

Lancaster, Morecambe and District
Badminton League
Annual General Meeting
To be held on Wednesday 5th July 2023
At The Station, Caton commencing 7pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome - World Badminton Day

1. Apologies for absence - Glenys Knowles- Brookhouse BC and Emma Cornthwaite - Ingleton BC.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM which have already been circulated- were accepted as an accurate record by the meeting and signed by the Chair Nick Haigh.
3. Matters arising - The Tony Barker Trophy which was suggested by Hest Bank BC has been taken in house as no progress has been made by the League.
4. Chairs Report - Nick Haigh
Last year was a fairly good season.
Please can clubs raise any issues/problems with the League Committee quickly and not leave it for months before raising the issue. (Issues to be raised with the League Secretary).

Thank you to Adrian Greenwood for his work with the Friday beginners sessions and Adam from Bolton-le-Sands BC for running the Thursday evening summer sessions.
Jess Logue has taken over the Vice-Chair role when Sharon Hamer could no longer continue in that role.

Sandra Moody and David Costley-Woods have taken over running the end of season Tournament - many thanks to them.
Thank you to Jan Lund for all her years running the end of season Tournament. She will be missed.

Let's hope we have a good season next year.

5. Treasurer's Report - Linda Simms
The unaudited League accounts have been circulated to the committee and club secretaries.
Hopefully you have all had sight of a copy.

Many thanks to Peter Bracewell for auditing our accounts.

The League remains in a financially stable position. We hold a balance of almost £3,900.

The annual tournament was once again well supported and made a profit of £130. We increased the entry fees from around £6.50 per event to £8. This profit was also made possible due to the generous discount from Carnforth for the hall, plus a discount from Nigel at Classic Engravings, thank you to them both. The continuing success and popularity of our annual tournament is down to Jan, who not only donated her time but also quietly supported the tournament financially too. Thanks Jan, and all your helpers. You will be missed.
The used shuttles from the tournament were donated to the Youth Games, along with £100 from the League.

The annual presentation evening arranged by Brookhouse BC was also well supported and enjoyed and made a profit of £98.

With the rising costs we are experiencing the committee have reluctantly decided to increase the team fees to £50 per team for the upcoming 23/24 season. They have been at £40 per team for at least 10 years. The League has one source of income and our expenses cover:

League and Cup replicas and engraving - £550

Website costs - £90

League Secretary Honorarium -£70

Cup finals courts and shuttle expenses -£125

Plus coaching, donations, miscellaneous expenses and any losses on the tournament and presentation evening.

Whilst we remain in a stable position, should we need to pay upfront for events, we do need to have funds available to do so.

Linda Simms
Lancaster League Treasurer

6. Election of officers:

The President - Shirley Hodgson, Vice-Chair - Jess Logue and Chair- Nick Haigh and moving into their 3rd and final year of the term of office.

The positions below were approved by the meeting:

Hon. League Secretary - Mrs. G. Jackson (Hest Bank BC)

Hon. Treasurer - Linda Simms (Bolton-le-Sand BC). Linda will cover next season but will resign after that. **Any volunteers to take up this post please contact the League Secretary.**

Hon. Results and Fixtures Secretary - Gaye Jackson (Hest Bank BC)

Junior League representative - David McGonnigal (Ingleton BC)

Hon. Cup Secretary - David McGonnigal (Ingleton BC).

Hon. Tournament Secretary - Sandra Moody and David Costley-Woods (Sunnyside BC)

Hon. Auditor - Peter Bracewell (Storeys BC)

7. Proposals.

The proposals have been previously circulated to Club Secretaries.

1. Proposal 1 from League Committee

Structure for the League to have 3 or 4 Divisions.

Further to the document circulated to clubs, in February 2023, asking clubs for their views on this question, this proposal now gives clubs the opportunity to vote for their preference.

At present there are 3 Divisions- 9 teams in Division 1 playing 16 matches, 10 teams in Division 2 playing 18 matches and 6 teams in Division 3 playing 15 matches, as the teams played each other 3 times.

The League Committee are keen to ensure that all teams play a similar number of matches in a season and that the divisions include teams of a similar playing standard to ensure competitive play for all.

Option 1
3 Divisions

This suggestion will keep the same number of divisions but with levelling up over several years.

The meeting agreed that there should be 3 Divisions next season (16/9)

Option 2

4 Divisions starting 2023/2024 - Not voted on as the meeting already agreed 3 Divisions next season.

Split the 3 Divisions we had in the last season into 4 Divisions for next season (2023/2024).

If there are still 25 teams in the League there would be 6 or 7 teams in each division, based on the end of this seasons League table.

Teams will play each others 3 times, so there would be 15 or 18 matches for each team.

Option 3

4 Divisions starting 2024/2025. - Not voted on as meeting already agreed 3 Divisions next season.

Proposal 2 from Bolton-Le-Sands BC: For possibly 2024/2025 season -

4 Divisions of 6,6,6 & 7 (as of 25 teams this season)

This is how the League format might look:

5 league matches -2024 Week commencing 23rd September,
30th September,7th October, 14th October, 21st October

Spare week W/C 28th October

Cup split as per 2 trophies as now btw 1st and 2nd division and 3rd and 4th division as round robin competitions

Week commencing 4th November, 11th November, 18th November, 25th November, with cup finals week commencing 2nd December Weeks commencing 9th and 16th December free if teams need to re arrange matches and /or hold a Levels tournament.

2nd half of league matches 2025. Week commencing 6th January 13th January 20th January, 27th January, 3rd February,

Week commencing 10th February free if teams need to re arrange matches

Handicap tournament could be held any time after week commencing 17th February

Presentation night 30th March with all league, cup and tournament trophies presented.

BLS realises that this format could be changed, improved on but it is a starting point to help the dwindling number of teams still play as much badminton as possible. It has been proposed for 2025 as we appreciate it will need time to be looked at and possibly re-formatted.

2. Proposal 2 from the League Committee

Further to the document circulated to clubs, in February 2023, asking clubs for their views on this question, this proposal now gives clubs the opportunity to vote for their preference.

Extend loan scheme, now used in Division 3, to Division 2 teams as well. This means that Division 2 team players can register as a 'loan player' so they can play for other Division 2 club's teams.

This is only to be voted on if the vote for Proposal 1 is to maintain 3 divisions.

Clubs have to ensure that players from their Division 3 teams, if applicable, are asked to play first and if not available only then can a loan player from another Division 2 team be requested via the Club Secretaries.

The number of times a Division 2 loan player can play for another Division 2 club/team may have to be restricted and guidance/rules for this process produced.

This proposal was not agreed by the meeting.

3. Proposal from Sunnyside BC.

'Teams in Division 2 can use players in the Division 3 pool/loan system if they are unable to replace an unavailable Division 2 team member with a player from a lower team in their own club'.

This proposal was agreed by the meeting (18/6).

4. Add to 4 as 4d) under General in the League Handbook.

'Any team due to be promoted to a higher division may decline the promotion. The committee reserves the right to adjust the remaining teams to balance the league if necessary for the following season. The Committee to be flexible on relegation of the bottom team in the first division if winner of 2nd division declines the promotion.'

* VOTE - To add the additional paragraph to the League Handbook or not? YES/NO.

This proposal was not agreed by the meeting (16/8).

5. Proposal 2 from Sunnyside BC

This proposal is to replace League Handbook, Fixtures 1a).

' During the playing season, matches may only be postponed/cancelled due to playing hall availability. If a team cannot submit a full team, the resulting missed games are forfeited by that team and awarded to the opponent. Following the published season fixtures, clubs have until the start of the season to request rearrangement.'

* VOTE - YES/NO

This proposal was agreed but the meeting (11/10).

6. Proposal from Storeys BC

Hayhurst and Riley Cup

Currently handicaps can only be adjusted if a stronger player is picked than the normal 6 starred players for that team, where a team goes from -100 to -150.

Storeys BC amendment is to allow a handicap to be adjusted if a weaker player is picked than the normal 6 starred players, for example -100 to -50.

The level of adjustment to the handicap should be decided by the cup Secretary, after appeal from the club Secretary of the affected club.

* VOTE - YES/NO

The proposal was not agreed by the meeting (14/7)

8. A.O.B.

Gill Gardner (Sunnyside BC) thanked the League Committee for all their hard work over the past year on behalf of the League.

Next years end of season presentation event is to be organised by Hest Bank BC.

Gaye Jackson
League Secretary