

# MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2024  
Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham**

## **PRESENT:**

Sue Clarke (SC): Secretary	
Doug Clark (DC): Chair	
Brian Jackson (BJ) Treasurer	
Ian Robinson (IR)	
Neil Clarke (NC)	
Jim Robson (JR)	
Bob Green (BG)	

## **APOLOGIES:**

ITEM	ACTION
1. <b>Apologies:</b> none	
2. <b>Welcome to Bob Green</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We welcomed BG to the meeting. He has recently taken on the role of the Junior Clubs' Representative on the Herts Junior Badminton Association</li> <li>He is endeavouring to pay a visit to all of the junior clubs in Herts, whether or not they are affiliated to Badminton England</li> </ul>	
3. <b>Minutes</b> of the meeting of 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed	
4. <b>Update from Liam Cooper (LC) regarding recent developments at Badminton England</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On this occasion LC sent no information</li> </ul>	
5. <b>Matters arising from minutes:</b>	
a) <b>Live Longer &amp; Better in Herts with Badminton Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IR continues to have over a dozen people attending the session set up at Laura Trott Leisure Centre</li> <li>The group members had 6 months of badminton there without paying anything, but the court hire is now being paid for through their contributions towards coffee</li> <li>They are very grateful that the group has been set up for them</li> <li>IR occasionally gives the group a pack of shuttles</li> <li>There is no longer any need to advertise the sessions</li> <li>BJ noted that there has been a £139.02 deficit on the money allocated for this group from the original grant, but it was generally felt that EH CBN could accommodate this</li> <li>It was commented that the response across the county has been very different from group to group</li> </ul>	

<p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BG explained that the group he set up in Stevenage is now self-sufficient and meets regularly, but the one he organised for Letchworth had, like the one in Ware, folded</li> <li>• In Baldock, the session more recently set up by BG, currently has 8/10 people attending</li> <li>• It was felt that Leisure Centres can be quite intimidating for people who previously haven't exercised on a regular basis</li> <li>• The groups set up where there is a single court for play, seem to be more successful both economically and socially. The social side of the meetings are as important to those taking part as the game itself</li> <li>• BG has only spent half the money allocated from the grant as things stand</li> </ul> <p><b>Report from IR re Beginners' Course initiated on 6<sup>th</sup> October and Year 3 sessions on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Beginners' Course had been fully booked, with 12 people in attendance, but now only 6 are continuing from Sunday Smashers in Bishop's Stortford. It took the form of a Tactics course rather than an Essential Beginners</li> <li>• The Year 3 sessions were set up by Herts and Ware Schools Partnership, and the feedback was very positive</li> <li>• Adam, from one of the clubs based at the Drill Hall in Ware, came along to help and was much appreciated</li> <li>• The leaders from Presdales and Chauncy were also very good</li> <li>• SC asked whether there was any sign that any of the participating youngsters have gone on to join one of the local clubs, but this was felt to be unlikely despite leaflets being handed out to the schools taking part</li> <li>• It was noted that working alongside the pupils and staff from Amwell View School (which caters for children with Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties) had been an interesting experience. NC said that the rackets with nets for catching the shuttles had proved very useful when supervising them</li> </ul> <p><b>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJ told us that Level 1 and 2 courses were coming up after the February half term, but a venue is uncertain at present. The cost of hiring facilities is proving prohibitive</li> <li>• BJ is liaising with LC</li> <li>• Presdales in Ware and Knights Templar School in Baldock were suggested as possible lines of enquiry</li> <li>• It would seem that Haileybury School is looking to offer IR the position of coach pending references</li> <li>• IR is organising a Christmas Cracker Junior Badminton Tournament at John Warner Sports Centre in Hoddesdon on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 2-4pm. This is now fully booked. BJ and SC noted that they had received information about this at least 3 times!</li> <li>• Tanya Angus is organising the BE Schools Tournament Herts Regional Round on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Herts</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Sports Village. The Boys' session runs from 9-1pm, and the Girls' from 1-4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IR and DC are available to help at both sessions. NC and SC can be there during the afternoon session</li> </ul>	IR will investigate the payment of parking fees
d)	<p><b>Sharing news about badminton across the county and our clubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJ said that things were still very quiet at Dane End. He is currently only running one session on Thursdays and Fridays</li> <li>BG said that he hadn't visited there as yet, but would arrange a time to do so with BJ</li> <li>DC noted that the numbers at the All Saints Club and Hertford Club were increasing</li> <li>The numbers attending the Junior Club in Much Hadham remain pretty much the same. We are overlapping some time between the various age groups at present. This appears to be working in terms of giving experience of partnering more experienced players</li> <li>IR has 18 attending the club he runs at John Warner and 18 at Goffs. 7 attend the club he runs for primary aged children</li> </ul>	
e)	<p><b>Parent/child tournament for EH CBN to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Drill Hall in Ware</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was decided that we would award medals to the junior winners and runners-up in each age group, but not worry about having them engraved on this occasion. A box of chocolates would be given to the winning pair in each group</li> <li>The participants will be divided into 2 groups: primary-aged and secondary-aged</li> <li>We will not provide refreshments this time as there are not enough of us to oversee this. Those taking part will be encouraged to bring their own bottles of water</li> <li>Participants can arrive from 1.30pm, so we need to be there to set up beforehand</li> <li>The secondary aged players can score for themselves. Scoring needs to be undertaken for the primary-aged players</li> <li>We were told that Adam (see earlier notes) would be coming to assist</li> <li>SC will sit at the desk initially to note arrivals and take money, and then to keep track of the scores</li> </ul>	NC to write up the schedule and scorecards for each game
5.	<p><b>Safeguarding training for DC and BJ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJ attended a webinar about safeguarding recently. In the breakout groups, some people were expressing concern about "getting it wrong"</li> <li>He sent an email about the content of the session, but no-one has responded to this so far</li> <li>It would seem that BE are setting up an online course by the end of 2024</li> <li>BJ's qualification expires early in 2025</li> </ul>	

6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJ explained that some Herts coaches' DBS check has lapsed. He has let them know about this</li> </ul> <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently £374.10 in the bank, and £33.49 in cash. This is £407.59 in total</li> <li>• BJ told us that he has been notified that Lloyds are going to start charging for their services: £4.25 per month which would mean £51 per year. The first 100 transactions would be free</li> <li>• It was suggested that Santander may be worth investigating as an alternative. Much Hadham Badminton Club banks with Virgin, and this (after some exploration) has proved very successful to date</li> </ul> <p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IR has been invited in to Presdales to oversee the organisation regarding the lunchtime badminton club that operates there. He has been told that it is currently chaotic</li> <li>• St Edmunds School has invited IR in to oversee their students wanting to do badminton as part of their GCSEs</li> <li>• Richard Hale School sports hall is being used for netball practice every evening (Monday to Friday)</li> <li>• The driving force behind badminton club at Chauncy School is Luke (known also to DC). He is very organised</li> <li>• Wizards Badminton Club operates from Laura Trott Leisure Centre. There will be council funding for a course that is due to start there on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8pm for 8 weeks</li> <li>• There will be a Christmas get-together for the committee at The Bull Inn in Much Hadham on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, meeting at 7.30pm</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b>                      <b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>  <b>10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.</b>  <b>Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN</b></p>		