

BDSFA

Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)



Minutes of AGM 26/6/24

1. Present – Dave Moore (Life Member), Chris Wilding (Life Member), Mike Blooman (St Vincent's), Lisa Watkinson (Valence), Donna Rose (William Bellamy), Martin Rose (Ripple), Neil Adams (Roding), Andre Weston (Valence).

2. Apologies – Graeme Farquhar (Grafton), Rachel Kerr (Warren), Aaron Hunwicks (Northbury), Nikki Gabriel (Five Elms), Blessen Opoku (Riverside)

3. Minutes of last meeting - were agreed

4. Matters Arising – none

5. Chairman's Report - (See separate sheet after A.O.B.). CW thanked GF for his contribution to the association over the last year.

6. Secretary's Report - (See separate sheet after A.O.B.). DM thanked CW for his contribution, including preparations for the AGM.

7. Treasurer's Report - (See separate sheet after A.O.B.). DM provided an overview of income and expenses, talking through district and non-district account sheets.

Regarding district team fundraising, DR offered to provide the Ultimate Vision speedometer for a morning. LW suggested writing to the schools of those selected for district teams, requesting £50 sponsorship for the season.

CW thanked DM for his ongoing work as Treasurer.

8. Competitions – CW informed members that thirty-eight of the forty-four eligible schools entered one or more competitions (eighty-six percent). Those who did not do so were John Perry, Sydney Russell, Henry Green, Dorothy Barley and Eastbrook. Many of those schools have access to on-site pitches.

9-a-side competitions:

Barking & Dagenham Cup: Winners – Richard Alibon Primary

Barking & Dagenham Trophy: Winners – St Margaret's C of E Primary

GF was called to attend a residential at his school at the last minute and therefore unable to attend/submit a report.

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In this year's Barking & Dagenham Trophy, very few games were played. Questions were raised by the BDSFA committee regarding its viability.

Members voted to change the Barking & Dagenham Trophy to a competition for schools with less than sixty pupils on roll in Y6 from 2024/5. The Barking & Dagenham Cup will be for schools with three-form entry or more. Both competitions will have equal weighting.

There is still concern that some schools fail to complete fixtures, resulting in very few games for Y6s. Various solutions were discussed, but the lack of free, floodlit facilities in the borough reduces options (along with headteachers' reluctance to let teams out early to play before it gets dark).

Members agreed to make the groups slightly larger and to bring deadlines slightly forward, ensuring they are enforced. E.g. four groups for each competition, with the top two qualifying for quarterfinals.

MB volunteered to take over as competition secretary for both competitions.

The 9-a-side competitions still seek a new sponsor.

Important point – Only Y6 can play 9-a-side competitions. This is an FA ruling. To breach this regulation is to risk legal procedures. Any school found to have played a Y5 pupil will be eliminated from the competition.

Small-sided competitions-

Evans-Moore Cup/Plate: Winners - tbc

GF was called to attend a residential at his school at the last minute and therefore unable to attend/submit a report.

The EMC was originally planned for November but was held up due to the delayed opening of the Bobby Moore Sports Hub. It is now set for the 3rd of July and twelve schools have entered. The EMP is on 11th July and will feature sixteen teams.

Appleyard Shield: Winners – Richard Alibon Primary

MB: This year saw twenty-six schools enter the Appleyard Shield competition (5-a-side for girls Y5 and Y6). This was an increase from last year.

With several teams seeded, the first round saw twenty schools compete to be completed by the October half-term. We did have several withdrawals this year, virtually all due to staff changes or issues with emails. Only one small extension of the deadline was granted, meaning an increase in teams completing their results as every other round was completed within the deadline.

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The second round saw some competitive games, with standouts being Roding v Valence, Goresbrook v St. Teresa's and a revenge matchup for St. Joseph's Barking and Godwin.

The quarter-finals were mostly a very tight affair, with Roding overcoming George Carey, Northbury being a tough St. Peter's team, and St. Joseph's triumphing over St. Teresa's.

The semi-finals had four of the best schools in girls' football this year involved, and they were all close affairs. Roding managed to pick up a brilliant win over the holders Northbury, whilst Richard Alibon progressed against a stubborn St. Joseph's.

The final involved two highly organised teams in Roding Cannington and Richard Alibon. With both teams having district players, it was certainly going to be a challenging final. In the end, Richard Alibon came from behind to grab a 2-1 win and add a new name to the Appleyard Shield trophy. It was a pleasure to watch two teams represent Barking & Dagenham with distinction.

In terms of the competition, it has been pleasing to see an improvement on the deadlines being met, with generally good communication from schools. Although many of the games have been competitive, we have seen an increase of winning margins. Out of the twenty matches played in the tournament this year, nine of them involved a three goal or more winning margin.

MB/NA commented that it was good to see so many supporters at the final. CW suggested making the final fifteen minutes each-way.

MB suggested making the Appleyard Shield a central venue competition, played solely at Goals. Members voted in favour.

Ballerz Girls' League: Winners – Northbury Primary

CW: Twenty-eight teams entered last year, with the same numbers for 2023/24. Group games were generally completed on time (the unannounced closure of Goals in the week before Easter brought some disruption), as was the Super 7. The medal competition was extremely close with several strong teams taking points off each other.

Ballerz Boys' League: Winners – St Peter's Catholic Primary

AH was on paternity leave and did not submit a report.

9. Boys' District Football - The boys' district side was run by WC. No report was submitted.

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Recently, the BDSFA committee met to draft a document outlining the expectations of those managing district sides. This has been shared with both managers ahead of the new season.

Trials for next year's team will be held in the Autumn term. The team will be entered into the Essex SFA Finch League, London SFA Crisp Shield, and the Lester Finch Trophy. In addition, they will play several friendly representative matches.

10. Girls' District Football

CW: The season began with the Southern Counties League Cup qualifying tournament in St Albans. Barking & Dagenham played six games, drawing each one and qualifying for the intermediate finals.

Following a pair of friendly representative matches, the squad travelled to Newbury for the Southern Counties Cup first round. The hosts boasted an unbeaten start to the season, Arsenal's centre forward and three more girls signed for Reading. Nonetheless, the team showed how far they had come in a very short time, taking the tie to extra-time before the eventual heartbreak of penalties.

At Christmas, the team had earned a brace of wins and a draw in the Essex League.

In the New Year, results were mixed with five wins, two draws and three defeats (which meant we were unable to challenge for the London Girls' League: a competition we had held since 2018).

Problems in both boxes led to reinforcements being drafted in and the form after Easter picked up significantly. The team remained unbeaten in the SC League Intermediate Cup finals without conceding a goal, ensuring a trophy for the district once again.

In addition, Barking & Dagenham reached the Essex SFA League semi-finals and finished 4th out of twelve teams in the London Girls' League, only losing to the three sides who finished above them by a single goal.

Our overall record for the season was: P31, W12, D12, L7, GF43 GA25. The number of draws was significant.

The team also enjoyed trips to Wild Forest, Toca Social and had the opportunity to act as ball assistants at West Ham's WSL match against Bristol City.

The squad consisted of *Paloma Correia (George Carey)*, *Maria Alice Mateus (George Varey)*, *Aaliyah Felix (Goresbrook)*, *Abbie Blewitt (Hunters Hall)*, *Keira Ly (Manor)*, *Gilda Hasani (Northbury)*, *Zainab Touray (Northbury)*, *Amelia Hussain (Richard Alibon)*, *Malaika Uwandji (Roding)*, *Jona Islami (Roding)*,

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Simonette Johnson (St Peter's), Grace Attwood-Adams (The Leys), Emily Peka (Valence).

The squad featured five Y5s which bodes well for next season. CW understands that one player has signed for West Ham United ETC, one for Watford ETC and another for Brighton & Hove Albion's ETC.

CW thanked those who sent players to trials, although the girls added to the squad in the Spring were only selected after parents got in touch.

It was pleasing to see former district captains Marcheri Sheriff, Chi-Chi Musaka-Onyeka and Ruby Abela all featuring for the Essex SFA county sides as well as Emily Brown, who continues to go from strength-to-strength with Chelsea's U21s.

Thank you to Unite, who once again donated £500 to assist with running costs. Appreciation is also shown to an excellent set of district parents, Dave Moore for his support, and Graeme Farquhar and Max Young who have both expertly refereed the team this season.

Most of all though, thanks go to Godwin's Gary Ferguson who has assisted CW for six seasons and recently stepped down as assistant manager.

CW reiterated the need for a second adult at district games and his intention to withdraw from the post at the end of the 2024/5 season. For the girls' district team to continue, someone must be found to help, and members are invited to come forward.

AW and NA both expressed their interest, although they may not always be available. DM volunteered to assist at home games where possible. Anyone else who is interested though is welcome to come forward and get involved.

11. Election of New Committee

- Chair – Graeme Farquhar (nominated by LW, seconded by DR)
- Vice-Chair – Lisa Watkinson (nominated by MB, seconded by AW)
- Secretary – Chris Wilding (nominated by LW, seconded by DR)
- Treasurer – Dave Moore (nominated by CW, seconded by DR)

In addition, DM agreed to continue as Child Welfare Officer.

12. A.O.B.

Adults Other Than Teachers/Referees –

BDSFA advises that it is good practice for a qualified teacher to always be present 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.

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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.

Considering the above, members expressed their willingness to assist with refereeing at the forthcoming Evans-Moore events rather than rely on Young Leaders from local schools.

Essex Schools' FA – Forms for county cups have been sent out.

The Bobby Moore Sports Hub – Some schools have already used it for their 9-a-side games. Others may wish to do so and the £40 fee represents a significant reduction from the commercial rate.

Heading – FA rule changes will be introduced from next season. This will have implications initially for the Ballerz Boys' League, with other competitions needing to comply on a rolling basis each season. See document sent out with the minutes.

Codes of Conduct – 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 regarding 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 slippery 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. A BDSFA, football-specific Risk Assessment is available on request.

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.

Boys' District Presentation – DM to contact WC to ensure arrangements have been made.

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Pokemon Cup – qualifiers for the girls' and small-schools' competitions will be held in October. The Evans-Moore Cup winners for 2024/25 will compete in the boys' equivalent.

Courses – CW agreed to contact the county FA regarding potential refereeing and coaching courses aimed specifically at school staff.

PE Coordinators' Meeting – MR suggested a BDSFA committee member attend the September borough PE coordinators' meeting to explain the different competitions and arrangements for the season. Members agreed this was a suitable job for the new Vice-Chair.

Kit Colours – MB requested schools declare their kit colours on the BDSFA competition entry form to avoid clashes. CW agreed to see if this was practical.

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Chair's report for AGM 26th June 2024

As I reach the end my second year as Chair, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being entrusted with this role. It has been a true honour and privilege to serve as Chair of this association. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to providing opportunities for the boys and girls in our borough. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

I also wish to extend my thanks to all staff who support the BDSFA in various capacities. The commitment and enthusiasm shown by so many individuals enable pupils of all abilities to play football and develop their skills.

I would like to thank Wesley Charles for his dedication to running the boys' team this season. Wesley is a committed individual who is always looking to offer experiences to the boys from across the borough.

Special thanks must also go to Chris Wilding for his tireless and extensive work as the BDSFA secretary. Chris manages everything from competitions to social media, website issues, enquiries and much more. His efforts are highly valued and greatly appreciated. Chris also continues to enhance our girls' district team, making it an area of our association that is admired nationwide. Our association has always been well-regarded, and thanks to Chris, we continue to improve.

Dave Moore deserves our gratitude for his integral role within BDSFA. As Treasurer and CWO, Dave's efforts ensure our smooth functioning, and his support and guidance are invaluable. He also makes it a point to attend as many matches as possible, further demonstrating his commitment.

We are also grateful for the support of several individuals who have assisted us in various capacities throughout the season. Gary Ferguson has been a tremendous support to Chris with the girls' team and he will be sorely missed as he moves on to pastures new. Additionally, Michael Blooman and Aaron Hunwicks have been instrumental in running our individual schools' competitions. On behalf of the association, I would

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like to thank everyone for their time and efforts, which enable BDSFA to provide valuable opportunities for our children.

The participation of schools in this year's competitions has been very encouraging. Congratulations are in order for all the teams that achieved success in their respective competitions. Over 30 schools entered the Barking and Dagenham Cup, and an increasing number of schools participated in the 'Ballers' League and Appleyard Shield. The Evans Moore Cup and Plate, both to be held at our fantastic new home, are fully subscribed and our children continue to play football in a variety of tournaments. These closely contested competitions are a fantastic showcase for schools' football.

The girls in the district team have been outstanding ambassadors for our schools, enjoying another successful year. Since the inception of the girls' district team in 2008, Barking and Dagenham has seen remarkable progress. This year, the team achieved success as they captured a maiden Southern Counties League Intermediate Cup. They were also runners-up in the Essex League and maintained their 100% record of qualifying for the Super Six stages of the London League. It has been another good season for the girls, and I extend my congratulations to the girls and the staff involved.

The district boys' team had a busy year representing the borough in various competitions. There have been some excellent performances across the season and each boy undoubtedly gained a great deal from the experience.

As we reflect on the end of another year, it is evident that Barking & Dagenham schools' football continues to be highly regarded. This is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the association. I would like to thank everyone once again. We not only provide opportunities for numerous pupils across the borough but also strive to improve the already high standards we set.

Please have a restful summer, and I look forward to another successful season ahead.

Graeme Farquhar
BDSFA Chairman

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Secretary's report for AGM 26th June 2024



BDSFA are delighted to be able to host our first ever annual general meeting at The Bobby Moore Sports Hub. After three-and-a-half years of frustration and delay, we now have a state-of-the-art football facility in the borough, of which we are rightly proud.

Our girls' district team have called the centre home since January, with several boys' matches and schools' events also gracing the pitches which were officially opened by Anton Ferdinand, Bobby Zamora and Hawa Cissoko in March. Dave Moore and I were fortunate to be able to attend the ceremony and it was great to see children from Sydney Russell and Jo Richardson enjoying their football on the day.

Thank you to everyone at Essex FA, Leisure United and the Football Foundation who have helped to make it happen. We continue to work closely with our partners in the project to deliver further opportunities for our pupils, so that pupils from Barking & Dagenham schools can get maximum use out of the wonderful community asset.

The recent girls' fun day - organised by Dagenham United, BDSFA and the county FA - saw over a hundred pupils from schools within walking distance of Parsloes Park play for the first time and promote the club's Wild Cats centre. With West Ham United Foundation's ETC (along with several other local clubs) based here, the possibilities for growth in participation are full of promise.

Individual schools are also able to use the pitches at a reduced Education Rate. The £40 per hour rate for a 9-a-side pitch represents a significant reduction from the commercial rate and may be something schools wish to take advantage of.

In this year's competitions, thirty-eight schools entered one or all the Barking & Dagenham Cup/Trophy, Ballerz Leagues and the Appleyard Shield.

Several schools also took part in county competitions with St Peter's triumphing in the girls' 7-a-side final at Aveley FC and Roding Cannington finishing as runners-up in the county round of the national Pokemon Cup at Billericay Town. Well done to both, as well as Ripple

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who went out of the boys' Pokemon Cup to the eventual county round winners.

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.

Appreciation is also shown to all those who have assisted with our district sides this year. Wesley Charles's boys' team managed twenty-nine games across all competitions, reaching the finals of the Southern Counties League Cup at Oxford City FC. Whilst the girls' team lifted Southern Counties League Cup trophy without conceding a goal, also reaching the semi-finals of the Essex League and the London League Super Six.

On a personal note, I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the association to Godwin's Gary Ferguson who is stepping down from his role with the girls' team after five seasons. Since the post-Covid resumption of schools' football, the side have brought the borough six trophies with Gary's invaluable input playing a major role.

BDSFA competitions for this season will be:

- *Barking & Dagenham Cup/Trophy* (9-a-side, all schools, Y6)
- *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 SFA, Essex SFA and English SFA. Individual schools are welcome to participate in county competitions, including *The Parish Cup* (9-a-side) and *The Jim Smith Memorial Trophy* (7-a-side) and the *Essex Girls' 7-a-side Cup*.

Chris Wilding

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Treasurer's report for AGM 26th June 2024



General position re: finances.

Finance is in a relatively good state as per the season's balance sheet. The amount the BDSFA can carry forward to season 24/25 is similar to last year.

Significant ways in which we have met financial challenges:

- Barking and Dagenham Lottery income (£712)
- Competition fees from schools (£1000+)
- Girls' district income from fund raising grants. (In general, this has paid for many extras for the girls' district team and has also helped to meet minibus transport costs). The girls' parents have also made significant contributions to several fun events organized for the team.

Nevertheless, we can't be complacent:

- Expenses can always increase, simply due to increased costs.
- Unexpected or extra expenses might occur (e.g., last year we incurred a bill for minibus damage and this year we contributed to the purchase of a laptop for the secretary)
- Barking and Dagenham Lottery income has, as predicted, decreased this season (a reduction of £155)
- The boys' district team raised approx. £260. This is short of the £500 target set at last year's AGM, but hopefully there will be further income from sponsored penalties before the summer holiday.
- The overall cost of home pitches and referees' fees has risen. Despite help from Essex Schools F.A. and some 'volunteer refereeing,' the overall **deficit** for district pitches and referees is £967.50

General.

1. We are fortunate to have sponsors for five of the seven interschool competitions. Having lost our Barking & Dagenham Cup and Trophy sponsorship from The Post newspaper, I would recommend we seek new sponsorship for these competitions.
2. It is appropriate and necessary for district teams to fund raise towards costs. It is not viable or sustainable to fully subsidise either district team.

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3. Non 'essential' expenses and purchased items are generally to be paid for by a district team's own fund raising, e.g. this would apply to new or surplus clothing / kit, fun trips
4. What is 'essential' (needed) and what is 'non- essential' (wanted) is sometimes rather subjective. The Treasurer will seek agreement from the Secretary and Chairman if a concern arises regarding an expense

Recommendations for district managers

(following a recent committee meeting in May)

1. Each district team should raise a minimum of £500 per season.
2. Team managers to clearly describe and explain fundraising expectations to parents, especially at the start of the season.
3. Regularly remind parents to sign up to the LBBB Lottery.
4. Seek sponsorship from local businesses.
5. Consider holding special events/sponsored competitions.
6. Explore grant/funding opportunities from local and national schemes.
7. Subject to committee approval, team staff may purchase their own matchday clothing with the BDSFA logo on and receive a 50% reimbursement from funds.
8. Alternatively, costs can be built into purchases made, using fundraising monies.
9. Staff may wear non-BDSFA branded clothing if it is of a professional standard (either formal or sportswear).
10. A new boys' kit should be the next priority.
11. Fundraising must first take place (See point 1) which will be match-funded from the BDSFA account.
12. A new kit can then be purchased once funds have been secured (see point 1).

BDSFA will pay for the following:

- Affiliation for district competitions + ECSFA affiliation
- English Schools F.A. fees as necessary
- Website subscription
- Bank charges
- End of season plaques and/or medals plus certificates for district players (Maximum approx. £100 per team)
- 'Essential' expenses (See General point 4 above)

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