

PLYMOUTH BADMINTON

The P & D Churches Badminton League (Founded 1930)

General Meeting Tuesday 19th September 2023, 7pm Lower Hall, St Budeaux Parish Church

Minutes: (Draft)

1. Present:

Julian Cooper (President and Treasurer), Alan Berry(Chair), Jo Jackson (Tournament Secretary) Waine Parker (Fixtures and YMCA Kitto), Ryan Lambourne (Fixtures and YMCA Kitto, Richard Townsend (Callington), Lee Townsend (PLC BC) Jess Canfield (Liskeard Inclusive) Tom Cooper (Tavyside), Stuart Abel (Torpoint), Wally Bickford (Victoria), Jake Dan (Marjon), Gill Jones (Derriford), Dave Brett (Derriford), Nicola Gillespe (University), Chris Darlington (University)

Apologies:

Andy Crocker (Minute Secretary and PLC BC)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

- Secretaries Meeting 1st February 2022 - agreed
- Committee Meeting 15th February 2022 - agreed
- AGM Minutes – for reference only

3. Vacant Positions following the AGM:

- Trophies Secretary – Elly Duly has been appointed
- Secretary – no one at present

4. Matters Arising:

- None

5. Chairman's Update: (PlymouthBadders@gmail.com)

- see attached report

6. Secretary's Report:

- (None)

7. Treasurer's Update: (PlymouthBadders.Treasurer@gmail.com)

- Now has the email account
- Waiting to transfer the account into the new treasurers name
- Please send all emails to the PlymouthBadders.Treasurer@gmail.com account

8. Fixtures Secretaries: (PlymouthBadders.Fixtures@gmail.com)

- see attached report
- All clubs to send in their teams for the new season by the 3rd October
- Fixtures Meeting: Tuesday 10th October

9. Trophies Secretary Report: (PlymouthBadders.Trophies@gmail.com)

- (None)

10. Beckly Cup:

- Final: Friday 1st March 2024 at the Torpoint and Rame LC

11. Tournament Secretary's Report: (PlymouthBadders.Tournaments@gmail.com)

- Tournaments Dates:
 - Christmas Tournament: Sunday 3rd December 2023
 - Restricted Tournament: Sunday 28th January 2024
 - Open Tournament: Sunday 10th March 2024

12. Presentation Evening:
 - Feedback – enjoyable and good end to the season – could do with a livelier atmosphere, eg music
 - It was discussed and decided that a disco was not the way forward but that clubs would be contacted for music they would like to hear.
 - Will look at either the 10th / 17th (preferable) May 2024 for the Presentation Evening
13. Laws of Badminton – change for the 2023 / 24 Season
 - Service law 9.1.5 – **the server shall release the shuttle without adding spin, and** the servers racket shall initially hit the base of the shuttle;
 - **NB:** this will be revisited at the BWF AGM in May 2024 along with the proposal for matches to be played as the best of 5 games to 11pts.
14. Updates from Individual Clubs:

YMCA Kitto BC

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. Whilst quieter for the league players, the social players maintained their numbers.

We had 2 players who supported the Plymouth Mayflower Special Olympics held at the Life Centre in July. They would always like more scorers.

As yet the YMCA have not increased their prices, although I think it is imminent. The YMCA do not pay for the courts, the players pay on a “pay and play” basis. We thank the YMCA for their ongoing support.

We all voiced our complaint about the Kendo group, in a recent survey, but doubt that this is likely to change, unfortunately.

University BC

Waiting to meet the new badminton players.

Torpoint BC

Torpoint Badminton Club has seen a steady rise in membership this calendar year to 40 players on paper - though this will drop off a little in the coming weeks now subs are due for the new season. However, we have had several queries from people interested in playing for the first time.

We have also had to turn away a couple of primary age children because we do not have the capacity for a separate junior club. Everyone plays together on three or four courts on our single club night. This generally works pretty well, with a wide standard of games for different abilities.

The club’s plan is to provide coaching and perhaps a junior club in the medium term, though this may involve getting grants and perhaps even training up a couple of our players as coaches.

We do not have the space on court at the moment, especially as we are putting two teams into the league this year - a men’s and a medley. Last year we only managed a men’s and put a mixed team in the Beckly Cup.

Attracting ladies of a reasonable ability to the club has proved difficult.

The club has had to increase subscriptions again this year, but still offers incredibly good value.

We are doing a Big Hit promotion, though this is little more than we do any week. The club is also celebrating its 60th anniversary with a party next month.

Tavyside Badminton

The numbers for our Saturday Junior sessions are gradually rising with numbers for our Monday sessions in particular needing to continue to grow.

We will be able to enter a men's team this season but will look to increase numbers of players to add a medley team and ladies season next season.

Even though there have been some issues with sorting hall bookings, we are confident through the use of Horrabridge Primary School and Mount Kelly to minimise disruptions.

We hope that the Big Hit events in the upcoming weeks will serve as a good opportunity to promote our Monday and Saturday sessions.

Plymouth Life Centre BC

PLC BC have continued to play through the summer with varying attendances from week to week ranging between 10-20 most weeks. We'd expect this to pick up a bit as the season approaches and into the new season.

Balancing the books has become a critical concern for the club. Court hire costs have increased, and as a result we've had to increase fees to attempt to cover these. We know we have lost some players due to the fee increase. However, £8 is still less than the cost of a couple of drinks! Club officers regret having to increase fees, but have been left with no alternative, if the club is to continue. We have been "imaginative" with our hire and use of courts to the extent that club members who are also Life Centre members do hire adjacent courts on their membership. We also try and ensure "good shuttle" etiquette is maintained to keep shuttle costs down. In the new season we also intend to ensure match fees are rigorously collected.

We still struggle to attract ladies to the club but have seen several players (all men) who are temporarily working in the area come along for the couple or so weeks they are in Plymouth. We do receive regular e-mail enquirers from perspective players, but these do not often translate into new members.

Regarding teams for the 2023/24 season, we propose to again enter two men's teams. Due to a lack of ladies, we unfortunately will not be able to field a team for the Beckly Cup, so again request not to be entered into the competition.

Liskeard Junior and Inclusive BC

Sessions have returned as normal after our summer break. A good mixture of old and new faces in both the Juniors, Pay and Play and our Special Olympic/Para sessions. Booking as few courts as needed and then booking on the night if needed as it is cheaper to book on the night rather than as the club. Big thanks to all coaches who attended our CPD workshop for coaching those with disabilities. Looking forward to entering teams in the league for the upcoming season.

KUASA BC

Last season we put into the league

- 2 Medley teams
- 3 Ladies Teams
- 3 Mens Teams

This season we hope to put in something similar.

Our primary/junior coaching seasons have been well subscribed and is doing really well, its encouraging when we see them progress on to be club players.

The Friday league night season has been so popular some of the club nights were extremely busy and we were having to think about how many more we could take on.

Sunday session has also had a very good turnout, some of these players have improved to the point where we can move them onto the Friday night, where they have expressed interest in playing in the league.

As with last year we decided to continue both sessions through the summer only stopping for a short break around the August bank holiday. We were not sure if we could maintain enough players but it turned out more popular than we anticipated, so we expect to do the same next year. We look forward to the friendly competition this year.

Derriford BC

Once again Derriford has had an enforced closure for 7 weeks whilst Eggbuckland Community College held their exams in the Sports Hall. The closure started in late May and opened up again in early July. Since that time club attendance has been healthy with an average attendance of 26. The last 3 club nights have seen numbers in excess of 30 players. We do have another closure this week for the College's Open evening.

As the 2023-4 season starts the club has seen the exit of a number of our players from the club as they move out of the area or change their working patterns. Fortunately we have gained a couple of new or existing players. It will be interesting to see how the season unfolds.

Callington BC

Victoria BC

Still ticking over and hopes to return to the league when numbers allow

Marjon BC

Have ten keen players to play in the league and are hoping to enter a men's, ladies and medley team.

15. Badminton England:
 - Participation in badminton by Transgender and Non-Binary Players Policy
 - It was agreed that the league tournaments by "converted" to the new format as follows:
 - Ladies (open to those with a birth sex of female)
 - Open (changed from "Men's" and open to all birth sexes)
 - Mixed (open to pairs of one born male sex and one born female sex)
 - The changing of the league divisions will be discussed at a future committee meeting and them proposals will be discussed at the AGM as it will mean changes to the constitution
16. Devon County Badminton Association:
 - Brief notes from the AGM (see attached)
 - Notes from the Committee Meeting held on the 6th September (see attached)
17. Diary Dates:
 - a) Fixtures Meeting: Tuesday 10th October 2023
 - b) General Meeting: Tuesday 7th Feb 2024 (TBC)
18. AOB:
 - Alan has been in touch with the new Regional Manager (Alex Lane) over two matters:
 - Hall hire costs – there is now someone at Badminton England who deals with the hiring of facilities. Some clubs are quite happy with their fees but some are now

paying up to £16 / hour / court. One club has found it cheaper for a member of the public to hire courts rather than the club!

- There could be the opportunity for a “Foundation Coaches Course” locally if there are the numbers. Clubs indicated that there is the need and there are the numbers to run one. Alan will be back in touch with Alex

PBL Committee Meeting Reports

Chairman's Report

There is not a lot to report from me as not a lot has happened on the league front.

Though in post, the new treasurer (Julian) is still waiting for the gmail account to be handed over and access to the bank account.

I have heard that a number of court hire fees have increased (again). I am in touch with Badminton England over those venues who close their facilities for exam and other uses.

Badminton England are in touch with Sport England and have heard back that Sport England cannot challenge sports hall usage unless there is a Community Agreement in place and not out of date. Badminton England will continue to challenge this with Sport England particularly in light of the new sports initiatives coming out from the government.

Fixture Secretaries Report

Teams, to be entered, to be advised to Fixtures secretaries, by email, by 4th October. I have been verbally told, by the University, of a reduction in the number of ladies teams. Please make your e-mail clear as to what teams you will be entering for the forthcoming season.

Each club to be aware of their Beckly commitments, the completion of the declarations, last season, were often sparse, if at all.

It is vital that all contact details are given, not just for secretaries, but captains of each team.

Please ensure the availability of your premises prior to the Fixtures meeting. There were a lot of changes, last season, and whilst not the "fault" of the teams; please explore the available dates vigorously.

Please ensure that electronic score sheets are ready for completion, on the match night. Please ensure that those you appoint as team captain for a match know how to complete them.

Location details, with appropriate postcodes

No refreshments to be provided, but please be able to direct visiting teams to drinking water.

Please provide Info re number of courts available prior to a match

Please remember, at the end of the match, to notify the Fixture secretaries that these are final submission for updating the website / league tables. Both home & visiting teams to complete sheets for any discrepancies.

The season ends at the end of March, please bear in mind that March 29th is Good Friday, so unlikely that premises available.

DCBA AGM Notes

The Devon County Badminton Association held its AGM on the 14th May where a number of matters were raised and discussed. The main points being:

- Malcolm Slack has been reappointed as the county secretary
- the accounts are now in order though there are concerns with the Veterans Accounts which are not clear enough. (NB: though requested by Julian no apology was forthcoming regarding the poor nature of the accounts in previous years)
- The chair, Jamie Robertson, stated that he would be stepping down at the next AGM (2024)
- No 4th Team will be entered this coming season
- Torbay and the Junior Association will be asked to provide a representative to the committee meetings (NB: this has now happened)

- The matter of the junior affiliation fees was raised by me again and I was promised by the chair that he and I would look into it. When I raised the matter during the summer I was told that I would not be allowed access to the BE records to find out the number of juniors paying fees.

DCBA Meeting Wednesday 6th September Notes

- **Present and Apologies**
 - 8 present plus three apologies
 - **Correspondence**
 - nothing specific – will be dealt with within the agenda
 - **Treasurers report**
 - No handover yet – no report
 - Bank accounts with old treasurer
 - **District reports (Torbay/Exeter/North Devon/Plymouth)**
 - All leagues just setting up for the new season
 - Exeter will have three leagues “The League”, Medley and Social – players / clubs to decide which league they play in
 - Set up – if in social league and with a lady / man, when the man serves the lady stands behind him.
 - **Senior County teams**
 - Discussion on Transgender players – any queries will be sorted out by Badminton England
- AFTER THE EVENT!**
- County match setup being discussed and will change for this season
 - **Masters report**
 - Trails on the 1st October
 - All fixtures now sorted and venues booked.
 - Are trying to reduce costs following the AGM discussion
 - **Junior Association report**
 - Sue Williamson new Junior Representative
 - Waiting for players to respond
 - 1st session in a couple of weeks
 - No trials as coaching across the summer
 - **17-21 ECC tournament**
 - 6th / 7th April 2024
 - Enter team and sort out the logistics at future meetings
 - **Restricted and Open Tournaments – (Added to the agenda as not on the original agenda)**
 - 23rd / 24th September
 - Malcolm running
 - Entries close this coming Saturday
 - Senior Silver – last weekend of January 2024
 - **Disability tournaments SW**
 - Devon Tournament - £100 given to support the running of the tournament from the £800 there is in the disability account
 - 9th December – Somerset
 - Coaches Disability Course – Sunday 10th September Liskeard
 - **BE Relationship manager**
 - Alex Lane new Relationship Manager for the SW – as far as Birmingham!
 - Probably tasked with working with clubs not the county
 - Priorities needed – club development - more players playing – coaching courses – concerns expressed regarding the cost of coaching courses
 - **AOB**
 - Alan - County Fees Adults £6.50; Juniors £1.50 – no increase and not discussed at either previous committee meetings or the AGM

- **Date of next meeting**

- Monday 13th November 7:30pm via Zoom – this in spite of the committee agreeing to alternate between online and in-face meetings.