Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)



Minutes of AGM 15/6/23

- **1. Present** Dave Moore (Life Member), Chris Wilding (Life Member), Graeme Farquhar (Life Member), Stefan Scott (Richard Alibon), Mike Blooman (St Vincent's).
- **2. Apologies** Lee Wilson (Beam), Lisa Watkinson (Valence), Donna Rose (William Bellamy), Aaron Hunwicks (Northbury), Mike Blooman (St Vincent's), Steve Moran (Godwin), Daniel Kavanagh (St Teresa's), Wesley Charles (George Carey), Rachel Kerr (Warren), Cheryl Tracey (Rush Green)
- 3. Minutes of last meeting were agreed.

4. Matters Arising -

- (i) CW: Entry fees were increased from £20 to £30. The new fee had no detrimental impact, with entries rising from thirty-eight to thirty-nine last season whilst generating much needed income!
- (ii) CW: Parsloes Park the last opening date we have been given is November 2023. The facility was originally due to open in May 2020 so no guarantee is in place (but we remain hopeful).
- (iii) CW: The boys' district team were asked to raise money to assist with running costs. DM arranged a bag pack at Asda that brought in just under £400.
- **5. Chairman's Report** (See separate sheet after A.O.B.). In addition, GF expressed further thanks to DM and CW for the minutes.
- **6. Secretary's Report** (See separate sheet after A.O.B.)

7. Treasurer's Report

DM: Finance is in a relatively good state as per the season's balance sheet, which was presented to members. The main reasons are income from the Barking and Dagenham Lottery, competition entry fees from schools and girls' district income from fund raising (the latter has paid for many extras for the girls' district team and has also generally paid for minibus transport and tolls).

The amount the BDSFA can carry forward to season 23/24 is similar to last year.

Nevertheless, we can't be complacent as expenses may increase due to increased costs, unexpected expenses might occur and Barking & Dagenham Lottery income will likely decrease this season. Furthermore, it is not

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viable/sustainable to fully subsidise either district team (this was highlighted at last year's AGM in relation to the boys' team).

It is therefore appropriate and necessary for district teams to fund raise towards costs (pitches, referees, transport etc.).

It was agreed each district team be required to raise £500 per season as contribution towards running costs (e.g. pitch hire and referees). BDSFA general funds will also pay for affiliation/entry fees for district competitions, website subscription, bank charges, end of season plaques and/or medals plus certificates for district players (maximum approx. £100 per team) and 'essential' expenses as agreed by the BDSFA committee.

Purchase of 'non-essential' items must come through further fund-raising.

8. Competitions -

9-a-side competitions:

Barking & Dagenham Cup: Winners - TBC

<u>Barking & Dagenham Trophy: Winners – Richard Alibon Primary (played 16/6)</u> GF: The B&D Cup final will be played later in the term due to staff illness. This will result in a late finish.

Lee Wilson sent in a request via email that earlier deadlines be earlier in order to ease pressure later in the term, especially in the build-up to SATs. GF agreed and confirmed this would be the case next year.

GF confirmed that the Barking & Dagenham Post had withdrawn their sponsorship of both competitions at short notice and would not continue in future seasons. CW agreed to advertise for new sponsors.

The next day, Richard Alibon beat Roding Hewett 4-2 after extra-time to win the Barking & Dagenham Trophy at May & Baker.

Small-sided competitions-

Evans-Moore Cup: Ripple Primary

GF: Difficulties in securing a venue meant that the EMC was arranged later than planned at Goals. As such, it was not a Saturday competition as agreed.

Thirteen schools entered with four qualifying for a Finals Day. Ripple beat Valence 2-0 in the final and represented Barking & Dagenham in the county round of the competition. Northbury represented the association in the equivalent girls' competition.

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Evans-Moore Plate: planned for 8th July at Robert Clack

At last year's AGM, it was agreed that only schools who had played in the EMC, could enter a team into the EMP. This season, due to low EMC entrants, non-EMC schools may be invited if spaces are available.

Only Y5/6 pupils (boys or girls) who have not taken part in the EMC may play. EMC entrants may need to submit a team sheet in order to monitor whether this rule has been observed. No boys' district or academy players are eligible.

<u>Appleyard Shield: Winners – Northbury Primary</u>

MB: This year saw twenty-five schools enter the Appleyard Shield. With several teams seeded, the first round consisted of eighteen schools, with a completion date of 21st Oct (Half term). Unfortunately, we did have five teams withdraw, either due to changes in staff or to an inability to complete the game. Extensions were granted to three games which were completed shortly after half term.

In the second round, all games were completed by Christmas. Generally, all the matches were competitive games with some big clashes (Northbury v Gascoigne, Richard Alibon v George Carey, Beam v Monteagle) in particular. Last year's winners, George Carey, were knocked out at this stage showing how competitive the girls' football is.

The quarter-finals again were all completed by the deadline, with again closely fought games. Northbury v Richard Alibon was a cracking game, with tight matches separated by a single goal between St. Vincent's and St. Peter's, and Godwin and Beam.

The semi-finals were four good teams. St. Vincent's prevailed against a strong Valence team, whilst Northbury managed to end Godwin's defensive clean-sheet streak.

The final was contested between St. Vincent's and Northbury on a hot May day, and the heat did cause some fatigue towards the end of the game. A tight contest ended with Northbury winning 2-1 with a performance underlying why they are one of the best teams in the borough.

In terms of the competition, it has been pleasing to see most deadlines met, with generally good communication from schools. The majority of the matches have been even games with only eighteen matches completed and only two were separately by a margin greater than three. A thanks to Goals for allowing teams to play at the venue. I expect no change for the format next year, as feedback has been positive.

Ballerz Girls' League: Winners - TBC

CW: Twenty-eight teams entered (the highest ever and up 20% on the previous year). Henry Green and Manor did not manage to play any games but the

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competition otherwise went well and is on track to finish on time with several schools still in contention. Having smaller groups, with schools eliminated after each term worked well and deadlines were met.

CW expressed thanks to AH and Ballerz who sponsored the league again.

Ballerz Boys' League: Winners – Valence Primary School

AH was unfortunately off work ill and unable to submit a report. However, the competition has reached its conclusion with Valence confirmed as winners and Rush Green as runners-up.

The following proposals were put forward by Wesley Charles via email:

- Schools who fail to complete fixtures the previous year for whatever reason - should be placed in a preliminary round (preferably before Xmas).
- Changing the Ballerz League rules so that there are 'home' and 'away' fixtures.
- The Appleyard Shield final should not be played at Goals.
- The previous year's Appleyard Shield winners should be invited to represent the borough in the next season's Essex SFA competitions.

The proposals were all discussed last year – see AGM Minutes. Therefore, discussing them again was unnecessary.

9. Boys' District Football

The boys' district side was run by WC. His report, submitted via email, is below:

"Good afternoon to all in attendance. I hope everyone is well and enjoying the lovely weather. Firstly, I must apologise for my absence today. I have been out of school a lot lately on a host of sports trips, so I must now catch up with the mountain of work on my desk. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I would first like to thank Chris (Wilding) for his relentless organisation, Dave (Moore) for being the Barking & Dagenham equivalent of Q from James Bond, and the Pierluigi Colina of grass roots referees – Graeme Farquhar. Without their help and support, district football is not possible. Thank you all for your help and assistance.

This season started off brightly. The season in fact started this time last year, with the trials being moved to the summer term. This was/is due to the fact that we must now begin playing our domestic league fixtures earlier in the season, as a number of districts did not complete their fixtures before the April deadline. With various holidays sprinkled throughout the school year, many districts lose players - who go on holiday with their families - and cannot field a side. This combined with the inevitable loss of fixtures due to weather postponements

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has necessitated the need to begin the trial process earlier. We therefore had a squad in place for the start of the 2022/23 school year, meaning we hit the ground running. On the pitch, we had an excellent team – with five academy players in our ranks – and the results we extremely positive.

The academy player is however both a blessing and a curse, as we would lose them all from time to time when they were away on academy duty (often out of the country). As our squad was picked to fall in line with the ESFA National Cup quota of 14 players, this meant that losing players would often leave us short. Throw in the inevitable absences of other players on occasion - for a variety of reasons (illness, exams, family commitments etc) - and we would regularly be in a position where we would need to call up reservists. Getting reservists up to speed of the level and intensity of district football mid-season is a torrid task. One or two is difficult enough, but can be done with the right aroup of players around them. However, when this number goes up to 6 or 7, we are in trouble. This combined with the fact that we had several games postponed during the season (one of which was a trip to Dover that was cancelled after we had driven all the way down there) meant that we were unable to complete our fixtures, and in the end had to withdraw from the competitions we did not complete late in the season. Mostly disappointing, but we did have 7 players taken on trial to various Academies during the course of the season, and it's onwards and upwards from here.

This season, we will select a squad that will still be a squad even if we lose all of our Academy players simultaneously. For example, if we have 4 Academy players, we will select a squad of around 16 players. That way, we will still have 12 players if they are all absent. We must also have a list of reservists just in case. We will begin playing our fixtures earlier in the season, with priority going to Essex league and Cup matches. Squads will be selected on a week to week basis, taking into account position needs, performance in previous matches, how quickly parents reply to correspondence etc.

We also have fund raising in the pipeline, although I won't speak too much about it until we are ready to go. Aside from that, the District trials begin this week, and we are very much looking forward to a fresh start.

Thank you all again for your time today, take care – and I look forward to seeing you all soon. All the best!

Wesley"

The squad was: Timi Ajala (Godwin), Daniel Akinshoun (Richard Alibon), Calvin Aris (St Joseph's Barking), Cyprian Jnr Bediako (St Margaret's), Leonard Feza (Ripple), Flavio Gashi (Ripple), Aivaras Liaundanskas (Monteagle), Filip Moscaliuc (Ripple), Nader Okunade (William Ford), Joel Okwesilieze (George Carey), Jake Okwuazi (The Leys), Robert Radoescu (Valence), Wesli Shehi (Grafton), Mario Tampu (William Ford)

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The team will be been entered in the Essex SFA Finch League, London SFA Crisp Shield, and the Essex 7-a-side tournament. In addition, they will play a number of other representative matches.

10. Girls' District Football

CW: This season began very slowly. After five games, we had suffered two defeats and had three goalless draws as we entered 2022/23 with a completely new squad.

Eventually, we scrambled a first win – 2-1 away to Brent in the London Girls' League – and results began to pick up. In fact, from that point on, we only lost to three teams: Essex and South-East champions, Chelmsford; reigning national champions Orpington (after extra-time); and Surrey, Southern Counties Cup and Southern Counties League Cup winners Woking (who we beat 3-0 the following week).

We entered five competitions, medalling in four and reaching the last 16 of the National Cup. In-doing-so, we finished as runners-up in the Essex League and Southern Counties Cup at Oxford City F.C. But the highlights were, without doubt, the unbeaten Southern Counties League Plate and London Girls' League campaigns that saw Barking & Dagenham once again reach a remarkable double trophy haul. Indeed, the district side are now forty-one games unbeaten in the latter competition, on a run that stretches back to February 2017. That really is incredible.

Our overall record for the season was: P31, W22, D3, L6, GF56 GA23

The squad consisted of Jasmine Amrane (Gascoigne), Alethea-Becky Adjoh-Davoh and Chloe Ajewole (both George Carey), Atene Skendelis (Godwin), Jaydee Williams (Goresbrook), Francisca Arhin and Raima Hossain (both Northbury), Dominyka Petrauskaite and Amelia Hussain (both Richard Alibon), Tolu Elufowoju and Sasha Stoute (both Rush Green), Laura Ameny (Valence) and Rusne Rimkeviciute (William Bellamy).

In addition, Amelia Wilks and Comfort Mazel (both Godwin) received late Friday afternoon call-ups in the first term when numbers were short.

Tolu Elufowoju finished second in our all-time scorers list, with the record for most goals in a debut season.

Thank you to Tesco Community Grants and Theresa at Barking Asda, who helped us access £1900 worth of funding this season as well as Gary Ferguson for his invaluable help on match-days (and beyond).

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Appreciation is also shown to Dave Moore for his support and Graeme Farquhar, Joe Lynch and Max Young who have all expertly refereed the team this season.

CW expressed his intention to stand down as girls' district manager at the end of the 2024/25 season. Anyone who would like to take over, should get in touch so that they can shadow CW in the intervening period and 'learn the ropes'.

11. Election of New Committee

- Chair Graeme Farguhar (nominated by DM, seconded by MB)
- Vice-Chair Dave Moore (nominated by CW, seconded by GF)
- Secretary Chris Wilding (nominated by GF, seconded by MB)

At this point the meeting was closed. The points listed under A.O.B. are therefore for information only.

12. A.O.B.

Adults Other Than Teachers/Referees –

BDSFA advises that it is good practice for a qualified teacher to be present at all times at matches and reserves the right to prevent individuals from taking responsibility for teams in competition if the committee deem them inappropriate and/or unfit to do so.

English Schools FA advise that if the Headteacher of a school has allowed an individual to take charge of a team, the Headteacher remains in overall control and takes responsibility

Website – Please use it: www.bdsfa.bdcs.org.uk. BDSFA also has a presence on Twitter and Instagram. Members are encouraged to follow us: @bdsfa1/BDSFA9.

LBBD Lottery – Please promote and support BDSFA's Barking & Dagenham Lottery page. It costs £1 per ticket and if players select BDSFA as a good cause, we get 50p, with 10p going into the community pot for distribution amongst all the good causes who have signed up. This will become a vital source of funding in the years ahead. https://www.lotterybd.co.uk/support/barking-and-dagenham-schools-football-association

Use of Goals Centre – Available free for schools until 5 p.m. upon application. Only borough schools may play there. Bookings must be made by the school office. Schools are reminded that this facility is kindly given without charge and parents/pupils/staff should respect the premises accordingly. Correct supervision is necessary at all times.

Codes of Conduct – CW expressed concern that the return to football seems to have introduced a newer audience to schools' football that can be

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unfamiliar with the ethos and standards of behaviour set. At all three borough cup finals attended, the BDSFA Codes of Conduct have been breached by either players, spectators, match officials and/or staff. Members are reminded that Codes of Conduct can be downloaded from the BDSFA website for adaptation and distribution.

Health & Safety – Teachers in charge of football, as part of their ongoing Risk Assessment, need to maintain vigilance with regard to suitable footwear. There is no direct instruction regarding studs or blades although steel studs are not advisable. Studs/blades are preferable on grass, particularly in slippy conditions. However, if the ground is hard, trainers or astro-boots/moulds, may be more suitable. A common sense approach is encouraged. It is the teacher/referee's responsibility to check footwear is appropriate. Shin guards however are necessary in all structured or organised matches/training. If an injury takes place, particularly if caused by studded boots, and a pupil is not wearing shin guards, teachers may find themselves open to legal proceedings.

Transport – Teachers are reminded that anyone assisting in school-arranged transportation of pupils to matches should be CRB checked. In addition, schools should obtain copies of a valid driving license, car tax, MOT and fully comprehensive insurance for business use for any 'volunteers'. An alternative to this is to adopt a "meet me there" policy with teachers playing no role in assisting with arrangements. The onus is then with the parents to arrange transport. Pupils under 135cm require booster seats (see separate attachment for OEAP guidance).

Welfare - The Child Welfare Officer for BDSFA is Dave Moore.

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Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)



Chairman's Report for AGM 15/6/23

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to being asked to take on the role of Chair this year. It was a real honour to take on the role and both a pleasure and a privilege to be chairman of this association. I would like to thank you to all who help to provide opportunities for the boys and girls in the borough. As always, thank you for your support.

Thanks are also extended to all head teachers and staff who support the B.D.S.F.A. in whatever way they can. So many people have shown commitment and enthusiasm so that pupils of all abilities can play football and develop their skills.

I must thanks Chris Wilding for his tireless and extensive work he does as the B.D.S.F.A. secretary. He deals with almost everything from competitions, social media, website issues, questions and much much more. Chris' efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated. Chris also continues to develop our girls' district side and this area of the association is one which is the envy of many across the country. We have always been viewed as one of the better associations but, due to Chris' efforts, we continue to get even better.

Wesley Charles must also be thanked for his efforts in running the boys' team this season. It hasn't been the most successful year on and off the pitch but I am sure that Wesley will be looking to improve this next season. Having spoken to him, I know he is very eager to get started on next season's squad and I am confident that we will see an improvement moving forward.

Dave Moore must also be thanked for his efforts. Dave has been an integral part of B.D.S.F.A and continues to provide support in many areas of our work. His work of Treasurer and CWO enables us to function effectively and I would like to thank him for the work that he does. Dave also provides support and guidance to many and attends as many matches as possible.

We are grateful for the support of some individuals who have assisted us throughout the season in various guises. Gary Ferguson has provided Chris with excellent support with the girls' team whilst Mohamed Abdulkadir has helped Wesley out with the boys' side. Michael Blooman and Aaron Hunwicks have also been a huge help in running our individual schools' competitions. I would like to, on behalf of the association, thank everyone for their time and efforts, which allow B.D.S.F.A to provide opportunities for our children.

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The number of schools that participated in competitions this year is very pleasing. The teams that were 'successful' in all competitions deserve congratulations of course. More than 30 schools entered the Barking and Dagenham Cup. Whilst an increased number of schools across the borough entered the 'Ballerz' League and Monteagle Shield. We have also had the Evans Moore Cup and, with the Plate still to come, we continue to have children playing football in different competitions. These competitions are always closely contested and are a brilliant advert for schools' football.

The girls in the district team have been brilliant ambassadors for our schools and have enjoyed another successful year. Barking and Dagenham started a girls' district team in 2008 and since then the borough team has gone from strength to strength. This year's team had phenomenal success, winning the London Girls' League for the 5th straight season and secured the Southern Counties League Plate. They were also runners up in the Essex League and the Southern Counties Cup. This is an amazing achievement. Well done to the girls and the staff involved.

The district boys' team had a busy year representing the borough in a variety of competitions. Sadly, due to a variety of reasons, the season wasn't the most successful and unfortunately we were unable to repeat the successes of the previous years. However, the team represented the borough well and no doubt each boy gained enormously from the experience.

So as we reflect on the end of another year, it is clear to see that Barking & Dagenham Schools' Football continues to be held in high regard. This is down to the hard work of everyone involved in the association and I would like to thank everyone once again. We continue to, not only provide opportunities for a number of pupils across the Borough, but also strive to improve the already high standards that we set.

Please have a restful summer and I look forward to another successful season next year.

Graeme Farquhar Chairman B.D.S.F.A.

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Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)

Secretary's report for AGM 15th June 2023

Twelve months has whizzed by in the blink of an eye and here we are again at the end of another twelve months of borough football.



On a personal note, it will shortly be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day I began working in the borough as a fresh-faced, enthusiastic NQT (I know – I don't look old enough!). Pretty soon, I started helping out with the after-school football club at Godwin, taking over the running of the team a few months later. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for...

From then, until now, there have been so many changes. In 1998, there was no girls' football competition at all, let alone a district team. No Ballerz competitions. What would become the Appleyard Shield (originally the Monteagle Shield), was but a twinkle in Peter Coppin's eye. George Carey, Riverside, Manor Longbridge, Goresbrook, Rose Lane and one of the Eastbury schools did not exist; and Sydney Russell, Eastbrook and the other Eastbury (surely someone could have come up with something else?) did not have primary sections. Entry forms came in the post (or by fax). And there was certainly no BDSFA website or social media presence.

Perhaps the most significant development in recent years is about to arrive with the opening of The Hub at Parsloes Park. It seems I write every year about delays to its arrival, which had an original opening date of May 2020! But we are assured that the longest gestation period in 4G history is almost at an end and our district sides could be in residence by the turn of the year. I often drive by the site of the new BDSFA home ground and work on the building seems at an advanced stage. Let us hope that is the case.

It should be a great addition to what I truly believe is an amazing borough to work in. The communities we serve are some of the most deprived in the country, but the children are so vibrant and full of potential. The opportunities we create for our pupils through the work of the BDSFA and its volunteers is incredibly humbling and incredibly important. It is an honour to be part of it all.

It sounds cliched to say you are making a difference. But, for many children, you absolutely are. Every time someone gives up time to run a club, organise a match, chase up permission slips or empty little black crumbs out of their shoes, they are playing their part. Thank you on behalf of everyone you help.

Thirty-nine schools entered one, some or all of the Barking & Dagenham Cup/Trophy, Ballerz Girls' and Boys' Leagues and the Appleyard Shield this

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year. There was also county success for Northbury Primary and hundreds of borough pupils experienced the honour of representing their school.

Appreciation is also shown to all those who have assisted with our district sides this year. It is often a thankless task and the time and effort required to the do the job can be daunting at times, as well as being an emotional rollercoaster for those responsible for maintaining the high standards our borough sets. For everyone who has played their part, thank you again, especially Wesley Charles, Jamal Abdulkhadir and Gary Ferguson.

Thank you to Aaron Hunwicks, Mike Blooman and Graeme Farquhar for acting as competition secretaries and to Aaron, Dave Moore and Joe Appleyard for their continued sponsorship of borough competitions.

BDSFA was represented at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar by former St Margaret's forward Sorba Thomas, who came on as substitute in Wales's draw with the USA. Sorba also enjoyed another season in the Championship, going on loan from Huddersfield Town to Blackburn Rovers for the latter half of the season. Meanwhile, Benik Afobe (Monteagle) left the same division to move from Millwall to Hatta in the UAE.

Elsewhere, former Rush Green striker Max Watters experienced League One play-off final defeat with Barnsley whilst Kevin Berkoe enjoyed numerous appearances in the EFL with Salford City.

Darren Pratley was promoted from League Two with Leyton Orient, with former Godwin pupil Layla Duffield also promoted with their women's side.

Former district skipper Beau Parker's season in the women's third tier with Billericay Town was cut short by injury but two other girls' ex-captains (Emily Brown and Marcheri Sheriff) continued to excel in Chelsea's youth ranks.

BDSFA competitions for this season will be:

- Barking & Dagenham Cup/Trophy (9-a-side, all schools, Y6 only)
- Evans-Moore Cup (7-a-side, all schools, Y5/6)
- Evans-Moore Plate (7-a-side, B team players only, no Academy, District or players who took part in the Evans-Moore Cup, Y5/6)
- Appleyard Shield (5-a-side, all schools, girls only, Y5/6)
- Ballerz Girls' League (7-a-side, all schools, girls only, Y5/6)
- Ballerz Boys' League (7-a-side, all schools, Y4/5 boys only)

BDSFA is affiliated to London, Essex and English SFA. Individual schools are welcome to participate in county competitions, including *The Parish Cup*, *The Jim Smith Memorial Trophy* and the *Essex Girls' 7-a-side Cup*.

Chris WildingBDSFA Secretary

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