

Hertfordshire Badminton Association  
Update  
*March 2014*



**BADMINTON**  
**ENGLAND**

*Play it. Love it. Live it.*

## Introduction

The past few months has seen a real acceleration in the work that has been undertaken around the country. There are now 802 secondary schools signed up to the Smash Up! programme, which is double the number that I was able to report when I last wrote in December. This scale of expansion is remarkable and is reflective of the hard work going in to developing the sport and getting a new generation of players involved.

The number of Community Badminton Networks has also expanded and it is really positive to see the plans that are being developed by local groups to develop the sport in their area. A key part of these plans is developing a route for young players to develop and thereby creating the next generation of players. It is the intention that County Badminton Associations have the opportunity to engage with the CBNs to the extent that suits them. If you want to find out more about the CBNs in your area then please get in touch with your Regional Delivery Manager.

We are continuing to develop relationships with leisure centres to enable more people to engage with the sport at whatever stage of life they are at and there are currently 300 sites signed up to the Play Badminton framework.

Finally, we will be seeking to further boost participation and interest in the sport over the summer to seize on interest (and hopefully success) at the Commonwealth Games. We are really keen to ensure that clubs and CBAs can play a central part in this 'Summer of Badminton' and we will be in touch in the not too distant future to discuss these plans in more detail.

George Wood  
Director of Development

- ✎ This report provides an update on work undertaken by BADMINTON England in the County of Hertfordshire for the period January and March 2014. Feedback on the content of this update is welcome and should be directed, together with any queries, to the Regional Delivery Manager for your region.

## National Update

- ✎ National progress on the programmes and work areas set out below can be found in the monthly Chief Executive's update.
- ✎ Priorities for the Regional Delivery Team in the past three months have been:
  - Securing sign ups from leisure operators to deliver the Play Badminton framework.
  - Implementation of Battle Badminton.
  - Working with Community Badminton Networks to establish appropriate development/delivery plans and invest into those plans.
  - Encouraging schools to sign up for the Smash Up programme and training activators to deliver Smash Up sessions in local schools.

## Staffing

- ✎ The current team for the Hertfordshire region consists of:
  - Regional Delivery Manager – Michael Nyarko
  - Partnership Manager (East) – Rhiannon Smith
  - Participation Manager (East) – James Craig
  - Workforce Officer – Rob Flack

## Community Badminton Networks (CBNS)

- ✋ There are 4 CBNS in the County- Herts West, Welwyn Hatfield, North Herts and East Herts.
- ✋ East Herts
  - ✋ Rhiannon has been supporting Doug Clark to identify additional individuals to be part of the CBN. A meeting is due to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> March to discuss next steps and to progress the CBN.
- ✋ Herts West
  - ✋ The group met on 19<sup>th</sup> November and a new Chair and Secretary were appointed. Gill Bartlett is taking on the role of Chair and Gemma Roake the role of Secretary. The network is currently populating the Player Pathway map for the area and then a development plan will be written based on the gaps in provision identified.
  - ✋ The next CBN meeting is taking place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb with the aim to start writing the development plan.
  - ✋ It is anticipated that investment will be made early in the second round of CBN funding.
- ✋ North Herts
  - ✋ Rhiannon has offered her support to Bob Green to help and support the production of a development plan.
- ✋ Welwyn Hatfield
  - ✋ Welwyn Hatfield CBN has received £1250 investment so far.
  - ✋ The CBN is currently working hard on implementing their development plan. This has included signing 3 schools up to deliver Smash Up and securing Sportivate funding for the cost of running these sessions. As well as running promotional events at the Hatfield Galleria Shopping Centre to promote Badminton activity.
  - ✋ Over the next 4 months the CBN will be looking at developing Essential courses in the area as well as sustaining the Smash Up sessions within the schools.

## Play Badminton

- ✋ The following facilities have signed agreements:
  - *Birchwood Leisure Centre*
  - *Westminster Lodge*
  - *Gosling Sports Park*
  - *Watford Central*
  - *Watford Woodside*
  - *Sportspace Tring*
  - *Sportspace Berkhemstead*
  - *Sportspace Hemel*
  - *Hatfield Leisure Centre*
- ✋ An update on progress with the other Leisure Providers within the County are below:
  - *Meeting organised with the Managing Director at Finesse Leisure in early March.*
  - 13 identified focus centres to access up until March
  - 6 further sites identified for future contact as well. Initial introductory communications have been sent out to centres.

## Battle Badminton

- ✎ There are currently over 2,500 people signed up the Battle Badminton programme nationally and more information can be found at <http://battle.badmintonengland.co.uk/>

## Young People

- ✎ 10 schools in the County have signed up to deliver Smash Up. The following schools have signed up:
  - Roundwood Park School
  - The Sir Frederic Osborn School
  - Stanborough School
  - Onslow St Audrey's
  - The Bishop's Stortford High School
  - Rickmansworth School
  - Turnford School
  - Chancellors School
  - Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College
  - The John Warner School

- ✎ Within the County, 1 university has a 2 HE officer in place for 2013/14:
  - University of Hertfordshire

## Center Parcs National Schools Championships

- ✎ In the County, 43 schools entered the 2013/14 competition.
- ✎ The County Round took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Herts Sporting Village, Hertfordshire University with the following schools winning their age groups-
  - U14 Girls- St John Lawes
  - U14 Boys- Monks Walk
  - U16 Girls- Queenswood
  - U16s Boys- Watford Boys
- ✎ The Regional Round will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March at the University of Cambridge Sports Centre.
- ✎ Badminton England are currently looking for willing groups or individuals to organise and run the County and Regional rounds of the Center Parcs National Schools Championships in 2014/15. We would like to ensure that our badminton community (CBA's, CBN's, PCs etc) have been given the opportunity to apply for the financial investment and be part of securing a legacy for this fantastic competition. If you are interested in organising a County and/or Regional round please contact Rhiannon. The deadline for applications is the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

## Clubs

### Accredited Premier Clubs (Clubmark)

- Recently BADMINTON England updated the processes that clubs undertake to become accredited Premier Clubs (Clubmark). As a result clubs can now apply and work towards accreditation online. More information can be found at <http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=156&sectionTitle=Premier+Club+%26+Clubmark#.UpySF8RdUxM>

Nationally, there are 221 clubs accredited as Premier Clubs (Clubmark) with another 26 currently working towards

## Workforce

The following are the up-and-coming coaching courses in the London and East Region


County	Venue	Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Course Type
Norfolk	Sportspark, Norwich , University of East Anglia, Norwich Research Park, Norwich, NR4 7TJ	12/04/14	26/04/14	10/05/14	Level 1
Essex	Davenant Foundation School, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2LD	12/04/2014	13/04/2014	04/05/2014	Level 1

### Level 2

County	Venue	Date 1	Date 2	Date 3	Date 4
Essex	Davenant Foundation School, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2LD	19/07/2014	20/07/2014	07/09/2014	19/10/2014

A full list for the whole country can be found at

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=1050&sectionTitle=Find+a+Course>

-  Robert Flack is doing a great job of auditing the coaches across the whole region and will be beginning to put together a plan to enhance coach development in the region. For any queries and questions, please direct people to him at [robertflack@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:robertflack@badmintonengland.co.uk) or 07725413544.

**END**