

**MINUTES of the  
East Herts Community Badminton Network Meeting**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham**

**PRESENT:**

**APOLOGIES:**

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

ITEM	ACTION
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1.	<b>Apologies:</b> see above.	
2.	<b>Minutes</b> of the meeting of 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 were agreed	
3.	<p><b>Update regarding recent developments at Badminton England (BE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JR noted that there had been an enquiry generated by BE regarding about the structure of the clubs affiliated to the organisation, but there had been no name attached to the enquiry. He commented that there was not enough staff centrally to support clubs, but that there was still an insistence about following the rules that were set by them</li> <li>• It was recognised that sponsorship to BE had been dramatically cut by Sports England, and that has had on-going implications, but ....</li> <li>• DP explained that veteran players representing England had to self-fund their activities, and the cost for this was £1,000 minimum</li> <li>• NC said that 2 gold medals were won by England at the European Badminton Championships: Ben Lane and Sean Vendy won the men’s doubles and Kirsty Gilmour won the women’s singles. There was also a bronze medal achieved by Alex Green and Zach Russ in the men’s doubles</li> <li>• Committee members were pleased with these results but agreed that BE should not only be focusing on the national players</li> </ul>	
4. a)	<p><b>Matters arising from the last set of minutes</b></p> <p><b>Sharing news about badminton across the county and our clubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP has been involved in a good variety of coaching opportunities since October 2025, which is when he decided to re-engage with pursuing the qualification as a Level 2 Coach that he gained approximately 30 years ago</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He travels to Ipswich on Tuesdays, helps with the Herts County Under 17 squad on Wednesdays, runs an adult session in Cheshunt on Thursdays, a session at Wodson Park in Ware, a session for National Badminton in Luton on Saturdays and a session for juniors in Colchester on Sundays</li> <li>• There was discussion about the cost of the sessions run by National Badminton i.e. the NB Academy sessions set up in Luton for 11 to 17 year olds cost £70.50 per month and this is proving prohibitive for many</li> <li>• DC asked about the pathway for moving people on if the current situation is no longer appropriate or proving not to be the right environment for an individual. IR talked about finding a way to addressing the issue with a child's parents/carers</li> <li>• Devon Ridley, s a Level 1 Coach works alongside both DC and IR.</li> <li>• IR said that he had found 2 online courses held during Coach Education Week had proved useful and informative. One related to Stress Management and the other on Sports Psychology, although neither were focused particularly on badminton</li> </ul> <p><b>Update regarding Coach training and tournaments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tournament organised by Bob Green on 14<sup>th</sup> February was attended by members of Much Hadham and IR's Clubs. This was enjoyed by all, but had evoked a discussion about giving participants medals for attendance. It was felt that certificates may be more appropriate. NC said that the tournament had discouraged the players from Much Hadham, in that they had lost most of their games in the first round and had then been asked to go on and play the same teams again with similar results. It would probably have been helpful to regroup before round 2</li> <li>• IR mentioned the HJBA tournament which was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March. There were 70 attendees and the winners were different from a similar event last year</li> <li>• The Fitness Course that had been organised at the Laura Trott Centre was cancelled due to lack of interest. IR felt that adult interest in taking up the sport was tailing off currently</li> <li>• JR, who is the Hertford Area Representative on the Herts Badminton Association, noted that there are now only 12 Clubs in the area, where there used to be more than 20</li> <li>• DC said that he felt that the "Pay and Play" sessions that had been set up encouraged a reluctance to take responsibility for how they were run i.e. affiliation and commitment were not on the agenda</li> </ul> <p><b>Update from IR about the events he has been involved in since our last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See previous notes</li> <li>• <b>Coaching session at Drill Hall ahead of the Primary Schools' Tournament on 19<sup>th</sup> April</b></li> </ul>	
b)		
c)		

<p>d)</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 children from Much Hadham Club joined Hertford Junior Club for an extra coaching session at the Drill Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• This was really appreciated by SC ,NC and the parents of the youngsters involved and had the benefit of similar coaching tips being given by somebody different</li> <li>• Thanks were given to DC for facilitating this</li> <li>• It was felt that it would be of benefit if youngsters were encouraged to attend more than one session a week</li> <li>• The coaching session prior to the tournament on 19<sup>th</sup> April has been cancelled. This was ostensibly because of the number of entrants, but the coaches who had volunteered were told that it was due to there not being sufficient coaches</li> </ul> <p><b>Parent/Child Tournament from the clubs across the EH CBN Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will take place at the Drill Hall on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April from 3pm-6pm</li> <li>• At the time of the meeting there were 14 Primary School aged children and 10 Secondary aged students, but the cut-off date is 19<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• It was suggested that the first group play to 11 and the older ones to 15 without setting</li> <li>• DC, IR, BJ, SC and NC to attend</li> <li>• It should be stated that walking around the courts is to be encouraged, and that nobody should walk across the edges of any court</li> </ul> <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently £597.61 in the building society, and £22.49 in cash. This is £620.10 in total</li> <li>• BJ put a cheque for £112.50 in the post-box of the Drill Hall to pay for the tournament on 26<sup>th</sup> April</li> </ul> <p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All discussed under other agenda items</li> </ul>	<p>This could usefully be followed up with the organiser at a future meeting. SC had suggested that HJBA could usefully set up a coaching session on another occasion</p> <p><b>NC</b> to organise schedule of play</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026</b>  <b>10.00 a.m. -11.30am.</b>  <b>Byfords, Malting Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6AN</b></p>		