

# PLYMOUTH BADMINTON

## The P & D Churches Badminton League (Founded 1930)

General Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
7pm Lower Hall, St Budeaux Parish Church

### Agenda:

1. Apologies:
  - *Andy Crocker (PLC), Graham Rickard (PLC), Dave Brett (Derriford), Matthew Barwell (Kuasa)*
- Present:
  - *Rich Townsend (Callington), Gill Jones (Derriford), Julian Cooper (President / Kuasa), Jess Canfield (Liskeard / Launceston), Alan Berry (Chair / Tavyside), Stuart Abel (Torpoint), Wally Bickford (Victoria), Waine Parker (YMCA Kitto / Fixtures), Ryan Lambourne (YMCA Kitto / Fixtures), Jo Jackson (Kuasa / Tournament), Nirmala Geog (University), Jenifer Poole (University)*
2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings:
  - Secretaries Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022
  - Committee Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022
  - *These were agreed*
3. Matters Arising:
  - *None*
4. Chairman's Update:
  - *Report attached report*
5. Secretary's Report (None):
  - Appointment of a secretary
  - *No one put their name forward*
6. Treasurer's Update:
  - *None*
  - *Gill Jones and Andy Crocker have looked over and agree the accounts for last year*
7. Fixtures Secretaries:
  - Getting ready for the new season
  - *The League Positions from last season were handed out to all clubs*
  - *Clubs need to inform the Fixture Secretaries of any changes to entries by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September*
  - *All fixtures for the coming season must be played by the End of March 2023*
  - *Notes from the Fixture Secretaries:*
    1. *Teams to be entered to be advised to Fixtures secretaries by 4th October.*
    2. *Teams to be aware of their Beckly commitments (see separate sheet)*
    3. *Constitution read by not only secretaries, but all players esp. team captains.*
    4. *Contact details to be completed.*
    5. *Location details, with appropriate postcodes*
    6. *Log – in details for online score sheets & e-mails*
    7. *Any up-date on Covid restrictions – happy to not shake hands at the end of a match.*
    8. *No refreshments*
    9. *Info re number of courts available prior to match*
    10. *Complete csv files for match fixtures (sample already provided) Beckly cup team code to be added this season.*
8. Beckly Cup:

- *The final will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at the Torpoint and Rame LC*
  - *The Beckly Cup – An Overview:*
    - The Beckly Cup is an annual competition held since the 1930's. Each league club provides 6 affiliated players, 3 mixed pairings; they do not have to be the same players for each round.*
    - At the fixtures meeting the “draw” is made for the clubs to play the first 2 rounds of the competition. Weeks are allocated for each round to be played; a week allocated for the semi-finals and a date for the final. The Beckly Cup matches take precedence over the league matches, with the Beckly dates itemised on the fixture planner.*
    - The team has to be nominated, 7 days before each match, using the team declaration form available from [www.plymouthbadminton.co.uk](http://www.plymouthbadminton.co.uk). The handicap committee use this information, along with any league results, to calculate the team handicap score. This should allow for a competitive score for clubs of all strengths.*
    - The aim is for each player to exert maximum effort to gain each point. The handicap is not revealed until the scores are added up at the end of the match. The handicap is then added to the final score and the winning team progresses to the next round.*
    - The overall winners get The Beckly Cup trophy to keep until the following season, there is a runners-up trophy as well.*
9. Tournament Secretary's Report:
- Tournaments Dates:
    - Christmas Tournament: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022
    - Restricted Tournament: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023
    - Open Tournament: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023
10. Presentation Evening:
- *Gill mentioned three possible dates – University asked that Presentation Evening by in April due to University Exams in May – Wayne to ask the engravers whether they can do this in the time allowed*
11. Code of Governance
- Introduction and Update
  - *Alan introduced the the Code Of Governance Document which all clubs will be expected to follow at Tier 1*
12. Laws of Badminton – changes for the 2022 Season
- Service laws - see attached document
  - *Alan Spoke about the changes to the service laws which are now written into the BWF Laws of Badminton*
13. Constitution:
- Introduction and Update
  - Link: <https://www.plymouthbadminton.co.uk/draft-constitution/>
  - *All secretaries are asked to look over the draft constitution and report and changes and mistakes to Alan*
  - *The Draft Constitution will be brought to the AGM for agreement*
14. Updates from Individual Clubs:
- University
    - *Trials next week*
    - *They hope to pit in an extra ladies team this year*
  - YMCA Kitto Badminton Club
    - *The club continues to operate on 2 evenings, Monday – the league evening & Wednesday; - the social evening.*
    - *We managed to continue support for both evenings throughout the summer months. Regrettably the hoped-for ladies “friendlies” versus Kuasa did not take place. This was largely due to ladies working through the A-Z of injuries.*

- *The coverage of the Badminton, from the Commonwealth games, was watched and enjoyed by many.*
- *We had 2 players who supported the Plymouth Mayflower Special Olympics held at the Life Centre in July. One is considering helping on a weekly basis with the Special Olympics session at the YMCA.*
- *One player has signed up for the 24-hour AGE UK badminton fundraising event at Plymstock sports centre in November, possibly more to join.*
- *We continue to struggle with the cost of the shuttles, payment for each session is made to the YMCA with no provision of shuttles. Therefore, it is feather on a Monday with an additional charge made to each player; and a request for a contribution every 6 months from the social players on a Wednesday.*
- Victoria Badminton Club
  - *Still going*
  - *Wish to continue the associate membership with the PBL*
  - *Slight increase in numbers*
  - *The new season starts on October 1st*
- Torpoint Badminton Club
  - *New committee with Chris and Mike still around*
  - *Membership fees have increased due to hall costs*
  - *Influx of juniors at No-Strings*
  - *24 players last week*
- Tavyside Badminton
  - *(see attached report)*
- Plymouth Life Centre Badminton Club
  - *(see attached report)*
- Launceston Inclusive Badminton Club
- Liskeard Junior and Inclusive Badminton Club
  - *We started back after summer last week and have had a really positive start.*
  - *Our Primary, Secondary and Special Olympic/Para-Badminton have similar numbers to last year but we are continuing to promote to boost numbers. We had 1 player enter the Mayflower Special Olympics games as well. Our Pay and Play has seen a great return with lots of new players. Sessions are the same as last season with juniors and 2 Pay and Plays on a Monday, and SO/Para and 1 Pay and Play on a Thursday. We are signed up with BE for the Big Hit week and are looking forward to the upcoming season.*
  - *Launceston who are affiliated under us as a satellite club are continuing with their junior coaching sessions which are thriving and continuing to grow. They ran a summer club for the older juniors which went very well.*
- KUASA Badminton Club
  - *Now back- most players have returned*
  - *Promoting the Primary Age Group – Secondary Group full*
  - *Hope to enter 3 x men's, 2 x Medley and 2 x Ladies*
- Derriford Badminton Club
  - *7 weeks out for School / External examinations*
  - *have lost a few players but also gained a few*
- Callington Badminton Club
  - *Thanks to Julian for all his hard work over the years*
  - *New Committee – Richard, chair; Bob and Lynda, Secretaries*
  - *Now playing at Duchy – further from Callington and number have reflected this*
  - *Concerns over attracting new member*
  - *Have returned to the subscription model of payment*
  - *Hope to enter 1 x men's, 1 x Medley and 1 x Ladies Team*

15. Devon County Badminton Association:

- *see attached report*

16. Community Badminton (DCBA)

- ***Community Badminton is no longer running sessions in either Ivybridge or the YMCA Kitto but hope to return in the future***

17. Diary Dates:

1. Fixtures Meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022
2. General Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 (TBC)

18. AOB:

- None

The Meeting closed at 7:59pm

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**General Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
7pm Lower Hall, St Budeaux Parish Church**

### **Chairman's Report:**

The first thing I would like to do is to express my sincere thanks to:

Gill, for organising the End of Season Presentation Evening, which, I hope everyone will agree, went well.

Waine and Ryan, for making sure that the season finished in a orderly manner and for sorting out the engraving of the trophies.

I have been informed of a number of changes to club chairs and secretaries and I would like to welcome them to the league meetings.

As a league we now need to look forward to the new season and, in a very few weeks, the start of competitive matches.

Though there is an update from the Devon County Badminton Association (DCBA) Committee Meeting I attended on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September attached, there is still one long standing matter that has yet to be resolved – I am still under investigation for, potential, Code of Conduct violations; something I vehemently deny. So far the DCBA has produced two documents which, they say, is evidence that I have done wrong; as I see it there is no evidence as all I have done is express opinions and asked questions regarding the actions of the DCBA.

## **Online Meeting with Sue Storey and Mike Robinson**

For those who are not aware, Sue Storey is the new CEO of Badminton England and Mike Robinson the chair of Badminton England. There follows my notes which were written following the meeting . . .

I had a very positive one hour meeting with Sue and Mike yesterday (Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August) morning where we discussed a range of topics.

We did not discuss the county situation and I only remarked that individuals are either for or against the county setup as it stands and that everyone is aware of my personal position!

Sue started off by saying that she wants more people like me to have ideas and drive the sport of badminton forward: she is willing to discuss any ideas going forwards. People like me? Really, when I am in so much trouble with the DCBA?

The points discussed:

### **Pyramid "National Badminton League"**

- Mike gave Sue a brief rundown on where that had got to prior to Covid
- The set up could be developed either as a top down or bottom up model and there are advantages and disadvantages to each model
- The bottom up model would mean less financial input from Badminton England to begin with as local leagues; the counties could be tasked to oversee its development to the county level

### **Badminton is "Cool"**

- We need to get the message out to the population that badminton is happening at all levels of the sport
- Currently there is little in the way of getting stories, of all sorts, out into the media (of all types) of good news stories
- Is a 'social influencer' needed? The problem often is that English Badminton reports negative subjects when the top players lose in a tournament!
- Whilst I congratulated Badminton England on the upcoming "The BIG Hit", all the work will be done at the club / coach level using the poster blanks, there needs to be something national to kick it off and promote it. This was acknowledged and will be looked into.

### **Schools Badminton Competition and Badminton in Schools and Colleges**

- I stated that removing the Schools Badminton Competition had been a retrograde step for a number of reasons:
  - Firstly it gave college pupils the opportunity to engage in the sport of badminton at a level beyond their lessons
  - Secondly colleges focused their efforts into the sport of badminton for the few weeks when it was happening
  - Mike and Sue will look into this - I suggested that up to county level the local counties could be made responsible; this might encourage more juniors into the sport of badminton
- This then moved into a general discussion on badminton in schools and colleges
  - Sue stated that clubs and club coaches should be encouraged to engage more openly with their local schools and colleges - this will be looked into further by Sue and Mike
  - It is better for this to be 'club centered' as if led nationally any junior players will need to be directed to a local club to attend - IF one is available!

- Most schools and colleges do not have teachers who are badminton players / coaches and who can deliver badminton much beyond the 'hitting' stage
- All NGB's are talking with the government currently for a specialist PE teacher to be appointed to all Primary Schools as, in many primary school PE is seen as a “run around” time rather than the development of different sports
- Exams - the AQA A Level exam specification for PE with respect to badminton is a mess.
  - I will write a short paper and submit it to Sue and Mike for them to pass onto the AQA

**Visits:**

- Sue has managed to visit a number of areas of the country and has engaged with a number of clubs and leagues where she has visited – she recently got as close as Dorset!
- In due course Sue would like to visit the Devon and Cornwall counties and would welcome the opportunity to meet and see how badminton is being delivered locally.

I thanked Sue for engaging with me and giving up her time for an hour-long meeting.

I believe that Sue is dynamic and someone who we as clubs and as a league can work with going forward BUT it will mean that clubs will have to change their ethos from just providing a club in which to play badminton to being more proactive in the sport of badminton. This will mean that clubs, coaches and players will need to go out, engage and work with the local community: clubs could well have the direct instruction to "promote the sport of badminton" and make it 'cool' from Badminton England.

Alan Berry

# Tier 1 – Mandatory Requirements

## Principles and Requirements Summary

There are eight Requirements for Tier 1. These align under the five Principles as set out below.

Principle	Requirement
Structure	<b>Requirement 1:</b> The organisation is properly constituted, has a clear purpose and, if membership-based, is inclusive and accessible.
	<b>Requirement 2:</b> The <b>governing committee</b> meets regularly, and decision-making is recorded.
People	<b>Requirement 3:</b> The organisation seeks to ensure diverse viewpoints are considered and that its decision-making groups have the skills and diversity needed to operate effectively.
	<b>Requirement 4:</b> <b>Committee members</b> are subject to regular election and ideally should serve no more than nine years.
Communication	<b>Requirement 5:</b> The organisation shares information on its governance, structure, activities and financial position to enable <b>stakeholders</b> to have a good understanding of them.
Standards and Conduct	<b>Requirement 6:</b> <b>Conflicts of interest</b> are recognised, managed by the <b>chair</b> and recorded. At least three of the people on the <b>governing committee</b> are neither related to, nor cohabiting with, other <b>committee members</b> .
Policies and Processes	<b>Requirement 7:</b> The organisation ensures appropriate financial procedures and practices are in place and as a minimum can evidence: a) appropriate oversight of financial planning; b) financial decision-making and processing is not managed by one person alone; and c) accounts which are independently scrutinised.
	<b>Requirement 8:</b> The organisation assesses and manages organisational <b>risks</b> and <b>liabilities</b> appropriately.



## Badminton Service Laws

### **Introduction:**

For a number of years there has been an 'experimental' service law which has been used in national / international tournaments. This experimental law is now written into the laws of badminton and the 'serve below the waist' law now the 'alternative'.

### **The Service Laws (issued 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022):**

**NB:** I have combined the 2021 and 2022 Service Laws to make the changes clearer.

- 9.1 In a correct service, the flight of the shuttle shall be upwards from the server's racket to pass over the net so that, if not intercepted, it shall land in the receiver's service court (i.e. on or within the boundary lines); and
- 9.1.1 neither side shall cause undue delay to the delivery of the service once the server and the receiver are ready for the service.
- 9.1.2 on completion of the backward movement of the server's racket head, any delay in the start of the service (Law 9.2) shall be considered to be an undue delay;
- 9.1.3 the server and the receiver shall stand within diagonally opposite service courts without touching the boundary lines of these service courts;
- 9.1.3.1 In Para badminton Wheelchair and Standing Classes playing half-court, Diagram D and F, respectively, apply.
- 9.1.4 some part of both feet of the server and the receiver shall remain in contact with the surface of the court in a stationary position from the start of the service (Law 9.2) until the service is delivered (Law 9.3);
- 9.1.4.1 In Wheelchair Badminton: from the start of the service and until the service is delivered, the wheels of the server and the receiver must be stationary, except the natural counter movement of the server's wheelchair.
- 9.1.5 the server's racket shall initially hit the base of the shuttle;
- ~~9.1.6 the whole shuttle shall be below the server's waist at the instant of being hit by the server's racket. The waist shall be considered to be an imaginary line round the body, level with the lowest part of the server's bottom rib;~~
- 9.1.6 the whole shuttle shall be below 1.15 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racket;**
- 9.1.6.1 In Wheelchair Badminton, the whole shuttle shall be below the server's armpit at the instant of being hit by the server's racket; Alternative Service Law 9.1.6 (b) also applies.
- 9.1.6.2 In Para badminton Standing Classes, the Alternative Service Laws apply (9.1.6 (a) and (b)).
- ~~9.1.7 the shaft and the racket head of the server's racket at the instant of hitting the shuttle shall be pointing in a downward direction;~~
- 9.1.7 (*formally 9.1.8*) the movement of the server's racket shall continue forwards from the start of the service (Law 9.2) until the service is delivered (Law 9.3);
- 9.1.8 (*formally 9.1.9*) in attempting to serve, the server shall not miss the shuttle.
- 9.2 Once the players are ready for the service, the first forward movement of the server's racket head shall be the start of the service.
- 9.3 Once started (Law 9.2), the service is delivered when the shuttle is hit by the server's racket or, in attempting to serve, the server misses the shuttle.
- 9.4 The server shall not serve before the receiver is ready. However, the receiver shall be considered to have been ready if a return of the service is attempted.
- 9.5 In doubles, during the delivery of service (Law 9.2, 9.3), the partners may take up any positions within their respective courts, which do not unsight the opposing server or receiver.

**NB:** The previous laws 9.1.6 and 9.1.7 now become the 'alternative service laws' but the BWF and Country Governing Bodies will be looking to remove these laws as soon as possible.

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### Devon County Badminton Association Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> September 2022) Feedback:

I attended the above meeting representing the Plymouth Badminton League. The following are my notes from that meeting, not the minutes which will be circulated in advance of the next meeting.

#### Start:

- The chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting under the new committee
- The chair asked that the committee members took the decisions forward from the meeting but welcomed discussion

#### Correspondence:

- It was noted that Ben Lane got a silver at the recent Commonwealth Games – a letter of congratulations will be sent
- The Champions of Champions competition will be returning this year following the Covid break
- A company is offering to sponsor the county with tops – about 30 players in all
- A future potential committee member has been in contact with the chair
- The chair will be holding a meeting with Hannah Davies-Coward next week

#### Finance:

- The finances have not been passed over from the previous treasurer as yet
  - The treasurer stated that there needed to be better financial accountability in future
- Funds for the Masters – it was agreed to pass over £1000 to the masters
- Senior match fees were set at £10 and the mileage allowance at 20p / mile
  - The treasurer pointed out that the matches fees did not cover the mileage expenditure and would be looking to narrow this deficit
- Veterans Fees were set at £4

#### District Reports:

- These were received
- No one from Torquay as new representative to be invited

#### Senior Restricted:

- Weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Torquay Town Hall
- Knockout in Groups of three
- Entries via the tournament software

#### Senior Selection:

- Committee: Chair + Last years team captains + Match Secretary
- Based on: contribution, recent tournament results, matches, variety, attitude

#### Senior Silver - 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> January:

- Over 2 venues – Paignton LC (28<sup>th</sup>) and Torquay Town Hall (29<sup>th</sup>)

#### Masters Report:

- Entries into each age group this year + an extra at the 70+ age group
- emails being sent to every player over the age of 338 inviting them to attend the trials / play for the Veterans
- 700 so far sent, 11 responses

**Community Badminton Network:**

- No information to hand
- I was able to update with the Plymouth situation
- Some details of the Exeter sessions known about
- Chair to contact Julie Bradbury

**17-21 ECC**

- Team entry by the end of the month

**Financial Assistance Fund:**

- 10% of affiliation fees – not used last year
- Paragraph added to the Junior Details Form
- New sub-committee needed to vet the fund

**Grant Applications:**

- Three from Plymouth Badminton Clubs
- Decision held over to the next meeting
- Some discussion and feedback
  - some feedback very useful – (My observation: feedback from opinionated individual unhelpful and showed a total lack of understanding of grassroots badminton and its needs, and requirements)
  - I will feedback to individuals
  - Resubmit for the next DCBA Meeting

**DCBA Constitution:**

- Not discussed but needs updating

**Retirement / Long Service Gifts:**

- For the three committee members who stood down at the AGM
- Badminton England Long Service Award – Chair to speak to Hannah at meeting next week
- Present from DCBA – up to £50 each for a suitable item

**Date of the Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7:30pm (venue TBC)

**AOB:**

- Code of Conduct Allegations
  - a sub-committee of three have met and are reporting back to Badminton England
  - they hope to bring it to a conclusion shortly
- Tournament Referees – do league tournament needs qualified referees to run these tournaments?
  - Discussion and agreed that “not a league level” – anyone can act as the referee for league tournaments

I was asked to remain behind by the chair and had a discussion with the chair and treasurer. I made it clear that:

- I represented the Plymouth Badminton League
- I had the support of the club secretaries
- I would continue to speak out, challenge and ask questions of the DCBA
- And, as I had only expressed opinions and asked questions, I would appeal any “proven” Code of Conduct Allegations

Alan Berry

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### Community Badminton Report:

I have received, in response to a recent email to Julie Bradbury, the following:

Hi Alan,

Thanks for your message. Unfortunately due to lack of players we are not currently running in the Ivybridge or Plymouth areas - we hope this can change in the future,

Thanks

Julie