

# MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**  
**Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham**

## PRESENT:

Sue Clarke (SC): Secretary	Liam Cooper (LC), Network Manager - East, Badminton England (BE)
Doug Clark (DC): Chair	Neil Clarke (NC)
Brian Jackson (BJ) Treasurer	Jim Robson (JR)
Ian Robinson (IR)	

## APOLOGIES:

ITEM	ACTION
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> See list above
2.	<b>Minutes</b> of the meeting of 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed
3.	<b>Update from LC on behalf of Badminton England</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LC sent an email to SC, DC, BJ, IR, JR and Julie Pike on 11<sup>th</sup> September, saying that he was unable to attend this committee meeting due to other commitments, adding that he would be happy to have a look through the meeting minutes if we would like to send them to him. He asked to be told about future meetings, when he will endeavour to attend, even if that is digitally rather than in person</li> <li>Since then LC has sent 2 emails. The first was about "The Big Hit" which is returning "on 23 - 30 September for another festival of badminton in clubs, facilities and communities across the country with an aim of getting more people playing badminton, aiming to appeal to new players (juniors and adults) and encourage them to become regular players"</li> <li>The second related to Smash Fest, being held in Stoke Mandeville on 30<sup>th</sup> September, aiming to "promote and support grass root participation whilst also providing a platform for club/league players to compete."</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Matters arising from minutes;</b>
a)	<b>Updated feedback from committee members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IR is running a tournament on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September at Wodson Park, on behalf of Badminton England. It will be a doubles tournament, entered as individuals and playing with random partners. The points totals will be added up as individuals. It is for social players aged 16 + and is not meant for county players. The tournament will be using feather shuttles and there will be winners' prizes.</li> <li>Neither IR nor BJ have heard anything about the</li> </ul>

	<p>application for the bid for a Magic Little Grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IR told us about 3 youngsters who had received free coaching for 6 months, sponsored by Active Local and Herts Sports Partnership</li> <li>• He noted that when that time had elapsed, none of them had continued at any of the clubs he runs</li> <li>• IR said that would shortly be circulating local primary schools offering to go in to lead badminton coaching sessions</li> <li>• IR noted that he had coached a group of 16 youngsters during “Busy Week” in Much Hadham. He commented on how polite all of the children had been</li> <li>• SC explained that Much Hadham (MH) Junior Badminton Club had only held one session since the start of the new season. The Club has 34 members in total</li> <li>• One member of the Club also attends Dane End Club. BJ and SC will liaise about the progress of this young lady if it is felt appropriate to do so. SC mentioned another new member of the MH Club, who has recently moved into the area from Hong Kong. SC felt that the parents of both girls may well feel that they have something in common</li> <li>• Much Hadham Junior Badminton Club will be holding its AGM on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Along with the “usual” business, the Will Scutts Cup is going to be awarded to the player from the Club “For outstanding effort over the year”. The cup was bought as a memorial by the parents of a long-standing member of the Club, who died in March of this year as a result of a brain tumour</li> <li>• DC noted that there had been only two sessions for both clubs at the Drill Hall in Ware since the start of this season. Numbers are quite low at the moment, but that is often the case to begin with</li> <li>• We were told that both clubs were now using a card reader for members to pay their subs. This had caused a few teething problems, but persistence is paying off</li> <li>• BJ said that very little badminton had been played in Dane End during August, but that now he was running two sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings</li> <li>• BJ updated the committee regarding his conversation with a governor from Ralph Sadleir School. He has been informed that the disruptive student came from a family where the parents are unwilling to accept that their son’s behaviour is unacceptable, but that he is currently on suspension and may well be expelled from the school</li> <li>• BJ does not wish to take any further action over this matter</li> <li>• In JR’s email apologising for his absence, he wished it to be noted that the Head of PE at Richard Hale School had written to him to say that they were looking at when the sports hall was available to which year groups and sorting out afterschool sessions as well as lunchtime sessions. He wrote that once this is finalised he would get in touch with a starting date and the year groups that have expressed interest.</li> </ul>	
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<p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> <p>e)</p>	<p><b>Live Longer &amp; Better in Herts with Badminton Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB continues to keep SC and IR updated regularly regarding this initiative</li> <li>• DC has had confirmation from Belinda Nutall at the Drill Hall that as things stand, Tuesday of Wednesday mornings are free and could be hired at the rate of £36 per hour for a minimum of 8 sessions. A slight reduction of this fee could be negotiated</li> <li>• In discussion, it was noted that there continues to be no confirmation forthcoming about how these sessions will be advertised, by whom and how we ascertain who will be attending. It is still very open-ended</li> <li>• It is also clear that the bid has not yet been accepted. In the most recent email it was suggested that it may not be until towards the end of October before we know whether or not the bid is successful</li> <li>• DB has decided to start sessions at Gosling funded by WH CBN- starting Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. It will be interesting to find out how things have gone</li> </ul> <p><b>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IR said that he attended the Foundation Course as an observer, and was impressed with the way in which Julie Pike had led the session. He intends to offer cover as bank staff rather than taking the lead, as he has enough to do as things stand</li> <li>• There were 23 participants in total, including 7 from Hertfordshire based clubs: from Comets Juniors, Gadebridge Badminton Club, DKWay, GLL Hatfield Smashup, Smashit and No Strings at Herts Sports Village</li> <li>• The next HJBA tournament is being held on 30th September at Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage SG1 1LZ. This tournament is open to children born in, living in, attending school in or playing at a junior badminton club in Hertfordshire, or attending a school affiliated to HJBA. It is for children born in 2013 or later, girls and boys singles and doubles</li> </ul> <p><b>Sharing news about badminton across the county</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would seem that base for DKWay Badminton Academy is relocating, but sessions continue to run on Monday and Thursday evenings at Gosling Sports Park. Steve Willis, Head Coach at DKWay now lives in Northampton</li> </ul> <p><b>Arrangements for the interclub tournament</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We opted for the afternoon of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, starting at 1pm and finishing at 4pm</li> <li>• The cost of hiring the Drill Hall will be £20 per hour</li> <li>• We will aim for 20 pairs in total</li> <li>• They will come from East Herts or the A10 corridor</li> <li>• Age groupings will be 12 years and under or 13 years+, with an age limit of 18 years</li> <li>• Mixed doubles will be permissible for the younger age group</li> </ul>	<p><b>SC</b> to send an advertising flyer to DC, BJ and IR as soon as possible</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those wishing to participate can choose their partners or indicate that a partner is required</li> <li>• The entry fee will be £5 per person</li> <li>• A response will be required by 25<sup>th</sup> September, preferable with payment in advance</li> <li>• Spectators are welcome, but space is limited</li> <li>• The problem about “no shows” will be made</li> <li>• BJ noted that we would need to purchase more medals for the winners, as we currently only have 2</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Treasurer’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently £622.72 in the bank, and £13.49 in cash. This is £636.21 in total</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>Any other business:</b> None	
<b>Next Meeting:                      Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023</b> <b>8.00 a.m. – ?</b> <b>The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham SG10 6BU</b> <b>(Christmas Get-Together)</b>		