

MINUTES

British Baseball Federation AGM

Saturday, 1 April 2006

Start Time: 1:58pm
End Time: 4.46pm

Appointment of Tellers

Rob Rance
Darrin Muller

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Senior:

Bracknell	Mindy Gittoes
Croydon	Dave Ward
Essex	Phil Chesterton
Halton	John Mills
Herts	Lee Manning
Liverpool	Robbie Orme
Manchester	Chris Jackson
Menwith Hill	David Criss
BaseballMK	Rob Hodgson
Richmond	John Walmsley
Sheffield	Nick Wills
Southampton	Jeremy Neads
Windsor	John Boyd
Old Timers	Ray Reynolds
Other	
Scorers Association	Brian Holland

Junior

Bracknell	Darik Miles
Halton	Rob Mills
Menwith Hill	Rob Devall
BaseballMK	Keith Sherman
BBF Executive Board	John Eaton
	Ed Edsall
	Tony Fitzpatrick (minutes)
BBF Executive Board:	Ian Marchment
	Darrin Muller
	Rob Rance

25 voting cards were issued.

Ian Marchment (IM)(BBF Secretary) opened the meeting by advising that under the terms of the Constitution, the AGM was unconstitutional. Section 6.5 stated that, "General Meetings

shall be adjourned should they not be quorate 45 minutes after the scheduled start time." As the meeting had not been quorate until 1.58pm, the meeting was technically unconstitutional.

However, given the adjourned meeting on 18th February, and the fact that the meeting was quorate, IM offered the following options to the membership for vote, and recommended that the first option was selected:

- i) To ignore the contents of Section 6.5 and continue with the meeting.
- ii) To comply with the contents of Section 6.5, adjourn the meeting, and re-arrange the AGM again.

The membership voted in favour of Option (i) by 24 votes to 0.

IM welcomed the membership to the meeting, and advised that the agenda from the adjourned AGM on 18th February would be used. He also confirmed that the majority of the items on the agenda were simply updates which provided information that had been contained with the AGM packs.

1. APOLOGIES

2. MATTERS ARISING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2005 AGM

IM confirmed that the minutes of the 2005 AGM had been contained in the AGM pack.

Matters arising: None.

The minutes of the 2003 AGM were proposed as a true record of the meeting.

For	23
Against	0
Abstentions	2

Motion passed.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT, 2005 DRAFT ACCOUNTS AND 2006 BUDGET

IM confirmed that the financial report, 2005 Draft Accounts and 2006 Budget had all been contained in the AGM pack.

Matters arising: None

These documents were therefore proposed for approval by the membership.

For	18
Against	0
Abstentions	6

Motion passed.

4. BASEBALL STEERING GROUP REPORT

IM confirmed that the BSG report had been contained in the AGM pack.

Matters arising: None

The report was not subject to membership approval and therefore no vote was taken.

5. REPORT FROM NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BASEBALL MEETINGS (NOVEMBER 19-20)

IM confirmed that the minutes from the Northern baseball meetings on November 19th were available as a download from the BSUK website.

Matters arising: None

The minutes were not subject to membership approval and therefore no vote was taken.

Tony Fitzpatrick (TF)(BBF Board) confirmed that there were no minutes available from the Southern baseball meetings, as the notes from these meetings had been stolen before the minutes could be prepared and circulated.

Matters arising:

An issue was raised by a member regarding whether or not decisions taken at League Meetings had any binding effect. The example given was the Shropshire Panthers – the Southern League Meeting had apparently decided that Shropshire were to take part in the Midlands Division but they eventually played in Premier Division South.

It was confirmed to the meeting that decisions made at League Meetings were not binding, because the Meetings were not intended to set policy or practice. Instead, the Meetings were intended to inform the membership of the policies and procedures set by the BBF Board and to obtain recommendations from the membership for future policies and practices.

A number of members raised issues surrounding the communication between the BBF Board/BSUK and the general membership. It was accepted that this was an ongoing issue and would continue to be addressed in an effort to make improvements.

6. NATIONAL TEAMS AND GB ACADEMY REPORT

IM confirmed that these reports had been contained in the AGM pack.

Matters arising: None

The report was not subject to membership approval and therefore no vote was taken.

7. ABUA-GB REPORT

IM confirmed that the ABUA-GB report had been contained in the AGM pack.

In response to a question from the floor, Ed Edsall (EE)(BBF Board) confirmed that for 2006 there would be 32 registered umpires, 12 of which were team umpires.

The report was not subject to membership approval and therefore no vote was taken.

8. BSUK COACHING ASSOCIATION REPORT

IM confirmed that the coaching association report had been contained in the AGM pack.

John Boyd (JB)(Windsor) confirmed that it was BSUK's intention to hand over the running of many coaching programmes to a specific Development Officer, although this would not affect the day-to-day running of the programmes themselves.

The report was not subject to membership approval and therefore no vote was taken.

9. MOTIONS TO THE AGM

IM advised that there were a number of motions to the AGM dealing with amendments to the BBF Constitution. IM also confirmed the intention to set up a BBF Constitutional Group. This would consist of IM, one other BBF Board member, and one other BBF member not currently sitting on the Board. The job of this Group would be to review the entire BBF Constitution, and to take on board suggestions and proposals from as many sources as possible, before presenting a new Constitution for consideration at the next AGM.

JB advised that the process of incorporating BSUK and/or the BBF would probably necessitate changes to the BBF Constitution.

IM asked whether or not the AGM was prepared to defer the constitutional amendments to the next AGM pending the outcome of the Group's meetings.

Darik Miles (DMi)(Bracknell) advised that he had proposed a number of the constitutional amendments, and although he considered the Constitutional Group was a good idea, he insisted that the amendments be put to the meeting for a vote.

A number of constitutional amendments had been suggested by Ray Brownlie (RB), who was not present. The meeting considered these amendments en bloc.

The suggested amended Constitution was therefore proposed for approval by the membership.

For	0
Against	24
Abstentions	1

Motion failed.

IM had proposed that the Constitution be amended to reduce the minimum number of meetings for the BBF Board from 6 to 4.

For	22
Against	0
Abstentions	1

Motion passed.

RB had presented a motion to the AGM that a Lifetime Membership of the BBF be awarded to Michael Harrold, and had detailed his nomination in a document contained within the AGM pack. In response to a query from the floor, IM confirmed that acceptance of new Life Members would not affect the quorum of future meetings as Life Members created after a certain date were not granted a vote.

For 12
Against 2
Abstentions 10

In response to a point of order, IM confirmed that abstentions did not count as negative votes. Therefore, Motion passed.

Keith Sherman (KS)(Milton Keynes) had proposed a motion withdrawing the votes granted to BBF Board members.

DMi pointed out that if this motion passed, it would be harder to obtain a quorum for future meetings. John Mills (JM)(Halton) was of the opinion that the current situation was OK, but that voting rights should be addressed as part of the remit of the Constitutional Group. Phil Chesterton (PC)(Essex) pointed out that the AGM should not disenfranchise those members who made an effort to drive baseball forward.

There was no seconder for the motion, and therefore, Motion failed.

DMi advised that he had proposed a number of constitutional amendments, and explained the background to the proposals, particularly relating to financial control within the BBF. A number of other members commented in relation to the structure of BSUK and the relationship between BSUK and the BBF. JB confirmed that a structural review of BSUK had recently been carried out, and the preliminary results showed that the definition of BSUK as a "management agency" was a misnomer, and that "development agency" would be a more fitting description.

John Walmsley (JW)(Richmond) made the point that if the proposal regarding financial control was accepted, it would be necessary for strict financial systems to be in place, which were clearly not in place now.

The motions suggested by DMi had been separated in four distinct areas, and the meeting voted on each of these areas in turn.

Category 1

For 22
Against 0
Abstentions 1

Motion passed.

Category 2

For 23
Against 1
Abstentions 0

Motion passed.

Category 3

For 15
Against 3
Abstentions 6

Motion passed.

Category 4

DMi confirmed that this category of amendments was withdrawn pending the outcome of the Constitutional Group's deliberations.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

IM confirmed that of the seven constituency positions, only one was contested. Therefore, the remaining six constituency candidates only required a single positive vote to be elected, and were therefore agreed to have been elected.

Darrin Muller (DMu)(BBF Board) gave a brief outline of his candidacy for the position of Coaching Representative. He also agreed that if he was successful in being elected as Coaching Representative, he would withdraw his candidacy for the position of Member-at-Large.

The ballot papers were collected and counted by Rob Rance (RR)(BBF Board) and confirmed by John Eaton (JE)(BBF Board). The following were elected to sit on the BBF Board:

National League Representative
Northern Conference Representative
Southern Conference Representative
Northern Youth Representative
Southern Youth Representative
ABUA-GB Representative
Coaching Representative
Members-at-Large

Rob Rance
Ian Marchment
Tony Fitzpatrick
John Eaton
Darik Miles
Ed Edsall
Darrin Muller
Josh Chetwynd
Ted Gerard-Thesingh
John Mills

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IM explained to the meeting that a scam had been perpetrated in relation to coaching baseball in the UK, in an effort to obtain money for coaching jobs that did not exist. IM also confirmed that full details of the scam were available from the BSUK website, and encouraged all members to familiarise themselves with the details, and spread the word as far as possible.

David Criss (DC)(Menwith Hill) advised that visitor security measures at Menwith Hill had been changed, and that some nationalities were now prevented from entering the base. Rob Devall (RD)(Menwith Hill) noted that Menwith Hill's prior 100% exemption from the National League eligibility requirements had been withdrawn, and that this might lead to problems in fielding a team. IM advised that the requirements had been introduced to improve baseball, and were not based on nationality. JM advised that any member of Menwith Hill's senior team could make themselves eligible by coaching Menwith Hill's junior team.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.