

Chairman's Report - May 2022

Little did we all know that, following the last AGM / EGM in 2019, it would be two years before we could hold a full AGM.

This is the first opportunity I have had to thank Julian for all the hard work he did in keeping the Plymouth Badminton League going for many years and to those who have stepped up to keep the league and badminton going locally.

It was encouraging to see so many clubs entering teams into the league at the start of this season following Covid. I, and others, had expected that the number of divisions would have been much reduced but clubs have found teams - yes, we have lost a few teams but not nearly as many as there could have been.

I would like to put it on record my appreciation for the support given to the league by the staff at Badminton England during the pandemic. Had they not investigated and challenged venues the club scene would be very different: for one, my own club, Tavyside, would not now be in existence if it were not for their work in the background.

As clubs will be aware, the Plymouth Badminton League has questioned, via me, the direction of the Devon CBA on a number of occasions at, and following, their committee meetings. So far we have seen little in terms of changes but the Devon CBA committee are under no illusion where the Plymouth Badminton League is coming from.

Thank you to all the clubs who attended the Zoom meeting with the Devon CBA and the subsequent AGM in 2021. The proposal I submitted to dissolve the Devon CBA (which I withdrew in the meeting) was taken seriously by the chair and vice-chair as they are very much aware that the Plymouth League clubs are not happy with the Devon CBA as it currently stands. I shall continue to challenge them on behalf of the league.

Though I have nothing against the incumbent chair, vice-chair and treasurer (there is no secretary) they have decided to step down at the next Devon CBA meeting in June and are looking for individuals to take those roles within the Devon CBA. I am aware that the three individuals have worked hard for the Devon CBA and am happy to commend them for all the work they have done over many years.

Because the Devon CBA has failed in starting / completing a number of issues of late I have been forced to copy in staff at Badminton England to try and get matters kick-started, completed and / or resolved. Badminton England has recently asked that the following be resolved / discussions entered into asap:

- The code of conduct allegations against myself; these have been ongoing for over 100 days without any specific allegations being produced;
- That the Devon CBA enter into dialogue with the Plymouth Badminton League to try and come to a resolution;

- That the Devon CBA produce an "impact type report outlining how fees (both Badminton England and Devon CBA) have been spent in the county";
 - I believe that this report should include information pertaining to the Plymouth Badminton League.

And finally, I would like it put on record all the support and assistance I have had from the club secretaries, committee and individuals over the last couple of years; thank you as it has been appreciated. By working together we have come through the pandemic far stronger than many leagues across England. We still have our ongoing challenges but, and I quote a respected local player who told me that the "Plymouth Badminton League is just a small part of a large pond"; to which I responded, "but if you throw a pebble into that pond the waves that are generated can spread out across the whole pond".

Alan Berry

(Chair, Plymouth Badminton League)