

Confirmed Minutes: General Meeting held on Thursday 26th October at 1pm Virtual meeting on Teams.



The list of decisions is appended as **Appendix 1**.
The list of actions is appended as **Appendix 2**.
The registration sheet is appended as **Appendix 3**.

The minutes are recorded following the order of the agenda.

1	Quorum
1.1	<p>The meeting was quorate.</p> <p><i>The quorum for General Meetings is 15 Voting Members present or by proxy subject to Article 42.2.</i></p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Abby Kumar Gordon Milne Paul Adcock Amanda Balaam Jim Mann Paul Widdicombe</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with a minutes silence in memory of Diana Troke, President of Badminton England. Diana made an indelible mark on the badminton community. There has been an outpouring of the love and respect for Di from the badminton community. Our best wishes go out to Dianas two daughters and their families.</p>
2	Minutes
2.1	AGM/2023/06 were received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.
3	Report on the Business of the Board of Directors for the period July 2023 – October 2023.
3.1	<p>The Chair's report (GM/2023/10/P1) was received.</p> <p>The Chair reported we have been through a recruitment process for new Non-Executive directors. We appointed 3 directors whose position will be held until the AGM in 2024, where they will be confirmed. The Chair congratulated the three new Non-Executive Directors on their new posts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kate Aldridge - Chris Clements - George Wood

4	<p>CEO Update</p> <p>We have a new starter Mark Bradley joining BE, who will be heading up communications starting next week. As part of this we have split the role of communications manager. Please do continue to tell us if we are getting our communications right or wrong.</p> <p>There is a lot happening internally. We are in the process of changing our financial system which goes live at the end of November.</p>
5	<p>Update on the launch of new 10 Year Strategy – ‘Badminton – A sport for Everyone’</p> <p>SS gave a presentation to the general meeting and thanked everyone who has been involved in the creation and feedback of the strategy.</p> <p>Question: This is a 10 year strategy in the current environment and you are funded by government in 5 year cycles of funding. Along with the strategy, can we release the measurables that show success, what makes it value for money, and what makes it a failure. How can we measure being successful during the 10 years? More detail is needed of how BE plans to implement these things, and how are these numbers are going to go up. Courts and facilities – we struggle to get courts in Kent. It would be great for BE to share the lists of courts</p> <p>Answer: SS confirmed the strategy document lists what the intentions are in the first 18 months. SS wants to shift the data that we have on members to show us how we can we build a connection with people who play badminton and build value with them. We need to show the value of being a member, it is not just about paying a tax to the governing body. It is about investing in young people and new coaches. Investing in the development team and new places for courts. There is a court finder but its need expansion so we can include community centres and other hall venues. There is a dedicated Facilities Manager which is updating all this information and lobbying work to stop premises closing and growing the number out there. NR noted that facilities we know of are listed on the activity finder and improve the quality of the information on there.</p>
6	<p>Young Leader Academy Presentation</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Holly Robertson and Sarah Darragh from the Development Team.</p> <p>Question: It’s great to try and find new volunteers. This will take up time for our regional managers which the counties already have little time with. The success rate of keeping 14-18 year olds as volunteers is difficult to quantify. If you want young volunteers to do things, more help is needed from setting up clubs. How do you see these courses doing that?</p> <p>Answer: SD confirmed we are hoping through this programme that the sooner we get young people to consider what they do outside of sport, the longer we can keep them in a volunteering role. The life cycle of a volunteer is 6 years, and more than that is generally for life. If we can keep volunteers between 13-18/19, they should stay as volunteers beyond. It’s not new to have young people do more, they are people with time on their hands with a passion and a voice. We have to make changes to the programme as we go through, but we will work closely with everyone to make sure we are giving them the best environment to thrive and stay in the sport. It links to inspiring the nation, and we hope growth will come through that. We know some counties already run young people activities.</p>

Another delegate noted that line judge volunteers can go to the Olympics as a technical official as well.

Question: Is there a follow up after those weekends?

Answer: The 2 days will have a few weeks in between so there is a chance to take in everything learnt.

Question: This is inspiring and thank you it's a great initiative. Intentional inclusivity – what are you doing to ensure group of people is sufficiently diverse? How does the youth forum work and have we thought about bringing young people into the governance structure?

Answer: SD explained we haven't considered fully the diversity yet. We will be working with the EDI committee to make sure we get that right and pushing the application process out to the right places and right channels. We are restructuring the national youth forum and there will be a chair, vice chair and a treasurer. There are 14 roles in total and they will sit with a head committee with sub groups.

Question: there was a permanent academy in Hertfordshire. They paid for free weekly coaching and free physio. Could BE assist to revive it?

Answer: SD to follow up on this.

SS congratulated Holly and Sarah for their work on this programme.

7 Development Update

NBL

NR reported that Chris Miller is the lead on this. The first year is always intended to be a pilot year to get back up and running and get some teams engaged. The first season will have 5 teams. Teams are Wycombe, Loughborough, Milton Keynes, Nottingham Uni and Wimbledon. There are other teams moving forward but were unavailable this year. Fixtures will run on a home and away basis between now and the end of April 2024. There is a longer-term plan behind the league.

National Schools Championships

Entries are now closed, there were 270 schools entered which represents 36 different counties. Yorks, Essex, Lancashire and Middlesex had the most schools entered. It will take time to reestablish this.

Transgender Policy

NR reported this was approved and launched during the summer. The policy strongly reflects the views of the Badminton community. Generally, the policy has landed well but there are always challenges to keep under review. We have a number of transgender players, and we have identified a number more since the policy came out and we are working with them on an individual basis. We have committed to an annual review of this policy due to the science behind this changing.

One delegate reported that the open events are now becoming unequitable because girls can enter 5 disciplines and boys can enter 3. A girl entered a tournament and won the girls singles and won the open singles. We have had entries enter the wrong category.

One delegate raised issues with schools. The policy is now to make things active rather than competitive. There have been issues getting the local regional county active to support competition because they don't want to promote competition. BE needs to liaise with these bodies and help convince them they should have sport that is competitive as it encourages young people to play the sport.

Another delegate raised that a lot of schools run the tournaments to encourage participation for GCSE assessments and for other reasons. They are disappointed at the price. Only when they have the county rounds will they have their money. There is a general unhappy feeling. NR explained BE

felt this was a fair price as there are significant costs running the event and it is only £10 per team. BE can't run the competition without getting financial support. There was extensive consultation with active partnerships and schools, and there was no substantive objection to the entry fee. We cannot run it without some form of entry fee. Other members of the meeting felt £10 was a bargain.

End of Formal General Meeting

Commencement of General Discussion

	Discussion Item	
1.	<p>Question: Regarding gradings under the current system, there has to be a difference between junior and seniors. What is the difference between adult, senior and junior badminton?</p> <p>Answer: The intention is that we won't have gradings and just rankings/ratings. We are testing models and running it by the performance team. We have had challenges with reflecting international competitions. The new system will run parallel to the previous system.</p> <p>Question: What are the effects of Birmingham City Council on YAE and how is the relationship?</p> <p>Answer: SS reported this was devastating news for BCC and we feel for all the staff working there. There is a financial implication, and we understand what that is. We have taken legal advice and are in the process of pushing to try and secure with the section 114 officers who are managing this, and they are considering our legal position. The council have verbally said they are keen to work with us. We would like to continue working with them in the future but we have to wait and see for the long term. The amounts involved will not stop us running the event.</p> <p>Question: Given the political situation, have we started to foster relationships with incoming governments?</p> <p>Answer: SS reported we are part of various groups who work with the government on these matters. Whoever comes in says they are keen on sport. We work cross party, and all parties attend to discuss sport. We haven't specifically lobbied other parties at this stage. We are part of the SRA and we are getting regular updates from them.</p> <p>Question: Most A and B junior players are playing in the gold tournaments. In time the transition will be slow, but there will not be a great deal of evidence to suggest junior grades are that far from senior grades. You can't play in a tournament unless you are a certain grade of player. What is happening at the NBC? The seats at the back have been taken down. For large events in NBC there is not enough room. There isn't enough room for line judge, umpire and service judge due to small space between courts.</p> <p>Answer: We are discussing with the board a long-term vision for the centre, as it is a tired building with some elements that need substantial improvement. We have taken a paper to the board with proposals. It requires a substantial investment, and we are working with the board and finance committee to work out the best way to work it out and doesn't impact on our ability to fund counties' clubs and other activities. This should be shared early next year.</p> <p>Question: The committee noted Berkshire won the award for increase in membership? Could this good practice be shared. It is also 25 years since badminton England's 1st website. It's interesting and it had the details of 34 counties.</p> <p>Answer: Berkshire will be contacted.</p>	

To note: Avon has been looking at environmental issues including policy to generate unused or old rackets. They started an initiative, and we got 62 badminton rackets donated which have been distributed to junior clubs. The shuttles have been passed on to junior clubs, they have gone to the local scrap stores for use in local crafts. If anyone wants any help and let them have materials to share.

To note: SS reported we had a request from one member as to whether we could consider having more face-to-face general meetings. We get less people if we have a face to face, but we will look at this and ask whether they would prefer to meet face to face or for us to come out to the regions to meet in different places. We are happy to do whatever suits the counties. Please feel free to drop Sue an email.

The meeting closed at 2.52pm.

Remaining meeting date for 2023/24 Cycle

Appendix 1- Decisions

Reference	Decision	Agreed Date
	There were no decisions at this meeting.	

Appendix 2 – Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible	Deadline Date
	There were no actions at this meeting.		

Appendix 3- Register of Attendance and Apologies

A blank box indicates non-attendance and no apologies received.

Voting Attendees	No. of Votes	Votes in Hall (GM Delegate in attendance)	Name of First Delegate	Attendance of Voting Delegate	Name of Second Delegate * = NVD can take the vote	Attendance of Non-Voting Delegate
AVON	7	7	Gene Joyner		Ian Nicholls	1
BEDFORDSHIRE	3	3	Bruce Hallam	1	None	
BERKSHIRE	5	5	Scott Ellis/Bob Reed	1	Vikie Primmer	
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	6	6	Mark Lawrence	1	Dave Constantine	
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	4		Daniel Bates		Campbell Wilson	
CHESHIRE	6		Brenda Andrew		None	
CORNWALL	3	3	Robert Bell	1	Sue Biscoe	1
CUMBRIA	4		John Parkinson		None	
DERBYSHIRE	4		Nigel Cook		Gary Brealey	
DEVON	5		Jamie Robertson		None	
DORSET	4		Roy Carder		Russell Clarke	
DURHAM	4		Andrew Pollard		Kim Robson	
ESSEX	6	6	Simon Gilhooly	1	None	
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	4		Alistair Percy		Andrew Woolway	
GUERNSEY	3		Daryl Tapp		None	
HAMPSHIRE	6	6	Margaret Houlton	1	Diana Troke	
HEREFORDSHIRE	3		Tim Railton		None	
HERTFORDSHIRE	7	7	Paul Kempster	1	Dave Bartlett	1
ISLE OF MAN	0	Cannot vote as Member of BWF	Roberta Cannell		Sharon Nicholson	
ISLE OF WIGHT	3	3	Michael West	1	Anthony Isaacs	1
JERSEY	3		Mark Constable		None	
KENT	9	9	Joanna Newson	1	Mike Stimson	1
LANCASHIRE	9	9	Brian Greenwood	1	David Greer	1
LEICESTERSHIRE	5	5	Greg Howes		Ian Bosworth/Carole Spencer	1
LINCOLNSHIRE	3	3	Robin Jackson	1	Leslie Diggle	
MIDDLESEX	7	7	Sheila Collins	1	None	
NORFOLK	4		Serena Verney		Robin Cooper	
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	4	4	Melissa Davey	1	Jermaine Lovelace	
NORTHUMBERLAND	4	4	Steve Abbott	1	Dennis Gray	
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	5	5	Paul Adcock	1	None	
OXFORDSHIRE	6	6	Paul Casey	1	None	
SHROPSHIRE	3	3	Sue Warnock	1	Dave Robinson	
SOMERSET	3	3	Catherine Sertin	1	None	
STAFFORDSHIRE	3	3	Benson Greatrex	1	None	
SUFFOLK	5	5	Stephen Smith	1	Mike Tee	1
SURREY	8	8	Dennis Higgins		Christine Thompson	1
SUSSEX	6	6	Kathleen Russ	1	Mark Russ	
WARWICKSHIRE	5	5	Julia Hammerton		Alan Spink	1
WILTSHIRE	6	6	Diana Wilmott	1	Geoff Hinder	
WORCESTERSHIRE	4		Douglas Woodhouse		June Totney	
YORKSHIRE	8	8	Roger Cook	1	Gordon Milne	1
BUAofE	2	2	Ian Collett	1	Amanda Balaam	
BLJAofE	2	2	Kate Rowlatt	1	Suzanne Benton	
President	1		N/A		None	N/A
Vice President	1	1	Malcolm Smith	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1	1	Geoff Hinder	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1	1	Eric Brown	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1		Jim Mann		None	N/A
Vice President	1	1	Derek Batchelor	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1		Paul Widdicombe		None	N/A
					None	N/A
	Poss No. Of	No. Of Votes in the Room				
Totals	208	153		29		11

Role	Name of Attendee	Signature of Attendee
HLVP	Abby Kumar	1
HLVP	Dennis Blazye	
HLVP	Ciro Ciniglio	
HLVP	Heather Nielsen	
HLVP	Frank Wilson	
HLVP	John Briggs	
HLVP	Roger Ewing	
HLVP	Mike Gilks	
HLVP	William Andrew	
HLVP	Jim Mann	
Board		
Board of Director	Mike Robinson	1
Board of Director/CEO	Sue Storey	1
Board of Director	Joyce Church	
Board of Director	Mark King	1
Board of Director	Mike McSweeney	
Board of Director	Jackie Newcombe	
Board of Director	James Thomas	
Board of Director	Peter Emptage	1
Board of Director	Kate Aldridge	
Board of Director	Chris Clements	
Board of Director	George Wood	
SLT		
Commercial Director	Jenny Clark	
Performance Director	Morten Frost	
Finance Director	Rose Butterworth	
Operations Director	Nick Rimmer	1
Minute taker		
Minute taker	Mel Wyley	1
Guest	Holly Robson	1
Guest	Sarah Darragh	1