**Sussex County Badminton Association**

**Annual General Meeting**

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Any member of an Affiliated Club may attend, but only two members per Club may Vote. Voters must be present at the Meeting.

# Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence.

Paul Moss, Jonty Russ, David King, William Brown

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2023/24

Notes: These minutes record issues discussed at the meeting and do not attempt to summarise committee members written reports which are available on the Sussex Website.

Approved

1. Minutes from the AGM 2024 and matters arising
* David to develop stronger links with universities – Mark Russ had 2-3 meetings with Btn University. Trying to push badminton but BU are launching a cricket academy on the old tennis and badminton courts, so badminton relegated to 4 courts. Badminton unlikely to be their priority. Ieuan will be resident coach there. If new players join BU he will signpost to Sussex committee. Loughborough Notts and Derby likely to get first dibs on the top players from overseas as they are established academy. Sussex Uni – Heather Olver is the coach. She will be able to signpost good players to from that university.
* Proposal to spend county money on bringing on a few coaches

No scholarships offered by Sussex this year. East Sussex has a foundation and used some of that money to get coaches through BE programme. Shuttlers have sponsored 5 coaches. The number of coaches is going up.

* Discussion about feeding back some of unused affiliation fees back to club players

Need to spend money but still unsure on what we could spend money on. David Joliffe reported that Horsham club doesn’t have the money to invest in lower players. Could each club get some money back from county to invest in grass roots. Horsham have developed a good relationship with their leisure centre.

The county has about £1k potentially to spend on this.

Horsham thought they would want 1 hr to 2hrs coaching for 6 weeks approx. £240. For the committee to consider**. Action:** Mark to contact David and discuss a pilot idea.

* Further discussions needed on how committee can reach out to clubs to improve communication

**Action: Look to develop social media – Facebook, senior Instagram**. SCBA Secretary to share comms with club secretaries separately for next time hoping that by club secretaries cascading info in club’s comms will reach more players.

* AGM invite to include nomination for Bruce Peapell award. This was completed.
1. Annual Report – published on website a week before – no comments or questions raised.

**Chairmans report Mark Russ.**

**Review of the season**

Senior teams solid throughout. The first team are very reliant on 3 people to win matches. We are likely to slip down leagues. Great to see Heather Olver back playing in the county first team. Successful for master’s both domestically and internationally.

We now have a post junior gap. A few players not going to uni but no way to engage them and develop them into senior ranks. This is the group we can’t keep losing. Derek mentioned about the under 21 squad as a possibility to engage these players. **Action:** Mark to look at the possibility of starting that team again and arranging matches

**Tournaments in Sussex**

3 Series Plus – an event that is good for the county and we need to find a way to reconnect with players and rebuild the numbers of players engaging with it. A model being used by other counties that needs to be supported and grown to try and help with the grass root side of the county but also provide a bridge for players going from junior to senior and those who prefer only to participate in local tournaments.

There are currently a large number of competitions/events in Sussex for Sussex players to choose.

Thanks to Sara, Phil Sam, Mike and Paul plus all volunteers, captains, drivers etc who give their time to Sussex badminton and a massive thanks for Phil for all he has given in his treasurer’s role.

**Senior Team update**

8 Debuts to recognise (certificates will be presented at Sussex Restricted)
5 bronze medals (25 caps) to be presented

1st team retained position in Championship
2nd team retained position in Div 2
3rd team relegated to Div 3

A good mix for younger players with seniors and the odd master (lady) filling the gaps.

Thanks to the captains and team managers for their time .

We missed country training this year – we hope to reinstate this coming year allowing clubs to feed through youth who might be of county standard

**Action SF:** seek courts and plan for once-a-month county session

**Junior update**

2 County events – restricted and rising stars. Well attended and numbers up on last year

Number of girls playing – encouraging girls is still proving to be difficult

Shires - 9 teams made playoffs. ICT update - 9 out 10 players were newcomers. Just missed out on top half slot.

Had the Junior trials – it was well attended

Lisa Dobson is the new secretary

Sussex won’t be running an under 16 this year – low numbers and standard wasn’t at the standard we were expecting. Players were using county training as a club rather than an elite county run event. The better under 16’s have been invited to under 18 training.

Thanks to Julia A for putting on some coaching courses.

Thanks to Will HJ for his services to junior Sussex coaching.

**Masters update**

Well attended practices last summer

8 league teams were entered into championship 40-75’s

45’s was the only team to win their league

55’s wasn’t able to field a team – this team was dropped for 24/25 and merged with 50’s

ICT competition – 9 teams – 2 in Premier. 40’s won Div 1 and got promotion to Premier

Successes for Sussex in masters’ events throughout the year in Euros, Nationals and All England (as per annual report)

A lot of representation for Sussex in the international competitions

45’s reached National finals in Masters championships

40’s won their league at Masters County Challenge

Thanks to all the captains

Policy re-stated regarding players playing in their own age groups – also stressed by BE.

Captains sorted out for all teams this coming year except 45.

**Success at tournaments**

Jane and Sara won gold at the Euros in Belgium – 55’s

Will HJ – won Nationals, Kent and Essex Masters singles

Hannah and Will – won Kent Middlesex and West of England Masters Mixed

Mitsy and Hannah – won Essex Masters ladies

Mitsy won All England ladies singles 45’s

Hannah won Nationals and Middlesex ladies singles 35’s

Karen Thomas won All England mixed 60’s

Karen Thomas won Nationals ladies 60’s

Jane Ashfold won Middlesex ladies singles 55

Jane won Middlesex and West of England mixed 55

Jane won Nationals ladies 50’s

Sara won Nationals ladies 55’s

Sara won Kent Mixed 55’s

**Three Series Update**

Overall loss of £57.30

Had to be creative with court times to counter for lower numbers.

Lower-level players don’t want because it’s too hard. If the higher standard players aren’t allowed to play the numbers will be severely affected. A catch 22 situation.

Noted: Onus continues to be on players to be mindful about the spirit of the event.

**Action:** Potential to look at the entry list and deal with issues of ‘non spirited’ entries before the event.

**Summary**

3 events delivered - on behalf of Bognor (held in Worthing), Crawley & Brighton Leagues

Continuity put in place including online entry, online results, membership enforcement, seeding and format of draw to ensure players received minimum 4 games.

Email system setup using mailchimp to inform players of future events and provide an opt out fiction. Delivered to 500 members due to limitations of free account.

Worthing (Worthing LC) – 45 players, £41 profit

Crawley (Broadbridge Heath LC) – 48 players, £61 loss (assumed, did reduce court hours but never saw the invoice)

Brighton (Portslade SC) – 42 players, £140 profit

**Proposed dates for 2025/26**

* *Bognor – 12th October*
* *Crawley – 7th December*
* *Brighton – 25th/1st/8th February*
* *Eastbourne – 12th/19th/26th April*

**Senior Sussex run tournaments**

**2024/25 Senior Tournaments run in Sussex**

Tier 4 - 29th June 2025 (115 players, 34 from Sussex)

Bronze - 1st June 2025 (87 players, 30 from Sussex)

Tier 4 - 2nd March 2025 (111 players, 34 from Sussex)

Tier 4 - 24th November 2024 (106 players, 35 from Sussex)

£130 paid to county in March 2025 from November Tier 4. £300 raised from other events to be paid in November 2025. Currently holding 80dz shuttles in stock for November events.

£300 paid to charities, £100 still to be allocated

Chestnut Tree - £100

Alzheimer’s Society - £100

Cancer Research - £100

**Events planned for 2025/26 season**

Senior Silver - 1/2 November 2025

Tier 4 - 2nd November 2025

2026 – Sanction window opens 1st August Tier 4 – March

Bronze – June

Tier 4 – June/July

**Masters Restricted**

Held on 10/11 May 2025 at Littlehampton

31 players entered.

3 events took place, Open Doubles 50’s & 65’s, combined mixed doubles 60, 65 & 70

Approx £20 profit made.

**Action** Event needs greater support to continue. Perhaps consider the age group version of the event. Perhaps more comms and a fixed date next time.

**Treasurer's and Membership Report** (to be shared with club contacts in the week before the meeting)

Prem Champs £1085 next year, Regional £920 next year

Increase in funds this year to £1807.58

The accounts have increased over each of the last 3 years by £4827.55 and nothing has been spent on development. Could be time to use some of that money on development.

Concern from treasurer that there was limited checks and balances on monies paid in by players in senior teams.

**Action:** going forward senior fees and payments will be scrutinized and someone will be appointed to cross check payment made both by Senior and Masters. Easy to see on Spond who was selected and therefore who has or hasn’t paid.

Reported that contrary to comments made the Masters group were not keeping Senior teams afloat. Senior teams had budget of £2k and spent £1899. Masters have an overspend of £600 with £400 of subs still to come in.

Affiliation fee for 2025-2026 - question from member asking whether it should raise from £5 to £7.50/8. Consensus was that as the county had made some money over the last few years it should not be raised.

£4828 made over last 3 years that could be used for development.

All the transactions available to any members to view on request.

Proposal from a member that all county players should pay £10 match fee per match £16 for double header. This seems reasonable and some careful consideration would be needed for senior matches where players may only play 1 rubber in a match versus 3 rubbers for a master’s player. It would need to be kept fair.

**Badminton England Update**

Kath Russ has agreed to take over as the Sussex presentative at BE AGM’s and meetings

Regional Manager Henry Prothero

Badminton England are encouraging local leagues to adopt the Transgender policy for start of 25-26

NBL relaunch – 6 teams mainly universities. Hoping to go back to how it was pre covid.

No strings refreshed and taken off

Pickleball and court space is becoming an issue for all levels of badminton.

EDI and Safeguarding (our Welfare Office is Julia Alkema) – BE survey shows that 25% of clubs now have a CWO – Club Welfare Officer.

**Election of Management Committee**.

The Management Committee makes the following nominations-

Chairman Mark Russ

Deputy Chairman David King

Secretary Sara Foster

Treasurer Position vacant

Chair of Sussex County Junior Badminton Mark Russ (appointed by SCJBA)

BE rep Kath Russ

Non elective positions Jonty Russ

**Election of a President to serve for three years**.

Proposed to Derek that he takes up the Life Vice President and we ask Malcolm to take on President position.

**Action:** Mark to approach Malcolm Jellows. **Update**: Malcolm has accepted the role

**Any Other Business**

Report from - ESJBA-End of our first year as a Foundation we are pleased to announce that we have donated over £1700 towards 7 juniors (3 County) and 2 Foundation Coaches and made a donation to the Kent Badminton Supporters.   Already this season we have Co-Sponsored the Kent Para weekend, one L2 Coach course, paid for three coach's First Aid qualifications and supported the costs of a new club in the Eastbourne area. The season has yet to commence, so if you know of anything, anyone that needs financial support, then contact us or complete an Application form from our website.

 **Update on Mark Allen Legacy**

Evan led on Michael Quek’s but disappointing that he hadn’t done any Sussex events.

Maybe Malcolm could chase this next time.

 Action - We now need to find someone else to follow in Michaels footsteps.

 **Bruce Peapell award**

Finally, nomination for the Bruce Peapell Award: Martin Bilton, who has been associated with ESJBA for over 15 years and has run other junior groups in Eastbourne. He now Co-manages a new junior group in Hailsham and soon one in Heathfield with ex-Shropshire County player, Dom Jones. He is also a keen player and plays in the Eastbourne & District League.

 **Neil Warwick reported on a BE email from 18/7/25**

Sport that care - BE initiative – states there should be a named welfare officer by September 25 at each club by Sept 26 they need to have been trained. Every club’s website will need to include the safeguarding policy. There are 9 welfare officers in Sussex.

Henry Prothero introduced Lauren Rixon Sport Welfare Officer for Sussex

**Action** - Mark to pick up with Julia Alkema on next steps to achieve these directives and update the Sussex Website to County Welfare Officer (remove Child) and ensure her details are available for other Welfare Officers.

 **Question from David Joliffe**

 No Strings refreshed – is there a list of where the sessions are run ?

 **Action:** Mark can get hold of a list and send out.

Minutes by Sara Foster (Secretary)

Email: SCBA\_Secretary@mail.com