Blackpool & District Badminton Association

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 24th August 2026

1. Attendees & Apologies

Attendees: Mike Percy, Nicky Percy, Nikki Wilford, Carol Howarth, Trevor Bell, Carole Booth, Serena Hindle.

Apologies received from: Ant Cross, Jamie Sedgwick, Fred Barnes.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2026 were revisited and accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Badminton England have tightened up on safeguarding particularly around clearance for coaches. Specific courses are to be offered. A further detailed discussion around safeguarding was undertaken later in the meeting – see below.

4. AGM Debrief

Nicky gave positive feedback on the ladies coaching evening and thanked the volunteers who organized the event. It was an enjoyable evening with a great atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed it and benefitted from the drills and game play advice. Further such evenings will be considered throughout the season.

The singles league is still in the planning stages. Nikki is keen to make use of the spare courts at Preesall on a Sunday evening. After discussion, it was decided that the best way to get the singles play going this season was to offer informal sessions with a move to more competitive play later in the season or next season. Action: Nikki to coordinate and publicise.

It was reiterated that clubs can approach other clubs to look at bulk buying shuttles to take advantage of cost savings. Also, for clubs to try hybrid and synthetic shuttles at club nights so that they have experience should this be raised for review/change at next year's AGM. (Note: hybrid shuttles are currently allowed in our league, synthetic shuttle are not).

5. 2026-2027 Season Preparation

In Ant's absence, Serena confirmed that the league structures have been finalised and fixtures have been emailed to Club Secretaries for checking. All requests have been considered and have been accommodated where possible, which has proved difficult in some cases.

A discussion was undertaken as to whether we, as a league are too accommodating with respect to some of the requests received, resulting in the planning becoming even more difficult than it

should be. To be revisited prior to next season, to confirm which types requests we should consider to be reasonable.

Mike thanked Ant and Serena for the considerable effort they have put in to arrange the fixture for the season.

6. 80th Anniversary Plans

After a lengthy conversation, it was decided to amalgamate the 80th Anniversary celebrations with the Presentation Evening, rather than have 2 separate events.

Date was agreed as Saturday 22nd May at the Poulton Community Hall, with a 2-course dinner and bar. All past and present members of the BDBA will be welcome to come along. There will be some form of music, although it was felt that we would not necessarily have a DJ, having a more informal approach (e.g. background music) to allow members to engage in conversation. Further details to be decided at future Council meetings. Action: Serena to confirm the location and food and pay deposits where required.

7. AOB

Nicky confirmed that the insurance policy has been renewed at a cost of £450.60 (£1 more than last season).

The new scoring system (3 x 15) will be considered towards the end of the season for discussion at the AGM.

Safeguarding. Council were made aware of a serious safeguarding incident which has occurred in another local league, where an adult male has sent hundreds of inappropriate messages to a female teenage player (15 years of age). The matter has been reported to the police and the male in question has been issued with an official warning.

Badminton England has been made aware and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is investigating.

Whilst this did not happen within our own league, it has brought a heightened focus on Safeguarding and how we may handle any concerns or issues in the future. It also calls into question how BDBA would handle a request for the male in question to be registered for one of our league teams.

We acknowledge that we have tightened up our procedures and approach to Safeguarding with the introduction of League Safeguarding Officers and club leads, along with a Safeguarding Policy and guidelines issued around the use of cameras/photography. However, this situation does highlight that the league does not have any professional support e.g. from Badminton England (BE) as the league is no longer affiliated, should it need to deal with specific incidents.

A lengthy discussion resulted in a consensus that it may be prudent for the league (and thus, members) to re-affiliate to BE, so that the necessary support would be available if needed. To re-affiliate to BE would need to be discussed and agreed by the majority of our clubs, so the approach agreed was:

- Council to draft and put forward a proposal, outlining the benefit, costs, requirements and associated administration to affiliate to BE;
- Proposal to be distributed to all clubs for consideration and discussion with their members;
- An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be called as soon as possible, but likely to be in the New year to vote on the proposal.

Action: Serena and Nikki to draft the proposal to be finalised by Council at the next meeting.

Meeting was closed at 10pm.