



Development Coordinator's Report to HBA AGM 2106

Below is the Development Report to the AGM.

HBA development areas are divided into 4 Community Badminton Network areas. Clubs, schools, colleges, facilities operators and other badminton stakeholders may be represented at each of their CBN committees in the following Local Authority Areas:

East Herts CBN: Broxbourne and East Herts

Herts West CBN: Dacorum, Hertsmere St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford

North Herts CBN: North Herts and Stevenage

Welwyn Hatfield CBN: Welwyn Hatfield

The reports below are from these committees.

East Herts CBN

David Brown now coaches at Hertford Regional and Ware both going very well, they will all continue in September after Exams and summer Break.

Paul Widdicombe (since retiring): **Beginner to league-level coordinated** games with hints and tips or coaching at Laura Trott LC in Cheshunt Tuesdays and Thursdays and at Allenburys Sports & Social in Ware Wednesdays.

PP Doug Clark

Herts West CBN

Established in 2013, the CBN representatives are from the SWH clubs, schools, local authority Sports Development Officers, FE colleges, facilities operators and our new BE Partnership Manager East Region, Lynette Obika. Alex Varran (SDO St Albans) has been elected chairman taking over from Gill Bartlett, Dave Bartlett acting secretary.

Funding (from BE) has been made available for clubs to develop and for participation at coaching courses.

We would particularly like to thank Dave Hill, Harpenden BC, and Gill Bartlett, Marshals JBC, for trying transfer of the bank account from the previous treasurer in the face of the bank losing the papers twice.

Oaklands College, St Albans is going very well (David Brown)

We would like to thank the clubs that have participated, Abbey JBC, Harpenden JBC, Marshals JBC and Harpenden BC. We hope more will in future.

Plans for using the funding to increase participation are in progress and Dave Bartlett is to speak at SWH AGM, 23rd June on the opportunities for clubs.

Dave Bartlett, Acting Sec.

North Herts CBN

Thanks to a grant from NHDC Community Fund, two junior school sessions were run before Easter and two more after, all coached by Anna Collis. The aim is to run another one in June in the Royston area and use all the attendees to represent their town for Badminton in the 'Sport North Herts Games' in July. This is being run in place of the 'Herts Youth Games' and Badminton is pleased to be one of six sports taking part.

Highfield Satellite club has proved difficult in its second year, for various reasons. Discussions with the school have taken place and it will hopefully be back on track after a break for the summer, when all the kids are playing Cricket and Tennis instead.

The two new local L1 coaches, James Gordon and Matt Tucker, have already been helping out at Baldock Junior Badminton Club and will each manage one of the town teams for the 'Sport North Herts Games'.

Financially the CBN is doing well, with a current balance of around £2500. Of this the sum of £500 is ring fenced for another NHDC Community Fund project - getting more females to play Badminton. For this we aim to run a series of sessions in the Autumn.

Bob Green

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

Established in 2013, the committee comprises representatives of clubs, schools, facilities operators, Herts University, the Welwyn Hatfield Sport and Physical Activity Alliance, local authority, and BE Partnership Manager East Region, Leah Singleton. Head Office funding was received in 2013-14 and 2014-15: finances are still healthy.

Participation Increase

Promotion: Several sessions were held at Hatfield Galleria and at events in the Borough. Two of the coming events 11th June, at Birchwood and WGC Fire station, will have promotional events for women 'This Girl Can' programme (with Herts Sports Partnership support).

All 4 Sports Centres are running at least one No strings session each week. Ian Robinson has been developing junior and adult sessions at Hatfield LC and the new Sir Frederic Osborn school sports centre played host to a parabadminton tournament last summer and now has badminton for juniors and adults every Tuesday evening. A Summer of Badminton programme is again being developed this year.

Schools, College and University

The 3 (of 4) secondary schools in the School Games Partnership have after-school sessions.

Stanborough school again held Bisi fun tournaments for their 7 primary schools (and CBN coaches assisted) at Gosling Sports Park: after-school primary sessions were provided on a regular basis at least 3 schools.

The Sport Inspired charity working with WHSPAA raised funding for 220 children from 5 primary schools to have a day of taster sessions of 5 sports at HSV in March: John Stobo, Ken Winchester, Ian Robinson and Dave Bartlett delivered the badminton. After school sessions are being discussed.

The Sport England-funded programme through WHSPAA enabled a Young Leaders Award course with umpiring and SmashUp modules in December for 20 16+ students from local schools: one young leader subsequently helped a Woolmer Green SmashUp session for 3 months and two others started an after school club (at Monks Walk school): many of these leaders provided badminton (and other sports) to children at most WH primary schools. The course is being repeated 10th July and is open to all HSBA squad and club U16s and U18s with a good knowledge of badminton: attendees will be encouraged start extra curricula SmashUp sessions in September with payment at £10 for 4 sessions (plus free shuttles).

Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City, which has no sports courses but has some 60 participants enjoying weekly No strings. The Herts University student, Matthew Widdicombe (who qualified as

Level 2 coach this season and continued to develop as an international star), delivered No Strings at Birchwood LC. He and Ben Vranjkovic helped the Herts Uni squad come 2nd in the Uni Premier league.

Becky White, the SDO for Herts University, is a L2 coach, plays county badminton and manages badminton sessions for students and community. She has taken over from Doug Clark as Activator for the community Thursday badminton (and multisport) session: we would like to thank Doug for his long (10 years?) and productive management of this session. Becky also helps at the U17 squad sessions and is on BE National Community Advisory committee. She is planning a summer camp and No Strings Essentials.

Clubs and Sessions

Junior clubs: Comets (Premier), Knebworth (Inclusive and Premier) and Swifts JBCs continue to thrive as do junior sessions at the sports centres although they could take more members..

Senior Clubs: Several other clubs' members also play in the No Strings and sports centres' sessions which is helping new players migrate into clubs.

Sports Centres

Birchwood LC with its advantageous use agreement with HBA and HSBA for competitions has also helped with several programmes and one-off events for the CBN and county-wide.

Gosling Sports Park, continues to go from strength to strength in its provision junior and adult badminton. It works closely with the local authority and Herts Sports Partnership and particularly as the centre hub for the county-wide Disability Sport project.

Herts Sports Village has provided the venue for the HSBA squads, local and county inter-schools championships as well as the and national tournaments.

Hatfield Leisure centre, since obtaining the upgraded lights and walls due to BE investment, has continued to increase its badminton provision under Ian Robinson.

Sir Frederic Osborn School's Sports Centre that opened in January 2015 hosted the Herts Open Parabadminton tournament, 25th April and SmashUp! workshop 20th May. They run junior and adult badminton sessions on Tuesdays.

Competition

Battle Badminton: BE national 1:1 singles challenge programme has been continuing particularly at Gosling Sports Park: BE will be releasing an improved version and raising its profile soon.

County-wide Considerations

ParaBadminton Tournament

HBA (Gobi Ranganathan, Paul Kempster and Ed Lintott) with the help of HSP and BE has organised Herts Open Parabadminton tournament, 23rd July at HSV. Helpers on the day are being sought.

Primary Schools Sports Conference

Ken Winchester, Ian Robinson, Gill and Dave Bartlett promoted Bisi badminton at this event to raise standards of PE and school sport at which several hundred primary school teachers attended. 32 requested the Bisi Badminton Resource which is currently free of charge to download.

Government's Sport England's and Badminton England's New Strategies

In December the Government released its first sports strategy for 13 years ('Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation') with its objective 'an unwavering focus on how publicly funded sport can work better for the taxpayer, benefitting people across the country'.

This has much wider implications than just for Sport England and National Governing Bodies of sport: the government would like a focus on those who do little sport or physical activity, not least to reduce the health bill, which inevitably means less funding going to Sport England, NGBs and mainstream sport. Sport England responded in May with their strategy 'Sport England - Towards an Active Nation' with its vision 'Our vision is that everyone, regardless of their age, background or level of ability feels able to engage in sport and physical activity. Some will be young, fit and talented, but most will not. We want everyone to feel welcome, to find something in sport and activity that meets their needs and for the sector to value them as a customers.' These documents are available on Herts Sport Partnership's website.

BE have consulted widely on what its strategy should be for the next 5 years within the context of reduced funding (approximately 80% from SE). We (HBA) held a consultation meeting in the autumn open to all. We took these comments to BE's consultation primarily open to county reps (also in the autumn). Their Final Draft strategy which they say will focus on what is right for our sport rather than just to get funding will be presented to council at the AGM 5th June. Following presentation to Sport England soon after SE will respond with how much funding they will give to BE for the next 5 years in September. BE will produce its final strategy in December or January.

BE regional Partnership and Participation managers have already had widened remits both geographically and in responsibilities in anticipation of the cuts.

Looking to the future: Funding from Sport England is likely to continue to be available for 'development' projects and new facilities: Healthy Living initiatives via the Department of Health and their funding opportunities are likely to increase. Head Office funding available to our CBNs has pump-primed inward investment of resources (funding and people) but is no longer available. Part of the draft BE strategy is that funding for facilities should be concentrated on county badminton centres. Following the Government's and Sport England's new strategies NGBs will be expected (and funded) to provide programmes for 5-14 year olds (in addition to the current all other ages). So in the autumn of 2016, Head Office will be launching a new programme targeted at primary age young people – our future!

We are grateful of the support of our CBNs from BE Head Office staff, other organisations including, Herts Sports Partnership, Local Authorities, Herts Schools Games Partnerships, University of Hertfordshire, Herts FE colleges and sports facilities operators, and, our clubs and coaches..

Workforce needs (volunteers and coaches)

The number of coaches in the county is at an all-time low 57 (all grades) and this is exacerbated by 30% opting to be incognito for contact (a non-existent option 10 years ago): hence unless we know the coach from other programmes we are unable to contact them with coaching needs and opportunities.

One of the measures we have taken is to provide the Young Leaders Award course that allows those 16+ to manage SmashUp sessions in their school and at 17+ to deliver sessions at other venues (subject to standard safeguards of DBS, etc): several of our CBNs are paying a start-up incentive of £10 per session. This will hopefully make the coaching pathway for visible and attractive.

Help! We are currently looking for young players to attend the Level 2 Coaches assessment day, 25th June at Sir Frederic Osborn school for the coaches to be assessed coaching. The national tutor for this will ensure top quality coaching for those attending.

Dave Bartlett, HBA Development Coordinator