

Meeting Minutes - Herts Basketball League AGM
Tuesday 9th July 2024 7pm
Glaxo Sports & Social Club meeting room

Attendees:

Ray McHugh (RMc - Referee), Peter Thorp (PT- Referee), Pedro Zuniga (PZ - Bedford Hoopers), Enrique Alonso (EA - Bedford Thunder), Dan Sanders (DS - Luton), Shona Harnett (SH - Referee/TO), Graham Hiscock (GH - HBA Chairman), Cyril Lai (CL - Watford HongKongers), Ka Kit Chan (KKC - Watford Hongkongers), Colleen Shelley (CS - HBA Committee), Alex Emmerson (AE - HBA Committee), Sotiros Frantzanas (SF - Barnet Werewolves), Will Triantos (WT - Barnet Werewolves), Adam Sullivan (AS - North Herts Knights), Bob Bhanja (BB - Referee), Ola Alabi (OA - West Herts Warriors & HBL Committee), Jon Ord (JO - Hatfield Magic & HBL Committee), Terry Fryer (TF - HBL Chairman), Jay Standen (JS - Hatfield Magic), Tadas Lukosevicius (TL - Hemel Wolves), Rokas Milkonas (RM - Hemel Wolves), Luke Burton (LB - Herts Hellcats), Craig Wilde (CW - Cranfield University), Shab Niaz (SN - Harlow Hawks), Ben Potts (BP - Michaelians), Ayo Olaofe (AO - Harlow Hawks/Referee), Lee Morris (LM - Harlow Hawks), Paul Holt (PH - Amersham Comets), Clare Holt (CH - Amersham Comets), Jason Dempsey (JD - Oaklands Wolves), Ben Geddes (BG - Bucks Hornets), James Whitehouse (JW - Aylesbury Dux), Carmine Cavaliere (CC - Aylesbury Dux), Wayne McGhan (WM - Luton), James Cummings (JC - Stevenage Royals & HBA Committee), Steph Strachan (HBA Committee & Minutes).

Apologies - Daryl Craine - (DC - West Herts Warriors, Henry Salvatierre (HS - Referee) & Steve Bignell - (SB - Stevenage Royals)

Meeting commenced 7.42pm

Welcome:

TF welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the 24/25 season would be the 50th year of the Herts Basketball League.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM:

TF - minutes of last AGM emailed to every Club. Acceptance of minutes proposed by JD & seconded by CC.

Microphone brought in to ensure all in the meeting could hear.

Election of HBL Committee:

DS proposed that BB stand as Chair of the Committee, PT & RMc both gave speeches of support for BB outlining their reasoning. Both mentioned matters involving a BE disciplinary

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RMc spoke at the meeting.

- 1. He expressed grave reservations about the governance of both the HPL and HBA. This was to such an extent that he had asked BE to record the meeting or have an observer attend the HPL AGM.*
- 2. He asked Terry Fryer if this was being done and if so why were the attendees of the AGM not being advised of the fact?*
- 3. He told the Clubs that he believed that the HPL would not have enough Referees to support the League and that for example having an underage official officiate/referee a game on his own invalidated BE's insurance and own policies.*

case. BB stated his reasons for standing as chairman and his wish to develop the league and officiating. TF confirmed he would be standing as chairman again. GH interjected re the non-disclosure of confidential information re BE case. Chairman position put to vote. PH asked for clarification what clubs were being asked to vote on. BP stated he felt uncomfortable voting in front of BB and TF. SH asked to speak and identified herself as the individual involved in the BE case.

BB & TF left the room to enable voting to take place. All clubs in attendance were asked to vote, 1 vote per Club regardless of number of teams in the league. Meeting broke for voting and a comfort break. JO recorded telephone votes from DC & SB. Vote counts undertaken by KKC & CL. BB received 9 votes, TF received 4 votes and 3 clubs abstained.

BB appointed Chairman.

TF left meeting at 8:52pm. SH left meeting.

Committee members sought - OA stepped down from fixtures secretary/League Republic coordinator role. Toby Horton - league secretary stepped down prior to meeting. JO remaining on committee. Appointments made as;

Table Officials Mentor - BB stated he had spoken to Fran Edwards who has agreed to be the TOM - position proposed by BP and seconded by CC.

Club Liaison Officer - Adam Sullivan nominated himself - proposed by JD & seconded by CC.

Decision made to split league secretary role by divisions. Division 1 secretary - Clare Holt - proposed by OA and seconded by RM. Division 2 secretary - Sotirios Frantzanas - proposed by JD & seconded by BP.

Fixture secretary - Tadas Lukosevicius nominated himself for role. League Republic co-ordinator - James Whitehouse nominated himself proposed by BP and seconded by JD.

Appointment of committee/officers concluded.

Election of new teams to the HBL

Pedro Zuniga from Bedford Hoopers and Cyril & Ka Kit from Watford HongKongers gave information on their Clubs, venues and game day availability and asked to join the league.

AO asked for clarification on level of play. BG asked for confirmation of league structures with new teams and for teams fielding NL players.

CC - Aylesbury Dux also confirmed they wish to field a second team in the league.

JD - Oaklands Wolves confirmed they wish to field 2 teams but different structure to last season.

JC - Stevenage Royals confirmed there would only be 1 team next season and BG - Bucks Hornets confirmed there would only be 1 team for Hornets next season

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Both new teams voted into the league. Proposed by TL and seconded by BG.

Reinstatement of teams for non-payment of fines

Spreadsheet of fines imposed to be reviewed and update given.

Promotion/demotion within leagues

Division 1 > Division 2 - Michalians and Cranfield University

CW stated that Cranfield University may not have a team next season.

Proposal for Michalians to stay in Division 1 - proposed by JD and seconded by OA.

Division 2 > Division 1 - Amersham Comets and Hemel Wolves.

Structure of league

Divisions to be discussed and confirmed.

National League Div 1-3 players must be in HBL Div 1 only. This will be clarified in the rules.

Rules revision/update

Rules to be reviewed and updated. Rules will then be shared with all Clubs.

HBL Handbook

Sent to all Clubs via email.

Referees and Table Officials.

List of referees and officials will be given out to Clubs.

Referees will be appointed by the league and table officials supplied by Clubs.

All referees and table officials must be qualified and licensed. A period of leeway for newly qualified officials will be 6 weeks to get their games signed off and licences in place.

BB proposed the annual joining fee of £150 be increased to £175 with £25 of that being ring fenced for the provision of officiating courses.

LM asked that any officiating courses be seen through to completion and implementation. That candidates don't just do the course and then not put learning into practice. How can this be monitored? BB confirmation of FE as TOM and Referee mentors to be put in place. RM asked question re scores for referees. What will happen with those referees who are regularly getting low scores from Clubs? BB confirmed he would speak with individuals concerned.

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League Republic

OA asked to assist in the setup of League Republic system for the new season. JW to take on the role

AOB

BB suggestion of a Regional Basketball Competition for the East Region. Details to be considered in due course.

SN mentioned that parking procedures at the Harlow Leisurezone had changed and for visiting teams and personnel to note this.

PH and CC mentioned that rules state teams need access to hot/cold showers at playing venues. Issues were reported with the showering facilities at both Amersham Comets and Aylesbury Dux venues.

Question asked regarding match balls. Balls are to be supplied by both teams at games and referees will select the best ball with agreement from both teams.

SS clarified the need for all officials, coaches and players to be licensed at games to ensure insurance cover through BE licensing remains valid. Unlicensed participants invalidate everyone's insurance cover, not just their own.

Proposed interim HBL meeting to discuss rules once reviewed and updates suggested.

The meeting was audio recorded.

Meeting closed 10.04pm.

