

Hertfordshire Badminton Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held at 9 Valley Close, Hertford
on 5 December 2022

Present:

Paul Kempster	PK
Dave Bartlett	DB
Gill Bartlett	GB
Doug Clark	DC
Nick Goode	NG
Simon Gouldstone	SG
Brian Jackson	BJ
Mike Newlove	MN
Colin Walker	CW
Steve Willis	SW

1. Apologies for absence

Bob Green	BG
Eddie Lintott	EL
Julie Pike	JP
Jim Robson	JR

2. Matters arising from the committee meeting on 26 September 2022

a) *Reports for the County League*

CW had provided Graham Cobb (GC) with the BE reports that would allow him to check that those playing in the League were properly affiliated to BE. CW said that the main issue was players that were affiliated through one club were then playing for another club in the county league but the second club was not adding them as an "Additional" member which meant that they were not showing up on the County League Report used by GC.

b) *HBA Twitter*

SG explained that he had disabled the HBA Twitter feed from the HBA web site although it could be reactivated if necessary.

c) *Support for Ukrainian refugees*

SG explained that both he and the Treasurer of the club concerned, Icarus BC, had checked and established that there was no financial support available elsewhere for sporting activities. In consequence, NG had supplied two racquets and HBA had donated £135, half the club's membership fee for the two people. The two women had joined the club and one had played matches. They had, through the club, expressed their thanks.

d) *Social Tournament*

The courts at Presdales had been booked for 2 April. NG had circulated a proposed flyer that might also need to specify feather shuttles, that it is a knock-out competition and a closing date for entries, suggested to be 15 March 2023.

3. Chairman

PK noted that the draft minutes of the most recent BE General Meeting had been circulated. The pertinent issues were as follows:

- a) It was important to take care when using images and photographs on the web site that copyright was not infringed. DB emphasised that organisations could fall foul of a process by which copyright could pass to a new owner that invalidated permission to use given by an original owner. SG explained that he was confident that material currently on the web site did not transgress any copyright restrictions.
- b) The new Chief Executive intended contacting clubs in Yorkshire that were not affiliated with a view of attracting them into BE membership. It was understood that there were a small number of such clubs in Herts but there was no suggestion that they should be approached at present.
- c) BE intended developing, by April 2023, a new 10 year strategy that would cover most aspects of badminton activity. At present it was no more than a skeletal framework.

5. Secretary

SG had nothing to report.

6. Membership Secretary and Treasurer

CW reported the following issues:

- a) Membership numbers had fallen but still appeared relatively healthy. Compared with April 2021, the total number of affiliated clubs was down from 61 to 53 and the total number of affiliated members from 1485 to 1248.
- b) The financial position was stable. The usual expenditure had been incurred, for example the entry fees for the Senior County teams. Also, HBA had subsidised the cost of shirts for Masters teams. On the plus side, £2,351 of county fees had been received, the total profit from the two tournaments was over £800 and Stanstead Abbots BC, which had now folded, had donated £700 to the Ray Learney Fund. He had not received an invoice to pay for the Masters teams.

ACTION: SW to check.

He expected there to be a small surplus at the end of the season.

- c) He was still holding the £250 donated by Stevenage BC to support Senior County players in financial difficulty. He had asked the team captains to identify possible recipients as offering a general invitation to make applications was inappropriate but was concerned that the money would not get used.

6. Senior County

There was no report but it was noted that the first round of fixtures had taken place. One Herts match was outstanding as BE had mishandled the court booking.

7. County League

No report.

8. Hertford Area League

JR reported that the Area League was running with no reported problems. To date, 27% of matches had been completed.

9. North Herts and Letchworth

No report.

10. Masters

SW reported that Presdales was proving to be a good venue. Car parking was satisfactory and the showers were now hot. New posts and nets were needed and some small items, such as a kettle and airpot, would be purchased provided they could be stored securely.

Five practice sessions had been held and eight matches had taken place. The teams running this season were 40s, 50s, 55s, 60s and 65s.

The Challenge was scheduled to take place on 14 and 15 January with the 40s at Bournemouth and the 55s and 60s at Birmingham University. The 45s had withdrawn and we may get charged.

11. Tournaments

The Restricted Tournament took place on 1 and 2 October with a wide range of participants. It made a small profit of £240 and some of that had been used to cover the entry fees for participants in the Champion of Champions event.

The arrangements for the 2023 Open had not yet been finalised as EL was waiting for confirmation from HSV that it would stay open until 21.00 on Saturday. He had not yet applied for BE sanction but expected to be able to do so in the near future.

12. Development

DB submitted a written report which is appended to these minutes together with the minutes of the most recent EHCBN meeting. The noteworthy points were:

- a) There had been a further meeting about the development of Gosling but, as the land could not be sold until 2024, progress was slow. The next meeting was scheduled for 28 March 2023.

- b) He continued to stay in touch with the development at Oaklands College and the next meeting was scheduled for 13 December 2022.
- c) He had taken the initiative in putting together a bid under the Live Longer and Better programme, aimed at increasing activity for the 50+. It could be delivered through the CBNs and he had had a positive reaction from them.
- d) He had met Julie Bradbury to learn more about her National Badminton company. She was keen to provide badminton coaching in Herts and had been invited to CBN meetings.

13. Coaching

BJ reported that he had received four requests for coaches of which two had been fulfilled. The Level 2 assessment was due to take place on 18 December and seven Herts coaches had completed the Foundation Course.

Herts currently had 11 Level 1 coaches, 32 Level 2 and one Level 3.

He expected BE to initiate a programme to develop more female coaches.

He had attended, along with six other Herts coaches, a Coaches Day at MK which had proved to be a valuable event.

14. Social Media/Publicity

DB's Development Report contains statistical information about the usage of Herts Facebook.

15. HJBA

MN reported that HJBA had good squads for the current season. It was running two teams at U16 and U17 which provided more playing opportunities. The U10 and U19 teams had won their first matches but the U12 team was less successful. All open tournaments would be at HSV and not Stevenage.

16. BE issues

JP was unable to attend the meeting but reported the following issues:

- a) Nominations were open for the BE National Volunteer & Coach Awards 2023. The closing date was 16 December 2022.
- b) Nominations were also open for the Young Leaders Academy 2023. The closing date was 16 December 2022.
- c) The next Foundation Course will take place at Beaumont School on 18 - 19 February 2023. She was looking to organise another Level 2 course in April/May.
- d) She was disappointed that there had been no further communication from Mount Grace School.

- e) With DB's assistance, BE will be promoting Racketpack at the Herts Primary Schools PE Conference on 13 January 2023.
- f) BE has funded Keith Burns to deliver a new No Strings session at Samuel Ryder School.

17. Any other business

SG invited the meeting's views on an exchange he had had with Graham Cobb (GC) about the future of the sport in Herts.

Background

Following the comment made at the AGM about the size of some of the divisions, GC had increased the number to eight, smaller, divisions. That had led to complaints from three clubs about (a) the fewer number of matches and (b) less variety among their opponents. There could therefore be pressure to create more playing opportunities but the bottom line was probably the need to address the decline in the number of clubs.

Context

There is no doubt that the number of clubs has fallen. For example, in Herts there were 63 in 2005 and, as CW's figures showed, there were 53 at December 2022. Comparing the position now for the County and Area Leagues with 2019-20, the figures were as follows:

County	20 clubs and 41 teams to 14 clubs and 37 teams
Area	24 clubs and 48 teams to 15 clubs and 31 teams

One consequence of this trend was that regular players were gravitating towards a smaller number of clubs. For example, in the County League, Comets were running four mens teams and Masters three mixed teams. It shows however that playing opportunities for players at all levels were reducing.

SG also cited his experience with the Enfield League, which is Middlesex rather than Herts. From a peak in 1992-93 when there were 37 clubs, 73 teams and 13 divisions, the League was not running in 2022-23 as there was insufficient interest. He was concerned that history might repeat itself in Herts.

Clubs

There is no one obvious reason for the decline in the number of clubs. Factors such as lifestyle choices, cost and the availability of facilities undoubtedly play a part. In addition there may also be a fall in the number of people prepared to run clubs. For example, BE's own figures show that only 7% of volunteers are between 16 and 34.

Possible Initiatives

SG and GC are of the view that we ought to at least try to grow club membership. The following is not an exhaustive list but could include getting casual players interested in playing competitively, approaching affiliated clubs that do not field teams and getting juniors and 'weaker' players into clubs.

We accept without question that Herts does a lot to get people interested in playing badminton and that any initiatives may be seen as making demands on people who are already heavily committed.

Conclusion

It was decided that SG should turn this into a coherent policy document for the next committee meeting and that it should align with BE's yet-to-be-published strategy.

18. Future meetings

Committee Meeting: 13 March 2023 at PK's.

AGM: 20 June 2023. Venue to be decided.

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Development Report to HBA Committee 5 Dec 22

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County-wide

County Badminton Centre

Gosling Sports Park

WH Facilities Strategy meeting attended by Nick Rimmer or Julie Pike, 3 October: 'provide a more detailed update in March on how they are going to move forward with the master plan and following this look at consult with clubs and NGBs.' Next meeting 28th March 2023

Oaklands College: next meeting 13 December, DB attending.

Live Longer and Better in Herts

Government and HSP Funded scheme to get people 50+ active: badminton interests are being pursued by DB, JP, and CBNS: KB, SC, BG (?) (www.livelongerbetterinherts.co.uk). Proposal:

In the 4 quarters of Herts: the organisation, recruitment, and training of coaches for 8 badminton skills sessions for those 50+, called No Strings Essentials, followed by friendly tournaments and exit routes into clubs and No strings sessions in sports facilities.

National Badminton

DB met Julie Bradbury CEO National Badminton. Her company is keen to help with badmint9on coaching in Herts and is already working in East Herts. She is to join the next CBN meetings to see where we can work together.

HJBA

Tanya Angus, Herts School Games Programme Manager has organised the Secondary Schools Finals for 9 December at HSV. Coaches have been contacted for mentoring the scorer leaders. Julie Pike will be helping.

Community Badminton Networks

East Herts CBN

Encouragingly active, as usual - see minutes attached.

Herts West Badminton Development Group

Meeting 12 October, discussed need for No strings, Tier 4 (Copper) and Tier 3 (Bronze) tournaments and Supporting disadvantaged communities , minutes soon, next meeting 8 December.

North Herts CBN

See Bob's report.

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

Birchwood Leisure Centre

From Nick Rimmer, WH Strategy meeting, 3Oct: ' we need to keep an eye on plans here to ensure badminton not adversely affected. The long term strategy of what they do with Birchwood Leisure Centre needs a lot more thinking about due to costs likely to be involved in terms of renovating a site which was established in 1990 (40 years old by end of the decade). There is a much longer term discussion required around the leisure centre itself.'

Note: the sports hall was refurbished Summer 2012 to BE standards, floor, walls and lighting by Operations Manager Paul Widdicombe.

Further notes from NR from WH Strategy meeting:

- Community use agreements – worth noting which facilities are coming into use and to follow up on the action about letting WHBC know if there are any clubs using school facilities which doesn't have a community use agreement
- CUA agreements on existing educational sites are all up to date and have been reviewed with the schools
 - Work to be done with Bishops Hatfield Girls School as they are trying to get a CUA in place – Mylan hasn't had much luck with arranging a meeting with the school.
 - Conversations need to be held with Onslow School as they are looking to upgrade their sports facilities so there is need to work with planners to ensure a CUA is within their planning obligations."

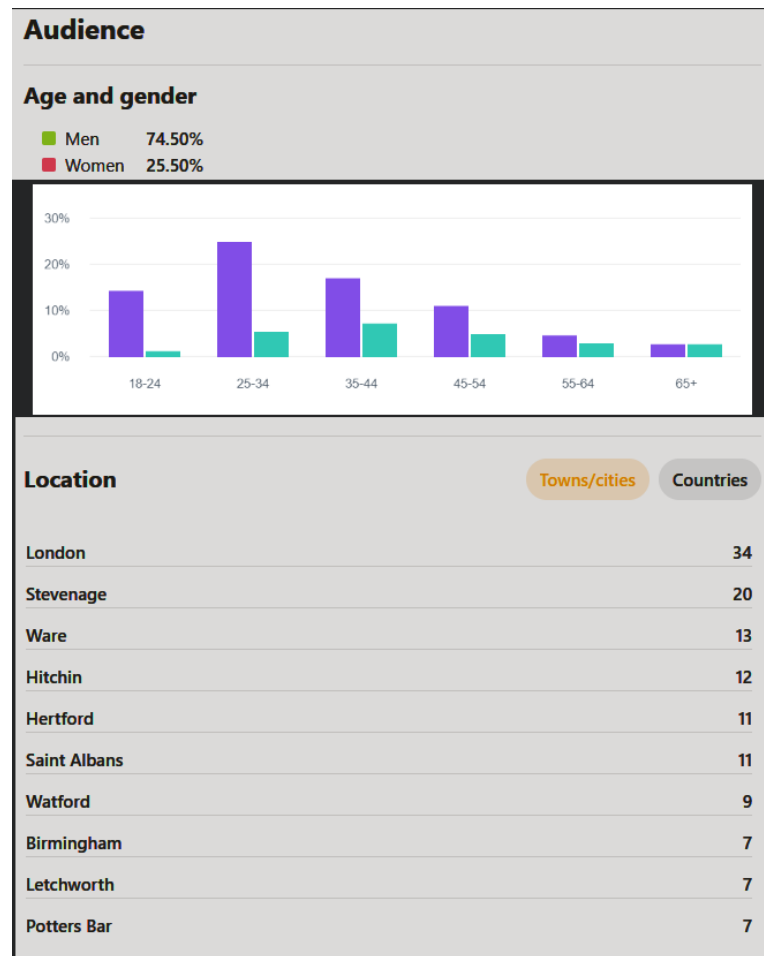
Note: Ideally we need to speak with Onslow School and Monks Walk regarding their plans.

WH CBN Bank account has been transferred from HSBC where they charged to Lloyds.

With the help of the new SGO, Terri Harvey, John Stobo is to provide after school coaching at Howe Dell Primary School next term. BHGS also interested in coaching.

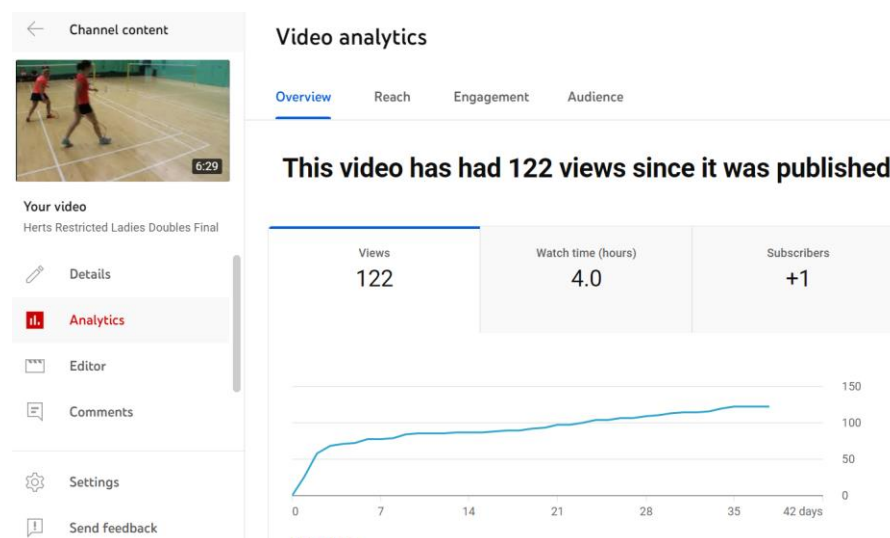
HBA Media

FaceBook: 634 followers

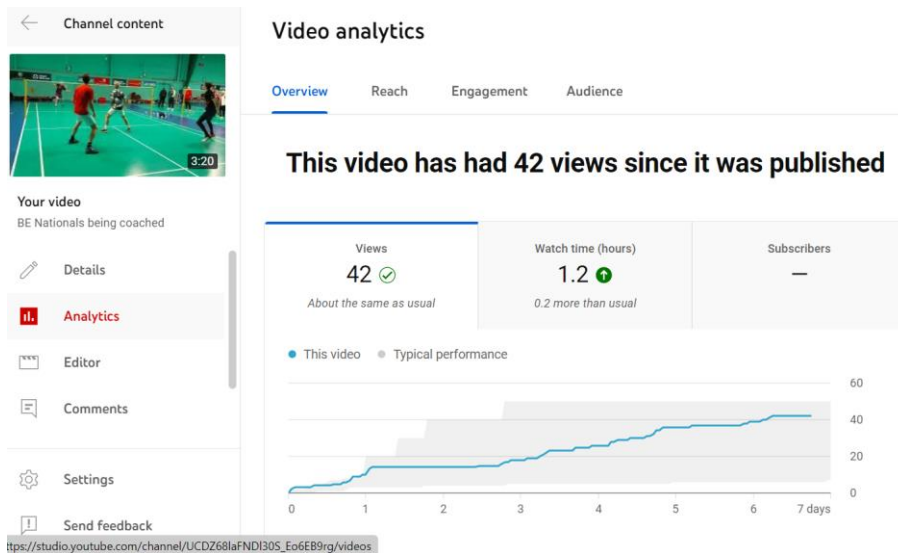


Youtube Clips






Herts Restricted Ladies Doubles: link on HBA FaceBook



BE Coaching session for coaches at MK: NO link on HBA FaceBook



Summary of Youtube videos this year

<input type="checkbox"/>	Video	Visibility	Restrictions	Date ↓	Views	Comments	Likes (vs. dislikes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	 BE Nationals being coached Morten Frost, Performance Director, Badminton England, organised a coaches' open day at Milton Keynes 8th...	Public	Made for Kids	15 Nov 2022 Published	43	0	—
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Herts Restricted Ladies Doubles Final Natalie Barton and Abbie Smith met Molly Goode and Kelly Matthews in the final. It was tight match which Mollie and...	Public	Made for Kids	15 Oct 2022 Published	122	0	100.0% 1 like
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Herts Badminton Restricted Men's Final The 2022 Herts Badminton Association Restricted tournament took place at the Hertfordshire Sports Village over the...	Public	Made for Kids	14 Oct 2022 Published	305	0	50.0% 1 like
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Herts Open Mixed Doubles Finals 21Aug22 Third and final game of mixed doubles finals.	Public	Made for Kids	23 Aug 2022 Published	179	0	100.0% 2 likes
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Herts Open Women's Finals 21Aug22 This is the second and final game of this Women's Finals.	Public	Made for Kids	23 Aug 2022 Published	81	0	—

MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

Tuesday 27th September 2022
Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham

PRESENT:

Sue Clarke (SC): Secretary	
Doug Clark (DC): Chair	
Brian Jackson (BJ) Treasurer	
Neil Clarke (NC)	
Ian Robinson (IR)	

APOLOGIES:

ITEM	ACTION
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1.	Apologies: None	
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 26 th April 2022 were agreed	
3.	Report from JP on behalf of Badminton England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP sent a report to those listed above on 20th September. It included information regarding: • The latest organised Coach Education Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A successful Foundation Course ran at Beaumont School on the 3rd/4th September, with 23 learners, of which 6 were from Hertfordshire, and 1 of these was from Dane End ○ JP is currently in communication with Beaumont School to put on another Foundation Course on the 18th/19th February 2023 to coincide with Hertfordshire Sports Partnerships Coach Education Week ○ The Level 2 Coaching Course running at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre currently has 6 learners booked on (Dates: 2nd & 9th Oct, 6th & 13th Nov, 18th Dec) ○ It was noted that Foundation Course coaches needed a period of time to put their newly acquired skills into action before moving on to Level 2. It is a big “leap up”, and not all passed following the last course that was run • Club Affiliation & Player Membership Renewals re-opened on the 1st September. There has been a 10% increase in fees from previous years due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prices having remained unchanged since pre-pandemic (over three years) ○ The increasing costs BE is facing within the organisation, without equivalent increases in funding ○ Badminton England revenue is remaining under 	

	<p>pressure</p> <p>JP has been asked a few times for the latest club insurance document which she attached. This is currently an extension certificate which BE has in place until the renewal certificate comes into place on the 1st October. Insurance certificates can be accessed via each Club's membership profile on Just Go, under the 'Insurance Documents' tab</p> <p>DC strongly suggested that each club should run this document off and circulate it to committee members</p> <p>Young Leader Academy is scheduled to take place 11th/12th March at the NBC – communication will come out to clubs in November asking them to nominate their YL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All England 2023 Dates confirmed as 14th-19th March 2023. • In the absence of the National Schools Competition, the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, through Tanya Angus, will once again be running the competition up to the County Round. This is scheduled to take place on Friday 9th December at the Sports Village. • Hertfordshire Sports Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broxbourne & East Herts Club Forum: Wodson Park on Wednesday 21st September for clubs of Broxbourne & East Herts. The forum will cover key topics for clubs including funding, volunteering, marketing and looking after the mental health of members and much more. There will also be opportunities to network with other clubs of all sports and share ideas and best practice. Refreshments will be provided and the event will finish promptly at 9pm ○ BE have teamed up with the mental health organisation Govox to offer every club in Hertfordshire free access to their mental wellbeing platform. Essentially they are offering every club in the county with free access to Govox which acts as mental health wellbeing check, flags any warning signs and also helps to signpost to appropriate support 	
4.	<p>Updated feedback from committee members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR continues with running Wizards, supported by Mark Bayliss • He runs an adult session at John Warner on Friday evenings from 7 until 8pm • Community Badminton are hosting a Super Singles tournament on October 16th from 12-2pm at John Warner, Hoddesdon, EN11 0QG, for ages 11 to 13 and 14 to 16. There will be music, prizes and plenty of matches for all. It 	<p>IR will be in touch about the Super Singles, the Half Term Camp and the flyer updates</p> <p>IR to ask U3A if there was any interest in a Spring 2023</p>

	<p>is not intended for players who represent county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, on October 23rd from 1-3pm at Goffs Academy, Cheshunt, EN7 5QW, there is a one-off badminton camp for half term. IR will be arranging activities and games for all ages from 6-16 IR has been running a 20 minutes badminton session during lunchtime at Cuffley School. 6 youngsters from there have now joined the group at Goffs Academy IR will be organising the HJBA Club Tournament on 5/3/23. Details will be sent out ahead of that event It was reported that Dave Bartlett would like a Bronze/Copper tournament organised. However there seems to be a conflict between the commercial and not for profit organisations across Herts in terms of who is willing to organise which event and under what terms BJ is currently running 3 sessions on Thursdays, 2 on Fridays and 1 on Wednesdays at Dane End He is also running an after school clubs at Ralph Sadleir on Mondays and Wednesdays Much Hadham Club continue to run 3 groups on Friday evenings. The first group numbers are quite low at the present time. There are 31 members in total at the Club. It is more of a social club than a sports club as such, but is enjoyable despite that DC noted that the Hertford Club that runs on Mondays at the Drill Hall in Ware, is currently quite low on numbers attending: 9 in the session proceeding this meeting On Wednesdays evenings the All Saints Club has 10/11 in Group 1 (running from 6-7pm) and 12/13 in Group 2 (running from 7-8pm) It was reported that the Drill Hall was going to be used for the Pantomime whilst Hertford Theatre is being redeveloped, and this means that the two badminton clubs will need to close for a while. DC intends to run the clubs for a longer season than usual to make up for this. The flooring in the hall continues to be noted as a problem that needs to be addressed DC will be covering the sessions for IR at John Warner on 27th/28th October, and has liaised with Julia Bradbury regarding his coaching qualifications etc. 	<p>tournament at Wodson.</p> <p>SC to invite Julia Bradbury to the next committee meeting</p>
5.	<p>Review of Badminton Session for Young Carers held on 2nd August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both IR and DC described this session as being “wonderful”, and a great step forwards in terms of addressing community badminton as a concept SC said that she felt that the session had been rather long, and that this had impacted on the enthusiasm of both the youngsters and the adults leading the session. She accepted that this had been a necessary part of the way in which the session had been set up It was thought that a “proper break” should have been timetabled in IR noted that the bright sunshine on the day in question 	<p>BJ to contact Amy Bartlett to ask for feedback regarding</p>

	<p>had cause sight problems for some of the participants. DC explained that there were blinds installed, and that he would find out how they operate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJ said that he had not heard anything back from Amy Bartlett, Young Carers Co-Production Lead, since the session • DC and SC reported that Amy had encouraged the youngsters to fill out evaluation forms, and SC had suggested that we could forward information about badminton clubs local to those who had taken part if the interest was there. It would be good to get some feedback • To date BJ has not received an invoice from the Drill Hall relating to this activity • DC said that he was happy to absorb the costs of the refreshments that were purchased • IR has received his payment 	<p>the session, and to let her know that we would be happy to repeat the activity if applicable</p>
6.	<p>Parent/Child Tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that grandparents could also take part in this tournament, but that any players should not play for County • Participants could come from any of the East Herts Junior Clubs 	
7.	<p>Badminton across the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Herts Sports Partnership Team would be hosting the “David Wray Memorial Lecture” on Monday 3rd October 7pm-9:30pm at the University of Herts.. This year they have acquired the services of former Olympic Athletics coach Frank Dick OBE who will be talking about his life and journey from grassroots to elite sport, as well as the transferable skills between sport and business <p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJ has set up an account for Dane End Club with Lloyds Bank, and would like to do the same for EH CBN. There was a brief discussion about whether or not it would be possible to set up an account with online banking with 2 signatories • It was suggested that it would be better if 2 committee members had access to the accounts, rather than just one. BJ will check whether or not this is a possibility. If so, the 2 committee members nominated are BJ and SC • BJ will confirm how much money we have once the account is opened. He believes the balance is somewhere in the region of £650 	<p>DC to make enquiries about the availability of the Drill Hall in January, after 9th, on Saturday or Sunday afternoons</p>
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC to contact all adult badminton clubs in the area to let them know about the existence of the EH CBN, and to ask for suggestions for our next meeting about ways in which we could promote badminton for them • It was noted that Presdales is currently being used to accommodate some county squad sessions, but spare 	<p>SC to include the promotion of adult badminton as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting,</p>

	<p>courts can be hired from there at £7.50 an hour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that we meet up for a Christmas drink at some point in December. Monday evening was suggested. 	<p>SC to invite Julia Bradbury to the next committee meeting BJ to ascertain the availability of the courts at Presdales Committee members to inform SC of their availability on either 5th, 12th or 19th December</p>
<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th December 2022 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN</p>		