

Blackpool & District Badminton Association

Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 23 August 2023

Present: Mike Percy, Ant Cross, Carole Booth, Steve Blackburn, Fred Barnes, Nicky Percy, Paul Whitehouse, Kat Platt, Jon Jackson, Trevor Bell, Nikki Wilford.

Apologies: Michael Banks

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 February 2023 were read and approved. Proposed by Carole and seconded by Ant.

2. 2023-2024 Season

Ant confirmed that there will be 8 teams in Mixed Division 1 and 8 teams in Mixed Division 2. Kirkham Charter have requested that both their teams remain in Division 2, as they have lost their first team ladies. Therefore, both Kingfisher B and Stanley A will remain in Division 1. Lightning A will be promoted to Division 1.

In Division 2, there is a new Poulton team.

Hesketh-Fleetwood B team will now play their home games at Blackpool and the Fylde College on a Thursday evening. Kirkham Charter are to remain at Kirkham Grammar School, with occasional matches at the Boys' Brigade Hall, as required.

There will be 8 teams in the Levels League, 1 less than last year – Lids B have 1 team this season rather than 2.

The leagues will finish before Easter 2024, with the last week of the league being W/C 25 March 2024. Cup matches will take place from the second week in April, with the final being in the last week of April.

It was suggested that a separate levels' league may be run through the summer months. Further discussions will take place during the season to gauge interest.

3. Tournaments

Nikki and Amit have started to plan the tournaments. The intention is to run a tournament in November and one in January/February – one to be levels and one to be mixed. Probable location is Preesall, as the courts and facilities there are good, especially for providing refreshments.

Paul suggested that we could run a charity tournament at some point (maybe at the end of the season) – to be more of a fun tournament e.g. partners are drawn from a hat, raffle with

donated prizes etc. It was felt that this was a good idea, perhaps for next season once the tournaments have been reestablished this season.

Nikki is intending to visit clubs on their club nights to give details and start to take names and a deposit for the entry fee (£5?). Further details to follow.

4. Safeguarding

Lee Meakin has been appointed as the association lead for safeguarding but was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

A discussion was undertaken regarding what measures need to be in place at those clubs with junior members, (particularly under 16s). It was decided that for those clubs who do not have a registered coach, as a best practice, a parent of the child should be asked to remain with the junior for the duration of the club night and/or match (if the junior is involved). Generally, if juniors attend the coaching on a Saturday morning, they will be encouraged to join a club with a registered coach.

Trevor mentioned the difficulties in renewing the safeguarding certificates to support the renewal by BDBA of the coaching certificates.

Further discussions will continue in the future, with additional input from Lee.

A reminder that there the BDBA Safeguarding Guidelines are on the BDBA website.

5. Adult Coaching

Phill Fyles, as the Adult Coaching Secretary, was not present at the meeting and therefore, no update was available. Mike will attempt to contact Phill again to establish the current position and way forward.

6. AOB

Shuttles

Kat asked where clubs were sourcing their shuttles. Nikki has a contact in Bolton and will provide details to Nicky for distribution to clubs.

Blackpool Club Night

Paul resurrected the subject of organising a Blackpool Club night, primarily to attract new members. The intention would be to arrange a regular evening, where beginners/improvers could go to hone their skills before joining a club. It is felt that many of our clubs do not have the capacity to accommodate beginners or players who have never played in a league before and therefore, we may be losing potential players of the future.

A few options were put forward; however, primarily a venue will be required with volunteers to run the sessions. It may be that an initial financial commitment may be required and a

commitment from club members across the association to help run the evenings. Also, a stock of rackets would be required.

The idea of initially running some “pop-up” club night sessions (not coaching) was suggested, to gauge interest and assess whether there would be any merit in organising a regular night. It was thought that some pop-up club nights may be something that the Adult Coaching Secretary could be involved in organising and therefore, Mike will raise with Phill when contact is re-established.

Discussions will continue going forward.

Junior Coaching

Trevor thanked Carole for attending the last junior coaching session in July. The event was a great success, with parents getting involved in playing alongside the juniors. The event was attended by a representative from Badminton England. Dave Greer was presented with a T-Shirt signed by top badminton players.

Meeting was closed by the chair, Mike.