



## BSF AGM 2026: Agenda

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## Annual General Meeting of the British Softball Federation

This is the official Notification and Information Pack for the 2026 British Softball Federation (BSF) Annual General Meeting (AGM). This meeting will be held remotely.

Date: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Time: 14:00-16:00

### Meeting Information:

Saturday, February 21 · 14:00 – 16:00

Time zone: Europe/London

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/vvy-imra-enm>

Or dial: (GB) +44 20 3956 9004 PIN: 794 501 303#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/vvy-imra-enm?pin=7891087266568>

### Response to AGM Pack Content:

If there are any matters in this AGM Pack that you wish to raise at the AGM, please communicate this no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to BSF Administrator:

Jessica Hastings: [jessica.hastings@britishsoftball.org](mailto:jessica.hastings@britishsoftball.org)

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## AGM Virtual Meeting Instructions

To join the 2026 BSF AGM, please use the following link: <https://meet.google.com/wss-hdzi-eeo>

Full information for calling in, time zone, times and dates are provided on the first page of this pack.

This meeting can be joined using an internet browser or through the Google Meet app.

### Meeting Instructions

Participants are to remain on mute and raise their hand (virtually or physically to the camera) if they wish to speak.

Questions can be raised either by using the 'Raise Hand' function or by posting questions in the Chat function, which will be monitored throughout the meeting.

In order to manage voting, we will use a Google Form that can be accessed by all through the chat function. By completing this form your vote will remain anonymous to all except the President and the person tabulating the votes.

The meeting will be recorded and transcribed. If you wish to obtain a copy of the meeting recording please contact the BSF Administrator.

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## AGM Attendance Requirements

The following AGM attendance requirements will apply for the 2026 AGM. Attendance is required by representatives from:

- All NSL1, NSL2, and NSL3 teams.
- All slowpitch softball leagues that wish to send teams to National Championships at any level.
- All 2025 league divisional winners that wish to take up the place they have earned in the 2026 Co-ed Slowpitch League Nationals at the appropriate grade.
- All teams that won their grade (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze) at the 2025 Co-ed Slowpitch League Nationals if they wish to be guaranteed a place in the 2026 League Nationals as defending champions.

Please note that, in general, a league representative cannot also represent a team at the AGM. However, a League Head who is a registered playing member of a team from their league that has won a place in the 2026 BSF Co-ed Slowpitch League Nationals can represent both the league and that team. However, such a person will only have one vote, not two.

If you want to represent both your league and team at the AGM, please let BSF Membership Officer Liz Graham know beforehand.

**IMPORTANT:** When you attend the remote AGM, please ensure that your name and the name of the team or league you are representing is on the screen so we can collate attendance.

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## **Report from the 2025 BSF AGM**

### BSF Annual General Meeting Highlights

On February 22nd, 2025, the British Softball Federation (BSF) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together league and team leads, coaches, players, and board members to discuss key updates and approve BSF activity. A wide range of topics were covered, including coaching developments, new board appointments, annual awards and upcoming changes to team registration and national events. This meeting was chaired by Lesley Morisetti, president of the BSF. Apologies were received from BSF Administrator Jessica Hastings and BSF Fastpitch Officer Laura Hirai. There were 79 attendees, of which 71 were voting members.

### AGM Voting and Finances

The minutes from the 2024 AGM were approved and seconded. Members of the BSF board were present to answer any questions regarding the presidents, competitions, fast pitch, national teams and technical officers reports. If anyone has any questions on these reports please send them to [info@britishsoftball.org](mailto:info@britishsoftball.org)

The AGM also included a detailed financial presentation by Laura Burkhardt, who provided insight into the BSF's 2024 financial results and plans for the upcoming year. Laura highlighted that the BSF experienced a higher income this year, largely due to the National Softball League (NSL) and Nationals income, although there were some reductions in fees from the AD league's non-registration. On the expense side, the federation spent less than anticipated, with significant savings in areas such as GB team expenses, umpire costs, training, and marketing. Notably, some expected costs related to the World Cup in Mexico were not incurred as the event was cancelled.

In the meeting it was confirmed that there would be no increase in fees for 2025. Importantly, the surplus from 2024 will be ring-fenced for future event-related expenses, particularly for the European Championship in 2026.

### Election of Officers

All were running unopposed, so voting members could either vote for the candidate or could cast their vote for NOTA (None of the Above).

All candidates were elected with near-unanimous majorities, with a sprinkling of NOTA votes. As a result, the BSF Executive for 2025 will be:

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President	Lesley Morisetti
Treasurer	Laura Burkhardt
Competitions and Membership Officer	Liz Graham
National Teams Officer	Dr Alice Hunter
Administrator	Jessica Hastings
Safeguarding Officer	Stella Ackrell
Fastpitch Development Officer	Laura Hirai
Technical Officer	Pete Saunders
Coaching Officer	Mike Hayward
General Officer	Nicola-Jayne Dyson (Events)
General Officer	Shiraz Mehra (Legal)
General Officer	Tim Bishop (Athletes Commission)
General Officer	- (Communications)
General Officer	- (Slowpitch Officer)

The Executive still has a vacant position – Slowpitch Development Officer – and anyone interested in either position should email [info@britishsoftball.org](mailto:info@britishsoftball.org).

## Motion to the AGM

### **BSF's Organisational Changes: Safeguarding and Technical Officer Roles**

One of the significant motions at the AGM was a proposal to change the structure of two crucial positions within the BSF. The Technical Officer and the Welfare and Safeguarding Officer—currently held by Pete and Stella, respectively—will transition from being elected roles to appointed ones. The BSF recognises that these roles require specialised skill sets and experience to properly carry out the responsibilities, particularly around safeguarding and technical development, ensuring the roles are filled by individuals with the expertise necessary to support the federation's continued growth and commitment to player safety.

This change reflects the evolving needs of the softball community and the increasing importance of having qualified professionals in these key positions. This change was voted and approved.

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### BSF Annual Awards

The BSF presents Annual Awards at each AGM, most of them related to the previous season, in categories where candidates are nominated.

The annual awards were then announced by the BSF board. Congratulations again to this years winners:

Glover Cup - Chris Dore, Oxford

League Glover Cup - Swindon Softball League

President's Club Award – Spittin Camels

Tournament of the Year – League Nationals

Youth Team of the Year – Maidenhead

Young Fastpitch Player of the Year – Cara Edwards

Young Slowpitch Player of the Year - Josh Walker

Betsy Holden Award – Olive Boyd

Umpire of the Year - Colin Russell

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations this year!

If you would like to read the full write up, please visit the awards announcement article [here](#).

### BSUK 2025 Update

Another year has come and gone, and with it, another year of British baseball and softball all across Great Britain! 2025 saw BaseballSoftballUK working across the breadth and width of our sports, from National Teams to indoor softball and from Farnham Park across Great Britain. Here are just a few of our highlights from an action-packed year:

January saw the return of the free Safe on Base safeguarding course, taught by BSUK's Mark Caress and Chris Knoblock. With five sessions run over the first four months of the year, 45 players, coaches and volunteers were put through their paces to receive this vital training – which expands for 2026!

February saw the WBSC Europe Congress in Croatia, attended by the BBF, BSF and BSUK together, and the British Softball Federation's Annual General Meeting, where BSUK presented a recap of Great Britain Women's Softball's recent successes. Both events saw BSUK working hand-in-hand with partners and stakeholders to advance the agenda of British baseball and softball. Following significant collaboration

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between all three organisations, the British Baseball Federation rejoining BSUK's membership, a significant milestone in aligning all three organisations, and beginning to explore a future, unified, single organisational approach to British baseball and softball. The month was capped off with the appointment of Matt Bazeley OBE as the new Chair of BaseballSoftballUK, taking up a three-year term.

March saw an addition to BSUK's staff in the form of a face familiar to Great Britain's national teams as Alan Dean joined the company as Performance Programme Manager. A vital role within the performance department, Alan gave the programme a major boost ahead of a busy year – but more on that later!

In April, BSUK led baseball and softball activities at the Youth Sports Trust Leadership Camp as part of the MLB London Series Legacy Programme. The camp, for young adults aged 14-17, teaches them essential life and leadership skills through sport and physical activity, with Team Leaders assisting in the delivery of MLB First Pitch programmes throughout the year.

May saw the return of the BUCS National Championships to the National Baseball & Softball Complex at Farnham Park. Scheduled in May for the first time, the National Baseball Championships were played in glorious sunshine, with the Durham Wolves taking home the title for the second consecutive year. At the BUCS National Softball Championships, Nottingham proved to be too much for the second year in a row as the Arrows won their second consecutive championship. BSUK was thrilled to have the support of the University College of Football Business support coverage of both events, with a Live Blog and lots of additional content added to BSUK's annual Championship Broadcasts on BSUK-TV.

An exciting May gave way to June and a major milestone in British baseball and softball: the launch of the Coaching Playbook, an all-new, British designed coach education programme. The culmination of two years of work between BSUK, the BBF and BSF, the Coaching Playbook set a new standard for coaching in British baseball and softball. With the launch of the Playbook came the first CORE Coaching Course, run in June and July, and the launch of the Coach Membership – a searchable database of registered and certified coaches in the UK. Over at Farnham Park, the annual Coronation Cup saw a celebration of softball once again, with a few teams breaking out the fancy dress. BSUK rounded out the month by supporting the MLB First Pitch Festival hosted by Herts Baseball.

Moving into July, the Jubilee Cup – the second in the BSUK Regal Series – ran once again, with the introduction of the Royal Court Games, a set of fun new challenges for participating teams at the end of Saturday's play. Abroad, members of the BSUK performance team, along with Senior Head Coach Tara Henry (stepping in for Tara Tembey, on maternity leave) were off to Spain and the U18 Women's European Softball Championships, held in Pamplona and Zaragoza at the end of July.

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August saw history for Great Britain Baseball with the programme's first-ever gold medal coming at the U23 European Baseball Championship in Czechia. With Great Britain mounting a stunning come-from-behind victory in the final against the hosts, Czechia, and requalifying for the U23 World Cup at the same time, it was a very proud moment for British Baseball. Closer to home, BSUK partnered with the London Mets to welcome Florida State Softball – and GB Softball's Jazzy Francik – to Finsbury Park for a fantastic clinic with participants from across Great Britain. Meanwhile at Farnham Park, the British Softball Federation once again held the NSL Nationals at Farnham Park, with the Legends winning the NSL title for the very first time.

As autumn crept closer, things got much busier in September, where, for the first time in recent memory, the European Softball Championships and the European Baseball Championships were held in the same month. The European Softball Championship came first in Prague, with the Great Britain Women winning their third consecutive European medal, a bronze, and punching their ticket to the Women's Softball World Cup next year. The performance staff were next off to Rotterdam for the European Baseball Championships, with British Baseball Hall of Famer Bradley Marcelino making his debut as manager. Back in Britain, the annual Chris Moon Memorial Softball World Series was held at Farnham Park, with the UCE Travellers (representing Germany) winning the title. Farnham Park also played host to multiple BBF National Championships, with BSUK arranging for TalkSport to simulcast the NBL Championship online for the first time. The month ended with Greenwich Baseball hosting a MLB First Pitch Festival in East London, supported by BSUK.

October saw the return of the London Indoor Softball League to West London, again providing indoor playing opportunities for London's large softball contingent, and November saw BSUK's staff travel to Leicester to attend the BBF AGM, presenting on safeguarding, the National Teams, and more at British Baseball's largest gathering of the year. BSUK also ran a special Pitching Clinic with Birmingham's Bob Rowe as part of the Coaching Playbook, with great attendance in Coventry.

November ended on a high with the announcement that Katy Gould, Female Health lead for Great Britain Softball, and the BSUK Medical & Science Commission were shortlisted for a prestigious UK Sport PLx Award for their work on the Female Athlete Programme, a cutting-edge research and monitoring programme initiated by BSUK's Performance Staff for the benefit of the Great Britain Women's programme.

December had BSUK's staff attend the PLx Conference in Leeds for two fantastic days of learning, networking and celebrating the best of high-performance sport. As the year wound down, one final announcement – the launch of the Emerging Players Programme in January – capped off another exciting year of baseball and softball in Great Britain.

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2026 is set to be even more exciting, with three BSUK-managed teams participating in World Cups – the World Baseball Classic in March for GB Baseball, the Women’s Softball World Cup Group Stage in Lima, Peru for GB Women’s Softball, and the U23 World Cup for Baseball in Nicaragua – along with a partnership developing with new owners the Wycombe Wanderers at Farnham Park and an exciting new community-led Club & League support programme coming in May!

### Finale

The meeting concluded with a call to action for continued community involvement and the importance of communication within the softball community. Lesley, emphasised the need for ongoing feedback and engagement from all members, coaches, and players to keep pushing the development of the sport.

For those who couldn’t attend or are interested in learning more about any of the updates, the BSF encourages you to reach out to the board members, with contact details available through the official BSF website. As the season progresses, the federation is eager to hear from its community and continue to develop softball in the UK.

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## Presidents Report

Lesley Morisetti

Another year of Softball Presidency under my belt...

On the fields, everything largely went to plan. There were relatively few cancellations across the domestic scene, and internationally our participating teams were very much there or thereabouts. The Slow-Pitch Cup in Berlin featured three of our teams: H2O, Pioneers and Legends. Pioneers narrowly missed out on gold to a very accomplished UCE Travelers, with GB teams filling the next three positions. Next time, I'm sure our teams will be gunning for pole position. The event itself was challenged by the weather, resulting in a mid-week rejig. GB was very well represented behind the plate with four umpires: Chris Lunn, Jason Smith, Stephen Coyle, and Colin Russell, officiating at his first European competition.

There were excellent results for the Women's Senior Team at their Championship, and we also had two Men's Club Fastpitch teams representing GB at the Supercup.

The BSF Board continues to work across its various briefs. During the year, the Board faced several challenges, and I believe we negotiated them to successful outcomes.

As most of you will know, 2025 proved to be a difficult year for our development agency, BSUK. The BSF Board continues to support them and looks forward to collaborating to deliver their core functions of Safeguarding, Welfare, and Development. The future landscape will undoubtedly present challenges across all aspects of our softball community.

We have just held our face-to-face Board meeting in Manchester, where safeguarding, and the need for greater collaboration with BSUK and BBF for the good of the sport, were key discussion points. There have been broad discussions regarding a potential amalgamation of the three entities into a single organisation. Rest assured, due diligence is being undertaken to ensure that any such move is in the best interests of softball. Further information will be shared further at the BSF AGM on 21st February.

The Athletes' Commission lost a couple of members during 2025, and we would encourage anyone interested—from all levels of softball in the UK—to get in touch.

From all my years playing softball, umpiring, organising events, and serving on the BSF Board, I still don't know everything (LOL). I am extremely appreciative of my fellow Board members, whose skill sets are invaluable in areas where mine are not. Even with a very diverse Board, we are all volunteers, and sometimes life makes it difficult to provide immediate answers to every question. We do, however, reach out to the wider community for expertise, and we always welcome constructive input from the

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softball community.

The future of softball will involve change, and I want to assure you that softball remains at the forefront of everything I do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who make softball in the UK possible—from the BSF Board members (who also work tirelessly within their local setups), to League Committees, umpires who turn up in all weathers, and team captains who rally their troops week after week.

For full reviews of our achievements this year, please visit the News section of the BSF website. We are aware that the current website needs a new breath of air, more modern, easier to access resources. We have actioned a plan to overhaul the existing site, and should see some changes in the coming months. We are always looking for newsworthy stories: summaries of local tournaments or events, or volunteers who have gone above and beyond. If you want your event or achievements featured, we'll be very happy to spread the word.

Domestic softball is played at many levels, across many events, and at many venues throughout our nation.

As I always say—and I've lifted this directly from last year's report!

Thank you to all of you for your involvement in softball: as part of a team, a league, a committee member, a league head, an umpire, a coach—indeed, anyone who turns up on a Tuesday evening in the rain!

Thanks,  
Lesley

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## Competitions Officers Report and NSL Overview

Liz Graham

BSF Single-Sex Slowpitch Nationals (Organiser – NJ Dyson)

<https://www.britishsoftball.org/news/article/bsf-single-sex-softball-champions-crowned>

Held at Wythenshaw Park, Manchester in 2024 with 25 teams.

### Women's Winners

- Gold Winner: Bratz (London)
- Silver Winner: Cowabunga (Jersey)
- Bronze Winner: TV Sisters (Windsor)

### Men's Winners

- Gold Winner: Guzzlers (US Base)
- Silver Winner: Legendairies (Jersey)

2026 event in Manchester 27th / 28th June

Co-Ed Slowpitch League Nationals (Organiser – Alan Le Marquand)

<https://www.britishsoftball.org/news/article/2025-bsf-co-ed-league-nationals>

A total of 24 teams took part from all around the UK – most of whom had qualified by virtue of placings within their leagues in 2023 -- and the tournament eventually divided into Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze divisions when it came to the fight for trophies. Winners will be invited to the 2025 event at Farnham Park. All teams must attend the AGM and sign in for their team to claim a place.

- Platinum Winner : Mi-6 (London)
- Gold Winner: Pyros (East Midlands)
- Silver Winner: Spartans (Windsor)
- Bronze Winner : Angels (Oxford)

2026 event Farnham Park 8th / 9th August

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NSL1 / NSL2 / NSL3 Nationals

<https://www.britishsoftball.org/news/article/nsl-national-titles-2025>

Top 8 NSL1 and NSL2 teams once again contested these Nationals and the new NSL3 Nationals were populated by teams who were able to field a team. Places were offered in order of final league placement.

- NSL1 Winner: Legends
- NSL2 Winner: Blue Steel
- NSL3 Winner: Southern Stormers

2026 event Farnham Park 5th / 6th September – NSL3 currently TBC after negotiation with the council on field use

NSL Overview

2026 dates to be confirmed – May 16-17, June 20-21, July 25-26

- NSL1 League winner – H2O
- NSL2 League Winners – Meerkats
- NSL3 League winners Fuzzy Ducks & MK Diamonds
- Meerkats and Storm promoted to NSL1
- Tempest are demoted to NSL 2
- Fuzzy Ducks, MK Diamonds & Southern Stormers promoted to NSL2
- Mavericks & Shafting demoted to NSL3
- SPAM, Breaking Bats, Sharks & Spittin Camels 2 demoted out of NSL

ALL teams must send a rep to the AGM and complete the form with name and team you are representing. You cannot represent 2 teams.

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# British Softball Federation



League Winners	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
Bristol	Jets	Scorgs	Renegades	
Cardiff	Hurricanes	Red Dragons		
East Midlands	Sheriffs	Tigers		
Edinburgh	Dodgers	Demons		
Glasgow	Chargers	Rocks		
LSL Majors	Mescalitos	LNZ	Asteroids	
LSL Minors	Flyballers	London Knights	Bangers & Smash	
Leeds	Cheekies			
Liverpool	Seagulls			
Manchester	Thunder	Dodgers	Stingers	Tiggers
Milton Keynes	Base Cadets			
Oxford	Rebels	Sharks		
Publishers	Curveballs			
Solent	Itchen Knicks	Vikings		
Swindon	Spitfires			
Windsor	Blue Sox	Rattlesnakes		
2025 Winners	Platinum	MI-6 (London)		
	Gold	Pyros (EMids)		
	Silver	Spartans (Windsor)		
	Bronze	Angels (Oxford)		

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## Fastpitch Development Officers Report

Laura Hirai

With my role as Fastpitch Development Officer, one of my responsibilities is to make sure fastpitch continues to develop and grow through working with the community to understand where the gaps are and where support is needed. The other part of my role is tasked around making sure that fastpitch development projects from BSUK are maintained and held accountable. With the many changes happening internally at BSUK, we are likely to see upcoming changes between the federations and the NGB.

In the past two years in this role, I have learnt that fastpitch development is still behind baseball and slowpitch. The community is small, and growth at the grass roots level is minimal. The growth of this sport needs to come from the sum of our parts and must be taken step by step.

There are three areas I have delved into since my time in this role: Great Britain Fastpitch League (GBFL) development, fastpitch umpiring and grassroots growth.

### 1. GBFL

This year we introduced a larger committee made up of members of the fastpitch community to run GBFL. We have since become the Great Britain Fastpitch League CIC. The co-directors are myself, Crista Reed-Thomas, Jill Russell and Simon Thacker.

By establishing GBFL as a CIC, there's governance, finance, structure and intention in place that is better suited for the sustainability of this league. The GBFL has long been the sole fastpitch competition structure and hub for fastpitch development in the UK and its maintenance and growth are key.

This year we received positive feedback from implementing changes to the League. For example, as part of the GBFL membership, players were offered position-specific skill sessions carried out between and after GBFL games. These sessions were hosted by GBFL members to support community growth and knowledge sharing to the rest of the league.

One main feedback we received after this season was the desire for more fastpitch games throughout the season and more competition overall. As a result, we are looking to increase the number of weekends that fastpitch is played during the season, as six weekends is not enough for player development during the summer. We understand the continued obstacle of dates clashing with other events. However, we have made the decision that fastpitch should not be the sport that gets compromised. By offering more weekends, we are giving players the choice to play fastpitch and play more games as they have asked. We understand that Farnham Park prioritises events that may bring

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more revenue to the fields, and players who play fastpitch also play slowpitch. However, we are looking to find ways to overcome setbacks and find a middle ground to ensure the sustainability of GBFL.

Another successful addition to GBFL has been our marketing, with the introduction of our Instagram page and Facebook forum, we have increased visibility of the League, attracting more players to get involved from university and other backgrounds.



## 2. Fastpitch Umpiring

With more games and events, comes the need for more umpires. The feedback from last season's GBFL was the need for better umpiring to improve the quality of the game. Umpires are also necessary for European club competitions, as clubs need to bring an umpire with them, with fines incurred if not followed. This is a further reason to encourage the support of umpire development.

During this season's GBFL, we organised a beginner's umpire course hosted by Bridget Cameron and Jana McCaskill, seasoned fastpitch umpires. We had over ten members join the session, who were then incorporated into future fastpitch games to support with field umpiring.

Plans to incorporate umpiring sessions and build a pathway is still in the works with BASU and current qualified fastpitch umpires. There are umpire courses which I hope to release to the community next year.

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### 3. Grassroot developments

In July 2023, BSUK hosted the National Secondary School Girls Fastpitch Festival at Farnham Park with a few schools attending, marking the start of their initiative. With the changes happening at BSUK, the festival did not take place in 2024 nor 2025. Other initiatives have been stopped, including the Academy.

BSUK worked on a BBF strategy to create a structured pathway for baseball players to go from grass roots to national team programmes. This is a strategy that will likely be implemented with the BSF to create something similar for fastpitch to help with understanding what resources are required to create a sustainable fastpitch pathway from now till 2035.

Another important mention is the formation of the Youth Fastpitch League (YFL) this year. Ran by Holly Ireland and Natalie Fox, the YFL hosts games across the country aimed at youth players aged under 18. With a successful first season, the League is looking to grow, with the inclusion of extra coaching sessions for players before the games supported by BSF.

Volunteers are also working to host some sessions in the off-season for open fastpitch practices prior to the season starting.

If we want to see growth and development of fastpitch, we need more opportunities to play it. That means having coaching sessions, more regular fastpitch competitions throughout the season, supporting those who are on the ground volunteering, and having more players at different levels to compete against one another. The journey is slow and long, but the seeds continue to be sown.

Laura

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## Coaching Officers Report

Mike Hayward

This update is for everyone involved in British softball: players, captains, coaches, club committees, league organisers, and anyone who helps run sessions or support player development - even if you do not think of yourself as a "coach".

A key point up front: when we say coaching, people naturally picture their own environment. That is fair - because coaching looks very different across slowpitch, fastpitch, adult leagues, and youth settings. This update aims to bring those realities together into one clear direction.

### 1. Where we have been

For many years, coaching in our sport has been shaped by an older model: people did a qualification (often a long time ago), picked up technical knowledge and drills, and then just got on with running sessions.

That was not "wrong" - it is how many sports worked at the time. But our environment has moved on:

- Safeguarding expectations have increased.
- Expectations of inclusion and participant experience have increased.
- Coach education nationally has moved away from one-and-done qualifications towards ongoing learning and supported development.

So the reality we have to face is this: the coaching approach we relied on historically is not fully fit for the environments we are operating in now - especially if we want the sport to grow, and particularly if we want youth growth.

### 2. What we did about it: review, consultation, and proper redesign

These changes have not been made on a whim.

The work began with consultation and recognition (led through BSUK) that the older pathway did not match modern needs. That was followed by a long and detailed review process supported by specialist third-party input, and that work is now being implemented.

It is important to say this plainly: a lot of due diligence has gone into trying to get this right, because if we are asking volunteers and clubs to change behaviour, it needs to be built on evidence and reality - not assumptions.

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We also want to recognise the time and effort BSUK and partners have put into this work, because it has been painstaking and has taken sustained commitment to move from review to delivery.

### **3. Where we are now: what is available and what it is trying to achieve**

A clearer pathway is now coming through, with three key elements:

#### **A. Introduction to Coaching**

A genuine entry route for people starting out - including captains, volunteers, and new helpers who are stepping into running sessions.

#### **B. CORE**

A modern foundation that supports coaches who are leading sessions regularly and want a stronger, more relevant base of coaching skills.

#### **C. Continuing Development (CPD) matched to your environment**

Rather than assuming one qualification works for every setting, the direction is toward learning that reflects where you coach:

- Youth settings.
- Adult participation and leagues.
- Higher-performance environments.

#### **The big shift: from "what to coach" to "how to coach"**

Historically, our support has often leaned heavily into "what to coach" (skills and drills). That still matters. But the new emphasis strengthens "how to coach" - because that is what changes player experience.

The "how" includes:

- Planning sessions with progression (not just repeating the same drills).
- Adapting sessions to mixed abilities.
- Creating inclusive and enjoyable environments.
- Coaching beginners well.
- Helping players improve week by week across a season.

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The new pathway is designed to help coaching become more purposeful, not more complicated.

#### **4. Coaching is not one thing: slowpitch and fastpitch need different approaches**

We need to be explicit: this update is about slowpitch and fastpitch, and the coaching challenges are different.

##### **Slowpitch: adult participation with varied coaching culture**

In much of adult slowpitch:

- Coaching is often informal.
- Captains and experienced players lead sessions.
- The focus is usually safe participation, team organisation, and some skill improvement.
- Many adults already bring transferable skills from other sports.

That is normal. It means our coaching support needs to be practical and proportionate to adult league reality - not designed only for a youth academy model.

##### **Fastpitch: a small base and a national growth constraint**

Fastpitch has a structural challenge:

- The community is small.
- Much activity centres around Farnham Park.
- There are growing pockets elsewhere.
- But there are very few coaches relative to what is needed, and participant numbers remain limited.

The blunt truth is: fastpitch will not expand nationally by accident. It needs deliberate support, and the first lever is coaching capacity.

#### **5. Why this matters: the pyramid and the strategic priority of youth growth**

Most sports have a wide base of young participants that narrows as you go up the pathway.

Our sport risks operating with that the wrong way round - we have strong adult competition in places, but the youth base is too small to drive long-term growth and sustainability.

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Adult leagues and competition structures matter - but if we want the sport to grow and remain healthy, we have to rebuild the base.

That is why coaching sits at the heart of participation growth:

- Better coaching environments retain new players.
- Confident coaches create better first experiences.
- Youth coaches are the key to sustainable local programmes.

Youth coaching is also the hardest environment. You are developing fundamentals, confidence, and positive behaviour - not just tweaking already-developed adult athletes. That is why the sport needs to support youth coaches deliberately, not just hope they appear.

## **6. Safeguarding and future-proofing coaching**

Safeguarding is now inseparable from coaching. Clear standards and good systems protect players, volunteers, and the sport.

We also need to plan for the direction sport is moving in: clearer expectations, clearer accountability, and ensuring the right checks and safeguarding learning are in place for roles that carry responsibility.

Important point: DBS requirements and eligibility depend on the role (it is not automatically everyone, always). But the direction of travel is that sports are expected to be able to evidence that the right people in the right roles have the right checks and training, and that this is recorded properly and consistently.

Our goal here is not admin for admin's sake - it is clarity and protection.

## **7. The honest challenge: uptake of the new learning routes is too low**

We need to be candid with members.

Despite the pathway being available, uptake so far has been far lower than we need if we are serious about consistent coaching standards, youth growth, and building safer, more sustainable environments.

Low uptake does not mean people do not care - it often means one or more of these are true:

- The personal benefit is not clear ("what is in it for me?").
- It does not feel relevant to adult league contexts.

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- Time and access barriers are real.
- Many people do not identify as coaches even though they are effectively coaching.
- People worry this becomes enforcement rather than support.

So the next phase has to be: listen properly, remove barriers, and make the pathway feel worthwhile and usable.

### **8. What we are doing next: a league-and-club coaching working group**

To build something that actually fits the sport as it exists, we want to establish a working group with representation from leagues, clubs of different sizes, slowpitch and fastpitch communities, and regions with different realities.

We want practical answers to practical questions:

- What does coaching look like in your environment right now?
- Who leads sessions and what support do they need?
- What are the barriers to doing Introduction to Coaching or CORE?
- What support would actually help (resources, mentoring, local delivery, short CPD)?
- What minimum standards would feel fair in adult participation settings?
- What is needed to build youth coaching capacity locally?
- What does fastpitch need nationally to support growth beyond one hub?

This is not a report for the sake of it. It is so that future decisions are based on reality and fairness.

### **9. Fastpitch: a clear development pathway (coaches - curriculum - progression)**

For fastpitch growth, a staged national approach makes sense:

#### **Step 1: Build coaching capacity**

Support more local coaches so delivery does not rely on a small number of people or one central location.

#### **Step 2: Create a fastpitch youth curriculum**

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A shared youth curriculum would standardise what good looks like, make delivery easier for new volunteers, and support consistent player development across regions.

### **Step 3: Introduce a progression framework**

A skills progression approach (done inclusively) can motivate young players, give coaches structure and clarity, and create a shared national language for development.

## **10. Where we are heading: minimum standards, introduced fairly and in phases**

We should be transparent about long-term direction.

Over time, we cannot sit comfortably with a situation where people are coaching - especially in youth settings or roles of responsibility - without minimum standards being met. That is about safeguarding, quality, and protecting volunteers as much as players.

But we also do not want an iron hand approach.

The journey we are aiming for is:

- Explain the why clearly.
- Make it achievable and worthwhile.
- Agree what is fair depending on environment.
- Introduce changes gradually - starting where responsibility and risk are highest.

That is how you change culture without losing the community.

### **What this means for you**

#### **If you are a player**

If you help beginners, run warmups, or organise sessions - you are part of the coaching environment. Your feedback matters: tell us what would make learning routes more relevant and more accessible.

#### **If you are a captain**

Captains are often de facto coaches. Introduction to Coaching and CORE should feel like it supports what you already do - and gives you better tools to keep sessions enjoyable, safe, and progressive.

#### **If you run a club or league**

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Please get involved in the working group. We need your insight to build something fair, proportionate, and workable in real-world league conditions.

## **If you are involved in fastpitch**

We need your support to build a national approach: more coaches, a youth curriculum, and a progression framework that helps pockets grow sustainably.

## **2026 priorities in one list**

Over the next 12 months, the priority work is to:

- Increase awareness and understanding of Introduction to Coaching and CORE and what they actually deliver.
- Improve uptake by making it feel relevant and valuable to real coaching environments.
- Establish the league-and-club coaching working group and map current coaching reality.
- Build a fastpitch growth approach: coaching capacity - curriculum - progression.
- Strengthen safeguarding consistency and role clarity.
- Set out a fair, phased route toward minimum standards in higher-responsibility environments.

## **Closing message**

This is a community shift: from "coaching is something a few people do" to "coaching is the environment we all create".

We have done the review work. The pathway is being implemented. Now the focus is making it usable, relevant, and worth doing - and building the coaching capacity that grows the sport, especially through youth.

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## National Teams Report

Dr Alice Hunter

GBMC (Great Britain Management Committee)

- Update Leadership: The year began with three executives. Steve has since stepped down from his position.
- Administrative Updates: New accounts have been established, alongside the appointment of a new accountant and the implementation of new financial software.
- Operations Review: A number of procedural issues have been identified, leading to a formal review of onboarding processes and contract management.
- Communication Systems: A project is underway to identify and implement a new, more efficient internal communications platform (e.g., Discord).
- Sponsorship/Revenue ideas (The 200/300 Club): The initiative continues to develop and further details will be provided in a dedicated update to all members.
- New Appointment: A new TM joined the U18M staff (Lucinda Couzens) to replace Beccy Adams. The GBMC would like to thank Beccy for her support of the team over her tenure!

### Training & Development

**Mixed Squad Sessions:** Integrated training sessions involving U23 and Senior squad athletes have proven highly successful and will be extended to include

**U16 and U18 athletes:** U16/U18 Trials & Preparation: Recent trials were very well attended. Training squads have now been ratified and announced, and will commence focused preparation for the European Championships in late June.

### Senior Mens Fastpitch Team Performance

The mens Senior team finished in 5th place at the European Championships in Havlickuv Brod, Czechia (late June). The tournament featured strong individual performances, particularly from pitchers who recorded strikeouts against higher-ranked opponents. The squad blended youth with experienced athletes, including several players returning to international competition after an extended break.

### U23 Team Performance

The men's U23 team achieved a 4th-place finish at their European Championships. Their campaign was impacted by illness, which sidelined a primary pitcher after the first day. Despite this, the team delivered commendable performances, with many players adapting well to the higher level. With only two players ageing out before the next tournament in 2027, the experience gained is invaluable for the continued development of this cohort.

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## Senior Womens Fastpitch Team Performance

In 2025 our women's fastpitch programme continued to make strong progress on the European stage, with excellent contributions across age groups and the tremendous backing of Great Britain supporters. The Senior Women's National Fastpitch Team delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 Women's Softball European Championship in Prague, opening the tournament with a convincing 5-2 win over France and going on to secure the Bronze Medal, their third consecutive European podium finish while also qualifying for the 2026 WBSC Women's Softball World Cup Group Stage – a testament to the squad's competitive consistency and growth. The atmosphere throughout the week was energised by the significant support of GBR supporters, whose presence and enthusiasm in the stands in Prague helped drive the team's determination in every game.



## U18 and U15 Team Performance

The U18 women's team also competed at the European Championship in Spain, delivering spirited performances including notable victories over France, Austria and Germany before finishing strongly and contributing valuable experience to their development pathway. While the U15s' most recent European competition was in 2024, their ongoing development continues to support the wider talent pipeline feeding into our older age groups. Collectively these efforts across senior and junior programmes helped Great Britain accumulate 1,053 WBSC ranking points in 2025, reflecting both competitive results and sustained international engagement throughout the season.

**Conclusion** The past year has been one of transition and growth for the National Teams Office. While facing administrative and operational challenges, the programme has seen promising athletic development and competitive results. The focus remains on strengthening our infrastructure to better support our athletes and staff in the coming season

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## BSF Accounts and Budget

Laura Burkhardt

BSF Accounts: year ended 30/9/25 + Budget 2026 proposed						
Year-ended 30 Sept	2024		2025		2026	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Fees	59,356	51,260	51,260	52,019	52,000	
Nationals	19,690	65,660	64,160	63,760	63,000	
Other income	-	4,019	-	811	10,500	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>79,046</b>	<b>120,939</b>	<b>115,420</b>	<b>116,590</b>	<b>125,500</b>	<b>-</b>
Nationals	20,130	53,413	56,913	55,713	63,000	
NTL Out	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Insurance	9,489	8,122	8,200	8,133	9,020	
BSUK Service fee	3,000	-	-	-	-	
Development	3,500	600	6,500	132	19,000	
GBR teams	24,850	11,107	20,850	17,321	57,700	
Marketing / Events	8,560	2,344	3,560	742	3,850	
Meetings / Travel	6,000	4,585	6,200	5,059	7,200	
Financial costs	8,780	5,875	7,600	7,405	7,600	
Contingency	4,000	550	9,000	-	14,000	
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>91,309</b>	<b>89,597</b>	<b>121,823</b>	<b>97,506</b>	<b>184,370</b>	<b>-</b>
Tax		20		203	125	
<b>RESULT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>- 12,263</b>	<b>31,322</b>	<b>- 6,403</b>	<b>18,882</b>	<b>- 58,995</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEETS</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	2024		2025		2025	
Assets		85,433		104,858		
Liabilities		- 9,640		- 10,183		
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>75,793</b>		<b>94,675</b>		
Reserves b/f	44,471	44,471	75,813	75,793	75,793	
Profit / -Loss	- 12,263	31,322	- 6,403	18,882	- 58,995	
<b>Reserves c/f</b>	<b>32,209</b>	<b>75,793</b>	<b>69,410</b>	<b>94,675</b>	<b>16,798</b>	

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### **BSF 2025 Financial results overview**

- **Total income:** predominantly as budgeted
- **Total expenses:**
  - **Development:** Underspend on grants and coaching programmes. Refocus on this in the coming year.
  - **GBR Teams:** Underspend predominantly relating to amount ring fenced for 2026 Euros.
  - **Marketing / Events:** Underspend in marketing costs, event coverage and BSF promotional gifts for travelling teams. Work expected on the website in the coming year.
  - **Contingency:** No costs arising that were unbudgeted for and therefore amount not utilised.

### **BSF 2026 Annual budget overview**

- **Income:** Potential little league grant to be won (£10k).
- **Nationals:** Increase in costs expected.
- **Development:** Increase in spend if little league grant obtained (£12k).
- **GBR Teams:** Increase due to expected costs in hosting the 2026 Euros. Funds have been ring fenced from prior years profits to support the higher costs expected in 2026.
- **Contingency:** Increase amount budgeted for potential legal costs relating to gender review in addition to anything required pertaining to the one organisation review with BSUK.

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### BSF Team Affiliation Fees 2026

The BSF will not be raising the fees in 2026. All BSF-affiliated teams will continue to include Personal Accident and Injury insurance as well as Civil and Public Liability insurance. Fees for 2026 are shown below.

Affiliation Type	Notes	Fee	Includes Civil and Public Liability insurance	Includes Personal Accident and Injury insurance
Full-Member League Teams		£240	Yes	Yes
Associate Member Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent tournament teams with no league affiliation.</li> <li>Scottish league teams.</li> <li>Great Britain Fastpitch League teams.</li> <li>New league teams for the first two years of their existence.</li> <li>BASU as an organisation</li> </ul>	£135	Yes	Yes
Junior Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under-18 teams (50% of rostered players must be under-18).</li> <li>University teams playing in BSF leagues.</li> </ul>	£105	Yes	Yes
Special Membership	A one-off team membership to allow entry to one specific competition	£85	Yes	No
GB National Teams	This fee is to provide Public Liability and Personal Accident and Injury insurance for GB National Teams when they train or play in the UK.	£40	Yes	Yes
Single-Sex Teams created from non-BSF members	This fee is to provide Public Liability insurance for single-sex slowpitch teams with members who are not affiliated to the BSF through co-ed slowpitch teams.	£10 per day	Yes	No
University Teams not in BSF Leagues		No fees	No	No

As has been the case since 2017, teams that enter the BSF Single-Sex Slowpitch National Championships or the Softball World Series will not be required to pay an additional affiliation fee for insurance purposes provided that all members of the team are rostered with co-ed slowpitch teams or fastpitch teams affiliated to the BSF. This will continue to be the case in 2026.

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## BSF Awards

The BSF Annual Awards, mostly based on the 2025 season, will be announced during the AGM.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- The Glover Cup for outstanding long-term service to softball by an administrator or organiser.
- The President's Club Award for outstanding performance or development by an affiliated club or team.
- The League Glover Cup for outstanding development achievement by an affiliated league.
- The Umpire of the Year Award.
- The Tournament of the Year Award.
- The Youth Team of the Year Award for outstanding performance or development achievement.
- The Betsy Holden Award for outstanding achievement by a young person in developing or promoting the sport.
- The Young Fastpitch Player of the Year Award.
- The Young Slowpitch Player of the Year Award.
- The Coach of the Year Award

## Hall of Fame Inductions

The name of one new entrant to the BSF Hall of Fame will be announced at the AGM.

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## Election of BSF Executive Officers

The BSF has co-opted one new member onto the Executive during 2025, and they will be standing for election to a two-year term at the AGM. No nominations have been received from the community for any positions on the Executive. Nominations for vacant positions can be made during the AGM.

All members of the BSF Executive due to re-stand for their position are marked (\*) below, they are at the end of a two-year term and are standing unopposed because no nominations were received for these positions. Officers co-opted during the year are also standing for two-year terms. Nominations can only be made during the AGM for vacant positions.

### Directors

Role	Standing	Serving	Nominated
President		Lesley Morisetti*	
Treasurer		Laura Burkhardt*	
Competitions Officer		Liz Graham*	
National Teams Officer		Dr Alice Hunter*	
Administrator		Jessica Hastings*	

### Appointed Officers

Role	Standing	Serving	Nominated
Technical		Pete Saunders	
Safeguarding		Stella Ackrell	

### General Officers

General Officers	General Officers	General Officers	General Officers
Fastpitch Development		Laura Hirai*	
Slowpitch Development	POSITION VACANT		
Communication	Addy Perrett		
2026 Euros Organiser		Nicola-Jayne Dyson*	
Legal		Shiraz Mehra*	
Athletes Commission		Tim Bishop	
Coaching		Mike Hayward	

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### **Constitutional Motions to the 2026 BSF AGM**

None.

### **General Motions or Proposals to the 2026 BSF AGM**

To: The British Softball Federation (BSF)

From: SPAM Softball Club

Date: 21/01/2026

Subject: Motion to Amend National Competition Qualification Structure

The Formal Motion:

That entry to the lowest tier of the National Softball League (NSL) be achieved through an annual stand-alone tournament that all interested teams can participate in, and that promotion to the NSL is via this route only.

This would replace the current system which is to run a waiting-list that can mean that any opportunity for promotion may take multiple years, and therefore means that maintaining an appropriate squad for NSL competition is not realistic as individual players have the opportunity to join other NSL teams.

Players used for the tournament to decide promotion can only play with that NSL team, if successful, for the season in which the team achieves promotion.

It is proposed that this system is applied for the 2027 season onwards as it is recognised that teams have already been promoted under the current structure. The date and location for the qualification tournament must be announced prior to the start of the 2026 NSL competition to ensure sufficient awareness and notice.

Proposed by: SPAM Softball Club

Seconded by: Raiders Softball Club

Maidenhead Softball Club

Reading Softball Club

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#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

Home Plate, Farnham Park, Beaconsfield Road, Bucks SL2 3BP

TEL 020 7453 7055 | EMAIL [info@britishsoftball.org](mailto:info@britishsoftball.org)

[www.britishsoftball.org](http://www.britishsoftball.org)

Registered Company 06823144



## BASU Report

Pete Saunders

Using the now “standard” online format, BASU ran 8 training courses in 2025.

120 people started the courses, 20 dropped out and 92 made the grade

We also ran an Advanced course with 8 umpires attending, we spent time on more difficult scenarios and 2 umpire mechanics; all attendees said they gained a lot from the course.

In 2026 we will run 8 Standard Courses with 123 people signed up, this is near the maximum that we can handle with the current number of trainers.



Anyone who is interested in becoming a BASU trainer, please contact [basutrainingofficer@gmail.com](mailto:basutrainingofficer@gmail.com)

We continue to see new faces behind the plate which is great for the game.

BASU supplied umpires for 6 Fastpitch (GBFL) and 21 Slowpitch Tournaments in the UK.

In 2025 8 BASU umpires called at WBSC Europe tournaments, 4 FastPitch and 4 Slowpitch umpires

We now have 4 FastPitch and 4 SlowPitch WBSC Europe qualified umpires, 2 Tournament Commissioners and 2 Umpires in Chief representing GB in European Tournaments.

As agreed at the 2025 BASU AGM the umpire fees will be increasing £1 per game, to £18. Any queries on this should be sent to [BASUSec@gmail.com](mailto:BASUSec@gmail.com)

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(as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026)

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