



# Suffolk Badminton Association

## Minutes of AGM 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 held via zoom

**Attendees:** Mike Tee (MT), Steven Cook (SC), Paul Tee - YM Exiles (PT), Sue McKinley (SM), Sue Driver (SD), David Driver (DD), Peter Webb (PW), Glenn & Louise Tooke - IDBL and Corinthians (GT), Stephen Smith (SS), Tom Mann - Hadleigh (TM), Nick Rimmer - BE (NR), Ben Williams (BW), Abhay Samel (AS), Sue Taylor - Bury League (ST), Jim Cavanagh - Woodbridge (JC), Stuart Girling - Thorpeness (SG), Anna Bloom - DVE(AB), Louise Collins - Stowmarket (LC). Joined later; Tony Chester - Rushmere(TC), Daniel Hooper (DH).

### 1) Apologies of absence - MT

Leiston badminton club and John Harvey Newmarket, St Philips.

### 2) Minutes of previous meeting - 17th July 2023

Agreed. - MT "signed" as true record 21/08/23.

### 3) Chairman's Report - MT - attached

Difficult period for the county over the last 12 months, but BE continues to support and help with various projects/initiatives. Vacancies for secretary and minutes secretary. Returned to normal after the pandemic largely but has effected Leagues with clubs and players down. Looking to turn around loss of membership (strategic plan). County remains committed and dedicated to assist clubs where possible. Continue to try and widen the appeal of badminton. Relaunch of the strategy to help move SBA in the right direction regarding participation. Special thanks to volunteers for their help.

### 4) Treasurer's Report - SD - attached

Balance held totals £34,218.00 as of 30th April 2023. Profit in competitions has offset the loss in membership fee affiliations. Report attached  
Investigating the investment on some of the funds held, to help generate some interest for next year which could then be used in various initiatives.

## **5) Strategic Plan (SP) - GT - attached**

Reference to Strategic plan notes (emailed separately by GT).

3 year rolling plan. Survey to go out to clubs asking for input. It will be a living document.

Council to assist in the delivery of the Strategic Plan. GT to lead, looking for 5 other individuals to help deliver alongside representatives from various delivery organizations for the sport. Will also require help with social media.

Main pillars of the SP are as follows:

- a) Governance
- b) Communicated with players / individuals / organisations
- c) Grass roots
- d) Leagues / clubs
- e) Competition standards

*Actions:* need to cost out the first 12 months of the plan. Document will be reviewed 6 times a year at each of the council meetings and AGM's.

SBA Strategic plan aligns with Badminton England.

*Discussion points:*

- SP questioned alignment with BE; Suffolk's approach will be different to other counties.
- SP put forward can the strategic group help with supporting lower costs for venues - share best practices / working together.
- TM suggested to ask questions of clubs to see what their facility arrangements are (the organisations clubs have to engage with)

Agreed to proceed with Strategic Plan as proposed

## **6) Constitution - Minor amendments - SM - attached**

Proposed changes by SM. Seconded by JM. All in favour. Key areas of change

- 1) Membership scheme
- 2) Remove section 6
- 3) Change timing of the AGM
- 4) Incorporate safeguarding
- 5) Auditor of accounts
- 6) Code of conduct

SBA website will be updated with the above.

## **7) BE report - NR (nickrimmer@badmintonengland.co.uk)**

Commended Suffolk for putting a strategic plan together.

*BE has launched a new 10 year strategy starting in September 2023, pillars are as follows;*

- 1) Inspiration
- 2) Supporting the community to thrive / grow.

- 3) Badminton pathway - better connections
- 4) Forming the top end
- 5) Facilities - aim to have 1 dedicated facility in each county by 2032.

*Changes to the development team* - Ross Reed (Development and pathway manager). Will be focusing on;

- 1) Volunteering
- 2) Coaching
- 3) Competition structure
- 4) Focus on young people

*Changes to the regional team;* reduced the capacity of the team to enable more specialist support regarding volunteers and facilities.

Other areas:

Competition - looking at training for tournament organisers / referees.

Looking to bring in a new ranking system to encourage more people to play more competitively.

Club development fund - attract female players

*Discussion points:*

TM - NR confirmed the SBA can use the content of their social media posts.

SC - asked for TM's input for social media, confirmed happy to help

BW - NR confirmed that a grading system would be removed to new ranking system

## **8) Committee reports**

- a) Coaching - 1 bursary provided. Try to have one coach in every club (funding available for person to take the course)
- b) Development - pay and play. PW Volunteers needed to implement.
- c) Competitive Play - Junior and senior closed and satellite tournaments (11). MT asked for volunteers. 750 players entered in the last year, on average 13% of overall entrants were from Suffolk. Struggling with facilities to secure venues as other sports have got it. Report attached.
  - d) Encourage grass root participation - encourage younger / club players to participate at lower level competitions aimed at grass root and club players.
  - e) Senior county (DH thanks players and captains for putting teams together
    - 1st Team won Div 1
    - 2nd team relegated
  - f) Juniors (BW)
    - Based on an ability squad system - successful first season (3 groups).
    - Coaches from around the county are coming together to train the juniors
  - g) U18's (DD) very successful season, came 10th. at ICT.
  - h) Masters (SM). 62 players, 6 teams. Very enjoyable season.

i) Promotion and website. PW happy to take information from clubs to promote Activities. Clubs to use web site as an additional advertising tool.

### 9) League reports

- 1) Bury League ST- had Mens, Mixed & KO. Not looking viable for a mixed league for 2023. Really struggling to get clubs in. SBA offered to help. Fear that Bury league will disappear in the coming years.
- 2) Ipswich League GT - report emailed separately with winners etc. 10 new teams applied to play (net increase of 6)
- 3) Newmarket - John Harvey emailed separately; They are seeing a growth in U11.

### 10) Election of council officers

The President is appointed by the SBA Committee. Steve Cook accepted the appointment.

Role	Elected Officer		Nominated	Seconded	All in favour
Chair	Mike Tee		SC	AH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice Presidents			JA	TH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minutes Secretary	Anna Bloom		AB	SM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Vacant				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Sue Driver		MT	GT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Main Committee	SS, DD, SM, BW, AS, DH		MT	SC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PW has withdrawn from the committee - offered to continue support for the web site as a volunteer.

### 11) Affiliation fees

SD proposed affiliation fees. Seconded by AH. All in favour.

*Juniors £1.50*

*Seniors £3.00*

*U12 FOC*

DH proposal for county team 2023/24 - unable to comment on a second team, will assess at the end of the month. MT proposed to hold with 2 teams at this point, and that the SSC committee meets before the deadline with representatives from the junior committee and the tournament committee.

MT; 11 County tournaments - Looking at 1\* and 2\* futures tournaments aimed at grass root and club junior players.

## **12) AOB**

SG made meeting aware that he was able to put in 2 new teams because of grant availability. Also wanted to gain understanding on why Bury clubs had stopped playing and are the facilities still available to play at

**Meeting closed at 21:15**