

Chairman's report to AGM 2011

The current badminton season heralded a number of changes both in Kent and nationally; KBL acquired a new Chairman and six new Directors; Kent's stalwart of over 40 years, Geoff Rofe, was voted in as President of Badminton England; Kent's Regional (Development) Officer, James Woodland departed and we welcomed Lauren Neve as his replacement; Badminton England announced a number of new initiatives including 'No Strings' Badminton; 'Back 2 Badminton'; and a new membership system.

One of our new Directors, Andy Duff, took up a new job away from the county and found it impossible to dedicate the time necessary to build and maintain the website – he subsequently resigned. We had wanted to modernize the website and a subsequent provider could not deliver what the Board wanted. There were further delays, but I am sure it has been worthwhile, we now have a very modern site with County information and links to the Regions.

The volume of work has necessitated the Board meeting on 9 occasions, attendances were as follows. Robin Wells – 9; Mike O'Keeffe -9; Allan Paxton – 8; Bill Dorey – 8; Steve Hall – 8; Eddie Strilesky-8; Ros Reeder – 7; Debbie Leach – 5; Tracey Middleton – 4:

The new Board has successfully worked together during this year and has begun preparations for the forthcoming season – organizing venues and officials for a programme of tournaments, training sessions and matches for Juniors, Seniors and Veterans, most of which have now been confirmed. This season everyone has looked for value for money, estimating the court hours required for events, looking very seriously at shuttle usage and ensuring good, used shuttles go to the junior squads for training thereby saving quite a lot of the members' money.

The individual Directors will be giving reports on their areas of responsibility. It is difficult to single out any particular Director for additional praise – to have the 2nd and 3rd teams so well placed in their divisions after the injuries and sickness which beset the first team was extremely good; to have the junior squads, with exceptional coaches, improving standards and close to capacity looks good for the future; to have kept the tournaments running with an extremely competent team of helpers was another noteworthy performance; once again the veterans were on a merry-go-round whereby the strengths move across counties and age groups but still a strong season.

At last we have managed to move the AGM to another part of the county, I hope the new Board will take this to heart and look around for suitable venues in other areas of the County. If the members are in favour of using the Proxy voting system it may well be that super-sized venues may not be necessary in the future.

Mike O'Keeffe,
Chairman of the Board.