



# 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes



## BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting

27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 10:30

Holiday Inn Reading – South Basingstoke Rd, Reading RG2 0SL

Approved at the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 AGM

### Voting Members Present

BC Vetra  
Belles Baseball  
Brighton Baseball Club  
Bristol Baseball Club  
Essex Baseball Club  
Guildford Baseball Club  
Herts Baseball Club  
Kent Buccaneers Baseball Club  
Kent Mariners Baseball Club  
Legends Baseball Club  
London Mets Baseball Club  
LYBL  
Manchester Baseball Club  
Norwich Icenis Baseball Club  
Taunton Baseball Club

### Observes Present

LondonSports

### Board Officials Present

BBF Erik Gustafson, National Teams Programme Official & Interim Presiding Officer (EG)  
BBF Kent Boswell, Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner (KB)  
BBF Earl Dix, Secretary (*Co-opted*) (ED)  
BBF Chris Carter, Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner (*Co-opted*) (CC)  
BBF Chris Deacon, Officials Commissioner (*Co-opted*) (CD)

### Apologies for absence

Bracknell Baseball Club  
Cornish Claycutters Baseball Club,  
Croydon Pirates Baseball Club  
Milton Keynes Baseball Club  
RBI Wales  
WB UK Nomads  
Weston Jets Baseball Club

### Minutes Written by

Kent Boswell



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<b>Meeting Commences at 11:20am</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Roll Call, Non-Financial Voting Members, Observers, Associations</b></p> <p>Roll call was taken and the AGM was deemed quorate due to the percentage of Voting Members present.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>EG as meeting chair welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Bristol Baseball Club thanked the current Board for putting their efforts in to finish the season.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Appointment of Tally Keepers</b></p> <p>Kent Boswell and Robin Banerjee were appointed as tally keepers.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of the Previous AGM and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No minutes from the previous AGM were presented to the Members.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Balance Sheet and 2021 Accounts</b></p> <p>CD begins his presentation of the 2021 Accounts, commencing with a presentation of the Profit and Loss. A key point raised by CD is that the £1 fee per player has been nearly impossible to reconcile.</p> <p>An open discussion from the floor ensues on the 2021 balance sheet.</p> <p>The topic of insurance is raised from the floor. EG states that the issue with Insurance is that the Federation is only collecting around half of what insurance costs are, and this is artificially low and being subsidized by donations and other sources. According to EG the BBF is in our insurance renewal period, and we have an extension until the 8<sup>th</sup> December. EG stated that we will receive a proposal prior to that date. The Board has assumed that there will be a 20% increase. There are multiple reasons for this, including lawsuit threats. £85 is too low and there are not enough people playing to pay the £1 to cover the cost.</p> <p>Ian Marchmant from Manchester baseball Club asks whether now is the time to ask where that £1 came from and if this was an insurance requirement? EG states the answer is no and thinks In principle was that if you paid the £1, then you were a part of the Federation and covered. There was an assumption 1,245 players would pay and the black arc is do we charge a team fee? Do we charge a club fee? Kent Mariners states this is technically the BBF selling insurance and that is in breach of FCA rules, someone could have reported the BBF. Going forward, the BBF will make clear the membership fee includes insurance cover under the applicable limits.</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Financial Matters 2022 Budget</b></p> <p>Open discussion of the proposed 2022 Budget begins. CD acknowledges that due to the resignations of board members and the treasurer it has been hard to create a budget for the year. CD proposes gathering feedback from this group on a number of outstanding issues that affect the 2022 BBF budget.</p> <p>Full open discussion ensued on the issue of the BBF's domains and CD set forth 3</p>



options to the floor. The issue of data recovery is debated and a history of domain(s) ownership is discussed (covering britishbaseball, SportEngine and Ionos). *Please note the following discussion has been redacted for legal and confidential reasons.*

CD pulls up the EG spreadsheet ending in "...v2\_eg suggestions" and changes expenses to £27,009. Here the BBF would need £275 per team adult, £150 per team women and £150 per team youth. Manchester asks why the women's fee less than men's – CD answers that the women do not play as much, the end of their season isn't as big, and we are encouraging women's team growth. Christian Carter ((CC) prior to AGM, the Co-Opted BBF Senior Leagues Commissioner for the 2021 season) answers that the majority of women players also play in the Seniors League, so it is hard to charge them the same as when only playing 50%.

CD raises the reserves question and states that what reserves the BBF should have should be driven from what the hard costs are. Currently the reserves consist of members' money that has accumulated over the years. CD proposed that the Board should come back to the members say what our reserve policy will be. Manchester noted that there are two competing things to bear in mind: (1) unincorporated association suggests having a minimum of 1 year of reserves (guidelines – if you had a "normal" year, so £20K+ odd so that's your base; and, (2) competing with that – the unincorporated, most are not for profit, you should be spending the money you are saving each year – not supposed to come out with a profit.

Richard Evans from Bristol Baseball Club asks an expenditure question: last year we spent ~£4K but the budget for 2022 is near £10K and seems unreasonable. CD replied that we do not know which nominal codes match other items in the accounts. CC states game balls for instance, when speaking with Dave Kettle (Senior Leagues Commissioner who resigned in May 2021), the cost for balls and general equipment was included in that £1,800 and then the umpires (£2,180) was elsewhere, the championship categories are low because they were picked up elsewhere.

Bristol states the level of fees for clubs and the level of insurance is really important and it knows that clubs are "hard up" and an increase from £175 (acknowledge this is low) plus £100 could be financially restrictive for the majority of clubs. CD says we are in a situation where we under-recovered insurance this year. Bristol thinks insurance is a different question.

The memberships agree to take out the expenditure tied to the domains issue.

CD moved to analyse the proposed discretionary spending. How much do we spend to develop to make the game better as this will help the Federation's annual membership fees. It was proposed that the Federation go through and see how fees have changed over the last decade and compare to other sports in Britain. Ian Marchmont from Manchester states our sport expense per club is not cheap but what we pay to the Federation is not a lot compared to other sports. CD places on the projector screen the 2015 Fees Proposal slide showing how much different the fees per team were. Manchester makes clear everything costs more than 5 years ago.

The proposal is that the fallback position should be about break even. Taunton makes the point on independent leagues affiliation – at the moment they are paying nothing, but if an independent pays £385, the argument is, what is the BBF giving them that they do not have already? This is the argument Independents have at every AGM, it was a hard sell, luckily the insurance cost was low, and we end up paying £270, pretty much the same we would pay purely for insurance. If we offer independents a way in, we can get more Affiliated clubs in – will that lower the cost?

Brighton asks what the true costs are of running the league versus running the sport. CD



	<p>indicates the answer has to factor in certain assumptions – do clubs still want to play in some form of a national championship, via Affiliation fee, or do they pay a Championship entry cost, if that’s the way you want to do it. The NGB runs the NBC/YNBC, then look at other things. Manchester states the data exists, probably about 90% of it is the softball model – been run that way for years, you Affiliate to your local league and the league affiliates with the NGB. Let’s look at BSF financial info.</p> <p>London Mets recommends zeroing out coach development because it is club-led. Officials’ development line is understandable</p> <p>Taunton states it does not have a fee for its league and never has done, so we don’t even have an account. Manchester says the MyWBSC app is the sole selling point for affiliating with the BBF, in the North someone played that was not eligible, and WBSC helped fix this.</p> <p>Vigorous debate continues with statements, comments and questions raised by Bristol, Herts, London Mets and Kent Mariners.</p> <p>Due to the debate and the input from the members, CD concludes at 13:06 that there will be no vote on the Budget at this AGM and the Board will gather more metrics to put together a 2022 budget to come back to the members as soon as possible.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Election of Board Officials</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>President</b> Tom Thornhill (Elected) Chris Deacon
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner</b> Chris Carter (Elected unopposed as Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner)
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Secretary</b> Earl Dix Unopposed (Elected unopposed as Secretary)
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Development Official</b> Lee Manning (Elected unopposed as Development Official)
	<b>Meeting Adjourned 13.20pm</b>