

Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)



Minutes of AGM 3rd July 2025 (begun at 16:33)

1. Present – Dave Moore (Life Member), Chris Wilding (Godwin), Mike Blooman (St Vincent's), Lisa Watkinson (Valence), Donna Rose (William Bellamy), Graeme Farquhar (Grafton), Andre Weston (Valence), Chris Edgell (Valence).

2. Apologies – Rachel Kerr (Warren), Aaron Hunwicks (Northbury), Richard Wakeford (William Ford), Sean Connolly (Robert Clack), Blessen Opoku (Riverside)

3. Minutes of last meeting - were agreed.

4. Matters Arising – CW reported that he followed up requests to explore the feasibility of running teacher specific referee/coaching courses. It was established that a more practical option was to forward details of existing opportunities on the FA website to schools. Since then, the SSP have advertised something similar, but no further details have emerged.

LW confirmed she attended the PE Co-ordinators' meeting in the Autumn term and explained the BDSFA competitions to those present.

Heading will not be permitted in next season's Ballerz Y4/5 Boys' League. An indirect free kick will be awarded should an offence take place. If it occurs inside the defending team's penalty area, the free kick should be taken at the nearest point outside the box.

Codes of Conduct – Following an increase in breaches of the BDSFA Codes of Conduct, members proposed reviewing the current documents. In the last couple of seasons, school staff have reported receiving threatening and intimidating behaviour from opposition coaches and parents, as well as increasing instances of dissent: suspensions have been enforced. Such behaviour has no place in schools' football and will not be tolerated. It was agreed that the Codes of Conduct will be reviewed and simplified. CW will then write to headteachers in the new academic year and remind them of their duties to ensure everyone representing their school is respectful, accountable and sets a good example for all. The new Codes of Conduct must be shared with everyone involved as a condition of competition entry.

5. Chairman's Report - (See separate sheet after A.O.B.).

6. Secretary's Report - (See separate sheet after A.O.B.).

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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. It was noted that the boys' district team did not raise any funds during the 2024/25 season, although CW obtained £750 in grants to fund a new boys' away kit. This is yet to be worn.

CW also obtained a grant for the same amount to meet running costs for the girls' team as well as £1202 in further contributions. This means the girls' team's fundraising returned a small profit.

CW agreed to check whether Unite will continue their annual £500 donation.

CW reported that BDSFA are one of the good causes local Tesco stores are featuring in their blue-chip scheme from July-September. This will bring in £500-£1500 to help fund district football next season, depending upon whether BDSFA finishes 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

The planned sponsorship for the 9-a-side competitions fell through but Finesse Sports will step in for next season.

LW stated that a parents' meeting will be held for the boys' district team at the start of next season and she will speak to those present regarding fundraising.

8. Competitions – CW informed members that thirty-nine of the forty-five eligible schools entered one or more competitions (eighty-seven percent). Those who did not do so were St Joseph's (Dag), Sydney Russell, Manor Junior, Manor Primary, Dorothy Barley and Eastbrook. Four of those schools have access to on-site pitches.

9-a-side competitions:

Barking & Dagenham Cup: Winners – Valence Primary

Barking & Dagenham Trophy: Winners – St Peter's Catholic Primary

At last year's AGM, 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 is for schools with three-form entry or more. Both competitions have equal weighting.

MB reported that the changes led to an overall increase in fixtures being fulfilled, especially in the Trophy – an increase from six to twenty-three.

MB: *This year saw the Trophy begin with two groups (one a group of six and another of five – later, four after withdrawal of the holders St. Margarets).*

Pleasingly, despite the large group, the majority of games were played. This would see 1st from Group A play 4th from Group B and vice versa in the semi-finals. A tight Group A saw St. Peters emerge as winners (following on from their

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success in the Ballerz Boys League last year), closely followed by Richard Alibon. St. Teresa's and Five Elms joined them in the quarter finals.

In Group B, Thomas Arnold topped the group, with Goresbrook a close 2nd. Parsloes and Eastbury CS also moved into the knockout stage.

The quarter finals were for the thrill seekers as thirty goals were scored across the four games. This led the top two in each group moving into the semi-finals.

The final four were tight matches, with St. Peter's winning 4-1 against a tough Goresbrook team, and Richard Alibon overcoming Thomas Arnold 2-1 in an extremely close game.

The final between Richard Alibon and St. Peter's was a tight-knit affair, with St. Peter's running out winner's 3-2. It was pleasing to see in the latter stages of the game with all to play for, both teams had three girls on the pitch, meaning 1/3 of the players were female.

In the Cup, there were four groups of either five or four, with the top two progressing to the quarter finals. Disappointingly, we saw three withdrawals, (two in the groups of four, leading to only three matches).

Despite the extended deadline, several games were left to the last-minute making knockout rounds more difficult to complete on schedule.

The group stages did see some tough encounters, and eight teams emerging into the knockout stages.

Group winners played runners-up in the quarter finals, with some outstanding games taking place. Roding Cannington overcame Monteagle 6-4 in a thriller, whilst Thames View also played out a goal-fest winning 4-3 against Ripple. Beam progressed against James Cambell, with Valence being the only runner up to advance, eliminating John Perry.

The semi-finals saw a rematch from the group stage, with Beam against Valence. The previous encounter saw Beam emerge victorious 7-3, however the tables were turned with a brilliant performance from Valence putting themselves into the final with a 4-1 win. Roding Cannington continued their goal bonanza, scoring six in both the quarter and semi-finals to progress.

The final would see two powerhouses, in Roding Cannington and Valence compete for the Cup. The game itself was an end-to-end affair with two long range efforts cancelling each other out, before a powerful run through the defence gave Roding the lead. With time running down, Valence pressed forwards and were rewarded when a foul in the area led to a penalty. The Roding keeper managed to save the penalty; however, the rebound fell kindly to the Valence striker and the ball was turned into the net.

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Extra time came and went, with the final decided on penalties. Valence triumphed 4-2 in an entertaining close ran game.

CW reported that the FA is due to adopt the 'Future Fit' programme from 2026/27. This will see 9-a-side football begin at U12; 7-a-side will be mandatory for U11s. CW contacted Essex SFA already to see whether this will apply to schools' football: English SFA are currently liaising with the FA.

CW requested that MB send him the contact details for Finesse Sports to confirm details of sponsorship next season.

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: Winners – Beam

Evans-Moore Plate: Not played

GF organised the Evans-Moore Cup in the Autumn Term. He expressed thanks to Ali at Leisure United for his assistance.

Members fed back that the referees brought in for the competition were very good. However, one school was disqualified for fielding an ineligible player. They also broke Safeguarding procedures at the venue and GF followed up the incident with the Headteacher.

Beam beat Valence in the final and went on to represent the association in the Pokemon Cup.

GF expressed his disappointment that the Evans-Moore Plate could not be held this year as he was unable to be released from teaching duties in order to run the tournament. Moving forward, DM and LW agreed to run the competition on the day next season, with GF dealing with the administration and arrangements.

Appleyard Shield: Winners – St Peter's Catholic Primary

MB: This year saw twenty-eight teams compete to take the mantle of the Appleyard Shield, which saw the majority of deadlines completed successfully. Disappointingly, we saw six games suffer from forfeits, a slight rise on last year.

The first round saw the four semi-finalists from 2023-2024 given byes, with some exciting games – Southwood winning on penalties against Roding Hewitt, Eastbury sneaking a 2-1 win over Godwin and St. Teresa's with a good 2-1 win over Hunters Hall.

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The second round did see some one-sided contests, with Richard Alibon, St. Peter's and Northbury recording big wins (three of those who are in the Ballerz League Super Six).

The quarter finals came around quickly and again involved big wins for Richard Alibon and Northbury, with St. Vincent's scoring a last minute of extra time winner against Monteagle. Sadly, St. Margarets withdrew from their fixture.

The semi-finals were thrilling with St. Peter's progressing after a 3-2 in extra time against Richard Alibon, and Northbury triumphing 4-1 in their game.

The final was a thunderous cracker of a game, with St. Peter's and Northbury showcasing why they have been dominant this season. The final was extended to fifteen minutes a half, and all the spectators were pleased to see more. St. Peter's ended up winning 4-2 as worthy winners.

Congratulations to all those who took part and completed their games on time.

Ballerz Girls' League: Winners – Richard Alibon Primary

CW: Twenty-nine teams entered. Games were completed on time. Congratulations to Stefan Scott and his Richard Alibon side whose passing style was a pleasure to see; they thoroughly deserved their first league title. They were one of three outstanding teams in the league this season and were pushed all the way by Northbury and St Peter's.

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

AH submitted the following report: There were thirty schools signed up for the Ballerz Boys' League this year which shows its continued popularity and worth as a borough competition. Thames View and Becontree both dropped out having not played any games so technically we had twenty-eight schools actively involved in the competition this season.

Our Super Six stage of the competition consists of St Vincent's, Hunters Hall, St Joseph's Barking, Eastbury CS, Monteagle and St Peters. The Super Six stage of the competition is still ongoing but with only a few games remaining.

However, St Vincent's have already been crowned champions of the Ballerz Boys League for the first time since the competition began winning five games out of five (fifteen points) in the Super Six stage. Hunters Hall are likely to finish as runners up as they have nine points with a game remaining but this is not mathematically confirmed as of yet.

Overall, another successful Ballerz Boys League campaign and no major issues as secretary of the competition other than the usual with some schools failing to complete fixtures on time and schools entering and then dropping out.

Looking forward to next year's competition already.

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Callum Johnson from James Cambell proposed establishing a Y3/4 girls' league. CW agreed to suggest this at the AGM. Members felt this was not needed and that a festival was more appropriate. CW agreed to feedback.

9. Boys' District Football - The boys' district side was run by Wesley Jackson-Charles (George Carey). No report was submitted for a second season. WJC did not attend the meeting.

Members expressed their disappointment that the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the team was missed. GF agreed to formally address this issue with WJC.

The following report was submitted on 9th July by WJC:

Good day to all. I hope this report finds you well. First, my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the AGM. Our school had an Inter-Borough Athletics competition on the same day which is why I was absent. Apologies again for any inconvenience caused.

The Barking & Dagenham Boys District team competed in the following competitions this past season:

- Essex League
- Crisp Shield
- Lester Finch Trophy

This along with special invitations to Arsenal and Crystal Palace Academies, as well as the end of season Ugo Ehiogu Memorial Trophy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for his help and assistance with administration, to Graeme for being our designated referee for home games, to Dave for his never-ending work behind the scenes – and advice – and also to Jonathan who provided invaluable match day support in his first season with us. The district side could not possibly run without a dedicated team and support network behind us.

We had a squad of 16 players this season – from 12 different schools – all of whom represented their schools, themselves and the Borough with respect, honour – and dignity. We cannot thank them and their parents enough for their dedication this season.

As ever, it has been a pleasure to work with all concerned, and always fills us with a great sense of pride representing Barking & Dagenham. We also this year gave a debut to our new yellow away kit, which I'm reliably informed by the players is "super cool". So, if the children think it is cool, we must be doing something right!

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All that is left is to wish one and all a happy, restful and relaxing summer holidays – take care of yourselves – and we look forward to our next round of trials due to begin on Saturday 13th September. Take care!

10. Girls' District Football - BDSFA Girls 2024/25: Grace Attwood-Adams (*The Leys*); Abbie Blewitt (*Hunters Hall*); Paloma Correia (*George Carey*); Theresa Ezea (*St Peter's*); Aaliyah Felix (*Goresbrook*); Lilly-Mae Fisher (*Roding*); Bella Hines (*Northbury*); Lily Imatitikua (*St Peter's*); Whitney James (*Rose Lane*); Simonette Johnson (*St Peter's*); Jo Mecvari (*Southwood*), Bella Yorke (*Richard Alibon*)

CW: The season began with the Southern Counties League Cup regional heats in St Albans. Barking & Dagenham played five games, winning the lot without conceding a goal and qualifying for the finals in May.

This began a twenty-five match unbeaten run that only ended in the aforementioned competition, where Barking & Dagenham romped through the group and knockout stages to meet Cardiff in the final. Sadly, the four-hour journey to Bath (less than an hour for the opponents) and subsequent early start took its toll at the end of a long day with a wilting Barking & Dagenham losing 2-0. Defeat to the national champions of Wales is no disgrace however (a city with more than double the population of our borough).

The only other team to beat Barking & Dagenham were London Girls' League winners, Southern Counties Cup winners, Southern Counties Trophy winners, Southern Counties League winners, Surrey Girls' League winners and English national cup runners-up - Wokingham.

Even then, Barking & Dagenham were eight minutes from taking the London Girls' League trophy for a sixth time when Wokingham agonisingly edged a 3-2 thriller. This meant the runners-up spot for a second time, added to a third-place finish in the Southern Counties Cup at Oxford City FC, thanks to a semi-final loss to the same opponents.

Barking & Dagenham comfortably lifted the Essex Schools' FA League title with a 100% record and defeated Hackney in the Stuart Feakins Trophy to seal an excellent double.

The overall record was P32 W25 D4 L3 GF93 GA23, with a top three finish in every competition entered.

This puts Barking & Dagenham amongst the best teams in the country. The squad was magnificent throughout the season, with a tight-knit group of twelve players representing the association with pride.

That commitment was reflected by the achievements of three players who reached the impressive milestone of 50 district appearances: St Peter's Simonette Johnson (60), captain Aaliyah Felix of Goresbrook (58) and Hunters

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Hall's Abbie Blewitt (50). All three were presented with a special salver to celebrate their commitment and dedication. Honourable mentions must also go to George Carey's Paloma Correia and The Leys' Grace Attwood-Adams who racked up 48 and 45 appearances respectively.

CW thanked Neil Adams and Andre Weston for their support this season, their enthusiasm and dedication to the team played a huge part in its success. CW also thanked DM, GF, the staff from Leisure United, Max Young (referee) and Roding Primary School (minibus use) for their invaluable help.

GF led members in thanking CW for his unwavering dedication across eighteen seasons leading the team. During this time, he has not missed a single game across over 400 matches, 755 goals, 173 players and 18 major trophies.

CW will be stepping down for health reasons and a new management team is needed for the team to continue.

AW reiterated GF's thanks and for the opportunity to work with the team during the season.

11. Election of New Committee -

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

In addition, MB agreed to take over as Child Welfare Officer. There will be an interregnum where Dave Moore continuing until the necessary courses and checks are complete. CW will liaise with English Schools FA to establish the requirements.

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. 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.

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

Eight-Second Rule: From 1st July, goalkeepers cannot handle the ball for more than eight seconds. If not adhered to, a corner to the opposition team is to be awarded. Members agreed that it is more appropriate to have dialogue with

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a player before imposing the sanction and that the spirit of schools' football should be observed at all times.

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 parents to arrange transport. Pupils under 135cm require booster seats (see *OEAP guidance*).

Welfare: see 'Election of New Committee'. DM also reminded members that BDSFA holds a detailed Risk Assessment for schools to use/adapt which is available on request.

Pokemon Cup: qualifiers for the girls' and small-schools' competitions will be held in October. The Evans-Moore Cup winners for 2025/26 will compete in the boys' equivalent.

Meeting concluded at 18:49

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Chair's report for AGM 3rd July 2025

As I come to the end of my third year as Chairman of the BDSFA, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the continued trust placed in me to lead this fantastic association. It remains a true honour and privilege to serve in this role, and I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who contributes their time, energy and expertise to supporting football across our borough. Your ongoing commitment enables hundreds of boys and girls to develop not only their footballing skills but also their confidence, teamwork and love for the game.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who work with and for the BDSFA in various capacities. Your dedication ensures that children of all abilities have access to high-quality football opportunities, and the association continues to thrive because of you. This season, Wesley Charles has once again shown tremendous commitment in leading the boys' district team. His enthusiasm and drive to offer meaningful experiences to players from across Barking & Dagenham are hugely appreciated.

I would also like to give special recognition to Chris Wilding, whose tireless efforts as BDSFA Secretary remain at the heart of everything we do. From running competitions and managing communication channels to dealing with enquiries and overseeing the association's online presence, Chris's work is invaluable. His continued leadership of the girls' district team has been exemplary, and his role in developing this side of our provision has helped elevate our standing both locally and nationally. It is with great sadness that Chris is standing down from his role as Girls' manager and I would like to personally thank him for everything he has done to grow the side across the many years he has been at the helm. I was lucky to be a part of the first ever BDSFA girls' management team and to see how it has developed into what it is now seen as one of the best, if not the best, associations in the country is testament to Chris' tireless dedication. Once again, I would like to thank Chris for his endeavours.

Dave Moore also deserves our sincere thanks. His work as Treasurer and CWO is vital to the smooth running of the association, and his presence at matches and events reflects the care and attention he brings to his role. His knowledge and support are key pillars of our success. We've also benefited from the support of many others this season. Thanks go to Michael Blooman and Aaron Hunwicks for their invaluable help in organising and running our schools' competitions. On behalf of the association, thank you to each and every individual who has played a part in another successful year. Your time, effort and passion make a real difference. I would also like to thank Lisa Watkinson

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for her involvement in our association along with every other individual that has contributed across the season

Participation in our competitions has remained strong. Over 30 schools took part in the Barking and Dagenham Cups, with increasing numbers entering the Ballerz Leagues and Appleyard Shield. The Evans-Moore Cup and Plate held at our excellent new home ground, were fully subscribed, reflecting the continued enthusiasm and growth of schools' football across the borough. The girls' district team once again proved themselves to be exceptional ambassadors for their schools and community. Congratulations to the players and staff on another outstanding campaign. The boys' district team also enjoyed a strong season, competing in a wide range of fixtures and delivering some excellent performances. The experience has helped each player grow, both on and off the pitch.

As we draw this season to a close, it's clear that Barking & Dagenham schools' football continues to go from strength to strength. The quality of provision, the level of engagement, and the passion behind the scenes are all reasons to be proud. Together, we are not only maintaining high standards — we are pushing them even further.

Thank you all once again for your support, and I wish you a relaxing and well-deserved summer break. I look forward to building on this year's success as we enter another exciting season ahead.

Warm regards,

Graeme Farquhar
(BDSFA Chairman)

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Secretary's report for AGM 3rd July 2025

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

Thank you to Aaron Hunwicks, Mike Blooman and Graeme Farquhar for acting as competition secretaries and to Ballerz Sports Coaching, Dave Moore and Joe Appleyard for their sponsorship of borough competitions. We look forward to working with Finesse Sports, who will sponsor next season's 9-a-side cups.

A number of schools also took part in county competitions with George Carey reaching the final of the Essex SFA Girls' Cup and Beam (mixed) and St Peter's (girls) reaching the county rounds of the Pokemon Cup at Billericay Town. Northbury also represented the association at the National League Trust Cup regional heats, progressing to the South-East finals.

Appreciation is also shown to all those who have assisted with our district sides this year. Wesley Charles's boys' team entered the Crisp Shield, Essex SFA Finch League and Lester Finch Trophy as well as a brace of Premier League club tournaments and the Ugo Ehiogu Memorial Trophy.

Thanks also are extended to Neil Adams and Andre Weston who assisted in guiding the girls' team to third place in the Southern Counties Cup, the runners-up spots in the Southern Counties League Cup and London Girls' League, as well as winning the Essex SFA League title and the Stuart Feakins Trophy.

BDSFA competitions for this season will be:

- *Barking & Dagenham Cup* (9-a-side, schools with 60+ Y6 pupils, Y6 only)
- *Barking & Dagenham Trophy* (9-a-side, schools with fewer than 60 Y6 pupils, 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 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
(BDSFA Secretary)

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Treasurer's report for AGM 3rd July 2025

The association's finances are in a relatively good position. We are again able to carry forward a satisfactory amount to season 25/26.

Significant ways we have met costs:

- Competition entry fees from schools (£1000+)
- Fund raising grants (particularly the girls' district team). These again provided 'extras' for the girls, helping to meet minibus costs.
- Parents have also contributed to the Wild Forest fun activity.
- Essex SFA have assisted in funding some pitch/referee costs.

However, we must avoid complacency:

- Increased or unexpected costs could put a 'dent' in our present healthy financial state.
- Barking and Dagenham Lottery is suspended at present. Our income by this means is £500 less than last year.
- Although we managed this year to reduce the net cost of district pitches/referees, we still have a £477 deficit as far as these two 'items' are concerned.

Sponsorship:

Thank you to our sponsors who help reduce the costs involved in running inter-school competitions. Hopefully the Barking and Dagenham Cup and Trophy will be sponsored from September 2025.

Fundraising:

It is sensible and appropriate for any district team to raise some funds each season. It is probably not viable or sustainable for BDSFA to *fully* subsidise a district team. I think it would be viable for any district team running to have fundraising team target (I suggest £400 minimum. This would equate to approximately £25 per player).

Mr. Wilding:

Thanks to Chris Wilding for regularly updating me on the income and expenditure of the girls' district team. He has successfully applied for several substantial grants for the girls' team this year. Chris (and the BDSFA committee) agreed to kindly allocate half of one grant to pay for a brand new 'away kit' for the boys' district team. Chris has decided that he will not manage the girls' district team after the 2024/25 season. I congratulate him on the success and the opportunities he has provided for all the players in the girls' district teams over the past eighteen years. He now deserves a well-earned rest!

Dave Moore
(BDSFA Treasurer)

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