

**Minutes: General Meeting of Badminton
Association of England Limited
25 January 2024 2pm
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>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Paul Kempster</p> <p>Carole Spencer</p> <p>Catherine Sertin</p> <p>Stephen Smith</p> <p><i>The quorum for General Meetings is 15 Voting Members present or by proxy subject to Article 42.2</i></p> <p>The meeting was confirmed as quorate.</p>
2	Minutes
2.1	The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 26 October 2023 GM/2023/10 were approved as a true and accurate record.
3	Report on the Business of the Board of Directors for the period November 2023 - January 2024
3.1	<p>To receive the Chairman's report</p> <p>PE welcomed the general meeting delegates by stating it was a great honour to take on this role. PE as Chair wanted to acknowledge Mike Robinsons contribution to Badminton England. The Chair asked the meeting to hold a moment of reflection of thought in memory of Mike Robinson.</p> <p>We have been left a legacy and a vision of strategy that we have been working on for the last year. This role is only an interim position until June AGM, but PE wants to change how we talk about the organisation. The Badminton Community should refer to BE as we and not they as we are all on the same side and we all want the same for badminton. PE explained that everyone will have a chance to be heard in meetings.</p> <p>Eric Brown mentioned since the last GM we lost our President Di Troke, our past president John Havers and Jack Stalker. PE confirmed we will have a board of remembrance at the next AGM.</p> <p>ACTION: Matters arising to be on the agenda going forward.</p> <p>PE gave a presentation on his experience and what he will bring to the role of Chair.</p>

	<p>A member asked why the position is described as Interim Chair? SS explained that to receive funding from Sport England/UK sport, we must abide by their code of sports governance. One of their requirements is that when a chair position changes, we must review it to make sure it is still in line with the code of governance. We will undertake this over the coming months. If there needs to be a change to articles, then it will be a matter for the membership. It is a requirement that we take a review which is why it is listed as interim and will be resolved by the AGM. It is not a personal issue; it is about when this role is vacant.</p> <p>A member congratulated PE on becoming Chair.</p> <p>A member raised finding places for children to play is one of our main issues. Schools are becoming more and more difficult to deal with. The places need to be of a standard where badminton can be played to a good standard. SS agreed and this is why we put a pillar of the strategy to look at places. Unless there are places to play, we can't grow it.</p> <p>A member agreed we should be thinking of Badminton England as 'we'. We need to engage parents to work alongside Badminton England. We should think that UK Sport/Sport England can make us successful. It is an important organisation to align our values with.</p> <p>ACTION: Mike Reid to attend the next meeting to give an update on what is going on in the facilities area.</p> <p>One member felt Sport England needed to be more competitive to get kids involved in the sport. SS agreed that there was a shift away from sport into physical activity, but there has been recognition across government that you don't get the social interaction. Whereas when you pick up a sport you generally continue. There are now fund system partners, which are a range of organizations who deliver a range of things to try and get people more active. We are classed as a system partners.</p>
4	<p>CEO Update</p> <p>SS gave a presentation to the delegates.</p> <p>NR explained that the development team are looking at a new primary school programme called Shuttle Stars. There is a lot of work going on around facilities and exploring a whole range of options around funding. The Player Development Board have asked Eric Brown to chair a group managing the player pathway. We have appointed a Membership Manager who starts in February and the manager will be at the Yonex All England.</p> <p>A question was asked, how are membership numbers year on year? NR explained that club membership is down but reflects a trend for smaller clubs disbanding. We have had some issues with social members choosing not to renew memberships. Membership levels are comparable to last year but juniors are slightly down. Adult numbers are holding well and coach numbers are up from previous years.</p>
5	<p>President of Badminton England</p> <p>PE and SS congratulated DB on being elected President of Badminton England.</p> <p>DB explained he is currently President and Minutes secretary for Bedfordshire. DB became Bedfordshire delegate in 1986 and was a coaching and technical committee initially. DB became Chair in 2010 until 2019, and then became an Honorary Life President and then Vice President. DB has done a lot of para work with disabled and para-athletes. DB is looking forward to working with Badminton England and with the membership. DB sees the President role as being the voice of the membership</p>

End of Formal General Meeting

Commencement of General Discussion

	Discussion Item	
1.	<p>Any other items for General Discussion</p> <p>There was a request from counties. There are difficulties with people coming into our circuits from abroad and they are too good for the circuit they are proposing to play on. We are going to discuss how we deal with it. Perhaps counties are the first people who might see them, and if so could they let Badminton England know. It is demoralizing for players to go and lose against players who shouldn't be playing in that tournament. SS asked counties to remain on the lookout for these players.</p> <p>Questions: Have we got our equality and diversity policy correct. The junior circuit its quite clear that the communities we need to be helping are not including everyone. We do not seem to be representative. Does the policy need reviewing?</p> <p>Answer: NR explained inclusion covers many people. The aspiration of the EDI strategy is that the playing population is represented in the English population. Priorities are around disability and a places-based approach and women and girls. The point is well made and understood and is reflected in our thinking.</p> <p>Question: Why are we spending so much on the SCC? Could we not have better records as to the finance situation of the SCC. We may be paying less than we should be. There should be more transparency. Regulations could not be found and there is not a lot of information on the website.</p> <p>Answer: NR explained that our finances and level of subsidy that BE puts into competition, its an area of review. We should look at competition as a whole and what is right for the sport moving forward and how that is best funded.</p> <p>One member raised that SCC is a long day for not much badminton spread over two courts per match and there is a lot of sitting around.</p> <p>Question: Are there any views at board level about spectatorship or interest levels?</p> <p>Answer: SS explained this year is a pilot year of NBL to check there is demand. SS went to the Nottingham event which was very good. At this stage, the expectation is that we can grow this over time as it is a bold ambition to end up with a product to put out for sponsorship. As a pilot year it was testing the water, and the reaction was fantastic. There have been requests for streaming to collect additional data on interest level from those who can't get there nearby.</p> <p>One member raised that there has been a noticeable increase in communications going out on social media but there is information lacking with the umpires and technical officials. The technical officials regulations for tournaments are not visible on the website. ACTION: NR will look into this.</p>	

Question: Have counties received tickets for YAE?

Answer: **ACTION:** NR will look into this.

Another remember raised the issue that we are producing good juniors until exam time when they don't play badminton during mocks and exams which happens between 16-18years of age. NR explained there is a challenge around what we do to work around that and support people to get past through this from a cultural perspective. There must be a greater thought process into how and where we run competitions and support players through this, and that would be a challenge for a lot of players regardless of background.

Question: How do we look at commercial sponsors for SCC/ICT?

Answer: SS explained yes we are looking at this. The Commercial Director has approached this by linking into the pillars of the strategy and the priorities are around young people. Sponsorship is tough at the moment. We have a lot of warm conversations and a number of those will come to fruition.

ACTION: MW to ensure minutes are on the website from the Board of Directors

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 3.36pm.

Remaining meeting date for 2023/24 Cycle

2 May 1pm on Zoom

22 June 1pm AGM in person @ National Badminton Centre

Appendix 1- Decisions

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

Appendix 2 – Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible	Deadline Date
GM/2024/01/Item3.1	Matters arising to be on the agenda going forward.	MW/SS	Next meeting
GM/2024/01/Item3.1	Mike Reid to attend the next meeting to give an update on what is going on in the facilities area.	NR	Next meeting
GM/2024/01/GeneralDiscussion	The technical official's regulations for tournaments are not visible on the website.	NR	Next meeting
GM/2024/01/GeneralDiscussion	County tickets for YAE.	NR	February 2024
GM/2024/01/GeneralDiscussion	Upload confirmed minutes to the website from the Board of Directors.	MW	Next meeting

CONFIDENTIAL

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		Gene Joyner		Ian Nicholls	
BEDFORDSHIRE	3	3	Bruce Hallam	1	None	
BERKSHIRE	5		Scott Ellis/Bob Reed		Vikie Primmer	
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	6	6	Mark Lawrence	1	Dave Constantine	
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	4		Daniel Bates		Campbell Wilson	
CHESHIRE	6		Brenda Andrew		None	
CORNWALL	3		Robert Bell		Sue Biscoe	
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		Simon Gilhooly		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		Paul Kempster	Apologies	Dave Bartlett	1
ISLE OF MAN	0		Roberta Cannell		Sharon Nicholson	
ISLE OF WIGHT	3	3	Michael West	1	Anthony Isaacs	
JERSEY	3		Mark Constable		None	
KENT	9	9	Joanna Newson	1	Mike Stimson	1
LANCASHIRE	9	9	Brian Greenwood	1	David Greer	
LEICESTERSHIRE	5		Greg Howes		Ian Bosworth/Carole Spencer	Apologies
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	1
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		Catherine Sertin	Apologies	None	
STAFFORDSHIRE	3	3	Benson Greatrex	1	None	
SUFFOLK	5		Stephen Smith	Apologies	Mike Tee	
SURREY	8	8	Dennis Higgins		Christine Thompson	1
SUSSEX	6	6	Kathleen Russ	1	Mark Russ	
WARWICKSHIRE	5	5	Julia Hammerton	1	Alan Spink	1
WILTSHIRE	6	6	Diana Wilmott	1	Geoff Hinder	
WORCESTERSHIRE	4		Douglas Woodhouse		June Totney	
YORKSHIRE	8	1	Roger Cook	1	Gordon Milne	
BUAofE	2	2	Ian Collett	1	Amanda Balaam	1
BLJAofE	2	2	Kate Rowlatt	1	Suzanne Benton	

President	1	1	Derek Batchelor	1	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	1	Jim Mann	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1	1	Paul Widdicombe	1	None	N/A
Vice President	1				None	N/A
					None	N/A
	Poss No. Of	No. Of Votes in the Room:				
Totals	208	107		26		6

Non-Voting Attendees

Role	Name of Attendee	Attended
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/Chair	Peter Emptage	1
Board of Director/CEO	Sue Storey	1
Board of Director	Joyce Church	
Board of Director	Mark King	
Board of Director	Mike McSweeney	
Board of Director	Jackie Newcombe	1
Board of Director	James Thomas	
Board of Director	Kate Aldridge	
Board of Director	Chris Clements	1
Board of Director	George Wood	1
SLT		
Commercial Director	Jenny Clark	
Performance Director	Morten Frost	
Finance Director	Rose Butterworth	
Operations Director	Nick Rimmer	1
Minute taker	M Wyley	1