

Development Coordinator Report for HBA AGM 8 Jun26

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Badminton England

Regional Development Officer

Luke Hornsley is once again our RDO. Henry Protherio is joining the BE Development Team.

I have provided details of our committee's (HBA & HJBA) officers and vestigial development plan, as requested by Luke. Development workshops are planned for the day of BE AGM.

BE General Committee 2 April 2026

- **Badminton World Federation and 3 x 15**

I reported our support for the current system rather than 3X15, and as requested, sent our report to Sue Storey. Most counties, but not all, agreed with us.

The BWF has approved the adoption of the new 3x15 scoring system, which will take effect on January 4, 2027. This decision was made during the 87th BWF Annual General Meeting, where the proposal passed with a two-thirds majority. "The new system aims to deliver more exciting and competitive badminton, improve scheduling, and create more consistent match durations".

It is up to counties if/how they implement this. However, it was felt that junior squads, in particular, would be under a tactical disadvantage at international level if they were coached and played 3 x 21. If county squads change to 3 x 15 then there is likely to be a ripple-down effect over years elsewhere – but not obligatory.

- **Updating Club Administrator Permissions for Player Registration** (whereby players can affiliate to a club) drew many concerns as well as ours. We should contact Kate with any additional concerns. ACTION: CW/DB

- BE AGM Saturday 13 June, with Workshops in the morning, and National Awards Ceremony in the evening. I have signed up for the workshops and AGM

Find a Club, Session, Coach

BE Find a Club - [Play - Badminton England](#) appears to working satisfactorily.

[Find a No strings session](#) brings up 11 sessions in 10 venues. Herts '[Moving More](#)' website brings up 24 sessions, some are for juniors.

Find a Coach, is still poor in spite of discussions with Coaching Department: for example, entering Hatfield, AL10 9EU, as centre with a 10 mile radius, finds just John Stobo and me. The next option, a 50 mile radius, finds too many coaches mostly outside Hertfordshire. Coaching Department say it is up to coaches to make themselves via the BE membership portal.

Hertfordshire

I provided a stall at Hertfordshire Primary Schools Conference, again, this year. Several schools that wanted information or coaching have subsequently been contacted by their CBN>

HJBA have produced this year's Young Coach/Volunteer of the Year application form and are inviting submissions by 10th June.

Parabadminton Projects

HJBA Primary schools parabadminton tournament taster session

Tania Angus, Herts School Games Organiser, said in October, that she would find interested schools and a venue. This information is yet to be provided, so the event is planned for the autumn. Support is also coming from Luke Hornsley, Emma Catlin, HSP.

Adult parabadminton Tournament 1&2 August HSV halls booked. Eddie is the Tournament Organiser. Luke Hornsley will help with a sustainable project, with HSP's Emma Catlin helping us apply for £750 grant. BE have provided £250. I

50+ No Strings Badminton

The Sport England £10,360 funded Live Longer Better 50+ Badminton project completed March 2025, but several 50+ No strings Badminton are continuing, and even increasing. Bob Green has obtained a Local Authority grant for 3 50+ session, and East Herts council are planning another at Ware Drill Hall.

Herts Sports Partnership

I met HSP's new NGB and Clubs Officer, Tom McManus, 6 May at a HJBA squads practice. He was impressed by the number of participants, their abilities, and the efficient management. He is keen to help HBA-HJBA. A coaches discussion forum: topics include helping neurodiverse participants. He would like to communicate opportunities (including early discussions of Coach Ed week 2027 content) directly, but aware of GDPR concerns.

Herts Community Badminton Networks

All 4 are going strongly, providing support to their clubs and sessions.

East Herts CBN: Draft minutes on their website.

<https://www.hertsbadminton.net/east-herts-community-badminton-network/>

Next meeting: Wednesday 9th September 2026.

Herts West Development Group: meeting 22Jan26 (unchanged) see their HBA webpage:
[Herts West Badminton Development Group | Hertfordshire Badminton Association](#)

Next meeting 14May26.

North Herts and Stevenage CBN:

Bob Green organised club matches and three more 50+Badminton startup sessions. Contact Bob Green <bob@abcegg.co.uk>

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

As chairman, I attended bi-monthly WH Communities1st meetings promoting our clubs and sessions. I met Natasha Ferris, WH School Games Organiser, at an inter-club badminton tournament. She is keen to engage with school opportunities, including parabadminton, and is now working up events with Ian Robinson.

WH Sports Development Partnership Officer, Milan Johnston, is trying to get replacement courts for the lost court at Woodhall Community Centre. I challenged the developer's plans for padel courts at the Wheat Quarter redevelopment, without success.

Lack of Sports Facilities in Hertfordshire a Serious Concern

HJBA, HBA and our CBNs and several clubs are reporting a serious lack of facilities for club sessions and tournaments: for example, five years ago Comets Junior Badminton Club had to reduce their club nights at Herts Sports Village from 2 halls to one owing to reduced availability, reducing membership from 48 to 25. Abbey Badminton Club have also reported problems of lack of facilities. A Sport England funded 50+ badminton session at Woodhall, closed last year because the venue has been sold off. HBA and HJBA for some 30 years, have been seeking a county venue to have all their sessions, junior, senior and masters, in one sports facility, for better progression of players, coaches, and management. For a few years Gosling Sports Park and Oaklands College both appeared to be potential options, but have now come to nothing. There is currently no potential county venue. It is reported that the number of sports facilities in Hertfordshire has declined in the last 10 years, partly due to councils having little capital to invest, and Sport England now having very limited capital for facilities.

The lack of facilities for physical exercise is causing a much wider problem. There are areas in the county with very few appropriate venues. For example, in Hatfield there are 25 badminton courts (used for a variety of activities) open during the working week, whereas Welwyn Garden has none (Gosling Sports Park was taken over by Herts Police in 2019). Even the one-court hall, Woodhall Community Centre, with many activities, closed last year.

The impact on health in Hertfordshire arising from a lack of facilities currently, in addition to personal distress, costs the county some £50M per year. The NHS strategy 'Harnessing the Benefits of Physical Activity' ([HBPA](#)) where GPs will prescribe physical exercise for some 98 health conditions is due to start in 2027. It states 'Collaboration between the NHS and the physical activity sector is essential to embedding physical activity into health and care'. Many areas of the county, particularly in deprived areas, do not have the facilities to meet this need.

Unfortunately, no councils' plans, or any county-wide organisations' plans I have seen mention the current problem, nor the need arising from HBPA. Working with the NHS and 'embedding physical activity into health and care' does not even get a mention. The cost to Herts individuals of not providing the prescribed activity treatment are personal losses, the cost to Hertfordshire rises to £200M per year in five years.

Yet there are possibilities of funding from for example, housing developments ('CILS') that could fund new facilities. If councils and county-wide organisations were to include the requirement to address the lack of facilities, and to work with the NHS HBPA, in their plans then there would very likely also be more facilities for badminton, too.

Where individuals can help

Councils and countywide organisations are obliged to consult on their plans. If you get the opportunity, make your voice heard. One immediate consultation is that of '[Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26](#)' – extended in the small print - to 2028. The strategy is a statutory requirement for Hertfordshire and is led by the **Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)**, a multi-agency partnership including the County Council, NHS bodies, local councils, the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector (VCFSE), and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Googling it takes you to : [Health and Wellbeing Strategy Stakeholder Survey](#)

The invitation states: 'Your feedback is essential in helping the Board understand the difference your work is making in communities'. So if you have concerns and want to make a difference please complete the survey. [There was no mention in section 8 Our Priorities, of the current shortage of facilities, and no mention of "NHS Harnessing the Benefits of Physical Activity".]