



HBA Development Co-ordinator's AGM Report for 2012-13

The Badminton Herts Development Committee (BHDC) established in 2005 manages badminton development within the county. I would like to thank the members who are:

- HBA Chairman (Malcolm Fraser)
- HSBA representative (Ken Winchester/Malcolm Fraser)
- HBA area/league development representatives for N, E, W, and central of the county (Bob Green & Ben Vranjkovic, Doug Clark, Liz Bateman, Dave Bartlett)
- Herts Badminton Development Officer ('RDO') Lee Bent, January – December 2013)
- BADMINTON England (BE) Regional Manager (Matt Warren)
- HBA County Coaching Co-ordinator (Brian Jackson)
- Herts Schools Games Partnerships Senior Competition Manager (Tony Marmo)
- Herts Sports Partnership (representative, Peter Simmons, HSP Badminton NGBs Officer)
- BHDC Acting Secretary (and HBA Newsletter Editor, Gill Bartlett)
- BHDC Chairman: HBA Development Co-ordinator (Dave Bartlett)

We would like to thank Lee Bent for the big impact he brought to our county particularly in developing our Community Badminton Networks, helping clubs, setting up the many 'No Strings' (NSB) sessions and negotiating Herts County Council's acceptance of BE CRBs : he returned to Head Office Coaching Department in January.



Taking badminton to the public – WH CBN at Hatfield Galleria, September 2012

As last year, BE, funded by Sport England for 'Grow, Sustain and Excel', has progressed its 'Development Plan 2009-13' with the aims:

Increased participation, Community Badminton Networks, Reducing age-related drop-off, Performance Centres and High Performance Centres.

The targets relating to the above were:

- Number of adults playing as measured by Active People Survey
- Reduction in age-related drop-off
- Numbers accessing Community Badminton Networks
- Depth of talent / numbers within Performance Centres

This informed our own Badminton Herts Development Committee plans ; progressing Community Badminton Networks, increasing participation, developing more coaches, finding funding to reduce coaching course costs and developing clubs. Many of our coaches supported the No Strings and similar sessions.

Earlier this year, following approval with Sport England, BE announced their Whole Sport Plans for 2013-17. While the aims and targets are essentially the same, SE has made it clear that funding is 'payment by results'. If nationally we do not achieve our targets each year then funding will be cut: if we improve on our targets increased funding will follow. BE plans for 2013-17 centre around PlayBadminton, which includes NSB and SmashUP sessions, and Community Badminton Networks (CBNs), but many new programmes and 'products' will facilitate these objectives. BE will support the more viable and productive CBNs nationally –about 60 – and our 4 CBNs are being looked upon favourably.

There will be no county specific development officers, but we will have support from London & East Region team comprising, currently, a Regional Delivery Manager (Paul Bickerton), a Partnership Manager (Matt Warren) a Participation Manager (Sandy Kurek) and Workforce Officers, to be employed: see Matt Warren's report. However, the main message is increasing reliance on county volunteers, locally.

Community Badminton Networks

Subject to approved plans, Herts West CBN, and Welwyn Hatfield CBN have been chosen for an initial pilot of funding and support. North Herts & Stevenage CBN and East Herts CBN are likely to be supported, when they have established a regular management framework and plans.

Herts West CBN (Dacorum, St Albans and Watford)

Badminton take-up at JFK school continues. Hemel Hempstead Sports Space, Roundwood Park School, Harpenden Leisure Centre, Watford's Westfield and Woodside centres have taken up NSB sessions.

Oaklands College has opened their 8-court hall, with coaching for students provided by David Brown. A Badminton Academy with HBA-HSBA help is being established, initially as part of a general Elite Academy: the benefit to students is free fitness and conditioning sessions and physiotherapy: the advantages to Herts are improved fitness for squads and, because many students progress to Herts Uni, improved Uni squads and more retention within the county for our senior squads.

At the CBN meeting 2nd June Matt Warren confirmed that this CBN has been prioritised for a BE-funded pilot: it has its own constitution (in final draft) and bank account. More clubs would be appreciated at the 4 CBN meetings per year to help influence the projects and programmes (but all will receive the minutes).

East Herts CBN (Broxbourne and East Herts)

This CBN has not met this year but some members of HAL (Doug Clark, Colin Jackson, Brian Jackson) have attended the BHDC committee and expressed a desire to be part of the next phase of funded CBNs. The following sessions have run Wodson Park, 3 NSB sessions: Ware Drill Hall Get Back Into (GBI)

Sessions: Dane End Village Hall Sessions

North Herts CBN (now incorporating Stevenage)

North Herts College's has a popular student badminton session on Wednesdays.

Stevenage: Marriotts new hall hosts new sessions. SCOB Juniors has stopped after 40 years: we are very grateful of their long contribution to junior badminton.

NSB: North Herts Leisure Centre, Letchworth Tennis Club: Stevenage plans to have a Sportivate project.

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

Held two 'Come&Try' sessions at Hatfield Galleria feeding into junior, senior clubs and NSB. They tried a Ladies session at Birchwood, but too few participants to be sustainable. Comets (seniors) are instituting an initial ladies hour open to league standard ladies.

The CBN organised a successful countywide junior club tournament.

NSB sessions are at Birchwood LC, Gosling Sports Park, Herts Sports Village.

Three Community Games funded activities were organised during the year including the reopening of Birchwood Leisure Centre.

The University is important for the great facilities and for projects such as Active Universities to promote student participation: this year's Activator, Fiona Griffin, was focussed on Uni development. For the coming year we are in negotiation for an 'HE Officer' that will include some community support and development.

Countywide

Herts Youth Games: in 2012, again very successful with 10 districts and some 250 children participating in the coaching run-up and about 80 on the day. The icing on the cake was when the Olympic Torch visited. In 2013 HYG, all 10 districts are likely to have teams and it is being held at Wodson Sports Park, 7th July but with reduced time available: adjustments to the tournament are being considered.

BHDC would like to find a coach responsible for understanding the needs of each leisure centre and available for club and individual sessions.

The new Performance Centre at Vauxhall, Luton: Gill and Dave Bartlett agreed to have a place on the committee: at a non-committee meeting, Luton are keen to be supportive of Herts junior development. We are very grateful to Herts Sports Partnership for the courses, programmes and invaluable support they provide to us.

School Games Partnerships (SGPs)

The impact of the replacement of School Sports Partnerships with SGPs has meant that the School Games Organisers having fewer hours, or in the case of some schools, none at all and has made it difficult for clubs working with schools. Herts School Games: 47 Hertfordshire secondary schools entered this year, a total of 185 teams and 925 players, a 40% increase on last year.

The impact of the Government's £160M investment over the next 2 years in junior school sport is yet to be clarified in Herts.

Olympics, Paralympics and Legacy

The 2012 Games meant that most districts had events and many included badminton: several clubs noted increased membership. The HSP managed Community Games funding of £250 per event is still available this year.