



# BOARD BASKETBALL ENGLAND

## 83<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 18.00

**Location:** Via Teams

**Present:**

**Chair** - Paul Blanchard (PB)

**CEO** - Stewart Kellett (SK)

**Teller** - Karen Bailey (KB)

**Minute Taker** - Helen Penn (HP)

**Board Members:**

Paul Mundy-Castle (PMC)

Chris Walsh (CW)

Sadie Mason (SM)

Brandie Deigan (BD)

Matthew Newby (MN)

Born Barikor (BB)

Joel Baynes (JB)

List of external attendees in **Appendix A**.

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### **Item No. 1 Welcome from the Chair and appointment of Teller**

PB opened the meeting welcoming everyone to the 83rd AGM for Basketball England, thanking everyone for their attendance, notably the Regional Chairs whose tireless work and passion allow so much enjoyment and success in the game.

PB took the opportunity to thank four previous members of the Board, Matt Neville, Russell Levenston, Graham Biggs and Russell Bell whose terms were completed in 2024, acknowledging their contributions throughout their tenure. PB also welcomed the new Board members, Joel Baynes, Brandie Deigan, Katie Simmonds and Sandy Gill to Basketball England Board.

Karen Bailey (KB) was appointed as Teller, who stated that the meeting was quorate and could proceed.

## **Item No. 2 Matters Arising**

PB informed the meeting that there were 2 Observers present, who do not have voting rights. He also mentioned that 6 questions had been submitted in advance of the AGM, and these would be addressed as part of the agenda, with full responses sent to the Club that raised them. PB encouraged anyone wishing to make additional comments or ask further questions to use the chat function. The Officers will respond to these within the next 3 working days, directly to the member.

## **Item No. 3 Minutes from the 82nd Annual General Meeting, held on 28th March 2024**

The minutes were approved.

## **Item No. 4 Annual Report (Year Ending 31st March 2024)**

PB highlighted key aspects of the Annual Report, including an increase in participation figures, with notable growth in the national league, membership, coaching, and officiating. He emphasised that the challenge moving forward is to continue developing the infrastructure for leagues, clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers, and playing environments to meet the rising demand. PB mentioned that the Board will focus more intensively on these areas in the 2025-2029 strategy.

PB also addressed some of the challenges faced during this period with the digital platform. He shared that PlayHQ, the new service provider selected through the tender process, is currently working on configuring the platform in time for the start of the 2025/26 season.

## **Item No. 3 Annual Accounts (Year Ending 31st March 2024)**

As Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee (AFR), CW presented the annual accounts, noting that they had been audited and approved by Sedulo, as well as by the Basketball England Board.

CW explained that Sedulo, specialists in the field, offer a broad range of business support, which is a valuable asset to BE. Key points in the accounts include continued financial stability, particularly after the challenging period from 2020 to 2022 due to the impact of Covid. CW also highlighted that the AFR committee recognises the need for increased investment in digital and services, both of which are emphasised in the 2025-2029 strategy.

The Accounts were noted.

## **Item No. 4 Appointment of Auditors for the financial year 2024/25.**

CW recommended to the meeting that Sedulo Audit, our current auditors, should be appointed for the forthcoming financial year. The voting members voted (see results below).

**Vote**

Yes = 16

No = 0

Abstentions= 0

It was agreed that Sedulo Audit should remain as the appointed Auditors for 2024/25.

**Item No. 5 Q&A's Submitted prior to the AGM**

***Questions from Sam Longley Manchester Magic and Mystics***

***Question 1:*** *Can it be considered that the financial year is in line with the season? This will help to plan and show costing more clearly. 1st September - 31st August?*

***Answer 1:*** *We operate our financial year with the tax year and our funders operating year which is 1 April to 31 March. This reduces a considerable amount of time (and money) spent on splitting our tax year and funder responses, allowing us to be more efficient in our financial operations and accounts. We have an Audit, Finance and Risk Committee that will review our financial practice. The question will be put to this Committee in the Spring to assess the merits of any change and we will confirm their views in due course.*

***Question 2:*** *This season BE with very little notice increased membership fees with no warning or with any clear percentage. Can increases of such significance be declared at AGM in January so clubs and officials have time to plan for finding extra money by September? The portal has caused nothing but issues for everyone and we have been promised a better service from BE that we have not received. This is causing people to reconsider their membership, moving forward, which is not beneficial to the governing body.*

***Answer 2:*** *There is already a commitment that there will be no major membership fee changes for 2025/26. Going forward, there is a commitment to finalise any fee changes in the final board meeting of each financial year (February) to have information ready for the start of the following financial year which aligns with our budget process for the year ahead - see above.*

*The digital challenges this season have resulted in a large digital procurement project that will see a new membership and competition management system replace the dysfunctional and problematic system currently in place.*

**Question 3:** Can you confirm how much money has been spent on sending bags, pens, stickers out to members? Not everyone has received, nor did everyone want them - what insight was gathered to make this decision? The postage cost on this is huge and a waste of money. If we want to give back to members there is a much more cost-effective way to do this surely?

**Answer 3:** The insight we gathered ahead of the season helped us shape future benefits for members. This insight from the survey conducted earlier in 2024 was shared in July 2024.

<https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/news/2024/survey-results-what-you-said-about-the-future-of-basketball-england-membership/>

The benefits for this season were shaped based on member feedback. To deliver our membership packs and access to our new membership perks service, giving members discounts across hundreds of brands, retailers and other online retailers, averages £3 per member.

To date, all the feedback we have received directly on membership packs has been positive. We are aware a small number of members haven't received packs due to incorrect addresses on their profiles that were used for the mailing.

Our membership perks service has also been well received, with almost 50% of members having logged into the service and over 4,000 transactions through the service.

**Question 4:** League entry fees were also increased with no warnings and with no consistent percentage increase. This needs much more warning and a clear percentage increase. Clubs have not received their allocation of balls this season despite these increases.

**Answer 4:** League fees - in terms of league entry fees the Board are conscious of finding a balance between affordability and generating revenue to run the organisation and develop the game. This is an annual process; in future we can announce sooner as described in the answer above.

Ball allocation - This season over 1500 balls shipped out to 250+ locations, the majority have received their full allocation, anyone missing basketballs can contact us at, [support@basketballengland.co.uk](mailto:support@basketballengland.co.uk) and we can liaise with our ball supplier to rectify and deliver any missing basketballs.

**Question 5:** Advertising of the AGM - This has only been seen on the website once, on 24th December and in no newsletters. Can this be looked at in the future to

*gain membership support and promote the work of the governing body? It needs promoting a lot more.*

**Answer 5:** *As is standard practice, a news article promoting the AGM was published on the BE website at least 21 days ahead of the meeting (in this case it was more than a month before). This has been visible as a news article since 24 December. It has been promoted a number of times across BE social media channels (Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn etc.) during January. We will review the process for promoting the meeting with a view to maximising attendance.*

**Question 6:** *Division 1 proposal that has been circulated by BE. This massively impacts on all leagues including under 18s. It impacts on performance athletes and their plans for the future. This has not been looked at and circulated to everyone. This cannot be a decision made by a small number of clubs. The impact of this is too large. What are BE next steps plans on this proposal to ensure everyone is consulted?*

**Answer 6:** *The context for this development is that we want to work with the club network to help raise standards at every level and have a better experience on game day and in the game in general.*

*We have committed to a review of every level of league and comps in our 4-year strategy period, starting initially with NBL1 which needs to recognise the impact on divisions below them. In raising the standards of the NBL1 we recognise that we need to consult further on the league structure, which is what we have done in consulting with NBL 2. This is a work in progress with the Board reviewing the feedback in February. Should there be a need to consult more widely the Board will consider this on the 24th of February 2025.*

*Also; the League and Competitions Advisory Group are being consulted during the process and will continue to be involved.*

## **Item No. 6 Closing Remarks**

PB expressed his gratitude to the attendees for their time, support, and contributions.

**MEETING CLOSED @ 18:33**

**Appendix A- list of attendees (excluding the BE Board)**

Colin Wildside  
Wayne McGhan  
Kate Lewis  
Andy Harrison-Beaumont  
Patricia Fairclough  
Martin Ford  
Garry Clark  
Graham Hiscock  
Sam Longley  
Rebecca Forster  
Russell Levenston  
Mehra Gorasia  
Brian Aldred  
Peter Griffiths  
Marc Dring  
Anthony Jepson