

Buckinghamshire County Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting Agenda



Type of meeting: Annual General Meeting

Chair: Mark Lawrence

Secretary: David Constantine

Date: Tuesday 4th July 2023 7:30 PM

Venue: Aylesbury Tennis and Squash Club

Voting Attendees: BCBA officers; BCBA management committee members; one member of each attending affiliated club

Agenda Items

	Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcome	Mark Lawrence	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minutes 2022	David Constantine	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chairmans Report	Mark Lawrence	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurers Report	David Constantine	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verbal Reports	Attendees	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	Election of Officers	Mark Lawrence	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/>	AOB	Mark Lawrence	10 min

Officer	Name	Status
Chair	Mark Lawrence	Re-election unopposed
Treasurer	Keith Banham	Re-election unopposed
Secretary	David Constantine	Re-election unopposed
Masters' Coordinator	Andrew Norris	Proposed and elected unopposed
Welfare Officer	Mark Lawrence	Proposed and elected unopposed

Buckinghamshire County Badminton Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes



Type of meeting: Annual General Meeting
President: Jim Mann (JM)
Chair: Mark Lawrence (ML)
Treasurer: Keith Banham (KB)
Secretary: David Constantine (DC)

Date: Tuesday 28th June 2022 7:30 PM

Venue: Aylesbury Tennis and Squash Club

Additional Attendees: Jeff Brydon (JB) Badminton Wycombe; Brian Canderton (BC) HWDBA; Steve Cornell (SC) Buckingham BC; John Lau (JL) BSBA; Andrea Mitchell (AM) ADB; Manoj Shakya (MS) Oasis BC

Apologies: Sam Andrews County Captain; Mike Clarke Masters Captain; Peter Jackling CDBA; Ruth Jefferies MK2000 JBC; Sue Ruston Affinity BC; Ruth Southey Wing BC

Agenda

Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction	Jim Mann	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Chairmans Report	Mark Lawrence	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurers Report	Keith Banham	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior County Report	Mark Lawrence	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Masters Report	Mark Lawrence	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Election of Officers	Mark Lawrence	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Constitution	Dave Constantine	10 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Listing and Survey Response	Dave Constantine	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> Communication	Dave Constantine	5 min
<input type="checkbox"/> AOB	Mark Lawrence	5 min

Minutes

Introduction (JM)

Introduction to the new President. JM has spent a lifetime in service for Badminton in Buckinghamshire, has been County Captain, a previous Chairman of BCBA and a member of the Badminton England Board

where he has recently finished his full allowed term. Currently a Badminton England Honorary Vice President he Chairs the Badminton England Disciplinary Committee.

ML has invited JM to be President with a shared aim to reinvigorate BCBA by making sure it is on an effective operating footing, able to attract volunteers to participate and allow BCBA to deliver in line with its revised constitution.

Chairmans Report (ML)

Welcome back to the new President JM and thanks to the current committee of Mike Clarke, Masters Captain, KB, Treasurer, DC Secretary.

Highlighted key points in the circulated Chair Report (attached) including website and approach to communication improved; constitution revised; active promotion of the Homes for Ukraine initiative.

Action: JB offered to help promote Homes for Ukraine on the Badminton Wycombe website

As part of the BCBA initiatives next year, ML would like to help clubs set up a junior section. All junior clubs in Buckinghamshire currently have waiting lists and an active Junior section can help clubs replace members lost through covid. Aim to work with Badminton England and investigate other local sporting initiatives.

JM key initiative of Badminton England is to support Primary Age children into engaging with Badminton. AM expressed interest in learning more about the programme.

Action: JM to put AM in contact with Nick Rimmer, the Badminton England lead on the Primary Age Badminton engagement initiative.

The Badminton England AGM was held on Sat 25th June 2022, attended by ML. Key messages:

Sue Storey, new CEO has started. Ex-England Netball CEO.

More emphasis will be put on Grass Roots Badminton.

Badminton England to be a listening organisation, with more direct County engagement.

Morten Frost, new Performance Director has started. Exceptional player, ex-World No.1 and multiple All-England Mens Singles Champion. Has a strong coaching record including work with the Danish Badminton Association.

Aim to increase the number of Elite players at the National Badminton Centre extending to include more Juniors. Players will be expected to give increased commitment to National Tournaments and other National events.

Abby Kumar, current Head of UK Line Judges, a long time Buckinghamshire supporter and an active participant in Badminton England and Badminton Wycombe has been awarded Honorary Vice President of Badminton England.

There will be two additional International Badminton events in the 2022-23 calendar: an International Para-Badminton event; and an All-England Junior Event. Abby will be looking for volunteers for these and other events.

Action: DC to prepare and post line judge volunteer requests for the 2 new international events through all BCBA communication channels.

Finance Report (KB)

Highlighted key points in the circulated Finance Report (attached). 2020-2021 showed a profit of £4.5k due to the Affiliation Fee income and minimal expenditure during lockdown. This helped offset the £5k loss across 2021-22 primarily due to reduced Affiliation Fees (waived by Badminton England). With a balance at the bank of £11k, if the loss continues at the current rate there is circa 2 years of trading without any remedial action. Although return to play has been quoted via Badminton England at 90%, BC and AM reported significant reduction in teams playing in the District Leagues.

AM noted that across the ADBA Leagues 150 games were played in the 2021-22 season as compared to 300 pre-covid. One club has folded and there is a significant lack of ladies available to support teams. In response to a question on the availability of facilities from JM, new halls are being built in Aylesbury but access not yet available however, there are sufficient facilities available to support the current club requirements.

Action: DC to arrange Management Committee meeting to set the County Affiliation Fee by end August 2022. Need to account for potential reduced fees but ensure set at a reasonable level.

Senior County Report (ML)

The County 1st Team achieved a first for Buckinghamshire. Since the inception of the County Championships in the 1930s, 2021-22 is the first time Buckinghamshire has won.

On the final weekend, Bucks had to drop no more than 4 rubbers across 2 matches where there are 11 available rubbers per match. In the first game against Avon, Bucks won 8-3 leaving a huge challenge in the final match against Leinster. The team pulled together and played exceptionally well to secure an 11-0 victory and secure the title.

Credit goes to Sam Westwood and Arthur Cheung who were exceptional in their role as County Captains. Their tenacity and powers of persuasion ensuring the regular availability of some of Bucks' international stars.

The County 2nd Team performed well finishing 4th and had 2 of their players playing up to support the 1st Team when needed and won important games.

Across all age groups Bucks has 6 National Champions. Special note going to Johnnie Torjussen, Bucks' first Senior Mens Singles Champion. Johnnie was a member of the Tripp Academy and credit goes to Manny and the team for their hard work and support in developing such a talent.

Badminton England are looking to increase the available competition and Bucks would like to hold a Tier-4 tournament in the 2022-23 season assuming sufficient skilled volunteers can be found to help.

JB asked where the target location would be for this tournament. ML responded to say South Bucks given there are already several tournaments held in North Bucks. Ideally Badminton Wycombe although the issue with parking needs to be addressed so alternative locations would be considered.

Action: JB to investigate parking alternatives for Badminton Wycombe.

Masters County Report (ML on behalf of Mike Clarke)

Highlighted key points in the circulated Masters Report (attached). Teams were entered in O45, O55, O60 and O65. Unlike some counties all fixtures were fulfilled. A steady season with O45, 3rd of 4, O55 3rd of 4, O60 2nd of 3, and O65 4th of 4.

Mike has again performed a great job encouraging and supporting the Masters programme and all Team Captains. BCBA would like to extend a vote of thanks to him.

The County Challenge was cancelled. JB would like to see Bucks take part in the Intercounty Tournament where all age groups compete together on the same team.

Getting players to be involved is always a challenge and identifying people moving into the different age groups would help with targeted recruitment. A recruitment drive for O45s was conducted via email and the website but a broader approach is required.

Action: JM to try to obtain details of Bucks registered players with their ages / DOB from Badminton England

Action: DC work with Mike Clarke to initiate a central communication, shared via the District Associations and Clubs to enlist new Masters recruits.

JB highlighted there are high levels of Pay and Play at Badminton Wycombe with people of a good standard playing that are not connected to any club. AM agreed as there is similar engagement across the county.

Action: DC to prepare Recruitment posters for Masters players to be displayed at appropriate venues.

Action: ALL to submit recommendations of venues for Masters Recruitment Posters.

Note, all people playing in the Masters matches will require a Compete membership (£24 for an Adult) with Badminton England.

Junior Report (JL)

The Junior Teams have suffered from a lack of players available to compete in matches as the better juniors tend to focus more on tournament play and some prefer not to play in away matches.

Availability of volunteers to be Team Managers is also an issue. In the last season only two age groups competed, U14/U15 and U16/U17. Due to lack of availability we had to withdraw from the last ICT in 2019.

There isn't any specific, regular county training as it would compete with the broad selection of Academy and Performance Centre options already available across the county.

BSBA continues to be financially viable mainly through the monies raised from the annual Gold Junior Tournament run at the National Badminton Centre.

For the coming season the aim is to run 3 trials sessions for 2 age groups. Provisionally expected to be 2 in August and 1 in September. One aim is to retain those playing and volunteering in U12/U13 to support a future U14/U15 team.

Action: JL to provide DC with details of the Junior trials when confirmed for central publication on the website and social media.

Election of Officers (ML)

No formal nominations had been received and all current officers expressed a willingness to continue in their position. The following positions were therefore confirmed:

President: Jim Mann

Chair: Mark Lawrence

Treasurer: Keith Banham

Secretary: Dave Constantine

Masters Coordinator: Mike Clarke

One position currently vacant is Welfare Officer. Although a request had been sent to all known BCBA contacts, no volunteer had been identified.

Both ML and DC have recently taken the Safeguarding course and aim to complete the training required. In the meantime, ML and DC will act in the role until a permanent solution can be found.

BCBA would be happy to pay for any courses should a volunteer express an interest.

Action: All to reach out to prospective volunteers that may be interested in helping as Welfare Officer.

Constitution (DC)

The updated constitution (attached) is an update to the current constitution. The opportunity was taken to review the BCBA constitution against other County Constitutions and the recommendations from Club Matters. This highlighted the need for a Discipline section, written to be fair and inline with good practice. BCBA also wants to clarify the purpose of BCBA through the Mission and Objectives sections.

The BCBA mission to 'promote Badminton and work with partners to provide an inclusive pathway for all to have the opportunity to reach the standard to aspire to' was agreed by the meeting.

The objectives focus on player and coach development pathways, providing a framework for competition across levels, centered around inclusivity.

JB asked what was meant by 'inclusive'. The intention is something that does not leave any part or group out and should consider gender, race, sexual orientation, and disability.

SC highlighted that although the words sounded reasonable there was no clear view on what it meant practically. One of the biggest restrictions to inclusion that he has seen is clubs wanting to limit who can join, imposing restrictions on membership based on age (no Juniors) and ability. DC clarified that the constitution was about intent not the measures taken to implement. He also felt BCBA and Badminton England had a part to play in educating clubs. ML reiterated his aim to provide support to clubs to start and support Junior sections.

The meeting agreed to a 1-month review period where all could formally review the constitution. If there were no proposed changes in this time the revised constitution would be deemed accepted on 28th July 2022.

Action: ALL to review and provide any comments on the Constitution to DC before 28th July 2022.

Club Listing and Survey Response (DC)

DC introduced the Club Listing and the survey that was conducted with all known clubs in Buckinghamshire. On a suggestion from ML, a Club Listing on the Badminton Bucks website was thought to be a useful resource for people looking for club play while supporting the clubs to attract new players.

A Club Survey provided the information for the Club Listing. The Survey was sent to 64 known clubs. Of these 24 are now available on the Club Listing, 10 have been added but are awaiting approval. Checking the list of clubs taking part in District Leagues 4 clubs are yet to respond.

Action: DC to circulate to AM and BC the list of active clubs where no response has been received from the Club Survey.

An introduction to the Club Listing is attached and can be found on the www.badmintonbucks.co.uk website.

The Club Survey asked what BCBA could do for the clubs. A summary of responses is attached showing a heavy weighting to Marketing and Communication (over half respondents requested help in these areas). Marketing to both help drive additional members to clubs and to publicise events. Communication to ensure more information is shared by BCBA on either initiatives or updates from Badminton England.

Also highlighted was the request for help with coaching and costs (court fees and shuttles). JM shared that there is a unit in Badminton England run by Nick Rimmer that focuses on Facilities.

Action: DC to investigate if any assistance can be provided by Badminton England with venues and associated costs.

Communication (DC)

In response to the Club Survey, BCBA has worked on its website and its approach to communication. The approach is to send information to interested parties via a newsletter and social media, and to make information available for those searching for it on the website.

The website is now up to date and regular posts added. There were 1100 unique visitors in the last 90 days with the most popular section being the Club Listing.

A newsletter can be sent using Mailchimp. This currently has a mailing list of 126 subscribers and each newsletter typically gets a 70-80% read rate.

There is a facebook page (@BucksBadminton) and a new twitter account (@BadmintonBucks). Facebook has 550 followers while twitter, having just started, 14. The most popular facebook post to date was the Senior Team winning the Premiership with over 1000 views.

These communication channels are for the benefit of Badminton in Bucks. We have already shared information on Homes for Ukraine and supported Affinity Badminton Club with their charity 24-hour Badminton Marathon.

Action: All to promote the communication channels to clubs and club members. Recommend following on facebook / twitter and make people aware it is available for all to use to publicise events etc. Contact secretary@badmintonbucks.co.uk for more information.

AOB

JB Badminton Wycombe would like increase support of the development of Badminton in Buckinghamshire and welcomes any suggestions on how it can help. AM asked if there are there any plans to reinstate the bar as it improved the social nature of matches. JB shared that heightened awareness of drink driving reduced demand and made it difficult to justify the overhead of running it.

Action: JB to review the Badminton Wycombe position on the availability of the bar.

JL Badminton England have approached BSBA to run a Senior Gold Tournament at the National Badminton Centre on 10th / 11th September given their success at running the Junior Gold Tournament. This can be found on the Badminton England Tournament software at <https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/tournament/081341D4-9959-47DA-A183-56B16C9DA058>

ML asked if any assistance was needed and confirmed that any monies received would be used to support BSBA activity.

Action: JL to provide DC with details of the Buckinghamshire Senior Gold Tournament when available for central communication.

JB stated he was happy for his contact details to be shared with all attendees and all agreed.

Action: DC to circulate attendee list with contact details to all

Buckinghamshire County Badminton Association

Chair Report 2023



We have gone through a 'normal' year for the first time since coronavirus hit us. Venues have been operating as usual, leagues have had an uninterrupted season and after a couple of strange looking balance sheets, our accounts are back to where they were in pre pandemic times.

The Senior County team followed up their magnificent title success of last year with another outstanding performance, finishing second to a very strong Middlesex side. The second team struggled in Division 2 and will be playing in Division 3 next season.

Our Masters teams participated in 3 age groups, had some close matches and a few successes but ultimately were unable to reach the play-offs in any. Mike Clarke has done some sterling work over a number of years organising practices, teams and matches but has decided that now is the time for him to step down as Masters Co-ordinator. We thank him for all that he has done and welcome in his successor in the form of Andrew Norris who has been co-opted onto the committee and will be up for election at the AGM, ready to take over the reins for the coming season.

Bucks have more players ranked in the top 10 nationally than any other county. Across all 5 disciplines there are 14 Bucks players, with 11 of those having been developed through the various academies operating in the county. Sadly though most of these players are unable to play regularly in county matches due to their training and competition commitments.

This year we hosted a senior circuit tournament for the first time since 2015. The tier 4 event was held at Wycombe Badminton Centre and attracted a good entry from across a range of counties. Local talent, Tom Joy was successful in both mens singles and doubles whilst the other events were won by players from Surrey, Middlesex and Hampshire. The tournament was well controlled by Fran Stone and a lot of positive feedback was received from those who took part. It is an exercise we will look to repeat next season.

Across the county, and indeed the country, there is an increasing demand for playing and coaching opportunities for junior players. For the coming season I would like to see what we can do to encourage more clubs to set up junior sections. With leagues having shrunk in size over a number of years, this could be an opportunity for clubs to secure their future. We need to do some research into what might be available, but if anyone has any bright ideas, we would like to hear from you.

Over recent months I have taken two BE courses - The Safeguarding and Protection course and also the Time to Listen course. This will enable me to take on over the position of Safeguarding Officer. I have a busy schedule over the summer but I will look to get to grips with the role in the autumn. This is an important role which we are obliged to fill and I am willing to take it on short term to get a better understanding of what it entails. Long term I would like to find someone to come on to the committee as a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.

That is a brief outline of what has happened over the last 12 months and what I would like to see happen over the next 12. All that remains is to wish all our clubs and members a successful and prosperous 2023-24.

Mark Lawrence, BCBA Chair

Buckinghamshire County Badminton Association

Treasurers Report 2023



SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 30 April 2023

2022-2023		
Income	Expenditure	Balance
£2,856.46	£20.00	£2,856.46 (£20.00)
£2,856.46	£20.00	£2,836.46
£260.00		£260.00
	£1,550.00	(£1,550.00)
	£78.00	(£78.00)
£260.00	£1,628.00	(£1,368.00)
	£3,555.00	(£3,555.00)
£120.00		£120.00
£240.00		£240.00
£350.00		£350.00
£10,961.00	£7,498.00	£3,463.00
£11,671.00	£11,053.00	£618.00
£14,787.46	£12,701.00	£2,086.46

General

Affiliation Fees
Committee Meetings
Web Site
BSBA Junior Affiliation
Sundry

Senior County Teams

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- Court hire
- BE registrations / Entry Fees
- Practice, trials, match fees
- Shirts

Masters County Teams

- O40
- O45
- O50
- O55
- O60
- O65
- O70
- BW 50+

2021-2022		
Income	Expenditure	Balance
£1,173.40		£1,173.40
	£356.37	(£356.37)
	£1,500.00	(£1,500.00)
	£14.39	(£14.39)
£1,173.40	£1,870.76	(£697.36)
	£108.00	(£108.00)
	£1,450.00	(£1,450.00)
	£165.00	(£165.00)
	£1,723.00	(£1,723.00)
£150.00	£3,035.00	(£2,885.00)
£360.00		£360.00
£360.00		£360.00
£217.00		£217.00
£90.00		£90.00
£6,639.00	£7,314.00	(£675.00)
£7,816.00	£10,349.00	(£2,533.00)
£8,989.40	£13,942.76	(£4,953.36)

Buckinghamshire County Badminton Association

Treasurers Report 2023



BALANCE SHEET (Draft) as at 30th April 2023		
Accumulated Funds		
	Balance 30th April 2022	£11,046.49
	Plus Banking Post Year End	£0.00
	Less Prior Year Accruals	£0.00
	Plus Surplus of Income over Expenditure	£2,086.46
	As at 30th April 2023	£13,132.95
Represented by :		
Current Assets		
	Paypal Account	£0.00
	NatWest Bank Account	£13,132.95
	Debtors	£0.00
	Stocks	£0.00
		£13,132.95
Less Current Liabilities		
	Accruals	£0.00
	As at 30th April 2023	£13,132.95

Keith Banham, BCBA Treasurer