Northants County Badminton
Committee Meeting Minutes

8th September 2024

6 Heronsford
West Hunsbury
Northampton
NN4 9XG

1. **Apologies**

- Sachin Sharma, Becky Rice

2. **Minutes from previous meeting**

- All agreed

3. **Matters Arising (if not agenda related)**

- None

4. **Chair Persons Report**

- AGM was very well attended, however the venue let us down on the day due to electrical problems. Buffet went well – do this again?
- Trials was very well attended also and invite packs went out towards the middle of July to give parents enough time to pay the subs before the start of the season.
- Majority of parents have paid the membership fees - please see attached accounts. Few left to chase.
- Due to the fixture's secretary stepping down at the AGM, I have filled in this position and I'm 80% there with sorting out the fixtures for the U15, U17, U19s. These will be distributed once complete. First match in U17 non 29th Sept at home and the team has been selected for this already.
- I am pleased to announce that we had 7 County players attend TheDKWay Editions camp in Denmark over the summer. Reports are that the players were very well behaved and worked hard. I look forward to seeing their progress in the coming season.
- I do believe that this is an excellent camp for our players to attend and hope to see more attending in the coming years.
- We held our first NCB Senior Bronze BE sanctioned tournament in August at Weaver Sports Centre and there was a good turnout of players. However, it was disappointing that only 2 Northants players attended. It was also disappointing that there weren't more volunteers to come along and assist to get to learn how to run these tournaments.
- We must try and get more adults involved in playing these and learning how to run these for NSCB's behalf as this will only benefit the County moving forward. Thank you to Jermaine for coming along and helping. It was very much appreciated.
- We are running an U15 bronze in October and I hope that we can involve more parents etc. It is a valuable fundraising source that we could use for the benefit of Northants, which can only be a positive outcome.
- Looking forward to the new season and we have a new intake of county players that have attended their first training session. We are encouraging them all to enter the restricted events and hope that this will be well turned out We have all the restricted tournaments over the next two months, and I encourage the committee to spread the word amongst as many as possible. There is a restricted for every age and ability so it would be amazing for a large turnout.
- The SCC
- The Senior fixtures are out:
    - 9th (and 10th) November 2024
    - 18th (and 19th) January 2025
    - 22nd and 23rd March 2025
- I hope to work with Lucy and Zach in the coming weeks to get a commitment from the First team and second team for the fixtures. The third team will be filled by the U19 and over from the county training squad. We hope to inspire the 1st & 2nd teams to come along for regular training. This is a work in progress.

- Thank you to the committee for all their hard work and special thanks goes to Karen and Jermaine who have been working hard behind the scenes.
- I look forward to another successful season for the County as a whole.

Action: KES agreed to send out the dates of the Senior County matches to all the WhatsApp groups we have – 1st Team, 2nd Team, 3rd Team, Junior and Senior players to ask who is interested in being considered for County matches and what events they would like to play in. Also need to remind players about the restricted tournament and the need to play in this so players can demonstrate their abilities 😊

5. Country Junior Squad

- An additional session has been added on a Tuesday for the U19 group and if places are available then we might be able to open this up to some of the Senior players too. It looks like Peter will work out well for the county. Lucy is going to help out when free on a Tuesday with this session
- A session has been added on a Tuesday at Oundle from 5pm – 7pm which Steve and Zach are taking.
- The session on a Wednesday now has less players and it has meant that the coaches have been able to do more with the players. Lucy will help out with this session and Jonny is also available. That would mean a coach for each court.
- We have entered into the Shires League for U15, U17 and U19
- The dates for ICT have been released for 14th – 17th April 2025
- There is also an opportunity for 17-21 year olds to play in the ECC tournament and this is the weekend before ICT. It is £175 per team. Players need to sort accommodation and food and it is played over 2 days at the Railway venue in York. There are 16 teams with a minimum of 3 men and 3 women. It is for players 2003 – 2007.
  We agreed unanimously to enter a team into this tournament
- It was put forward that the coaching staff who go to ICT should be paid to attend this event.
  We agreed unanimously that coaches should be paid. It should be back dated to last year and each coach would receive £400.
  N.B. Steve Willis and Simon Sturgess did not vote as this affected them personally.

6. County Seniors

- As per the Chair persons report, we now have the dates for the SCC matches
- Lucy and Zach are going to try to work with 1st and 2nd team to get some training in place
- We need to try to work towards a Senior County squad, which we might be a few years off, but this would give a better opportunity for players to train together and get to know each other
- It was proposed that a team captain be appointed for all the teams:
  - 1st Team – Lucy / Zach ?
  - 2nd Team – Ben Skinner?
  - 3rd Team – Hayden Feakin / Jonathan ?
- We did talk about players being selected for teams with reserves but we do not know at the moment if we have enough players and then the reserves might not get a game.
- Need to pick so that we know who is in what team and who are reserves if someone dropped out
- It is always difficult to get ladies to play singles so we need to see if we can address this before the start of the season
- We need to plan the matches and publish team before match
- We need 15 men and 15 ladies to play if possible
- See above for action points on contacting players

7. County Masters

- We have not got the masters running at the moment
- The Restricted tournament is at the end of next month
- We believe that this will be a slow burner
- Karen did email all the clubs with all the dates of the Restricted Tournaments so hopefully this has been shared and it has been added to social media too
- Possibly ask if Lyndsey Blow would be interested in seeing if we can enter an over 50 team into the County Challenge this year. We need to get some info for this and then see if we can get a team

8. Northants League

Fixtures have been posted for:

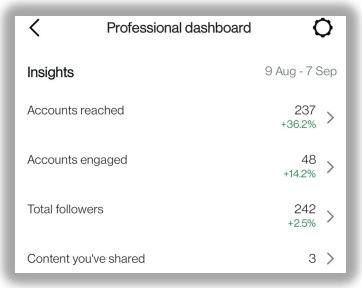
Club	Received

All Stars	YES
Apollo	
Bugbrooke	YES
Central	YES
DKWAY	YES
Kettering	YES
Mereway	
Pyghtle	
Soaring Shuttles	
Thrapston	
Towcester	YES
UON	

- There have been no withdrawals since the league structure was released
- The UON match time was 5pm -7pm but this has now been moved to 7pm-9pm
- The matched have all been posted onto the web site – just the Home matches
- Matches start this week
- Jermaine is going to send a reminder to clubs for their dates to be submitted
- This all seems to be going okay

9. Social Media and Web Site Update

Social Media



- We are doing nice with social media. Getting started again after the season.
  - We are getting nice engagement via our followers.
  - Account reached 237 which is 36.2% extra from last time.
  - Total followers 242 which is 2.5% extra from last time.
  - Account engagement 2.5%
  - This report is from last 30 days.

Web Site

- The site is still work in progress
- There is more material to go on it
- We can log in as Admin and then upload documents and photo etc
- Please can everyone have a look through and let Rob know if there are any changes required

10. Past Events

- Fun Day held in June which was quite well attended. We gave out trophies and caps for county matches played
- Zach got his 50 caps for the juniors
- There are some still to be handed out
- Next year we need to advertise this more to try to get more people to attend

11. Trophies

- We need to get the trophies back from the players from the tournaments held last year
  Action: WhatsApp out to ask players to return the trophies

12. Financial Matters

INCOME EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31/05/2024

		2023/2024		2022/2023	
		£		£	
INCOME					
	Squad & match fees	£ 13,638.33		£ 24,196.52	
	Bank/Card Fees	-		£ (207.60)	
	ICT Players fees	£ -		£ 1,750.00	
	NBA ICT entry contribution				
	Local Tournaments	£ -		£ 241.00	
	NSSF Affiliations	£ -		£ 930.00	
	Savings account interest	£ -		£ 332.53	
	Other - shuttle sale				
	Shirts income				
	Printing income				
	Senior County income less refunds	£ -		£ 2,321.00	
		£ 13,638.33		**£ 29,563.45**	
EXPENDITURE					
	Hire of Hall		£ (592.80)		£ 12,743.70
	Coaches expenses		£ (240.00)		£ 6,102.50
	Additional coaching resources				
	Affiliation/Entry Fees		£ (18.00)		£ 1,143.00
	ICT accomodation		£ -		£ 3,130.40
	ICT Expenses		£ -		£ 2,560.00
	Trophies & Engraving		£ (306.97)		£ 1,380.47
	U15/U17 BE Tournament Expenses				
	Entry Fees				£ 439.35
	Shuttlecocks		£ -		£ 1,370.00
	Coaching course contribution		£ (195.00)		
	Summer Fairs & festivals		£ (156.90)		£ 787.53
	Subscriptions		£ (101.52)		£ 374.79
	Admin, Post and Insurance		£ (90.06)		
	Parents evening				
	Website		£ -		£ 194.07
	Tournament support		£ (80.00)		
	Refunds		£ -		£ 56.66
	Misc		£ (279.00)		£ 297.96
	Shirts		£ -		£ 2,212.50
	Debtors				£ (3,253.60)
			£ (2,060.25)		**£ 29,539.33**
NET TO/[FROM] RESERVES			**£ 11,578.08**		**£ 24.12**
RESERVES					
Opening			**£ 46,872.72**		**45681.61**
Movement			£ 11,578.08		24.116
Closing			£ 58,450.80		45705.726
Represented by:	At bank		£ 54,317.80		£ 44,572.72
	Paypal??		£ 291.05		£ -
	PSA account		£ 2,300.00		£ 2,300.00
			£ 56,617.80		**£ 46,872.72**

Notes

- Karen to contact Matt Asbrey to see if we can get access to the Parent Supporters Bank Account which has been dormant for years and years. There is over £2000 in this account
- We have £56k in the Juniors account
- We have £19k in the Seniors account

13. Coaching

- Pete Jeffreys contacted the county to ask about getting involved in coaching for the players
- He was the British and French national coach
- He has said that he hopes to be in Northants for the next 20 years
- Would like to do more coaching with the older juniors and seniors
- There have been 4 applications for coaching funding (50% coaching grant and then give 20 hours give back)
  - Vivien and Lody now have their Level 1 coaching
  - Micky and another player from Mereway would like to do their Level 1
  - Alfie Rowley is attend a coaching course in September
  - If we can get Weavers as a "place of badminton" we might be able to run 2 x Level 1 courses and 2 x Level 2

14. Safeguarding and Welfare Update

- The Safeguarding officer should have their photo on a poster so players and parents are aware who our Safeguarding Office is – Becky are you able to sort this please?
- All members on committee to have a DBS certificate. Coaches are already covered – Mel & Karen okay. We believe we are covered as Jermaine does not have any access to the children. Becky can you confirm that you have a DBS and if there is anyone else we need to think about please?
- Key tags to be given to all the children so that they can scan it to see safeguarding information. This takes you to BE safeguarding web site – Becky do you have these please so that we can hand out to the players?
- We need to ensure that we a First Aid box and a qualified First Aider at every session – All sports halls have First Aid boxes
- We should report all low level incidents all the time – keep log / write down – Becky are you able to set this up please?
- Guidelines on parents dropping and picking children up from the hall and not the car park to be written up. Include in next seasons letter – Completed

15. Any other business

- Roles and responsibilities-
  - Discussion for next meeting – can all committee members please think about the roles on the committee so that we can agree the responsibilities of each role. We will then document this.
- Badminton festivals
  - primary and secondary schools
  - Can we get this going this year?
  - We can use Oundle for the Secondary Festival. Rob look in calendar to see when we can run it
  - We might need to spoon feed a little more to encourage schools to enter
  - Primary schools – The head master of Weavers would like to get a school of badminton excellence set up there to get more children playing badminton. Need to send email to see if we can get this going
  - See if we can get Mel, Zach, Peter and Weavers to get together to discuss this
- Player announcements
  - Ethan has been accepted onto the England Pathway – well done Ethan
- Membership fee (Request from a parent)
  - Ethan is now training 5 nights a week and therefore is not able to attend county training but would like to still be able to represent his county if possible in matches and ICT
  - We discussed at length that where a player is accepted onto the England Pathway that as a county we should be very proud of this as it will have a very positive effect on our players
  - Jonathan had asked if the committee could review Ethan's membership fees and consider a reduction
  - The committee unanimously agreed that Ethan should not be charged a membership fee as a "well done" for his achievement. He will be charged match fees and an ICT fee if he is selected for any of these squads
- Council and BE – Purpose built facility
  - Leisure Centre at Weston Favel is being rebuilt
  - The are keen for us to get involved with this
  - When we have settled into the season we will pick this back up

- Schools competition

- There has been nothing sent through from Badminton England yet
- We believe that it is £50 per team to enter
- We will offer a 50% grant paid by the county if a school enters a team into tournament
  Unanimously agreed by all committee members

- Shires team managers
  - The coaching team to help pick the teams for the Shires
  - Maybe 1 coach for each Age Group
  - Then appoint team managers who are parents to run the matches – 1 to record scores and 1 to coach the players

- ICT selection
  - Look to see if we can make things clearer as to how the ICT team will be selected
  - Much discuss on using the Badminton England ranking points for players so that all players and parents are aware of how this will be done going forward
  - Set a date for selection to be announced and advise the top 5 girls and top 5 boys along with reserves and those not successful
  - It is hoped that this will encourage more competition between the players
  - Possibly look to advise first week of March 2025 so that everyone is told at the same time
  Action: Mel to look at how this will work

Meetings closed:
18.02

Date of next meeting:
8th December 2024 at 3.00pm
11 Hunsbury Close, West Hunsbury, Northampton

Signed: **Chairperson:** Melissa Gentle	**Date:**
Signed: **Secretary:** Karen Sturgess	**Date:**