

# MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham**

## PRESENT:

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

## APOLOGIES:

ITEM	ACTION
1. <b>Apologies:</b> see above	
2. <b>Minutes</b> of the meeting of 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024 were agreed	
3. <b>Update from Henry Prothero (HP) regarding recent developments at Badminton England</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No information has been forthcoming from HP, although SC acknowledged that she hadn't emailed him directly</li> <li>It was noted that HP has an extensive remit. He attended the Schools Competition and gave out medals to the winning participants</li> </ul>	
4.. <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>BJ explained that he had filled out and sent the relevant form for Dave Bartlett (DB)</li> <li>It was ascertained that no-one from this area could attend the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February</li> <li>The group continues to run at Laura Trott Leisure Centre. Participants contact each other by WhatsApp, and there are quite regularly up to a dozen players, all of whom were "beginners" at the start of the process</li> <li>Court hire is being paid for using the money taken from coffee sales</li> <li>IR said that he would occasionally drop in to see them when he has the time. DC noted that he would also be willing to pay a visit. The group meets between 11am and 12 noon on Mondays</li> </ul>	<b>SC</b> to send an email to DB explaining this and sending him the numbers from both Broxbourne and East Herts
b) <b>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJ told us that Level 1 and 2 courses were taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> March centred in Beaumont School, despite comments having been made about the high cost of hiring this venue</li> <li>BJ explained that he does not know the number of participants as BE do not keep him informed about this</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be an Under 13s HJBA Tournament at Wodson Park 1-5pm on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Teams from schools as well as clubs and local authority regions can enter this year, with a maximum of 2 teams per club/local area. Players need to be Under 13, aged 12 on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a maximum of 4 boys/4 girls and a minimum of 2 boys/2 girls per team. £20 entry per team payable to HJBA, either on the day or payable in advance. The closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> February. Over a dozen teams are expected to enter: Dynamic Badminton &amp; Abbey JBC have entered 2 teams each. Other entries are expected from Team Broxbourne, Team Gosling, Rayappan Academy, Bright Stars, Chauncy/Presdales, Swifts JBC, DK Way, Baldock JBC, Comets JBC and possibly East Herts CBN</li> <li>IR noted that he will be attending an online course about gender terminology on 17<sup>th</sup> February. This is being organised by Herts Sports Partnership</li> <li>There will be an Under 19s Tournament on 27<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am until 5pm at Herts Sports Village. DC may have some participants wanting to take part in this</li> <li>There will be a Primary Schools Tournament on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The invitations don't appear to have been sent out as yet. There will be a Coaching Session before the tournament this year</li> <li>There was a brief discussion about organising an EH tournament at some point during the summer term. This could be an inter club tournament with an older player partnering a younger one, or a coaching session followed by a tournament of some sort</li> <li>On 22<sup>nd</sup> February IR is running an Adult Social Badminton Tournament. 7 people have entered. There are 5 spaces left</li> </ul>	<p><b>DC, BJ, NC and SC</b> to let <b>IR</b> know if they can help with scoring etc</p> <p><b>IR</b> may be able to "lend" a player or 2 to EH CBN Team if needed</p> <p><b>SC</b> to circulate details to MH Club members of the appropriate age</p> <p>To be on the agenda for the next meeting</p>
c)	<p><b>Sharing news about badminton across the county and our clubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJ said that, pleasingly, numbers have increased at Dane End Club</li> <li>DC noted that the numbers at the All Saints Club and Hertford Club had increased. The Monday group is "reasonably full". On Wednesdays there are between 16 and 18 in the younger group, but only 6/8 of the older ones. DC has tried to move some of the more able of the younger players into the next group, but this has met with some parental resistance. The younger ones tend to come along with their friends</li> <li>The numbers attending the Junior Club in Much Hadham remain pretty much the same. There have been some enquiries from adult players.</li> <li>IR is currently working for National Badminton at John Warner and Goffs Academy. Classes for adults and children are busy. The proposed use of BE Shuffle Stars product was cancelled. A new session at Wodson Park with Adam Goss is planned</li> <li>IR continues to run a lunchtime badminton club at Cuffley</li> </ul>	<p><b>NC</b> to contact interested local adult players to suggest setting up an ad hoc group when the Village Hall is free on Monday evenings. A WhatsApp group could be set up to provide contacts for interested parties</p>

	<p>School. It is busy. The PE teacher (Jon Fish) is keen on organising a Racket Pack tournament with the Potters Bar primary schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IR noted that the Haileybury 6<sup>th</sup> form badminton club is busy</li> <li>• IR is working in St Albans for Keith Burns, Waltham Abbey for Phil Adams, in Green Lanes Primary School, Hatfield for HJBA and Harpenden Leisure Centre for Everyone Active. All of these sessions are busy</li> <li>• IR works as Secretary for Swifts JBC in Hatfield (for Marion Conway). Sessions are busy</li> <li>• On 19<sup>th</sup> February IR will be attending a StreetGames Multiskills course in Borehamwood</li> <li>• On 23<sup>rd</sup> February an Essentials Course begins at Laura Trott Leisure Centre in Cheshunt. There are 12 participants with a waiting list of 10. This is being run by the council in conjunction with Wizard Badminton Club</li> </ul>	
d)	<p><b>Feedback from Parent/child tournament for EH CBN held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Drill Hall in Ware</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all agreed that this event went well, if rather frenetic at times</li> <li>• DC, BJ, JR, NC and SC were in attendance. JR was a reluctant scorer for the youngest group. Adam was a great help</li> <li>• Appreciation was expressed by adult attendees</li> <li>• DC thanked NC for organising and providing the paperwork</li> <li>• There were 21 entries, totalling £105 in total. The hall hire was £108, and so there was only £3 deficit</li> <li>• On this occasion refreshments were not made available, and this resulted in less “through traffic” at the venue, which was positive. Participants were encouraged to bring their own water bottles etc</li> </ul>	A similar event to be arranged for next year
e)	<p><b>Safeguarding training for DC and BJ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJ reported that he had contacted BE about updating his Safeguarding Training, having tried to access the Safeguarding E-learning module online. After ongoing correspondence with Harry from the Coaching Team, he has finally been told that BE think that there is a “technical issue with the site. We are planning on setting up a new safeguarding platform in a couple of months.” Meanwhile the representative is extending BJ’s existing safeguarding credential until July and will add his name to a mailing list. Once the new safeguarding platform is live, BE will “be in touch with instructions on how to access it and renew your safeguarding for the next three years”</li> <li>• BJ attended a webinar for club welfare officers run by an external consultant. She stated that our first port of call, if a welfare issue arose, would be Victoria Brown, the BE Welfare Officer. BJ interjected to say his first port of call would be Barbara Lewczynska, our County Welfare Officer. Victoria explained the county structure to the consultant and said that the county structure in Hertfordshire was</li> </ul>	

	<p>particularly strong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJ is currently exchanging emails with Victoria Brown questioning a statistic quoted by the consultant as it is at variance with his experience</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our bank account is now with Saffron Walden Building Society. Online banking is not available</li> <li>• There is currently £374.10 in the bank, and £138.49 in cash. This is £512.59 in total</li> <li>• Thanks were given to BJ for setting this up</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that Dave Bartlett had very nearly decided to "quit" Comet Junior Badminton Club following being badly let down by the school venue hired to run the club. He found that access to the school was closed when he arrived to set up prior to running a session. When he finally managed to contact somebody, he found that they had "forgotten" the booking and nobody was prepared to come out to open up for them. This resulted in a long wait outside in the rain and cold to inform players that they were unable to meet, and this in turn has resulted in some loss of membership. The situation has improved, but .....</li> <li>• There was a brief discussion about leisure facilities being set up in schools that were for community use also, and the problems encountered by people who wanted to use these facilities</li> <li>• DC commented that he no longer had an up-to-date card from BE showing his qualification as a badminton coach. It would seem that Simon Gouldstone, Secretary of Herts Badminton Association, is trying to find out how to use the BE website to download a card which can then be laminated</li> </ul>	<p><b>DC</b> to let committee members know when he finds out how this can be done</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>  <b>10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.</b>  <b>Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN</b></p>		