

Development Coordinator's Report to HBA AGM 2015

HBA development areas are divided into 4 Community Badminton Network areas. Clubs and other badminton stakeholders are 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

We formed in 2014 after an approach by Badminton England, although we decided to not take up their funding offer as we felt their conditions were not compatible with our ideas.

We started with five junior clubs and are now six and hope we can encourage all local east herts clubs to participate in our plans. We the club coaches have been visiting the member clubs to help and learn from each other as some times we can feel isolated in our own little world.

The CBN first project was a fun tournament held at Ware Drill Hall on Sunday 9th March all juniors were invited. We hope to link with other Hertfordshire CBNs to promote badminton in both junior and adult participation.

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 BE Partnership Manager East Region, Leah Singleton.

The development plan was agreed, 2nd March 2015 and can be found on the HW CBN webpage: www.hertsbadminton.net/default.aspx?id=73. Funding has been received from BE Head Office.

Some of the plans and example activities are described below:

Participation Increase

Westminster Lodge to start Ladies No strings Essentials followed by No strings with opportunities for SWH clubs needing ladies to visit, play with and invite suitable participants to clubs. Also 'Summer of Badminton' was agreed.

Schools and FE Colleges

FE Activator opportunities had been offered to Oakland's and West Herts Colleges to promote NS in the colleges. Oakland's had expressed interest in mentored opportunities in clubs. Schools would be offered Smash Up opportunities. The CBN would try to identify key schools near clubs with capacity to take keen students from Smash Up sessions with the possibility of some financial assistance...

Junior Clubs

While all JBCs are thriving several are in need of coaches and volunteers and plans are progressing on how to address this issue across the county.

Senior Clubs

Several senior clubs were in need of members, some specifically ladies. It is hoped the NSE and NS sessions being established in sports centres will indirectly lead to more players and if clubs engage with the NSE sessions they could find direct benefits

Competition

There was interest in CBN junior league/tournaments, which could require some funding. There was interest too, in the HSBA replacement for the HYG Games tournament with a CBN selection tournament. Junior clubs have been emailed and response awaited.

Battle Badminton: might interest SWH League clubs particularly players in clubs that pack up for the summer.

Workforce needs (volunteers and coaches) are being addressed at a meeting with BE Regional Head Office in June.

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.

Next meeting 1st June.

Gill Bartlett

North Herts CBN

We have had a busy season, thanks to all those involved. We have run four well attended junior schools taster initiatives, in Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock and Breachwood Green. These were thanks to money from the North Herts Community Fund. Our successful bid for Sportivate funding meant we were also able to run three senior schools initiatives, at Hitchin Girls School, Fearnhill School and Priory School. This season also saw the first Satellite Club being set up at Highfield School. A singles tournament was organised in May and due to the success of this, another will be run at the end of June. All the local junior clubs are still going strong and we have gained a few additional coaches this season. So Badminton is doing well in the area.

Bob Green

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

Established in 2013, the committee comprises representatives of clubs, schools, facilities operators, Herts University, the Community Sports Network (WHSPAA), local authority, and BE Partnership Manager East Region, Leah Singleton. Head Office funding was received in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Participation Increase

Several promotional sessions through the season were provided to shoppers at Hatfield Galleria promoting all badminton stakeholders: the next is 21st June. Last summer's Summer of Badminton programme in 3 sports centres and Oaklands College created 2000 participations and will again be promoted in 2015.

All 4 Sports Centres are running at least one No strings session each week. 45+, Back into Badminton and Ladies Badminton sessions are also on offer. Gosling, in particular, is promoting Disability Badminton sessions (see Disability Hub, below)..

Schools, College and University

The Sportivate-funded SmashUp! sessions, 2013-14, in the 3 secondary schools are continuing but mainly as standard badminton, in the 4 schools we have contact with. One young leader who qualified as SmashUp! activator managed a Woolmer Green session for 3 months. Stanborough school again held Bisi fun tournaments for 7 primary schools (and CBN coaches assisted) at Gosling Sports Park: after-school primary sessions were provided on a regular basis to at least 3 schools. A WHSPAA Sport England-funded programme for leaders provided badminton (and other sports) to 180 children at St Marys, Welwyn, and 5 new SmashUp! Activators on a course at the new Sir Frederic Osborn school sports hall in May 2015.

There are no sports courses at Oaklands College, Welwyn Garden City but since last summer when some 60 participants enjoyed No strings there has been ongoing participation. The University has a Higher Education Officer, Matthew Widdicombe (who qualified as SmashUp! and Level 1 this

season), who has promoted badminton among the students (including No Strings) and delivered No Strings at Birchwood LC.

Junior Clubs and Junior Sessions

Comets (20th anniversary), Knebworth (Inclusive) and Swifts (50th anniversary) JBCs continue to thrive as do junior sessions at the sports centres.

Senior Clubs

Following the demise, last season, of Lingwood BC, owing to lack of officials, almost all the members have found places in other clubs or, for a few, in No Strings sessions. 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 has helped with several programmes and one-off events for the CBN and county-wide.

Gosling Sports Park, since its BE-funded upgrade last season has gone from strength to strength in its provision of a wide diversity of sessions. 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 local and county inter-schools championships as well as the HSBA squads and national tournaments.

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

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

Competition

HSBA organised a successful county-wide inter-club tournament in 1st March.

Juniors are being invited to the training and team selection sessions for the HSBA Inter-Local Authority tournament at Birchwood LC 12th July.

HBA organised Herts Open Parabadminton tournament, 25th April.

Workforce

At the Herts Coach Ed week organised by HSP together with BE Head Office in February, there were just 3 SmashUp!, 4 Level 1 and 3 Level 2 attendees from Herts.

Dave Bartlett

County-wide Considerations

BE Head Office Funding and Supporting Organisations

The Head Office funding available to our CBNs has pump-primed inward investment of resources (funding and people): however, there is no more in future. Funding from Government Organisations such as Sport England is likely to continue to be available: Healthy Living initiatives and their funding opportunities are likely to increase. Both require the standard application procedures.

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 current badminton workforce needs for the whole county have shown to be:

SmashUp! Activators: 13; Level 1 coaches 8; Level 2 coaches 14; Volunteer administrator 1

These are being addressed at a meeting with BE Regional Head Office staff in June.