



ESSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 8pm.

These minutes capture the conversation and are not verbatim.

#	Item	Notes
1	Apologies for Absence; ascertain a quorum (20% of membership - 10)	Denise French (MonkwickSP) Will (Sweyne) Sohaib (Harlow Eagles) Allison Pearson (Badminton Academy) Graham (Hutton All Saints Badminton Club) Kalpana (Chelmsford) Michelle Isted (Stanway) Kevin (SDJBA) Henry Prothero (Badminton England)
	Present	Eric Brown (President) Simon Gilhooly (Chair) Vicky Wrycraft (Secretary / Colchester Federation Rep) Kelvin Koon (Seniors) Alan Adkins (Juniors) Trevor Rogers (Masters) Amanda Austin (Welfare) Raff Badrinath (Essex League) Ravi Patel (Tournaments) Pam Lee (Committee) Tim Baskin (Southend Rep) Viv Gillard (Leighway) Richard Taylor (Epping) Colin Porter (SDJBA) Mike Worship (Fitzwimarc BC and as president of the Southend & District BA) Sandra Holbrook (Harlow)

		Phil Tuffee (East Thurrock) Marion Neale (Chelmsford Casuals) Gary Webb (Eastwood)
2	Opening Remarks - Chair (Simon Gilhooly)	We have had a successful season on court. The senior teams all achieved their goals. The juniors performed well too - the best for a while in the Shires league. Some successes in the Masters too. We have been active as an association. We have run lots of tournaments across abilities, disciplines and areas. There has been a regular programme of junior training and good coaches. Anthony Clarke recently did a guest session which was engaging. The Essex League was exciting this year. There were lots of very close leagues with more teams than we have had for a long time. Nearly all fixtures were fulfilled. SG attended the BE AGM: Information on BE subs fees has already been distributed. There is a new Development Officer for our area - Henry Prothero <henryprothero@badmintonengland.co.uk>. He has responsibility for all of the south east. Clubs can go to him or us with any issues. There is a working party looking at how to collaborate with Counties and feed into BE initiatives. They are trying to relaunch the National Badminton League - Simon is collaborating with Mike Tee (Suffolk CBA) to organise a team based in Ipswich / Colchester. There may be opportunities for Essex players to participate. We are in a better position money-wise than last year but it will still become an issue soon unless we continue to work on it. . Thanks to the committee, team captains and parents for their time and effort. Eric remembered Roy Lord who we lost this year. He was a long standing member of the badminton community and Essex Committee and will be missed.

		Mike remembered Graham Goodale who also recently passed away. He was a committed county player for Essex and will also be missed.
3	Minutes of 2024 AGM - Secretary (Vicky Wrycraft)	Approved
4	Presentation of Reports	
4a	Welfare Officer's Report - County Welfare Officer (Amanda Austin)	See report circulated previously. A fairly quiet year. A few issues which were mostly dealt with by us but some support from BE. Please sign up to BE welfare courses which are available for free. They are online, around 3 hours long. There are lots available. Thanks to Amanda for her dedication to this.
4b	Juniors' Report - Juniors Coordinator (Alan Adkins)	See report circulated previously. Thanks to team managers, volunteers and Amanda. Discussion around where do juniors go when they become adults? We need them in local clubs but lots seem to disappear! Alan is open to ideas as to how to get them to keep playing. Many go to university. Some do come back and play on the senior circuit. Suggestion to get them into clubs before they go away to uni - try to use links to junior clubs in the area. Clubs may wish to target those players who may be just below county selection level. Junior clubs in Southend are struggling due to lack of L2 coaches - they would probably be able to run 3 or 4 more clubs if they had more coaches and places to play. One club has someone who is likely to retire and they can't find anyone to take it over (he does it for free). Essex might be able to try and assist finding someone but local people are more likely to know who this is. Could Essex support financially with training someone? Potentially, we have done in the past but more a case of having enough people! ACTION: ECBA committee to take this away and discuss if Essex can provide any support.

4c	Seniors' Report - Seniors Coordinator (Kelvin Koon)	See report circulated previously. As it has been his first season in this role, Kelvin thanked a number of people for their support, including Simon, the selection committee (Caroline Westley, Rosemary Allan and Micheal Kong) and the team captains. He was pleased to have fielded teams for all the weekends and accomplished all of the goals set at the start of the season. First Team - promotion to Championship Second Team - retained place in Div1S Third Team - retained place in Div2SE Fourth Team - retained place in Div3SE Please share the details of the restricted tournament to increase the entry this year - it is already available on Tournament Software. There will also be a form to complete to indicate if you wish to be considered for county selection.
4d	Masters' Report - Masters Coordinator (Trevor Rogers)	See additional report Trevor will soon be sharing a feedback form to, amongst other things, generate ideas about how to finance the Masters section, which ran a large deficit in the season.
4e	Tournaments' Report - Tournament Secretary (Ravi Patel)	Lots of tournaments have been held with quite a few profitable ones. We have been working hard to collaborate with Redbridge which has helped with booking courts. There has been lots of help from Alan to do junior tournaments. We have already booked some key dates for 2026. We are also looking for alternative venues with 8 courts (please let us know if you have any in mind!) which will support us with trying to grow the book of tournaments.
4f	League Secretary's Report (Raff Badrinath)	See report circulated previously. Excellent competition this season, although two teams had to

		withdraw mid-season. Entry forms for the new season will be sent out soon. In the Essex League open doubles, you can have men, ladies, or both in a pair. At the recent AGM, there was some dissent in the Southend league around this which was shared at this AGM. Leagues can still make their own rules on this. Eric raised concern over the lack of women's doubles - what can we do about this? An idea was a women's day of action (as a project may get funding from BE). Raff confirmed the women's doubles pairs league has only 3 teams. One team will be withdrawing so may not be feasible next season.
5	Treasurer's Report (Simon Gilhooly)	We started the season by establishing budgets for the 3 sections: seniors, masters and juniors. Last year we increased membership fees which made a significant difference to our income. We worked hard through the season to monitor our position against budget. Poor invoicing from suppliers made this harder than it ought to be. Seniors saw a big improvement but mainly due to not offering travel support to the First team - collection of match fees was good. The Masters section ran over budget. Detailed analysis was carried out to find out how. All match fees were paid. Match fees (£10) cover the costs of running the games but not the fees for entering the teams which go to BE. Central Park fees went up enormously which was an issue. It was nearly double the cost of running it at Chalkwell, for example. Other venues are in the middle. We are also probably over booking on court time to be safe and finish the match which might be able to be looked at for next year. Juniors - Group 4 was poorly supported by juniors and so we tried to top up with adults - this had limited impact so we have now stopped

		that group. Costs for ICT are mitigated by parent contributions and the Napier Trust (which will last for about 2 more years so this will need to be looked at in the future). We ran more tournaments this year but the total profit remained the same. Venues, shuttles and organisers had increased. There was a £3300 'donation' from another account that we held which helped us to seemingly break even but basically lost about £3000 over the season. We are trying to track 'assets' e.g. shuttles, medals etc but it's tricky to be accurate. We still have a balance of £14,500. At the current rate, we would be in serious difficulty in 3-4 years time. We may have to look at increasing match fees. Mike offered thanks to Simon for his hard work this season and this comprehensive report.
5a	Auditor's Report	Simon thanked the auditor (Mike Frost) for his careful checking and rigorous questions. There is a written record that he is happy with accounts.
5b	Adoption of statement of 2024/25 accounts	Treasurer (Simon Gilhooly) The audited accounts were accepted by a show of hands.
5c	Membership fees for 2025/26 - Chair/Treasurer	After discussion at the meeting, it was decided to set the fees at: £6 for adults (the same) £2 juniors (up £1)

6	Election of Officers <i>Day-to-day Management of ECBA is invested in the Management Committee. Per the Rules of Association, the entire Management Committee must retire each year and may be proposed for re-appointment. Any new nominations should be sent to the Secretary in advance of the meeting. Nominations are determined by simple majority voting at the AGM.</i>		
	Post	Current Holder	Proposed for (re-) appointment in 2025/26
	President	Eric Brown	Yes
	Chair	Simon Gilhooly	Yes
	Vice Chair	Michael Kong	Yes
	Welfare Officer	Amanda Austin	Yes
	Treasurer	Simon Gilhooly	Yes
	Secretary	Vicky Wrycraft	Yes
	Auditor	Mike Frost	Yes
The meeting agreed to re-elect the officers for another year by show of hands.			
	Management Committee members		
	Tournament Coordinator	Ravi Patel	Yes
	Juniors Coordinator	Alan Adkins	Yes
	Seniors Coordinator	Kelvin Koon	Yes
	Masters Coordinator	Trevor Rogers	Yes
	County League Secretary	Raff Badrinath	Yes
	League Representatives Each affiliated league is entitled to send a representative (with full voting rights) to ECBA meetings. The current league representatives are: Southend & District League - Tim Baskett Colchester & District League – Vicky Wrycraft		

7	Any Other Business
	CP raised an issue of false claims on the website of one member club regarding their status. This has been raised with the club in question and they agree to update their website accordingly