

SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE AGM MEETING 17 JULY 2024

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the attendees at the Suffolk Badminton AGM in person or online. Those present SBA - Steve Cook, Mike Tee, Sue Driver, Sue McKinley, Ben Williams (& Belstead), John Harvey (NBF)</p> <p>Paul Tee (YM Exiles); Linda Sheppard (IDBL); Janet Dyson (Con Club); Aaron Heard (Skillcentre BC); Adrian Cook (IBPC); Jo Hughes (Abbeygate/ Debenham Juniors); Andy Longfield (Abbeygate), Carl Barnard; James Cesareo (Corinthians); Jim Cavanagh (Woodbridge); David Stark/Daniel Simpson (Stowmarket); Heather Baillie</p> <p>Pleased to say this is a larger turnout than in previous years so thank you for attending.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>David Driver, Abhay Samel, Thorpeness BC, Hadleigh BC, Daniel Hooper</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting.</p> <p>Correction to minutes – previous AGM minutes should read 29 June 2022 and not as stated. Chair will change and sign. Proposer Linda, Secunder Ben.</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising not on the Agenda</p> <p>None</p>	
5	<p>Chair's Remarks</p> <p>The Association has managed once again to complete its core activities for the sport and has commenced a revised Strategy to build participation in Badminton across Suffolk. The lack of volunteers in some of the key areas such as Secretary has placed a greater burden on the remaining committee members so on behalf of Suffolk Badminton I thank them for all their efforts and contribution over the last year. However, this is not sustainable and a call for further volunteers has been made as part of the papers for the AGM.</p> <p>It is sad to report the passing of Tony Bristow this year. His contributions to Schools badminton as well as County Badminton has been immense, and he will be missed. Thank you for all those who managed to attend the funeral on behalf of Suffolk Badminton this was greatly appreciated by his wife Grace and their family.</p> <p>..</p>	
6	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that the SBA main account Balance was £30,501, a reduction from 2023/24. SBA also held ring fenced sums for Junior Badminton and Development Projects. The report detailed</p>	

	the accounts in full. There were no comments/questions from the rest of the meeting so the Accounts were proposed by Mike and Seconded by Adrian and all were in favour.	
7	<p>Constitution Review and Committee reports</p> <p>The Constitution had been reviewed in detail in 2023 and the Committee proposed no changes were made. All agreed.</p> <p>Annual reports from the chairs of the Committees were submitted and these were made available through Suffolk Badminton Web site. The Chairs summarised their reports as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Coaching – Provision of Foundation and Level 2 courses have been agreed with BE to be held locally this year and players are signing up to these. Subsidies for Suffolk affiliated members has been made available by SBA. The aim is to get a coach in each club within the County B) SSDP – The updated Strategic Plan has been included with the AGM papers. In Summary, progress against the 5 key strands of the Plan has been slower than we had hoped, but this is solely due to volunteer resources needed to help to deliver. A Lead has been agreed for 4 of the 5 strands and work is progressing on those. The committee is made up of a mixture of SBA, external volunteers involved with the sport of badminton, Facility providers and local authorities. Anyone who can offer some time to develop the plan for the future growth of the sport in our County would be welcome. C) Competitive Play – a full programme of National Circuit and Closed Championships was completed in 2023/24. Further details are contained in the submitted report. With the reduction in membership fees the tournament surplus income provides the largest income for SBA to deliver the core activities. D) Senior Teams – First Team made the play-offs for the second year running but unfortunately just failed to gain promotion to the Championship and will compete in Div 1 again next season. The Second Team, despite winning 3 of their 7 matches, ended up in 7th in Div 3. It is believed that whilst this would have meant relegation, this will not be the case for 24/5. Our thanks to the Captains who managed the teams over the season, at times under very difficult circumstances. Greater player involvement to represent the County should be encouraged. E) Juniors – A full report was included with the papers for the AGM. The extension of the Shires Teams to include U12 has been introduced. F) Masters – a full report was submitted. G) Promotion and Website – our thanks to Peter Webb for maintaining the Suffolk website. Clubs should use this as a further advertising tool if this is advantageous 	

8	<p>League Reports</p> <p>Unfortunately, Bury League is likely to fold due to a lack of clubs entering. SBA offered their support to look at alternative format to allow the league to continue in some manner and this will be followed up with Bury League reps.</p> <p>Newmarket and Ipswich and District League submitted reports and nothing further was added.</p>	
9	<p>Badminton England Matters</p> <p>Liam Cooper, BE Relationship Manager, was unable to attend but submitted a report in writing for the meeting. Key points were:</p> <p>Volunteering guidance and assistance BE support for Suffolk Strategic Plan A variety of club, coach, volunteer Forums and discussion groups Change in BE management Structure Accessing Funding for development projects New BE tournament Rating Trial Free legal helpline for affiliated coaches and clubs</p>	
10	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>The President is elected by the SBA Committee and Steve Cook indicated he would accept continuing in this role.</p> <p>Officers proposed, seconded and elected by the meeting were</p> <p>Chair – Mike Tee Treasurer – Sue Driver Secretary – no volunteer Council members – Stephen Smith, David Driver, Ben Williams, Sue McKinley, Daniel Hooper, Abhay Samel (welfare officer), Sue McKinley</p> <p>New Volunteers from the Meeting – Carl Barnard and Aaron Heard.</p> <p>Vice Presidents – A Girling, P Feek, S Smith, C Bowden, M Hurlock, N Sturgeon</p>	
11	<p>Affiliation Fees 2024/25</p> <p>Proposed fees to remain at 2023/24 values of £3 senior £1.50 junior. (Under 11 free). Proposed Sue Driver, Seconded Sue McKinley. All agreed.</p>	
12	<p>Senior County Teams 2024/25</p> <p>First and Second teams to be entered once again for 2024/25. All agreed.</p>	
13	<p>Tournaments 2024/25</p> <p>It is proposed that 11 national circuit tournaments for senior and various age groups, the Junior and Senior Closed Championships, and in addition, to trial One Star and Two Star Futures tournaments which</p>	

	are aimed at lower level Junior players (below Bronze) as an introduction to tournament play and those starting out on their competitive journey.	
14	<p>Sports Development Discussion</p> <p>Steve Cook presented a brief summary of the progress made through the Strategic Group so far and called for more volunteers to step forward to help share the workload and have a greater impact on the pace of growth across the whole county.</p> <p>Foundations most likely to produce strongest growth are a coach in every club and an increase in junior clubs or junior sections of existing adult clubs and development of this is a priority in the rolling 3-year plan. In addition, the focus is to get more people on court at the grass roots level of all ages, then to hone them into clubs and groups, moving into the league structure with time.</p> <p>An additional workstream is to continue the review of Governance and structure of the SBA Committee and succession planning, to ensure it is fit for purpose in the 2020s, maximising use of technology and systems available. Terms of Reference and role responsibilities are being developed where appropriate.</p> <p>Sustainable facility availability is a key element which BE can provide support for as they are able to negotiate more competitive rates than individual clubs with their buying power.</p> <p>There is also a recent initiative that has led to the refurbishment of Inspire, Ipswich (Former Holywells School Dome) which may offer an additional venue of improved quality. The refurbishment is due to be finished in August/September 24.</p> <p>Further details provided in Strategic Development Report. All ideas and suggested initiatives/needs can be fed through to the Group via Glenn Tooke (Project Lead) or Steve Cook (President).</p>	
15	<p>AOB</p> <p>Was there the possibility of restarting a junior league across the County or on a regional basis. This would be investigated further..</p> <p>Could Bury League run a summer league programme to keep it going. Again this would be part of discussions with Bury League rep's.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.</p>	