Northants County Badminton
Committee Meeting Minutes

8th December 2024 at 3pm

11 Hunsbury Close
West Hunsbury
Northampton

1. Apologies
Hon Lee Wai, Becky Rice, Rob Cunliffe, Sachin Sharma

2. Minutes from previous meeting
All agreed

3. Matters Arising (if not agenda related)

Outstanding from the last meeting
- There is a poster that needs to be displayed for safeguarding
  Action: Chase with Becky
- Key tags to be sent out to children
  Action: Chase with Becky
- Incidents log to be set up
  Action: Chase with Becky
- Schools festival – We know that there are 3 schools who have entered and have applied for the 50% funding

4. Chair Persons Report
- Zach Sturgess had been invited to this committee meeting
- Due to Pete's involvement with the County Elite squad and his desire to also assist with trying to get a purpose built hall for badminton in Northamptonshire, Peter Jeffreys will be asked to join the committee
- A meeting has been held with George Wood. He was the head of coaching at Badminton England and is now the Director of Performance. He met with Steve, Mel and Pete Jeffreys. They explained to him about the difficulties we have in getting badminton courts in the area and that we would like to build a 16 court hall which could be used for all county training, junior and senior BE tournaments and maybe even some of the Nationals. He has advised that a business plan is needed but we need to know the size of the land that we require and take into consideration the car parking. We discussed temporary structures. George talked about 4 - 6 courts. And therefore they were quite disappointed with the meeting. We need to get involved with all the local sports federations because if they are aware of what you need we might then be more incline to get funding.
- We will need to put together a separate working party to look to create the business plan. It was suggested that the following people be asked if they would get involved:
  David Rimmer, Director of Moonpig,
  Rohan Smith's Dad
  Simon Sturgess
  Karen Sturgess
  Zach Sturgess
  Steve Willis
  Melissa Gentle
  Jermaine Lovelace
  Pete Jeffrey
  Jonny B
- We have a new Regional Manager for the area – Alex Lane
- We need to think about sponsors
- Could we contact famous local people from Northamptonshire to see if they would donate
- Could we like with somewhere like Virgin Gym so that they could use the courts
- Square footage of 16 courts – 30m x 57m

- We will need to think about ventilation and insulation
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5. County Juniors

- There have been some great results in the Shires Matches, however, there has been a massive confusion with regards to how the age groups work for the squads and this has resulted in some points being taken away from us
- This was discussed at length and no one on the committee was aware that the rules for the Shires do not fall into line with the Badminton England rules on age groups
- They have been some great results too in National Tournaments and we all agreed that it has been great to see the players participating in the events and doing so well. We are very proud of all the players
- The squad sessions are going really well and it has been good to have coaches available to help at Peter's session and the session on a Wednesday

6. County Seniors

- The first county weekend has taken place and the results were as follows:
  - 1st team – Won 9 – 2 against Warwickshire
  - 1st team – Won 10 – 1 against Shropshire
  - 2nd team – Won 9 -2 against Northants 3rd team
  - 2nd team – Won 7 – 4 against Norfolk 3
  - 3rd team – Lost 9 – 2 against Northants 2nd team
  - 3rd team – Lost 9 -2 against Cambridgeshire 4th
- The third team had issues with shuttles and luckily Jon Feakin went back to Rushden Lakes to collect shuttles. KES has emailed Jon Hancock to ask for reimbursement but there has been no reply
- David Robertson seemed upset at the 1st Team match. KES to ask if he is okay and has anything that he would like to discuss with us when she next has the opportunity
- Lucy Sturgess has been organising some squad practices and these seem to have been well received. Lucy will try to get some more sessions sorted

7. County Masters

- Following the Masters Restricted it did seem as if there was some interest in entering a team into the Masters league
- We would need to see if we can get someone to run this. KES to ask Lyndsey Blow when she next sees her
- It was a shame that we did not get more entries for the Masters Restricted

8. Northants League

- To date there are 9 matches that have been played where Jermaine has not received a score card. He will message the club secretaries to try to get these
- Pyghtle have been advised that their hall is not going to be available for a number of the matches due to exams. Christine Stimpson is trying to re-arrange these
- The league is going well but Jermaine has fallen a little behind
- It is hard to sort so he wanted to get onto the site that Rob has created so that teams can enter their own scores
- Jermaine has been lenient with the rules to ensure that clubs are not unnecessarily penalised

9. Social Media and Web Site Update

<u>Report from Sachin</u>

- We are doing very well and getting lots of organic searches on our Instagram profile as this is open to public.
- Apologies that I am late in posting updates. But I will be catching up all of them. Sometime due to photos and details etc. I will do my level best to post all the pending event. I will manage it by posting monthly items.
- Items of visits we have 1900 visits in last 3 months.
- 285 followers. I think we need to advertise our Insta more and more to get more followers. This will happen with continuous postings and also via link via website, Print media etc.
- We can promote our posts if we boost them via paid services. This will reach to more people.
- Overall we are doing well.
- Ask Sachin for the login to the Instagram account so more people can add information
- Web site – Jermaine to give feed back to Rob

10. Past Events

- Restricted – all took place as planned

11. Trophies

- Last lot of trophies to be picked up and handed out

12. Financial Matters

- We have had all the payments in for the junior memberships apart from the last payment for Lody Eales. We do need to now chase this payment or advise Becky and Nick that Lody cannot continue to play for Northamptonshire until the last payment is received. This is not something that we want to do but we have to be fair to all players/parents
- We did discuss running our own tournaments and not Badminton England tournaments as we felt that these could be offered at a lesser price to players, we could perhaps offer prize money and they would not cost as much to run

13. Coaching

- We have emailed Badminton England regarding a Level 2 coaching course as there is one being held at Milton Keynes in February 2025. Zach Sturgess, Lucy Sturgess and Rob Cunliffe are looking to attend this course
- We also discussed whether Steve could be allowed to run a Level 2 course. Look to contact Lee Dent to discuss this

14. Safeguarding and Welfare Update

- No report received

15. Any other business

- Look to hold some tournaments at the beginning of the New Year if possible within the county
- We discussed the criteria that had previously been issued as a number of parents had raised concerns about this with the committee. Players who look to enter tournaments above their age group do not get as many ranking points as players of that age group and this could be unfair. We also discussed that some parents may not financially be able to allow their children to enter tournaments as they are very expensive.
- We discussed some changes that needed to be made and agreed that this would be documented and explained to the Elite squad at the next session.
- We also agreed that it would be sensible to appoint a selection committee for ICT which would comprise of:
  - Steve Willis
  - Peter Jeffreys
  - Simon Sturgess
  - Lucy Sturgess
  - Simon Sturgess

Meetings closed: 18:03

Date of next meeting: To be agreed

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