

Notes from Performance Centre meeting

10.am Monday 31 March
at 57 Bradmore Way, Brookmans Park

Present: Malcolm Fraser, Ken Winchester, Angela Blowers, Marion Conway, Duncan Conway, Brian Jackson, Colin Walker, Gill Bartlett, Dave Bartlett

Apologies: Tim Fitches, Bob Green, Mary Wikner

1. MF reported progress in recruiting a Head/Lead Coach: applications have been received from Steve Willis, George Bevan, and Priscilla Brown. It was agreed to proceed with the three applications received. MF to contact Middlesex? to find out more about Priscilla Brown. Candidate interviews to be arranged after our meeting with Julia Strong and Mike Woodward. **ACTION: MF to advise candidates of planned schedule**
2. The remaining points made in the BE HQ response to our PC application were then discussed at length.
 - It was agreed that items 2, 3, and 7 needed to be considered together, as they all contributed to the organisation and implementation of a viable Performance Pathway structure. A number of different venues and coaching teams are currently used by the squads and member clubs. As there is little or no flexibility with these venues, it was felt our first step should be to identify our current resources: the existing venues (including times and court usage), and coaches involved.
ACTION: MC and GB
 - The item 4 requirement for a realistic 4 year budget is not possible until we have resolved items 1,2,3 and 7 ; in particular the identification of the additional coaching requirements to meet the PC criteria and agreement with the Lead Coach on how, when and where this coaching will be met, which is likely to be the biggest expense item in the budget. Existing activities are currently funded by the different organisations within the consortium. These organisations will continue to provide this level of funding (or its equivalent allowing for increases in court costs etc.). PC funding will account for increased PC activities only, including the cost of the Head/Lead coach. Although we have taken advantage of current Awards For All and other external sources of funding, we were reminded that generally grants are awarded for new projects, but not maintaining existing initiatives; these applications require considerable paperwork and time
 - Item 5 required improving the “Measuring Success” section, utilising numerical targets and player achievements. It was agreed that baselines needed to be identified in order to set realistic targets. More paperwork!
 - Item 6 was discussed. Basically, it was felt that girls and boys were encouraged and treated equitably, in accordance with our Equity policy, and it was difficult to treat boys in a different manner, or justify giving them preferential treatment. KW referred to past performer records which identified the following reasons why players (particularly boys) “drop out” or fail to achieve their potential:
 - A number gave up altogether having been disappointingly dropped from WCS/P.
 - Because of their badminton-related athletic capabilities and fitness, players found it very easy to transfer to different sports, which are often of higher profile and potentially more lucrative as a career
 - During attendance at University, they were quickly integrated into Uni teams and later played at County team level (Herts or other counties) which satisfied their badminton ambitions.

It was thought that the creation of the Performance Pathway within the Performance Centre might reduce losses for the above reasons.

3. A meeting with Julia Strong and Mike Woodward was arranged over the 'phone for 10am on Monday 7 April. Meeting to be held at 27 Mardley Hill, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0TT. Proposed Agenda attached.
4. BJ, MC and GB reported on the Performance Centre Seminar they attended on 29 February. They all reported that they felt it was a very positive experience, with a great deal of encouragement and support offered from BE HQ.
5. AB reported that HSBA had been told they had been awarded Premier Club status, but had not yet received the file back. GB reported disappointment that HBA's application for Foundation Club was not approved: in particular that the omission of our CWO evidence was commented on, when she had been led to believe that BE (who currently had the evidence with the HSBA file) would accept it as having been seen.
6. Notes from previous meeting on 31 January :
 - The following amendments were identified:
 - Item 2 (1.1): MF was omitted from the recruitment panel list in error: it should read: "Head Coach recruitment panel consists of DC, BJ, DCB, AB AND MF"
 - (3.8): first line should read: "CRB check for Premier Club volunteers.."
 - Matters outstanding:
 - MF reported that he had been unable to attend the Volunteering meeting in St Albans. It was agreed that recruitment of a Fundraiser and Administration volunteers was a priority.
 - BJ to check Action completed ie that latest Coaching Register was sent to AB & MC
 - GB to chase query about CRB discount for Foundation clubs.
 - It was confirmed that Baldock JBC's application to become a member of the proposed Performance Centre was approved.
7. DONM: 10am on Monday 7 April at 27 Mardley Hill.