

MINUTES of the East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting

Thursday 30th October 2025
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)	

APOLOGIES:

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Apologies: none.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2025 were agreed</p> <p>3. Update regarding recent developments at Badminton England (BE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have received an email from Henry Prothero about a Level 2 Coaching course which is now open for bookings. <p>Course details: Venue: Redbridge Sports & Leisure, Forest Road, Barkingside, IG6 3HD Dates & Times: Day 1 (Core Module) – 14/12/2025 9:00am - 5:00pm Day 2 (Core Module) – 21/12/2025 9:00am - 5:00pm Day 3 (Club Module) – 03/01/2026 9:00am - 5:00pm Day 4 (Club Module) – 04/01/2026 9:00am - 5:00pm Assessment Day – 08/03/2026 9:00am - 5:00pm Cost: £470</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliation issues with BE were discussed. The question was posed: what do Clubs such as ours gain from it? It was noted that the offer of courses on a variety of subjects was appreciated e.g. safeguarding, but these are at our own expense and on the whole, we run the clubs as volunteers It was generally felt that the First Aid courses run by BE are not value for money, focusing in the main on how to use a defibrillator Insurance cover, but BJ now has cover with Insure4Sport which is much less costly than through BE It was generally felt that there were benefits of membership as a Coach but not for clubs It was suggested that the staff now employed by BE are very stretched (thin on the ground), although they want to assist if at all possible 	<p>SC to forward information about the training to other committee members</p> <p>Committee members to forward their thoughts on this subject for collation by SC to send to BE SC to try to ascertain who would be the best/most appropriate person to address it to (Dave Bartlett may be a good person to ask)</p>

<p>4.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p>	<p>Matters arising from minutes:</p> <p>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See notes above • BJ noted that he was liaising with BE about setting up Level 1 and 2 training for coaches in Herts • DC said the online Safeguarding training session arranged by BE that he attended on 10th September appeared to be better than similar training that BJ had received previously which had been led by an outside contractor. The online course did not cost anything • JR attended the Coaches Conference on 21st and 22nd September • IR said that he is running a Halloween themed tournament for juniors on Saturday 1st November between 4 and 6pm at John Warner School. It is fully booked • On 20th November there is the East Herts round of the Boys' National Tournament at Chauncy starting at 3.30pm • A similar tournament for girls was held on 21st October at Presdales <p>Sharing news about badminton across the county and our clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR explained that he was being assisted by Level 1 coaches at each of the sessions he runs in a variety of venues across the area, and he is finding this very helpful • We were told that Danny Plant, from Hertford, is a Level 2 Coach looking for work in the area • There was some discussion about 2 students known to both DC and IR who are on the autism spectrum. It was suggested that care needs to be taken not to "push them" too far too quickly <p>Update from IR about the events he has been involved in since our last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR noted that he and DC had attended the multisport event held at Wodson Park on 18th September. It was well run and the Mayor of Ware visited. A similar format for this event was followed in both morning and afternoon sessions: a 45 minutes coaching period followed by a tournament There were 14/16 participants in the morning and 12 in the afternoon <p>Feedback from the East Herts Tournament held at the Drill Hall on 11th October 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We discussed the problems that the number of changes to the participants had caused in terms of trying to organise the programme for the games • It was noted that, if a similar event is held again in the future, the closure date for entries will be highlighted and complied with • The number of participants from clubs run by IR was 22 out of a total of 36, the remaining 14 coming either from one of the two clubs run by DC or from Much Hadham. Those youngsters from Goffs Academy, John Warner, King Harold 	<p>IR to forward the minutes from this meeting to Danny</p>
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e)	<p>Dynamic or Chauncy had nobody there to co-ordinate them, and this caused problems as it was those from venues where changes in partners etc were requested at the last moment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IR apologised on behalf of the teacher from Chauncy, and thanked NC and SC for adapting and accommodating the changes • It was noted that drop-outs are more of a problem than substitutions • One of the youngsters from Goffs Academy is on the autism spectrum. A partner was not assigned to him and this proved to be a problem for the young man delegated to be his partner, in that communication was difficult between them. SC said that this should have been arranged in advance for benefit of both boys. IR acknowledged this as an issue to be addressed in any tournament in the future • The age group demarcation was discussed. It was felt that there is often a wide difference in competence between 8 year olds and 12 year olds. Maybe next time we should divide between those still attending primary school and those in secondary education • There were 8 pairs competing in the group for 8 to 13 year olds, and 13 pairs in the 13 to 14 year olds • Possibly we could divide the participants in to 3 groups next time: beginners, middle and older • It would maybe help if payment for entry were made ahead of the tournament in order for there, hopefully, to be less last-minute dropouts • There were 36 entries • Overall, it was felt that most participants had enjoyed the tournament and that on their return to their club there was often a “step up” in performance • DC said that he had gained players who attended Chauncy to his club • There were 36 entries at £5 each, totalling £180. Hall hire cost £93.75. Gratuities for NC and SC cost £16. This totals £109.75, making a surplus of £70.25 	
5.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently £699.37 in the building society, and £22.49 in cash. This is £721.86 in total 	
6.	<p>Any other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC suggested that a tournament or coaching session could be set up ahead of the Primary Schools’ Tournament on 19th April 2026 	
<p>Next Meeting: Pre-Christmas Get Together on Thursday 4th December, 2025 at 12.30 at The Chequers Inn, Wareside, SG12 7QY</p>		