



BEAUFORT BADMINTON CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting February 2026

The meeting was chaired by Ivan Fowler (chairman) on Tuesday 24th February 2026, 7:30pm at the chairman's house.

Thanks to Ivan and Anna for hosting and catering the meeting..

Apologies

There were no apologies and all committee members attended.

Chairperson's report

Ivan Fowler had nothing to report.

Secretary's report

Nick Hounsome had nothing to report.

Section report: Beaufort Park

Jackie Millward reported:

Beaufort Park continues to thrive with 62 members, made up of 43 men and 19 women. We have 3 very talented juniors who are regular attenders and very keen to improve their game. Many congratulations to Brandon Fong who won gold in the singles event at the Oxfordshire u15 bronze event back in November and gold and silver at the u15 Wiltshire and a silver at Avon's u15 singles event. Many of our senior members are very active on the master's circuit and congratulations to Richard Irvine on retaining his open doubles title at the Oxfordshire Masters. Finally, over the weekend of 12-13 January the Masters inter county championships were played in Bournemouth and Eastleigh. Beaufort players played key roles in various teams, but the o70s and o60s succeeded in gaining promotion to premiership status for next year. Many congratulations to Penny Shears, who was part of the over 70's winning team and to Richard Irvine and Viv Nash who played in the over 60's team.

Enquires from potential new members to either join or come for a trial session are constant. Therefore, we have had to limit the number of visitors each week to 3 where we can and have set a limit on the total membership to 65. If you as a member would like to invite a visitor you must clear this with myself or Josh beforehand and not later than the day before. Do not assume it's ok just to say come along as we may have to turn that individual away. I receive a few complaints regarding the number of visitors and to manage this we are trying to keep them to a minimum.

As always, there seems to be an abundance of men wishing to play badminton and very few women. We are turning away most requests for membership, which is a shame, but we are





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in a very fortunate position with the quality of the membership and want to strengthen that rather than stand still.

Average weekly attendance from the current membership is between 35 to 40. Half court singles are very popular, with two courts and sometimes three being used for the first hour. Whilst this is fantastic to see, the impact on shuttle usage is noticeable and will have a knock-on effect to the costs of our section. This is an area that we may have to address and look for a solution that is fair and reflected in the subscription paid. Going forward, we as a section will have to address our court usage after 10pm. We currently only pay for one court after 10pm, but regularly are using two or three courts and sometimes all five courts. Kingsdown sports centre are aware of this, and it is very likely that they will start to charge us. Discussions are under way, costs etc. are being looked at and how we manage the use of these courts as well.

Looking forward, it is vital that the section has at least two section reps to run club nights and process the admin. I would like to thank Nigel for his continuing support on club nights and for those of you that also help out. The section does need a committed team here otherwise areas like the income collected from visitors will fall, which in turn would then lead to an increase in your subs to cover this loss. This is just one part of the section rep's role, but perhaps something that you are not that aware of. Please contact me/have a chat on club night if you are interested in getting involved.

Section report: Wednesday Advanced

Vince Laporta reported:

The Wednesday section is performing very well this year and has reached full capacity, with 33 fully paid members. We are also managing a high volume of visitor enquiries, although visitor numbers remain limited. Overall, the section is running smoothly with no significant issues to report.

We are pleased to welcome a female member this year, which is a positive development as we have not had one for several years.

The courts have been improved with the installation of new nets, kindly purchased by the Monday Section. However, the courts now require new white lines, as the existing lines are heavily worn and, in some areas, completely missing.

Section report: Monday general

Dave Melaney reported:

The winter season has proved highly popular with a full cohort of 48 full members, despite a fee increase, along with an affiliate group of 13. The affiliate group is currently smaller compared to the 19 we had at the end of Summer 2025 due to the strength of the group with many wishing to play every week. This is testament to the strength and popularity of the section. However, it has had a slight negative impact.





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Due to the popularity of our section, half the weeks over the winter season so far have resulted in us not having any availability for visitors. The downside to this is we have lost extra income that the visitors bring to the club, which based on 2 visitors a week usually means a loss of £169.

We continue to have a lot of interest from visitors, and I continue to add them to our section on Spond, which we use to manage the section. In recent weeks have been allowing more than 2 visitors, an amount agreed by full members in the section, on occasion to try and bring extra funds in.

I will look at making some adjustments over the summer season to hopefully reduce the potential losses before the end of the year. Prior to the AGM I will formulate a new proposal for the 2026/27 season which at this moment appears to show a need for further fee increases. I believe it would still be in line or under what other clubs are charging in Bristol. I will look at the finer details between now and the AGM.

Section report: Juniors

Penny Shears reported:

We have a really good group of players coming to the junior sessions.

We have 4 courts at Cotham school on Monday evenings, we were a little low on numbers in September as we lost a few players over the summer. We have however picked up with the numbers since November.

Unfortunately due to exams in the hall we have not been able to run for the previous 3 weeks but return on 23rd Feb.

We have a good mix of boys and girls, mostly 14 age group some come along because they are doing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Pleasingly they seem to continue once they complete it.

Thanks go to Jackie and also Louis Irvine who come along to help.

We finish at Easter due to the light problem with the sun coming through the windows and exams.

Treasurer's report

Alastair Byrne reported no issues with the club finances although there was some discussion of the uncertain future of Shine and the impact on the sports hall.

Discussion about the role of Club Welfare Officer(s)

Nigel has volunteered for this.

Alterations to the constitution are required.





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Discussion about the Constitution and how to change it.

Nick pointed out the problems with the definition of a quorum and the difficulty in getting the constitution changed. It was agreed that a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of committee members should be sufficient for a quorum and that the new constitution could be agreed by the general membership prior to the next AGM by setting up online polls for each section.

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be the AGM, provisionally set for Tuesday 14th July 2026.

Other Business

The chairman provided us all with some excellent cake 🍰

Nick Hounsome (Secretary)

