



# 2022 Extraordinary General Meeting Minutes



**BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION (BBF)**  
Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 20:00  
Online via Zoom  
Approved at the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 AGM

## **Voting Members Present**

Belles Baseball  
Bournemouth Bears  
Brighton Baseball Club  
Bristol Baseball Club  
East London Latin Boys  
Essex Arrows  
Essex Redbacks  
Herts Baseball Club  
Kent Buccaneers Baseball Club  
Kent Mariners  
Legends Baseball  
London Mets Baseball Club  
LYBL  
Manchester Baseball Club  
Milton Keynes Baseball Club  
Norwich Icenis Baseball Club  
Richmond Baseball Club  
WB-UK Nomads  
WB-UK

## **Board Officials Present**

BBF Tom Thornhill, President (TT)  
BBF Erik Gustafson, National Teams Programme Official & Interim Presiding Officer (EG)  
BBF Earl Dix, Secretary (ED)  
BBF Lee Manning (LM)  
BBF Chris Carter, Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner (CC)  
BBF Chris Deacon, Officials Commissioner (*Co-opted*) (CD)

## **Minutes Written by**

Tom Thornhill



<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Decisions</b>
	<b>Meeting Commences at 20:05pm</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Chair's Welcome</b></p> <p>TT welcomed the attendees and explained the purpose of the meeting was to approve the 2022 British Baseball Federation budget and to review five proposed resolutions to the BBF Constitution.</p> <p>TT clarified that the vote on the items proposed would not be a secret ballot as it was normal at general meetings and a show of hands for a simple majority will be sufficient. ED will be keeping a tally of the votes and TT will be verifying this in the document.</p> <p>TT took a roll call and it was agreed that the EGM was quorate.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Approval and Adoption of the BBF 2022 Budget and Fees</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>The Approval of the BBF 2022 Budget and Fees</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> To adopt one of the two budgets and to approve the associated fee structure.</p> <p>Option 1 – using £4,935 reserves (Board recommended)</p> <p>Senior team £250 Women's team £150 Youth team £125</p> <p>Option 2 – using no reserves</p> <p>Senior team £330 Women's team £200 Youth team £150</p> <p>CD presented the two budget options to the members. CD stated that this was following on from the 2021 AGM and that there were a number of items that needed to be resolved. CD also added that the BBF should not separate out the insurance element of any fees as acknowledged at the 2021 AGM and this is reflected in the current budget.</p> <p>CD also noted that the fee structure is also a straight-line fee structure on a per team basis.</p> <p>Richard Evans from Bristol Baseball Club asked for a breakdown of the proportionate split of insurance per team. CD stated that around 40% of the cost is attributed to insurance in the fees and that there was no difference to this cost based on the two fees proposed.</p> <p>Ian Marchmant from Manchester Baseball Club asked why the sliding scale fee structure had been removed. CD answered that in terms of the insurance element, the BBF should not be breaking it out of membership fees. As a result of the under collection of insurance fees from last year, the new straight-lined structure was fairer as a proportion to make up that shortfall. CD stated that this year the BBF will have a proper review of the fee structure and will also outline what levels of reserves are appropriate for the Federation to hold.</p> <p>Miguel asked for a breakdown of the income. CD said he would try and address this in the review of the budget.</p>



Pepe asked if the BBF are still using the same insurers. CD stated that the BBF is still using Howdens as the Federation's insurance brokers.

Doris Hocking from WBUK stated that she believed that women teams should not have to pay the same amount for insurance as the women's league only plays 6 games each year. Doris also requested a breakdown of the income and expenditure. CD stated that he understood the point.

CD moved to present the expenditure table. CD noted that not much had changed from the proposal at the 2021 AGM. The only changes that were included in these budget options were the inclusions of the women's fee reinvestment. In order to keep the reserves usage down the BBF has also been looking at how to recoup costs from development activities. As CD stated that this is only a forecast and conclusions cannot be drawn until we know exactly how many teams have registered.

Richard Evans from Bristol Baseball Club asked about the expenditure relation to the National Baseball Championships and wanted to know where that significant extra expenditure came from and also stated that he thinks the BBF should take Farnham Park off the table for 2022. CD clarified that this was the budget from last year as drafted and is currently a best guess until the venues have been decided upon. Richard Evans also felt that at the 2022 AGM it was acknowledged by the members that we should maintain using BBF clubs for the Championships. CD noted that the venues have not been finalized yet, the budget was done to account for using Farnham Park just in case. Senior women's and youth come to £2900 for venues, most likely going to have another regional league joining the BBF so we have to account for additional games. Richard also asked about the £3000 historic pledge to WB-UK and what the money was being put towards. CD stated that the £1900 is equipment spend which WBUK has. Doris Hocking from WBUK added that she has an invoice of £1900 for equipment and the £3000 was originally pledged by the former president pledged to help set up WBUK.

Ian Marchmant also added that this budget is a worst-case scenario and that the BBF should propose budget that account for this scenario. This budget does not indicate that the BBF will be using Farnham but is only accounting for the fact in the event of the facilities usage. As a not for profit the BBF needs to be using the reserves unless we have them set aside for something specific. We shouldn't have over a year's money in the bank as a not for profit and we can't be building up reserves year on year. According to Ian the bottom line is we have £30,000 in the bank and we shouldn't have that amount if it is in excess of our annual costs.

Richard Evans Bristol Baseball Club asked for clarification on the Insurance coverage. Richard asked whether the insurance covers training as well and friendlies for all clubs. CD answered that the insurance covers any baseball activity for a BBF affiliated club as long as it is sanctioned by the BBF and the Club. Antony Piccolo from Kent Mariners added that it doesn't just cover teams but all activities as sanctioned by the BBF. The more teams you have the more exposure there is for the insurers. Antony stated that we did investigate finding cheaper solution however due to claims the BBF has had to claim it has become difficult for anyone to offer terms based on these ongoing claims.

Ian Marchmant from Manchester Baseball Club added that the BBF's insurance also covers historical incidences. It covers this year, training and for previous years. Ian was not aware whether games abroad would be covered under the policy and added that it is possible for the BBF to get cheaper insurance however it was selected due to what coverage it provides. The coverage selected is not the lowest and it is certainly not the highest either.



	<p>TT then called for a vote of the members.</p> <p><b>VOTE; 18 For Option 1, 1 For Option 2, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
3	<p><b>Resolutions for the Modifications to the BBF Constitution</b></p> <p>The resolutions considered at this EGM shall each be separately voted upon. Each resolution shall be voted by a Member as 'Yes', 'No' or 'Abstain'. For a resolution to be approved, the number of 'Yes' votes must exceed the total of 'No' and 'Abstain' votes that are cast.</p> <p>CD clarified the purpose of this vote to that this section was to tidy up elements of the constitution and went through each of the resolutions.</p>
3.1	<p><b>Resolution 1</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Removal of the background section of the constitution.</p> <p>According to CD, the section that Resolution 1 is removing in his opinion seems to have been added without a membership vote. As a result, this resolution removes the paragraph from the document. Richard Evans asks if the status of NGB is still in the constitution anywhere else. CD clarifies that this is still in clause 2.2.</p> <p>ED suggests to TT that the vote takes abstentions and rejections first in the interest of time. TT agrees and the votes proceed starting with rejections and abstentions first.</p> <p>CC on behalf of the Kent Buccaneers asks why this clause needs to be removed. CD answers that it didn't seem to add anything relevant to the constitution and it is not an articulated point.</p> <p>The BBF Constitution (version 27 Nov 21) contains a 'Background' section before the defined articles as follows:</p> <p><i>Background: The British Baseball Federation is the National Governing Body (NGB) of baseball in Great Britain. It oversees the sport of baseball, e.g., (but not limited to) organising senior and youth baseball leagues, national competitions, sets rules and policies, and is responsible for our National Team Programme (GB Baseball).</i></p> <p><i>Everyone (board members, volunteers, officials, players and participants) involved with the BBF are required to adhere to our rules, guidelines, policies, procedures and constitution.</i></p> <p><b>APPROVED; 18 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention</b></p> <p>Richard Evans from Bristol Baseball Club asks for clarification on the voting which includes abstentions as outlined on page 9 of the EGM pack. Abstentions in Richard's mind do not count towards the vote. TT outlines that Richard is right and instead the voting will take a simple majority.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Resolution 2</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Amendment to the BBF Constitution</p> <p>CD states that this resolution is a spelling and a grammatical error correction.</p> <p>Article 4.6 of the BBF Constitution (version 27 Nov 21) in respect of the Participants</p>



	<p>representation at General Meetings:</p> <p><i>Only Participants associated with an Affiliated Clubs' shall represent their Affiliated Club at General Meetings.</i></p> <p>Article 4.6 shall be modified to state the following:</p> <p><i>Only Participants associated with an Affiliated Club shall represent their Affiliated Club at General Meetings.</i></p> <p><b>APPROVED; 19 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
3.3	<p><b>Resolution 3</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Amendment to the BBF Constitution</p> <p>CD outlines that in order for the BBF Constitution to reflect the actual Board positions, the Constitution will need to update clause 5 and remove the note designated 5.</p> <p>Richard Evans from Bristol Baseball Club asks if this amendment limits the Board. CD answers that all this change does is reflect where the Board currently stands as it is currently operating. If the Federation would need to change this list, then it may call an EGM to do so. Ian Marchmont from Manchester Baseball Club adds that the constitution can be changed as much as it wants by the membership as it is a flexible document.</p> <p>Article 5.3 and its related Note 5 of the BBF Constitution (version 27 Nov 21) in respect of the composition of the BBF Board currently states:</p> <p><i>The Board shall consist of up to thirteen (13)5 Officials:</i></p> <p>5.3.1. <i>President</i>  5.3.2. <i>Secretary</i>  5.3.3. <i>Treasurer</i>  5.3.4. <i>Development Official</i>  5.3.5. <i>National Teams Programme Official</i>  5.3.6. <i>Officials Commissioner</i>  5.3.7. <i>Coaches Commissioner</i>  5.3.8. <i>Northern Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner (5)</i>  5.3.9. <i>Southern Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner</i>  5.3.10. <i>Southern Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner</i>  5.3.11. <i>Southern Youth Affiliated Clubs Assistant League Commissioner (5)</i>  5.3.12. <i>Northern Youth Affiliated Clubs Assistant League Commissioner (5)</i></p> <p><i>5 This was revised to 10 Board members as there is no longer a Northern Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner (as there is no Northern League affiliated with the BBF), Northern Youth Affiliated Clubs Assistant League Commissioner, Southern Youth Affiliated Clubs Assistant League Commissioner.</i></p> <p>Article 5.3 shall be modified to state the following and Note 5 removed:</p> <p><i>The Board shall consist of up to nine (9) Officials:</i></p> <p>5.3.1. <i>President</i>  5.3.2. <i>Secretary</i>  5.3.3. <i>Treasurer</i>  5.3.4. <i>Development Official</i>  5.3.5. <i>National Teams Programme Official</i></p>



	<p>5.3.6. <i>Officials Commissioner</i>          5.3.7. <i>Coaches Commissioner</i>          5.3.8. <i>Senior Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner</i>          5.3.9. <i>Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner</i></p> <p><b>APPROVED; 19 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
3.4	<p><b>Resolution 4</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Amendment to the BBF Constitution</p> <p>CD clarifies that this is a follow on from Resolution 3 as is proposed in order for the Constitution to be consistent with the new clause that was just amended.</p> <p>Article 5.4 of the BBF Constitution (version 27 Nov 21) in respect of the collective name of Board Officials states:</p> <p><i>The Officials at 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4 and 5.3.5 shall be collectively termed “Officers”. The Officials at 5.3.6 and 5.3.7 shall be collectively termed “Commissioners”. The Officials at 5.3.8, 5.3.9, 5.3.10 and 5.3.11 shall be collectively termed “League Commissioners”. The Officials at 5.3.12 and 5.3.13 shall be collectively termed “Assistants” and shall be co-opted by the Board on the recommendation of the Youth Commissioners at 5.3.9 and 5.3.11</i></p> <p>Article 5.4 shall therefore be modified to state the following:</p> <p><i>The Officials at 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 5.3.4 and 5.3.5 shall be collectively termed “Officers”. The Officials at 5.3.6 and 5.3.7 shall be collectively termed “Commissioners”. The Officials at 5.3.8 and 5.3.9 shall be collectively termed “League Commissioners”</i></p> <p><b>APPROVED; 19 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>
3.5	<p><b>Resolution 5</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> Amendment to the BBF Constitution</p> <p>CD stated to the membership that he has not been able to locate a resolution that enacts this change to the financial year dates of the Federation.</p> <p>CD also asked the membership to make note of any inconsistencies or errors on review of the Constitution and to bring these to the attention of the BBF Board.</p> <p>Article 9.1 of the BBF Constitution (version 27 Nov 21) in respect of the Financial Year currently states:</p> <p><i>The BBF financial year shall run from November 1 to October 31 except for the 2010 financial year, which is to run from 1 January 2010 to 31 October 2010.</i></p> <p>Article 9.1 shall therefore be modified to state the following:</p> <p><i>The BBF financial year shall run from October 1 to September 30</i></p> <p><b>APPROVED; 19 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions</b></p>