

Blackpool & District Badminton Association

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28th October 2025

Present: Mike Percy, Ant Cross, Fred Barnes, Nicky Percy, Trevor Bell, Steve Blackburn, Carole Booth, Nikki Wilford, Serena Hindle.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Jon Jackson, Carol Howarth, Michael Banks and Jamie Sedgewick.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2025 were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

As agreed, BDBA has made the following contributions towards coaching qualification fees:

Carol Howarth - £205 Level 1 Foundation Course

Melanie Sedgewick - £205 Level 1 Foundation Course

Jamie Sedgewick - £345 Level 2 Coach Certificate (£445 minus £100 contribution from LCBA)

Following the withdrawal of Project 12 from the league, Jon Jackson has decided to step down from the committee. Nicky has sent an email to thank him for his work and contribution to Council and BDBA.

4. 2025-2026 Season So Far

See Attachment 1 for Ant's Match Secretary Report.

Mike reiterated the thanks to Serena for the great match reports.

A discussion was held on the format of the new Levels Cup Competitions. Ant proposed that we repurpose 2 of the existing trophies (including the Irene Latus Trophy) for the new competitions. Mike will look at the trophies and price up new bases etc. Jon Jackson has previously offered to help with this, if needed. Various approaches were discussed and it was agreed that we would wait until the next meeting to allow more of a picture to emerge, with more games having been played.

Dates of these competitions will be aligned with the mixed cup competitions, with the finals being held somewhere other than Preesall (e.g. Blackpool & Fylde College/YMCA) on a Friday evening.

A scorecard will be required. **Action:** Serena to arrange and upload to the website.

Rules will be aligned with the mixed cups. Action: Nicky to write and add to Constitution and Rules, after Council agreement.

Development Funding may be available from Badminton England to support Ladies Only/No Strings/Coaching etc. We will monitor and look at a possible application next year (current application window closes very shortly).

5. Safeguarding/Coaching

Nicky read out an update from Jamie as below.

"I just want to say a big thank you to the committee for all the support with funding our coaching course. It's already being put to good use and we're really steaming ahead!"

Here's a quick update:

- *All Stars Coaching: Carol, Debbie Rigby and I will be starting our coaching sessions at Carr Hill on Thursday 6th November. We've already got a waiting list with a mix of juniors, ladies, and some league players.*
- *Ribby Hall Class: The Tuesday session at Ribby Hall is at full capacity, with around 60% ladies. Although it's mainly for members, quite a few are really keen — two are now playing league, and a couple more are close to that level.*
- *Junior Development: I'm in talks with St. Bede's high school to start an after-school team training session. My goal is to get juniors involved with other Blackpool teams and encourage more junior participation across the leagues.*

This season we've already had two Kirkham junior matches, and we've managed to give everyone a chance to play — all players have been under 15, which is brilliant to see.

Just to mention, a few people have said the website doesn't always open on mobile phones. It's because there's no SSL Certificate (the little padlock next to the web address), so some browsers block it. It's an easy fix with whoever hosts the site — usually about £25–£30 a year — just thought I'd flag it.

And finally, we're all loving the match commentary from Serena — brilliant job!"

Action: Nicky to email the site administrator to ask about the SSL Certificate.

Trevor provided an update on the Blackpool Junior Coaching. Highest attendance to date is 32 with a good number of 20 attending during half term. Court costs at Blackpool Sports Centre have increased, however, the break-even point is 13/14 attendees, so this is looking positive at the moment.

There have been some issues with hall availability and cancellation of the bookings at the last minute. Trevor and Dave are managing this. Council's help has been offered, if needed.

Trevor is attending matches in which the juniors are playing and tailoring subsequent coaching sessions accordingly to help with performance etc.

Nicky confirmed that all clubs have now submitted a Safeguarding Lead.

6. Trophies

Covered above.

7. Levels/Mixed Competitions

Nikki confirmed that she is looking at running levels and mixed competitions after Christmas, possibly 2nd/3rd week in February. Intended location to be Thornton YMCA.

Nikki will research and advise at the next meeting.

8. Social update

Serena has confirmed 27 places for the Christmas Function at Poulton Community Centre. Most people have paid and she will be chasing for outstanding monies shortly.

She is also looking at venues for the End of Season Do on 29th May. Front runner so far is the De Vere – waiting for a date to visit (possibly with Nicky), to discuss options, including a 2 course sit down meal in place of a buffet. There is no room charge and a DJ is available for hire, or we could use our own (Ian T possibly as per last 2 years). Cost would be around £25pp but to be confirmed once options have been considered. Serena will also speak with Blackpool Golf Club to check their availability/options.

It was suggested that we have a more formal sit-down meal to celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2027.

Action: Nicky to send out "Save the Date" email for 29th May 2026.

9. AOB

Nikki suggested that, due to the increasing lack of ladies in the league, we start to consider a different format for the teams – maybe 4 men and 2 ladies. We will keep this as an ongoing topic for discussion, and if it felt that this may be an option, a proposal will be put forward at a future AGM for consideration/voting by the clubs.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 7:30pm start.

Attachment 1

Match Secretary Report – The Season So Far

Just started week 7/ 26.

No conceded matches so far which is good.

Every team in the Mixed leagues has played 3 or 4 matches. Not as many in the levels as they are smaller leagues at the moment.

Thanks to Serena for doing the match reports.

Sadly, there have been a few injuries already. I have seen 5 in the matches I have played or watched and unfortunately, 2 injuries resulted in the withdrawal of Project 12 in Mixed Division 2 after their first match.

In Mixed Division 1 I have had to remind clubs regarding the 4 starred player rule for an A team. Perhaps we should do this at the beginning of every season. The clubs I reminded assure me the players (above their 4 starred players) who have played will be turning out for their B teams in the near future.

Front runners so far are Fleetwood A and Kingfisher A who have maximum points. The relegation battle seems to be between 3 teams: Stanley A, Kingfisher B and Poulton B. Although Poulton B are currently bottom, they have had a tough start to the season as their first 3 matches have been against Poulton A, Fleetwood A and Lightning A. The critical matches will be when these 3 teams play each other.

Mixed Division 2 is dominated by Lightning B with 100% record and a whopping 91 games from 4 matches. Kirkham Charter B are currently in 2nd place with Fleetwood B and Lids not far behind. Lightning C junior team are finding it tough but it will be interesting to compare their results in the second half of the season to the first.

Levels Division 1 is the smallest league and currently has two unbeaten teams: Lightning A and Fleetwood A. Bloomfield A and Kirkham Charter have stronger teams than last season and are currently mid table. New team Stanley is finding the matches tough and last year's champions, having lost their standout player from last year are in the relegation battle.

Difficult to predict what is going to happen in Levels Division 2 as teams have only played 1 or 2 matches. It will be interesting to see the results of the matches between Kirkham Charter B, Kirkham Charter C, Lightning B and a much-improved Bloomfield B who also have a great home advantage playing with the hybrid shuttle! Special mention to Kirkham Junior Team who already have a point and have yet to play the two teams below them.

The season so far has been interesting and I am looking forward to the remainder.