

Herts Badminton Association

Coaching Co-ordinator's Report 2016 - 2017

Although the number of requests for coaches has been very similar in number to last year, there have been many more groups and clubs wanting a coach. I have been able to find coaches for almost all these requests thanks to a few very active coaches. I am very grateful to them. However, I have been unable to support BeeZee Bodies again; I have found that only Ian and Dave are interested in taking these sessions. This surprises me as I would have thought this would be a very useful source of new players for our junior clubs.

The number of coaches on the County register is exactly the same as last year. We have fifty seven registered coaches; eighteen level 1s, thirty eight level 2s and one level 3, little change from last year. Earlier this year, I asked Rob Flack and Mike Piggott to contact all the coaches that had elected to withhold their contact details from the coaching register and all but one agreed to make themselves available. This increases the number of available coaches by sixteen.

At the time of last year's AGM there was a level 2 course in progress. I was able to find sufficient young players for the assessment day. They thoroughly enjoyed the coaching they received and took full advantage of the free court-time after the assessments had been completed. Badminton England organised a level 1 course earlier this year and nine of the candidates were based in Hertfordshire. This should help boost the coaching register and, hopefully many will take their level 2 award in the near future.

Due to the recruitment of a new head coach and the re-organisation of staff at Milton Keynes as a result of the withdrawal of funding, the coach's trip to the National Badminton Centre has had to be postponed, again. I will try again in the Autumn.

Last October, Julia Strong and Nick Rimmer facilitated a workshop to help formulate Badminton England's development strategy for the next seven years. The meeting was very well attended; Julia said it was the largest she had so far seen. One of the major concerns was the recruitment and retention of coaches. Rob Flack, Mike Piggott, Dave Bartlett and I met in January to discuss this topic. We decided that we might help solve this problem by creating a more cohesive coaching body for the County. A few weeks ago, a group of coaches met with Aleisha Challands to discuss the establishment of a Hertfordshire Coach's Academy. We are exploring the options available to us and will probably initially develop a Facebook forum to improve communication. Our aim is to recruit, support, develop and retain coaches in the County.