BC

Added post AGM, report by Steve Turner:

Following a very successful open night, sponsored by the RDBA, we have been running club nights on Wednesday evenings at Houlton School. After being 3 months old, we have 12-14 regular players who we expect to become members in September. Half of our membership are ladies. We plan to do some marketing in the Houlton area to drive out more players.

Club/match nights will move to Tuesday evenings from September at Houlton School.

We are looking to set the club up to be able to take older junior players ASAP.

Plan to enter 1 team which we expect primarily to be a mixed team.

e) Hunters BC (JP Rougeolle/Simon Piercy)

28 members. Now play with feathers. Were hall sharing with St Phillips for matches. Good number of ladies at the club reflected by having a mixed team in Coventry league. Need a match venue for next year. Changes to Committee JP now chair Steve T, stepping back.

3 teams

f) Lutterworth BC (Darren Hawes)

25-30 members. Temporary change of venue over the summer whilst work is done on the hall.

4 teams

g) QDJC BC/Sunday PM Junior Coaching (Phil Pelton)

25-30 regulars. Struggles with 1st team this season.

3 teams

Added post AGM:

Junior coaching no longer running on Sunday afternoons.

h) Rugby Badminton Coaching

Added post AGM, report from Steve Turner:

Currently running one session until the summer holidays catering for 16 juniors.

We moved from Fridays to Sunday mornings at Lawrence Sheriff.

Looking to add a second junior session on Sunday mornings from September taking our capacity up to 32 players.

Adult coaching has been suspended in the short term.

i) Rugby Ladies BC

Not represented

j) Smashers BC

Not represented

k) St Philips BC (Ryan Smith)

25-30 members. Has continued to grow this year with near weekly interest.

4 teams

l) Trinity BC (Ben Black)

25-30 members

2 teams

9. Update from Rugby Borough Council Sports Development Officer – Tom Parker

There is funding available, up to £5,000, for initiatives/projects that aim to get youth involved in sport. Tom is happy to work with us on the applications etc. if we are interested.

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10. Nominate and vote in the committee for next season.

Officials of Executive Committee:

Chairman - Tim Gordon (Avon BC)

Association Secretary - Steve Turner (Houlton BC & RBC)

Fixtures Secretary - Darren Hawes (Lutterworth BC)

Treasurer – Ryan Smith (St Philips BC)

Youth and Development Officer – Vacant

General Committee Members:

Tournament Secretary - Mark Hope (Harris BC)

Webmaster - John Wardropper (Crescent BC)

Proposed by:	N/A
Seconded by:	N/A
Votes for:	10
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

Comments:

JP Rougeolle (Hunters BC) interested in Youth and Development Officer vacancy, to follow up with after the meeting to understand role and expectations.

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11. Proposals:

a) RDBA Constitution – excepting specific rule changes below:

Rationale:

New Constitution required to replace outdated "Rules of the Association" which was becoming outdated.

We have attempted to modernise the document, remove outdated rules/statements and add any clauses that are now needed, such as an Equality and Inclusion statement and Social Media rules.

Comments:

No comments.

Proposed by:	RDBA Secretary, Steve Turner
Seconded by:	N/A
Votes for:	10
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

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b) Change to Rule 5,viii and 5,x to reduce amount of time for score submission from 28 days to 14

Old Rule:

vi) The WINNING team, or HOME team in the event of a draw should input the result onto the RDBA Website within 28 days of the match being played, or send a copy of the completed match card to the league secretary within 10 days of the match being played. Both teams should review the website scoring input and they have the right to dispute the result if deemed necessary and, if such a dispute occurs, both team captains should resolve the dispute and inform the league secretary of the result.

Changed wording:

viii) The WINNING team, or HOME team in the event of a draw, should input the match result onto the RDBA league website within 14 days of the match being played. If unable to access the website, a copy of a completed match card should be sent to the League Secretary within 7 days of the match being played.

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x) If scores are not submitted to the league website within the 14 days, this will result in no points being awarded to the defaulting team (rubbers, games and total game points will be recorded as normal).

Rationale:

Rule carried over from when we used physical match cards and allowed time for them to be posted to the League Secretary. Updated to reflects use of the website, and encourages teams to submit scores ASAP.

Comments:

No comments.

Proposed by:	RDBA Secretary, Steve Turner
Seconded by:	N/A
Votes for:	10
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

c) Addition of Rule 3, viii and 3, ix, introducing a capped fine to cover match fees of visiting team when match is cancelled within 24 hours of the match start time

Wording:

viii) Where a match is postponed or cancelled by either team within 24 hours of the arranged match's start time without an acceptable justification, the General Committee will impose a penalty on the offending club in the form of a monetary fine capped at £20 per team.

Note 1: The fine shall be equivalent to the non-offending club's match fees, multiplied by the number of players in their team. Total amount not exceeding the cap.

Note 2: The General Committee will consult with the non-offending team before imposing the penalty.

Note 3: Fines shall be collected by the RDBA and passed onto the non-offending club.

ix) Fines must be paid within 30 days of the penalty being issued.

Rationale:

We had a few occasions this season where we had incredibly short notice cancellations which meant visiting clubs missed out on match fee income and caused inconvenience to the travelling team as they only found out the match could not be played when arriving at the venue.

This rule is intended to encourage clubs to ensure venues are booked for the arranged fixture and any changes are communicated in good time prior to the fixture.

Comments:

No comments.

Proposed by:	RDBA Secretary, Steve Turner
Seconded by:	N/A
Votes for:	10
Votes against:	0
Abstentions:	0

d) Addition of Rule 4,iii,d – set the convention to be used where a club's higher team is relegated and a lower team is promoted.

Rationale:

There are two options that have been used in the past:

Option 1: The teams keep their existing names, despite league ranking.

Option 2: The teams are renamed in order of league ranking

We would like to document which of the two methods to use for all future occurrences.

Comments:

No comments.

Votes for Option 1:	0
Votes for Option 2:	10
Abstentions:	0

12. AOB:

a) Junior and Adult Coaching Session Support

We have three junior clubs in the Rugby area: Rugby Youth Badminton Squad, Rugby Badminton Coaching and Phil's Sunday Squad. Rugby Badminton Coaching also run a formal adults coaching session.

All of the clubs are struggling for help and support with coaching at their sessions. For junior coaching, having a coach or feeder per court is essential to ensure the kids are kept engaged. This number of required helpers goes up with the younger players. It is also helpful to have experienced players to assist with adult coaching.

We have a number of talented players in the league who could be offering their help and support. The more people that offer help, the less sessions they need to attend.

There are opportunities to be trained as coaches if you wish.

Comments:

Suggestion to have a rota where clubs would provide a player on their designated week.

b) RDBA 75th Anniversary

The first recorded league was played in 1950-1951 season:

Division A	**Division B**
Willans	Rugby
Firs II	Lutterworth Query
St Philips	Crescent
Congregational	BTH Recreation Club
Thomas Hunter	St Matthews
Leamington Hastings	Firs I
**in order of final position	

This makes 2025/26 season our 75th Anniversary. It would be great to start planning some events that could take place in that season to celebrate.

Some early ideas include:

- Junior tournament
- Additional adults tournament(s)

- Adult and junior open nights
- Adult and junior sessions with professional coaches (e.g. Badminton Insight)

Obviously this will require some funding and help to organise. So if anyone would like to get involved then please let me know and we can begin to form a working group.

I am also looking to start curating a historical archive on our website, probably a timeline of the association and league's history.

Comments:

There was a suggestion and discussion around having a low-key league trophy presentation evening/75th anniversary celebration. The reason for keeping it low-key is to keep costs to a minimum for attendees to encourage high attendance and have a good time with as many people as possible.

c) Presentations

As Steve was not present at the meeting, trophies could not be presented to league and division winners.

Added post AGM:

We need to organise a small presentation evening in September/October to present all trophies and celebrate RDBA and club successes from 2023-24 season.

Steve to look into options.

d) Juniors leaving junior clubs

There was good discussion around how to involve those leaving the (excellent) youth coaching and get those that are interested into clubs. One suggestion was to arrange friendly matches or even a quarterly tournament to give them more match experience.

It was also suggested that players from clubs should visit the youth coaching to provide a point of contact and "way in" for those interested in joining a club to give a pathway once they have to leave the youth coaching setup. One difficulty can be around the commitment of younger players/their parents priorities(!) and also the ability for them to get to a club regularly. It was noted that clubs need to be mindful of how they integrate younger players and all clubs must have a Safeguarding Officer by 2025 as per BE guidelines.