

Notes from WH Community Badminton Network (online) AGM 19 June 25

1 Welcome, Present/Apologies

Present: Sam Ruisling, Jim Ruisling, Dave Bartlett

The attendance was non-quorate (minimum 5, see Constitution on WH CBN webpage)

Apologies: Ian Robinson, Mark Wiltshire, both provided written reports; Mike Newlove

2 Chairman's report

Draft reviewed and, thanks for input, updates applied.

3 Treasurer's report

The Live Longer Better 50+ Badminton Project Profit/Loss

Project ran January 2024 to December 2024 (see chairman's report)

Total Expenditure:	£2,537.60
Total Income	£2,649.50
Total Profit/ Loss:	£111.90
LLBB Profit / Loss:	-£138.10

Full financial report is available.

Essentially, a £138.10 loss in financial terms but both the Gosling and Woodhall sessions are continuing self sustainably, there have been many new participants, and we have gained 2 Foundation coaches.

Bank statement 19 June 24: £1,412.37 (included SE and HBA grants) 19 June25 £ 980.17

It was noted that the last 3 months the only expenditure has been in bank charges, The treasurer and chairman have agreed to investigate cheaper arrangements.

4 Clubs' and sessions' concerns and suggestions

Schools

In addition to that in the Chairman's Report:

Ian Robinson and Sam Rusling will be offering taster sessions to St Phillip Howard Primary on Mon 7th July, Wednes 9th July and Friday 11th July from 1.30-3pm.

Chairman has written to Nataxha Ferris, SSPO, to enquire if any schools interested in coaching.

Juniors

Comets Junior Badminton Club, HSV, is looking for an alternative venue for the Autumn owing to loss of more than three quarters of bookings at HSV for the autumn.

Swifts, Hatfield Leisure Centre, have had to start earlier owing to bouncy castle takeover from 9pm and have court restrictions.

Junior sessions at HLC: Ku and Khalid run sessions and have run two successful tournaments (one player coming from Southend): Chairman helped give the medals.

Sessions

Woodhall Community Centre (WCC) Living Longer Better, No strings

Jim Rusling (Foundation Coach) who runs the session is concerned regarding WCC is for sale and security of tenure is not assured. WH BC Milan Johnston, WH BC Sports Partnership Officer (MJ) is aware but has no further news. Apparently, there is a covenant that protects the retention of the centre for community use (but it does not guarantee this).

Milan Johnston, WH BC Sports Partnership Officer, has said she would look into the feasibility of using Campus West.

ACTION DB

Gosling Sports Park No Strings and sessions

Report from Mark Wiltshire

My groups all meet at Gosling Sports Park, the badminton hall as you know is always under threat of closure because the land is worth more as housing.

Gosling to my knowledge is the only sports facility open to the public offering a 5 court Badminton hall in Welwyn garden city. [Chair: only sports facility open weekdays in WG]

I currently book 11 off 2 hour courts a week at Gosling split into 3 sessions, which on average process between 50 and 65 players each week.

If when the police move out of hiring the badminton hall in the weekday daytime, they shut the hall, from looking last time they threatened to close it, I would not give an alternative.

Given two of these groups have been running without a break other than Covid, for at least 40 years, losing Gosling badminton hall would mean these sessions would cease to run.

So for me this would be a forced end to these sessions. [Chair: the report of all groups with hundreds of participants using the facility weekdays prior to police take-over in 2019 and now defunct is available.]

Note in Covid times I did look at HSV but was told it had a 12 year waiting list.

Hatfield Leisure Centre, Ian Robinson reports

Phil Adams continues to offer his coaching to adults on Thursday mornings at HLC and Ku and Khalid are also run adult Ns at the same leisure Centre.

5 AOB

Badminton England AGM, Saturday, 21 June has a premeeting workshop to discuss the 8 month project what county associations want from head office. All input welcome.

Next meeting date: In the Autumn, to be arranged.