

Barking and Dagenham Schools' Football Association (Primary)



Minutes of AGM 2nd July 2026 (begun at 16:37)

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

2. Apologies – Rachel Kerr (Warren), Aaron Hunwicks (Northbury), Belinda Beveridge (Manor Primary), Sean Connolly (Robert Clack), Blessen Opoku (Riverside), William Nkansah (John Perry), Lisa Watkinson (Valence).

3. Minutes of last meeting - were agreed.

4. Matters Arising – CW reported that the revised Codes of Conduct were circulated and that all Headteachers agreed to adopt them.

This process took a long time, and it will not be practical to repeat annually. A solution will be to include a note on the entry form stating that completion represents renewal.

CW reported that the presence of the COC has not necessarily led to changes of behaviour, but it has been a useful set of principles to hold schools accountable to in the case of alleged discipline breaches.

CW noted schools who did not enter the year-round competitions in 2025-26 will need to complete the form when they return.

GF thanked CW in his efforts to chase up schools, and also in dealing with several lengthy discipline cases across the season.

DM continued as CWO/Safeguarding Support across the season due to delays with processing MB's FA DBS. MB and CW will follow up with ESFA.

From 2026/27, 7-a-side is the mandatory format for all U11s football. Throw-ins will be replaced by dribbling/passing the ball in from the sidelines. Heading is not permitted.

This has implications for the Y6 Barking & Dagenham Finesse Cup and Trophy. Y5s may be eligible. There may also be changes to the Evans-Moore competitions and Ballerz Boys' League which will be very similar in format.

At last year's AGM, CW suggested making the 9-a-side cups U12 competitions for Y6 only, who would be playing 'a year up'. No Y7s can play as we are a

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primary schools' FA so no Y7s form part of our association. The 'Y6 only' rule can just remain in place. This would then enable all other borough competitions to also remain in their current format.

The idea was initially rebuffed when permission was sought but English Schools' FA recently gave the green light for this plan, which a number of other associations across the country are also intending to follow.

Members voted 7-1 in favour of the Barking & Dagenham Finesse Cup/Trophy remaining at 9-a-side, with a further review at the end of the season.

The remaining BDSFA competitions must comply with Future Fit, with no throw-ins, no heading and the use of size 3 footballs at 5-a-side and 7-a-side.

More information:

- [FutureFit for schools](#)
- [Can schools access funding to support implementing these changes?](#)

5. Chairman's Report - *(See separate sheet after A.O.B.)*. CW thanked GF for his efforts across the season.

6. Secretary's Report - *(See separate sheet after A.O.B.)*. MB responded, thanking BDSFA for providing the competitive platform which enabled St Vincent's to reach the national small-schools final.

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. CW obtained £2750 in sponsorship and grants for the two district teams, fulfilling the requirement to raise funds. Some of this will follow over to next season.

CW thanked Neal Young from Unite who lobbied to increase the union's annual sponsorship of the girls' district team by 50%. DM noted the contribution the Young family have made over a sustained period.

CW thanked DM for preparing the report and accounts, an overview of which was presented for members to view.

8. Competitions – CW informed members that thirty-eight of the forty-five eligible schools entered one or more competitions (eighty-four percent). Half of the schools who did not enter have access to on-site pitches.

9-a-side competitions:

Barking & Dagenham Finesse Cup: Winners – Monteagle Primary

Barking & Dagenham Finesse Trophy: Winners – Hunters Hall Primary

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MB: The format for the Barking & Dagenham Finesse Trophy was two groups, one of six and one of seven. Sadly, two teams did drop out of the competition meaning a group of five and a group of six. The majority of the games were played, with the top four in each group advancing to the knockout stage.

Group A was extremely close, with a playoff needed to separate Five Elms and St. Josephs. There were some stand out highlights, St. Teresa's winning 5-4 against Henry Green, Goresbrook overcoming Eastbury CS 3-1 in a tight game, and St. Vincent's just scraping through 1-0 against Parsloes.

The quarter finals saw St. Vincent's again battle through 5-4 against Eastbury in a ding-dong battle that could have gone either way. St. Teresa's also overcame St. Joseph's 7-4 in an eleven-goal thriller.

The semi-finals saw Hunters Hall march to the final, having only conceded in one game this season, beating St. Vincent's. They were joined by St. Teresa's, who seem to love a thriller, beating Parsloes 5-4. This meant that over seven games, St. Teresa's had fired in an incredible forty-five goals!

The final was going to be the top two in each group. St. Teresa's, winners of Group B, against Hunters Hall, Group A winners. In the end, Hunters Hall overpowered St. Teresa's, with a fine attacking performance and a goalkeeper in inspired form to run out 6-0 winners.

The Barking & Dagenham Finesse Cup had eighteen teams compete, split into three groups of six. The top two would advance, along with the two best third placed teams. Group B and Group C had virtually all their games completed, although Group A struggled to get games completed.

Group A had William Bellamy top their group, with some impressive victories over Valence and Rush Green, with Monteagle advancing as runners up.

Group B contained the impressive Thames View who won all five of their fixtures, scoring forty goals! Beam did well to come in second place with Eastbury Primary as one of the best third placed teams. It could have been so different for Manor school who lost two of their games 2-3, showing how close the competition is.

Group C had Roding race through their fixtures winning all five to top the group. Gascoigne had a 2-0 win over William Ford that advanced them as runners up, but William Ford managed to join them as the best third placed team.

All the quarter finals were close games, William Bellamy beating Eastbury in a tight 2-0 game, Thames View continued the scoring with a 4-1 win over William Ford, Monteagle knocked out a difficult Gascoigne side, and Roding lost a thriller 2-3 to Beam.

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Semi-Finals, and Group A winners William Bellamy took on Group B winners Thames View. This was a terrific clash, and in the end, Thames View emerged victorious 4-1 winners. Monteagle also maintained their undefeated streak to eliminate Beam with a 2-0 win.

The final saw two brilliant sides with Thames View (now having scored forty-eight goals in seven games) against Monteagle (who had only conceded two). Attack against Defence. It started tight, with Thames View taking an early lead, but a Monteagle fightback ended up seeing them running out 5-1 winners with an emphatic and well-deserved victory.

MB reported that Finesse are happy to continue as sponsors again next season. CE expressed that to MB for organising this season's competitions.

Important point – Only Y6 can play in the Finesse 9-a-side competitions. Any school found to have played an ineligible pupil will be eliminated from the competition.

Small-sided competitions:

Evans-Moore Cup: Winners – George Carey Church of England Primary School

Evans-Moore Plate: Not played

DM: The Evans Moore Cup took place on 22/10/25 at the Bobby Moore Hub.

- A BDSFA safeguarding/risk assessment document and a guidance/rules sheet were sent to each participating school prior to the competition.

- Five referees were appointed for the competition.

- Four pitches were used. four groups of six schools. Squads of ten players. Year 5/6 pupils only. Matches ten minutes straight through. Top two in each group went through to knockout stage.

- Semis: George Carey 0-0 Hunters Hall (4-3 on pens); Ripple 1-0 William Bellamy

- Final: George Carey 1-1 Ripple (3-2 on pens)

Many thanks to Graeme Farquhar for carrying out pre-tournament admin. – pitch bookings, school communication, fixture and result sheets.

Thanks to Lisa Watkinson and Dave Moore for organizing at the event.

Thanks to all staff and pupils that followed all guidelines and rules. Many compliments were received saying how enjoyable and successful the day was.

The last winner of the EM Plate was Northbury 2023/24. The running of this competition has had difficulties in recent years and did not take place in 2024/25.

Appleyard Shield: Winners – St Peter's Catholic Primary

MB: This year saw twenty-eight teams enter the Appleyard Shield, however we did see an increase in forfeitures with five first round games. Highlights of round one were a 5-0 win for William Bellamy over Goresbrook, and an entertaining 6-3 win for Thames View over Monteagle. Semi-finalists from the previous year were awarded a bye.

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The second round saw some cracking games, with Northbury winning 5-0 against a strong William Bellamy and Eastbury Community winning against Richard Alibon on penalties. All games completed before the deadline.

Quarter finals saw four brilliant games. Roding Cannington scraped through 2-1 against Northbury in a tight, even game, defending champions St Peter's won 2-0 against St. Joseph's Barking, Thames View continued their run with a 5-2 win over Henry Green, and non-stop game ended 4-3 with Eastbury Community overcoming James Cambell.

The Semi-Finals were both tight affairs, but ended up with St. Peters defeating Roding Cannington 4-2 and Eastbury ending Thames View's great run 5-2. To the final. Two outstanding teams in St. Peters and Eastbury Community. In a game that could have gone either way, some outstanding goalkeeping from the St. Peters No.1 denied Eastbury time and again, along with some clinical finishing from St. Peter's attackers gave them a 5-1 victory. This meant St. Peters defended their title and secured a second Appleyard Shield win in a row.

Thank you to all the teams who have completed their games within the deadline, and best of luck for next season.

DM confirmed that Joe Appleyard would continue his sponsorship.

Ballerz Girls' League: Winners – tbc

CW: The closure of Goals for refurbishment at the end of May, together with the red weather warning, caused significant disruption to the completion of this year's competition. There are several fixtures affected which remain unplayed.

International shipping disruption caused by the conflict affecting the Strait of Hormuz has delayed delivery of the custom-made medals for the Ballerz competitions and district representation. Plans are in place to purchase alternatives if needed. CW will deliver these to schools during the final full week of term should it become necessary.

Ballerz Boys' League: Winners – tbc

AH: The Ballerz Boys' league has been running in Barking & Dagenham now for six years. In 2025/2026 we had a total of twenty-five entries for the Year 4/5 boys only competition continuing the consistency of interest from Barking & Dagenham schools with only Eastbury Primary, Hunters Hall Primary and Thomas Arnold Primary pulling out of the first stage of the competition.

In Group A, Southwood, James Cambell and Monteagle all progressed. In Group B, St Peters', Richard Alibon and Eastbury CS. In Group C, we had Northbury, Roding Hewett and St Vicent's. In Group D, it was Roding Cannington, Valence and William Bellamy. Finally, in Group E we had St Joseph's Barking, Ripple and Beam.

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Those five teams battled it out for a place in the Super Six stage of the competition where St Peter's, St Joseph's Barking, Roding Cannington, Roding Hewett, James Cambell and Beam progressed to the final stage.

At this stage of the season, due to a packed summer term and some extreme heat there are still a few games outstanding. We are just waiting for these fixtures to be completed to determine the outcome.

Another competitive and well organised season for the Ballerz Boys' League and looking forward to another successful competition next season.

CW congratulated George Carey, Northbury and St Vincent's who represented BDSFA in the county rounds of the national English Schools' FA Pokemon Cup. There was special mention to the latter who won the Essex competition and the regional heat, making it to the overall national final at Stoke City FC's stadium, where they finished as runners-up.

9. Boys' District Football - The boys' district manager was Wesley Jackson-Charles (*George Carey*), with a team of coaches from the local community. No manager's report was received in time for inclusion in the AGM papers.

GF reported that he received a voicemail message during that afternoon confirming WJC's decision to step down from his role. On behalf of the association, CW thanked WJC for his years of service as boys' district manager since 2018, when he first worked alongside DM. Thanks were also given to the coaching team of Mohamed, Jonathan and Dami.

GF stated he may be able to run the team next season, alongside other members of staff. AW and MR gave provisional expressions of interest. Plans will need to be firmed up in the coming months. CW asked if GF could arrange for the return of BDSFA kit and equipment.

10. Girls' District Football – The girls' district manager was Olla Obaye (*Beam*), assisted by Prince Woni and Yvonne Gallagher (*both William Bellamy*). A report was received after the meeting papers had been prepared and therefore could not be included.

However, GF and CW expressed thanks to Olla for a well-organised and enjoyable maiden season, referring to the Chair's Report for further details.

11. Election of New Committee -

- Chair – Graeme Farquhar (nominated by MB, seconded by DR)
- Secretary – Chris Wilding (nominated by GF, seconded by DM)

DM confirmed he was willing to remain in post as Treasurer. The CWO role remains in the hands of the FA so this remains as per last season.

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CW proposed removing the post of Vice-Chair. This would enable the committee to operate more efficiently in its day-to-day business.

Instead, a General Purposes Committee may be convened to assist with particular issues, bringing in expertise from more schools. On certain occasions, this would help with decision making and enable a more informed consensus to be reached. Those present who were not already Committee members were invited and agreed. LW (the current Vice-Chair) will also be approached.

12. A.O.B. -

Adults Other Than Teachers/Referees: It is good practice for a qualified teacher to always be present at matches and reserves the right to refuse permission for individuals from taking responsibility for teams in competition if the committee deems 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. Schools should agree refereeing arrangements prior to the game.

Health & Safety: Teachers in charge of football, as part of their ongoing Risk Assessment, need to maintain vigilance regarding suitable footwear. 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.

Transport: Teachers are reminded that anyone assisting in school-arranged transportation of pupils to matches should be DBS 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 'Matters Arising'. 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 18:39

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Chair's report for AGM 2nd July 2026

As another successful season comes to a close, I complete my fourth year as Chairman of the Barking & Dagenham Schools' Football Association. Looking back over the past twelve months, I feel incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together and grateful for the continued support that allows our association to flourish year after year.

The success of the BDSFA has always been built on the commitment of volunteers who willingly give up their time to provide opportunities for young people across the borough. Whether organising competitions, coaching district teams, officiating at matches or working behind the scenes, every contribution plays an important part in ensuring that football continues to thrive in Barking & Dagenham. Thank you to everyone who has supported the association throughout another fantastic year.

There are a number of people whose efforts deserve particular recognition. Firstly, I would like to thank Chris Wilding for his unwavering dedication as BDSFA Secretary. Much of what we achieve simply would not be possible without Chris's hard work, organisation and attention to detail. From overseeing competitions and managing communications to ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the association, his commitment is second to none.

I would like to begin by recognising the outstanding work of our new girls' district team management. Ola, Prince and Yvonne have taken on the responsibility of leading the girls' district team in their first season and have embraced the role with enthusiasm, professionalism and genuine care for every player. Their commitment has ensured the girls have continued to enjoy outstanding opportunities to represent the borough and have built impressively on the strong foundations already in place. On behalf of the association, thank you for everything you have done throughout the season. On a personal note, as the parent of one of the players, I have seen first-hand the time, care and encouragement they have given the squad, and I sincerely thank them for that.

I would also like to thank Wesley and Dami for their continued commitment to the boys' district team. Thank you both for your continued support of the boys and the association.

Special thanks must also go to Dave Moore for his continued service as Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer. Dave's experience, knowledge and reliability are invaluable to the association, and his dedication behind the scenes helps ensure that everything runs smoothly throughout the season.

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I would also like to acknowledge Michael Blooman and Aaron Hunwicks for the excellent work they have done in supporting and organising our schools' competitions. My thanks also go to Lisa Watkinson and every volunteer who has played a role in making this another successful year. The BDSFA is fortunate to have such committed people working together for the benefit of young footballers across the borough.

It has been particularly pleasing to see our competitions continue to grow in popularity. Entries across all of our tournaments have continued to increase, demonstrating the strength of schools' football in Barking & Dagenham. The Barking & Dagenham Cup competitions, the Ballerz Leagues, the Appleyard Shield and the Evans-Moore Cup continue to provide fantastic opportunities for children to represent their schools, develop their skills and enjoy competitive football in a positive environment.

Both of our district teams have represented the borough with pride throughout the season. The girls have continued the outstanding standards that have become synonymous with BDSFA football, while the boys have enjoyed another campaign, producing some excellent performances and creating memories that will remain with the players for years to come. More importantly, both squads have demonstrated the respect, teamwork and sportsmanship that our association values so highly.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future of the BDSFA. The continued growth in participation, the dedication of our volunteers and the enthusiasm shown by schools across the borough give us every reason to be optimistic. Together, we will continue to provide the very best opportunities for young people to enjoy and succeed in football.

Finally, thank you once again to everyone who has supported the association over the past year. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to working with you all again as we begin another exciting season.

Warm regards,

Graeme Farquhar
Chairman
Barking & Dagenham Schools' Football Association

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Secretary's report for AGM 2nd July 2026

In this year's competitions, thirty-seven schools entered one or all of the Finesse 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, Finesse Sports, Dave Moore and Joe Appleyard for their continued sponsorship of borough competitions.

A number of schools also took part in county competitions with George Carey and Northbury respectively competing in the mixed and girls' Pokemon Cup County rounds.

Special congratulations must be extended to St Vincent's however, who won the borough small-schools' play-off with St Teresa's before winning the county and regional heats to advance to the English Schools' FA national final at Stoke City FC. A narrow defeat in the last two saw them finish as runners-up – a wonderful achievement for Mike Blooman and his team.

Appreciation is also shown to all those who have assisted with our district sides this year. Wesley Jackson-Charles led the boys' team once again through their campaign whilst Olla Obaye from Beam stepped up to lead girls (who retained the Stuart Feakins Trophy), assisted by Prince Woni and Yvonne Gallagher from William Bellamy.

Many of our former players enjoyed success in the professional game. Most notably, Sorba Thomas was named in the Championship Team of the Year and was voted Stoke City's Player of the Season in addition to a number of eye-catching performances with the Welsh national team.

Divine Mukasa made his debut for Manchester City in the EFL Cup, before featuring twice in the Premier League and three more times in cup competitions. He spent the second half of the season on loan at Leicester City, where he scored twice as well as netting once for England U19s against Ukraine.

Idris Kanu (Barnet) and Kevin Berkoe (Shrewsbury Town) continued their careers in the EFL while Max Watters headed north of the border to Dundee on a season-long loan from Barnsley.

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Elsewhere, Airidas Golambeckis (West Ham) was an unused first team substitute on six occasions, featuring in the same England youth side as Divine Mukasa. England U18 international Chinaza Nwosu transferred to Nottingham Forest in September, whilst national U16 captain Lesecond Yeutembip (Newcastle United) will hope to add to his caps as he progresses through the age groups.

Of our girls' alumni, Emily Taylor-Brown featured twice in the West Ham United first team before a highly successful spell on loan at AFC Wimbledon. Beau Parker was promoted with Fulham and Olivia Smith won the county cup with Hashtag United. Kayla Grain made her debut for Billericay Town, as did Ruby Abela for Leyton Orient where she played alongside her aunt Gemma Abela (Godwin/Monteagle). Miquellah Meade continues to excel for Barking.

Marcella Sibbons-Setal and Chi-Chi Musa-Onyeka won silverware with the Essex Schools' FA county U16s, with the latter reaching the North V South final trial for the English Schools' national side.

Finally, Aysia Matabaro became the latest former BAD Girl to receive international honours when selected to represent the England U17s team in the MIMA Cup as well as Euro qualifiers against Türkiye and Italy. She is currently in the U15 age group.

BDSFA competitions for the 2026/27 season will be:

- *Finesse Barking & Dagenham Cup* (9-a-side, Y6 only)
- *Finesse Barking & Dagenham Trophy* (9-a-side, 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, as detailed on their entry forms.

Chris Wilding

(BDSFA Secretary)

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Treasurer's report for AGM 2nd July 2026

The Association's finances are in a satisfactory position. A good amount can be carried forward to the next financial year 2026/27.

Significant ways we have met costs:

- Competition entry fees from schools (approx. £1000)
- Fund raising grants. These significantly contribute to covering on-going district team expenses and cover the provision of a few 'extras' generally for the benefit of the girls' district team.
- Essex CSFA has assisted in funding some pitch/referee costs.
- Sponsorship of several of our competitions: Ballerz, Evans-Moore, Appleyard Shield. (Just to add that we can look forward to Finesse sponsorship for the Cup and Trophy competitions later in the season 25/26).

However, we must avoid complacency:

- Increased or unexpected costs could put a 'dent' in our finances at any time.
- Barking & Dagenham Lottery was suspended for a while. It's now back and running. This lottery income remained low this financial year (25/26). A boost would help to return to the days when BDSFA had a good lottery income.
- District football is expensive. The cost of pitches, referees and boxed medals totaled more than £1500 during this financial year. Food for thought at least (please see fundraising paragraph below).

Fundraising:

In my report last year, I wrote, *'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 subsidize a district team.'*

I continue to believe that district teams should be able to raise at least £25 per player. This can be covered by grants and donations, or indeed other contributions or fundraising activities e.g. sponsored penalties, raffles, etc.

Thanks to Chris Wilding who has successfully applied for several substantial grants/donations this financial year. Chris has much to do as secretary of BDSFA but always helps to ensure the BDSFA is well funded and money is spent wisely.

Thanks to Bobby Moore Sports Hub (Parsloes) where Ali and the Leisure United staff have continually helped BDSFA and provided pitches at reduced rates.

Dave Moore
(BDSFA Treasurer)

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