

Aberdeen & District Badminton League Minutes
AGM 2025 – Saturday 24th May

Venue – Bank O’ Dee Sports Centre, 1pm start.

1. Attendance and Apologies:

A quorum was able to be formed as greater than 51% of the representative clubs of the league were present at the AGM. In attendance where:

71 Club – Ken Lavety	ABA - Martin Fragell	Aberdeen University - Kalyan Kante
Cruden Bay – Robert Bugden	Fetteresso – Neil Cuthbert	Glen Ythan – John Low
Granite City – Jamie King	Inverurie – Tom Metcalfe	Racquets – Steven Plank

In addition:

Chairman – Calum Davidson; Scorecard Secretary – Ross Pettigrew; Badminton Scotland RDO – Steven Cunningham

Those who sent their apologies were as follows:

Aberdeenshire – Martin Anderson	Banchory – Daniel Broadhead
Ladies Elite – Claire Elder	RGU – Jamie Sreenan

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM for Approval

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were closed out. This was approved by Calum Davidson and seconded by Steven Plank, both of whom were present at the 2024 AGM.

3. Chairman’s Report

I would like to start by thanking the committee for their efforts this season in keeping the league operational and bringing it to a successful conclusion. We had 25 men’s teams, 8 ladies’ teams, and 13 mixed teams competing across 13 clubs in what was likely to be one of the largest seasons in recent history with 8 divisions in operation. This was a good turnout from the league.

We had a new addition to the league with a new club, Cruden Bay, of whom managed to complete all of their matches and brought an impressive 7 pairs to their first club doubles tournament. Well done to them in their inaugural season in the Aberdeen and District League.

As per previous years, we have used the central venue located at Kincorth for a number of league matches this season with Kincorth having been used on a Friday and to greater extent this season with very little room for moving fixtures. The league will continue to use Kincorth as it stands into the next season with the option of extending the central venue booking to a second venue as and when required.

To allow the fixtures secretary adequate time to carry out the first draft of the fixtures for clubs to review in good time, clubs will need to confirm to the league committee if they are pulling out any teams or entering any further teams into any section of the league as soon as possible. This also goes for any potential venue changes. Unfortunately, we have already had confirmation that the Ladies Elite team have pulled out of next season.

It is important for club secretaries to ensure that they maintain their Badminton Scotland affiliation and ensure it is up to date come the start of the 2025/26.

Trophies were presented to the winning teams of the 2024/25 season with trophies being presented at club’s respective club nights. Congratulations to all teams who won their respective divisions.

Men’s A: Steven Duncan, ABA; Men’s B: Steven Plank, Racquets B; Men’s C: Bill Li, 71 Club; Men’s D: Steven Duncan, ABA.
Mixed A: Steven Duncan, ABA; Mixed B: Steven Plank, Racquets B.
Ladies’ A: Steven Duncan, ABA; Ladies B: Rachael Jappy, Granite City B.

I wish all clubs and players the very best for the 2025/2026 season.

4. League Tournament Report

We held the Club Doubles tournament at the central venue in Kincorth where we had an entry of 21 Men's Doubles pairs, 9 Ladies' Doubles pairs, and 21 Mixed Doubles Pairs. These numbers were up from the previous tournament in the Ladies' and mixed events but slightly lower in the Men's event. The winners of the events were:

Men's Doubles: Thomas Fragell (ABA) and Martin Fragell (ABA)

Ladies' Doubles: Disha Nandish (ABA) and Pauline Duncan (ABA)

Mixed Doubles: Murray Spence (Granite City) and Leona Rhind (Granite City)

The tournament was a success with a lot of close and competitive matches. The tournament will be held again at Kincorth in the second half of the season allowing players opportunity to play in one tournament each side of Christmas. As always, we encourage all clubs to participate.

5. League Match Report and Standings

All league matches were concluded, either by being played or decided by committee decision. The trend for the number of matches being declared null and void, has come down and is continuing to be a downward trend. The standings have been presented utilising the new format for ranking teams as per the updated Clause 6. C). in the 2024 revision of the constitution. The final league rankings are presented as follows:

Mixed 1:

ABA A Oilers
Fetteresso
Granite City A
Racquets A
ABA B Titans
Racquets B
Banchory

Mixed 2:

Glen Ythan
Granite City B
Inverurie
ABA C Smashers
Aberdeen University
RGU

Men's 1:

ABA A Oilers
Racquets A
ABA B Titans
Banchory A
Granite City A
Racquets B
Fetteresso

Men's 2:

Granite City B
Aberdeenshire
Glen Ythan A
Banchory B
ABA C Smashers
71 Club
Inverurie A

Men's 3:

ABA D Devana
RGU
Inverurie B
Granite City C
ABA E Enigma
Banchory C

Men's 4:

Glen Ythan B
Ladies Elite
Aberdeen University
Granite City D
Cruden Bay

Ladies' 1:

ABA A Oilers
Granite City A
Granite City B
Racquets

Ladies' 2 :

Aberdeen University
ABA B Titans
Inverurie
Cruden Bay

6. Provisional Division of Leagues for 2025/26

In the Ladies; section of the league there was an addition of Banchory to the teams for the 2025/2026 season and would start with 9 teams provisionally divided below across two divisions as shown below:

Ladies' 1:

ABA A Oilers
Granite City A
Granite City B
Racquets

Ladies' 2 :

Aberdeen University
ABA B Titans
Inverurie
Cruden Bay
Banchory

There is a premise of a second option to have a ladies' 1st division of 5 teams, promoting Aberdeen University. This shall be put to vote.

In the Mixed section of the league, Cruden Bay have entered two mixed teams, Glen Ythan and Aberdeen University have pulled their mixed teams, and Granite City have entered a further team. The mixed entry is 14 teams and so will be divided into a division of 7 and 7 respectively for the 2025/2026 season. This is shown below:

Mixed 1:	Mixed 2:
ABA A Oilers	Granite City B
Fetteresso	Inverurie
Granite City A	ABA C Smashers
Racquets A	RGU
ABA B Titans	Cruden Bay A
Racquets B	Cruden Bay B
Banchory	Granite City C

In the Men's section of the league, the Ladies' Elite side have pulled out, Cruden Bay have pulled out their men's team, Glen Ythan have reduced their teams from 2 to 1 and confirmed they would uphold the position of their B team in division 4, Banchory and Granite City have entered further teams. This leaves the Men's section with 24 teams. Provisionally the divisions are shown below of which show no teams affected. Proposals shall be put to vote to either balance the leagues into 4 divisions of 6 or as per the below.

Men's 1:	Men's 2:	Men's 3:	Men's 4:
ABA A Oilers	Granite City B	ABA D Devana	Glen Ythan B
Racquets A	Aberdeenshire	RGU	Aberdeen University
ABA B Titans	Banchory B	Inverurie B	Granite City D
Banchory A	ABA C Smashers	Granite City C	Banchory D
Granite City A	71 Club	ABA E Enigma	Granite City E
Racquets B	Inverurie A	Banchory C	
Fetteresso			

7. Badminton Scotland Update

The interim CEO, Jonathan Russell is looking at the current 260 members for Badminton Scotland's individual membership category but has not declared what new incentives will be available – the KPI's for 2025/2026 have not yet been released. The individual membership cost is going up to (TBC). The club membership price is going up but has not been confirmed what this will go up to, so it is recommended that clubs renew their membership to avoid extra costs.

League Planner software from the company behind the Tournament Planner software used by the NE Group is being offered by Badminton Scotland which has links to upload to the internet. This may be a simpler and smoother alternative to the existing spreadsheet macro format used by the league currently. Martin Fragell, Ross Pettigrew and Steve Cunningham will form a sub-committee and review this in depth.

More coaching days are planned for league players which will be separated by division, i.e. Division 1-2/Division 3-4.

At least 1x Badminton Basics, 1x Level 1, and 1x Level 1+ coaching courses will be organised over the next year. There are currently discussions to run a Level 2 course in Dundee. The level 1 has been changed to incorporate disability. There are currently no changes implemented for the Level 2.

8. Balance sheet for 2024/25

The balance sheet for 2024/2025 is presented as an appendix to these minutes. There are no major changes to report and the league is maintaining a minor profit.

9. Annual League Subscription

With growing court costs and shuttle costs the league subscription fees are going up from £35 per team to £40 per team. This will enable the end of season club doubles tournament to uphold the two free entries and £10 per entry thereafter.

10. Proposed Constitutional Changes – Calum Davidson

Ahead of the AGM the following clauses were proposed for implementation to affirm the already underwritten ruling regarding votes to be cast. This would include the introduction of Clause 7:

7.a) For votes regarding constitutional changes, rule changes or changes to the code of conduct, only one vote per club will be permitted.

7. b) For votes concerning disciplinary action, awarding forfeits, and any other day-to-day organisation of the league, one vote per committee member will be permitted. Committee members will be excluded from this vote and any discussions if the vote is in regard to their club.

No objections were founded, and these clauses will be inserted into a new edition of the constitution. This will be updated by Calum Davidson.

11. Election of Office Bearers

The chairman is stepping down from all duties and position on the league committee ahead of the 2025/2026 season. The committee will require to appoint a chairman or share the duties as seen fit. Election of persons to office and the committee are presented as follows:

Chairman - Vacant

League Secretary – Tom Metcalfe (Inverurie)

Tournament – Steven Plank (Racquets)

Fixtures – Jamie King (Granite City)

Scorecard/Website – Ross Pettigrew (Inverurie)

Club Committee Members:

71 Club – Ken Lavety

ABA – Martin Fragell

Aberdeenshire - TBC

Aberdeen University – Callum Lee

Banchory – Tom Spencer

Cruden Bay – Robert Bugden

Fetteresso – Neil Cuthbert

Glen Ythan – John Low

Granite City – Allan Hume

Inverurie – Tom Metcalfe

Racquets – Steve Plank

RGU - TBC

It will be important for all clubs to confirm their representatives going forward and any updates are to be provided to the committee to ensure the correct personnel are involved in discussions.

12. Arising Matters

a. Letter from Glen Ythan

Glen Ythan wrote a letter to the committee ahead of the AGM to discuss the scheduling of the play-offs, after they were only able to commit 2 pairs to both their Mixed Division 1/2 Play-Off and Men's 3/4 Play-Off.

With the change in the school holiday template to the first 2 weeks of April, the play-off scheduling will need to consider this. Extension of the season beyond this, would be difficult due to Sport Aberdeen operating bookings based on the financial year April – March.

The central venue at Kincorth does not permit having all of the playoffs on a single night. The committee can book a second venue for the play-off night to ensure the dates are held to one night. It may be possible to pencil in a date for the play-offs later into April to accommodate the school holidays, but this would be subject to negotiation with Sport Aberdeen during the creation of the fixtures.

Feedback on the play-offs was to have the fixtures planned in so that the time is known well advance rather than the week before. This will be taken into consideration during the creation of the fixtures.

b. Feedback from Ladies League and Format

At this AGM, the entire ladies league had representation. In regard to the current order of play with 4 per team all teams were happy with this.

A suggestion was put forward to combine the Ladies' league into one league of 8 teams where they would play each other once before Christmas then split into 2 divisions of 4 and play 1 further game against each of the teams. Although the idea would inherently provide more matches for the ladies, the breadth in standard at this time was too much between the highest and lowest ranking sides to incorporate this at this time. If the standard improves the league will look to revisit this.

During the discussion regarding the Ladies' section, with the Ladies' Elite team now withdrawn from the Men's Section, there was a suggestion to open up the Men's Section to become an open format, similar to Badminton England. There was agreement amongst those present that should go to proposal for clubs to review, feedback and vote on after putting it across to their female members.

c. Nominated Players and Use of Squads

The nomination system will remain in place with the players being ranked on ability over availability. There was a proposal put forward to slightly alter the system to allow two players to be nominated from the team below to be freely used for playing up i.e. these two players would not be subject to the 5 play-ups and locking rules. This would essentially create a squad of 8 players and may help teams when it comes to the playoffs. A proposal will be put forward for clubs to review and vote on.

d. Null and Void vs Forfeit Awarding

The existing system protocol for the processing and delegation surrounding forfeited matches is laborious and can take an extended amount of time to process and feedback the outcomes. As an amateur organisation this process should be more straightforward. The proposal put forward was that if the team that forfeits accepts and understands the consequences of forfeiting the match, and the opposing team is happy to accept the forfeit, then this should be issued in writing to the scorecard secretary and processed straight away. This would then nullify the need for every other club to be involved in a discussion thread. In the event that a forfeit is to be claimed and there isn't agreement, then the committee would be involved.

For null and void, the proposal is that these are only awarded in the following circumstances: When a team withdraws from the league during a season where all matches are null and voided; and at the end of the season when a match cannot be fulfilled in time but has no effect on the overall outcome of positions in the league. This would be agreed by both teams and issued to the committee.

A proposal will be issued to clubs to review and vote on.

e. Postponement of Matches

A general reminder to all clubs that when matches are postponed, to let the scorecard secretary know as soon as possible. It is a large time sink of the scorecard secretary role to go through the fixture list and chase up teams, especially as the league is increasing in size.

To avoid fixture pile-up, captains are reminded that they are to offer at least dates when the postponement is put forward. A date is to be agreed within a couple of weeks of the postponement and the fixture is to be played by preference within a month. This would avoid the fixture pile-up at the end of the season.

A proposal for the wording within the constitution to be changed to back this up will be issued to clubs.

f. Playing with 2 Pairs Rule

Currently there is no defined penalty for being in breach of the rule regarding playing with 2 pairs. It was discussed that in the event of breaching the 50% threshold then all matches will be declared null and void.

A proposed change will be made to the constitution for clubs to review.

Calum Davidson
League Chairman