

MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

Thursday 12th September, 2024
Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Neil Clarke (NC)
Jim Robson (JR)
Liam Cooper (LC)

ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies: see above
2.	Minutes of the meeting of 26 th June 2024 were agreed
3.	<p>We were hoping that LC would join our meeting by Zoom, but for a number of reasons this did not happen. However, since the committee meeting, he has sent an email with details about the No Strings Development course being piloted in Hertfordshire. The aim of the course is to upskill attendees. Details below:</p> <p>Adult Beginners Badminton Course 8 Week course to help improve basic badminton skills and confidence on court Coach: Ian Robinson Email: ianbrobinson@hotmail.com Cost: £55 for the 8 week course Venue: John Warner Sports Centre EN11 0QG Starting: 13th October 1 hour per week for 8 weeks LC asked us to circulate the information to anyone we thought may be interested in taking part</p>
4.	<p>Matters arising from minutes:</p> <p>a) Live Longer & Better in Herts with Badminton Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJ and IR attended the meeting in August that was set up by Dave Bartlett to discuss the current situation regarding this initiative. Bob Green joined the group using Teams, but there were only 4 in total at the meeting • It was noted that Bob had been very successful in setting up a group in Stevenage • The group set up by Dave Bartlett in Welwyn is now self-sustaining. Dave has worked very hard on this cross-county initiative • A group operating at Bushey has been rather late in “joining the party” but is now beginning to operate • The group set up by IR at Laura Trott will be funded until 9th December, when IR hopes to be able to step back and for

	<p>that group to be self-sustaining. The rest of the money from the grant given to East Herts will go towards funding this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR attended the celebration event held on Thursday 5th September. Badminton was not the only sport made available for the over 50s. There was indoor cricket and walking football amongst other things. IR said that it was a good event and quite well attended • It was felt that our support of this initiative in some ways balanced out the focus we have otherwise given to juniors • BJ is compiling a spreadsheet outlining expenditure to date and said that we will be slightly overspent, but this will be accommodated by using funds from the EH CBN account • We need to have a careful audit trail for how the money has been spent. The deadline is at the end of the year • It was noted that the Ladies Badminton Club in Much Hadham has reopened again. They will not meet every week, but this situation has been accommodated by the hirings secretary at the Village Hall • Bishop's Stortford U3A have set up a badminton group operating at Herts and Essex School 	<p>SC will drop in at some point</p>
b)	<p>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJ reminded us that a Foundation Coaching course has been set up for 28th September at Beaumont School. To date 17 participants have registered, 7 from Herts. IR would like to "shadow" the instructors if possible • A Level 2 course is in the process of being organised, but there are no details as yet • It was noted that Watford, Harpenden and Westminster Lodge in St Albans are currently looking for coaches. BJ is overseeing this • A number of closed tournaments have been organised by National Badminton. The entrance fees tend to be quite expensive, and this could be prohibitive for some. IR was the person nominated to oversee one on 5th August, but found that the venue had double booked when he arrived. This problem was resolved • The local Lea Valley round of the schools badminton tournament is scheduled for Wednesday 13th November 3.30-5.30pm (approx.) 	
c)	<p>Parent/child tournament for EH CBN in October/November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drill Hall has been booked for this event from 1.30 until 4.30pm on 23rd November. The cost of hiring the hall is £108 • IR thought that he would have a fair number of people wanting to play, but on this occasion will not be available to attend • We established that guardians, parent or grandparents could partner the youngsters, but that it would not be appropriate for older siblings to do so • The "cut-off" date for entries will be Friday 15th November 	<p>SC to prepare a note outlining the details to be sent out to club members, and circulate the note offering advice to players about "organising" their partners</p>

<p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the youngsters be separated into 3 groups: primary aged, under 14s and 18 years old or younger. This will be decided when we meet again before the tournament, depending on the numbers in each age group • The entry fee will be £5 (cash only) for each pair. This can be collected on the day or given to the coach from each club beforehand • IR felt that we should award medals to the winners of each group, and suggested that they could be engraved. Concord Trophies in Hertford said it would cost £2 to have each of our medals engraved with " Parent and Child Winner 2024" or it would be £3.40 each if they supply the medals <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently £557.10 in the bank, and £13.49 in cash. This is £677.84 in total • DC spent £803.59 of the grant from LLB, IR has spent £1632.15 so far, making a joint total of £2,435.77 • DC thanked BJ for keeping us on track! <p>Any other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR gave some feedback about some events he is responsible for organising: • Lisa Robinson, of the Hertford & Ware SSP , has invited him to provide 16 x ½ hour sessions for Year 3s at Wodson Park on Monday Sept 30th, and Thursday 3rd Oct, 8 on each day. It is a multi school event and will be for most their first experience of badminton. She has offered to pay IR for this. IR would appreciate some help • 3 of IR's local junior groups have only one or 2 participants signed up. National Badminton have put up their monthly subscription by £5 to £39.50 and a common complaint is not getting value for money, as they pay whether or not they can attend. The teenage age group sessions are both doing well • IR's National Badminton junior groups in Leventhorpe, Sawbridgeworth, have now been cancelled due lack of participants, as has one at Goffs Academy • The LLB sessions at Laura Trott Leisure Centre 11-12pm Mondays booking has been extended to December. The participants will pay a slight increase and IR has given them a bag with a money box, shuttles and rackets to bring along each week. He will be attending irregularly from September 16th. A WhatsApp group has been set up for them to correspond with each other. • Whitewebbs have a £5 "pay as you go" group at John Warner on Thursdays which seemed to have several beginners attending • IR attended the virtual webinar from Sarah Darragh at BE about Shuttle Stars which will replace Racket Pack for ages 7-11 from January 2025 	<p>SC to contact Lisa Robinson to ascertain which local primary schools have invited to the event scheduled for Year 3s on 30th September and 3rd October at Wodson Park</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lot of rebranding and repackaging. Certificates, t-shirts, rackets and one shuttlecock are available for parents to buy. There are 6 stages of progression, plus festivals plus competitions • Level1 coaches can tutor the first 3 stages. Level 2 coaches can tutor it all. A new coaching bag with activity cards and equipment is available for £350 (but £87.50 if one of the first 90 bags are purchased. The committee decided not to go ahead with buying one • IR commented that there is lots to process and it is still not quite ready to launch • BJ said that numbers are low at Dane End Club at the moment. There has been a variety of reasons why members have left. He is only currently running sessions on Thursdays and Fridays • DC is questioning whether it would make sense to amalgamate the junior groups that he runs on Mondays and Wednesdays, as numbers are quite low and 4 courts are available. The cost of hiring the hall must be taken into account • Much Hadham Junior Club currently has 26 members. NC and SC are overlapping the timings of the groups in order for the older ones in each group to help mentor the younger ones. IR suggested that we might like to set up a group on another night in the week, but SC explained that the village hall is well used, that timetabling could be a problem, and that they felt that dedicating another evening on a regular basis to badminton was not something they wished to do • Both BJ and DC need to renew their safeguarding training in the near future. It is hoped that this can be undertaken online • JR circulated an email about Christopher Horner, a representative from East Herts Council conducting a Sports Strategy Consultation. JR has been in contact with him, as has SC, describing the facilities used for badminton in East Herts • JR has contacted Richard Hale School and has been told that Tim (his contact there) will get back to him shortly regarding the future availability of their sports hall for playing badminton 	
Next Meeting: Thursday 21st November 2024 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN		