

# Badminton in Herts

Newsletter of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association

HBA website: [www.hertsbadminton.net](http://www.hertsbadminton.net)

February 2015

Price £2



**Badminton England invest in Herts Development**  
**Badminton England CEO, Adrian Christy to speak at HBA AGM 8<sup>th</sup> June**  
**League Results and News**  
**Community Badminton Networks**

Herts Open Winners, Joel Gayle (Essex) and Victor Liew (Middlesex)

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**HSBA Junior Inter club Fun Tournament:** Sunday 1st March 2015, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longed, Hatfield, AL10 0AN

**HBA AGM: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7:15pm, nibbles & networking, for 7.45pm HBA AGM, Birchwood Leisure Centre.** Badminton England CEO Adrian Christy to speak 'The Current and Future Badminton Scene'.

## Coaching Courses

Badminton Smash Up Activator Course Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 13:00 – 17:00, Herts Sports Village: £99

UKCC Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Badminton (L1AC/15/56) 3 non-consec days, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> february, 9:30 – 16:30 Hertford Regional college, Turnford: £215/£225 non-mem.

UKCC Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Badminton (L2CC/15/21) 4 non-consec days Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 9:30 – 16:30 Jim McDonald Centre, Hatfield £370/£380 non-mem.

STOP PRESS: 50% HSP Bursary for these courses signed up by 31<sup>st</sup> March. See HBA website link for sign-up.

## Membership & Affiliation

Approximate club membership figures for Hertfordshire are:

- 73 affiliated clubs
- 540 Junior members
- 1060 Senior members including 73 coaches

All Senior members, coaches and Volunteers with email addresses on BE database should receive this newsletter. Please let us know of anyone who doesn't.

## HBA COMMITTEE

Chairman	*Paul Kempster: 01438 313767 mob: 07767 212428; <a href="mailto:pkempster@gmail.com">pkempster@gmail.com</a>
County Sec	Hilary Anderson 01992 584494 <a href="mailto:Hilary@Anderson35.plus.com">Hilary@Anderson35.plus.com</a>
Treasurer & Membership Registration	Colin Walker 01992 422073; mob.07917 055209; <a href="mailto:colin.walker4@ntlworld.com">colin.walker4@ntlworld.com</a>
Chairman of Selectors	Vacant
County Match Sec.	Nigel Abdullah 01707 645490 <a href="mailto:nigelabdullah@bluebottle.com">nigelabdullah@bluebottle.com</a>
Tournament Sec.	Ed Lintott 01727 864240 <a href="mailto:eddie.lintott@affinitywater.co.uk">eddie.lintott@affinitywater.co.uk</a>
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North Herts Rep	*Bob Green * 01462 640647 <a href="mailto:bob@abcegg.co.uk">bob@abcegg.co.uk</a>
*	Also members of the Development Committee

## Development Committee

The Badminton Herts Development Committee currently comprises those marked \* above, together with the following representatives of partner organisations

H O Contact	Leah Singleton, East Region Partnerships Manager, Partnerships Manager London & East
Herts Sports Partnership	Peter Simmons, HSP Liaison Officer for NGBs A-L

## HBA AGM

This year's HBA AGM will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Sportsman room at Birchwood Leisure Centre starting at 7.45pm.

We are very excited to announce that Adrian Christy, Chief Executive of Badminton England is attending the meeting as our guest speaker and has been invited to give a presentation to our county members on the Development of badminton nationally and the challenges around funding & participation and there will be an opportunity for him to answer your own questions. Don't miss it!

Please come and meet old and new friends and make it a good attendance this year. As an incentive each club represented at the AGM will receive £10 towards club funds.

## Committee Vacancies

The Committee are always looking for potential helpers across the different aspects of supporting Badminton within the County – those who may want to become more involved in development, coaching and those with marketing or promotional experience.

We still have a vacancy for the role of Chairman of Selectors which was communicated at the end of last season. The job description is provided below.

## Senior County Chairman of Selectors

**Overview:** The Chairman of Selectors principal role is to help with the smooth running of the senior county teams. They are responsible for the co-ordination of team selections for county matches according to agreed criteria and for organising the senior county training programme.

**Time involved:** There are 3 weekends for Premier league matches for the county first team. For the regional divisions, changes for 2015/16 mean the matches will now also be taking place on those same weekends but on individual days.

Around 30 hours pre-season training sessions to assess players and assist with squad selections.

Attendance at HBA committee meetings with 4 held per year and each 2 hours in duration.

**Knowledge required:** The individual must have knowledge of the game and of the players who are eligible to represent the county. They must also become familiar with the rules of the Senior

County Competition to support the team captains with queries, disputes and to escalate any issues to Badminton England.

## Responsibilities:

- Organise the senior county pre-season training programme
- Co-ordination of the players who are eligible to represent the county
- Support team captains with the selection of players
- Attend the 4 HBA committee meetings held during the year and report on team progress

Contact HBA Chairman Paul Kempster if you can help.

## BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

**Reminder:** Birchwood Leisure Centre is again providing us (HBA) with exclusive use of its 4 court hall from 9am to 9pm every Sunday during the year.

Junior, Senior and Vets county matches, and Senior & Junior tournaments have priority booking. Although tournaments may use courts for the whole day, most matches will not, and courts will be available before and after matches for other users to book.

This means there will be opportunities for affiliated clubs and coaches to enjoy and make use of the facilities at a discounted cost on an ad hoc or regular basis, subject to availability.

Colin Walker will continue to be the contact and administer bookings. If you or your club are interested in hiring courts at a very attractive £5 per court hour please email Colin at [colin.walker4@ntlworld.com](mailto:colin.walker4@ntlworld.com) to discuss your requirements and court availability.

Follow-up from Ken Winchester:

HSBA has agreed to take up Paul's offer for Sunday usage at Birchwood from 9am - 6pm May 3rd through to August 30th.

We intend to run a number of tournaments during this period. Nick Goode has also kindly offered to run Sunday coaching sessions for juniors (basic through to advanced) from 9 - 12am, which will be free of charge.

Additionally, the hall will be fully utilised on Sunday 14th June for our junior county trials.

We would certainly invite enquiries from HBA if they wish to avail themselves of the facility during the above dates.

## New Partnerships Manager for London and East Region

Several of us said farewell to Partnerships Manager London and East Region, Rhiannon Smith, at a lunch at the Long Arm and Short Arm



Lemsford: she left BE to work for Bucks County Sports Partnership.

We welcome Leah Singleton as the new incumbent of this post. Leah, who has attended both Welwyn Hatfield and Herts West Community Badminton Network meetings in January, emailed this introduction: *'I have been working for Badminton England since April 2010, originally as a Regional Officer in Merseyside and latterly as the Workforce Officer for the North West/North East region. Prior to this I also did an eight month volunteer placement as Young Officials Development Officer with Badminton England and during this time had the pleasure of working with a few of you!*

*I have played badminton since the age of ten and look forward to joining some of the local clubs and competing in a few leagues in Bedfordshire & Herts."*

### **Community Badminton Network Update**

There are 4 CBNs in Herts: East Herts (EH), Herts West (HW), North Herts (NH) and Welwyn Hatfield (WH). Each CBN was eligible for up to £2,500 funding per year from Badminton England Head Office subject to having a basic formal management structure of a committee and a plan. WH CBN has received this funding starting September 2013, Herts West CBN and North Herts CBN are working towards, and EH CBN have decided to progress badminton without funding. Below are reports from the CBNs that we have received.

#### **Herts West CBN**

Following several meetings with good attendances from Sports Development Officers and Oaklands College the final draft development plan will be discussed at the next meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Westfield Lodge. BE Head Office are optimistic that they will be able to support the proposed plans with £2850.

SWHBL committee are deliberating on the documents.

#### **North Herts CBN**

North Herts CBN:

In February we started a Satellite Club at Highfield School in Letchworth, linked to Baldock Junior Badminton Club. Bob Green is doing the coaching and Daniel Davis (U17 squad) is the school's ambassador.

Bob is also about to complete a Sportivate project at Fearnhill School in Letchworth, which has had between 11 and 16 attendees, both male and female.

There were three Sportivate projects in the CBN's funding for this year and the last one is about to start. This one will be at Priory School in Hitchin and the coach will be Ben Vranjkovic.

The CBN also successfully bid for some Community Funding and this was for under 11 participation via schools. Four schools have been identified to receive up to 6 weeks of coaching: Whitehill in Hitchin; Breachwood Green; Lordship Farm in Letchworth; St Mary in Baldock. The first two will have sessions between Easter and Whitsun, the other two will run after Whitsun. Coaching will be from Bob Green, Ben Vranjkovic and Karen Bell (just about to do her level 1).

Bob Green, Chairman North Herts CBN

#### **Welwyn Hatfield CBN**

WH CBN Development Plan has been accepted by BE Head Office and £1250 investment provided.



CBN coaches and club members have again been providing taster sessions to shoppers in Hatfield Galleria. At busy times up to 30 children and adults were playing with turnover every half hour: many leaflets were distributed and some of the shopper have since joined clubs or No Strings sessions.

Coaches have been providing sessions to many of the local schools including Bisi tournaments for 8 schools over 4 sessions at Gosling Sports Park. Sport England Funding for the Community Sports Network (WHSPAA) has enabled 60 16+ Leaders to deliver over 18 sports (including badminton) to schools, attend coach education courses and provide help to local clubs.

The CBN's support for the upgrade of Hatfield Leisure Centre was crucial to Head Office awarding £13,000 for improving walls and lighting. In return the sports centre has committed to supporting badminton including PlayBadminton programme (No Strings, No Strings Essentials and Smash Up) for 10 years. [This follows the £43,000 invested in the upgrade of Gosling Sports Park in February last year and opened by Jo Goode.]

Secondary School Teachers' Coaching  
8 Teachers had 3 hours coaching from Jo Goode (helped by Dave Bartlett) at Queens School. It was so successful they would like another session which is being organised for May

### **Beginners Excel**

Beginners 4<sup>th</sup> March and Intermediate Excel Course on 12<sup>th</sup> March in Hatfield. First come first served.

Please respond to Carmen Dillon  
[c.dillon@whcvs.org.uk](mailto:c.dillon@whcvs.org.uk)

Priority will go to our WH member organisations for all training courses

*Kind Regards*

Carmen Dillon

### **Knebworth Inclusive (and Premier) Badminton club:**

Nigel Markwick and Phil Gray attended a weekends training course with BE on coaching people with autism, run by the National Autistic Society.

They have now started a new session of juniors from 6-7pm on Sundays at Gosling and have two children with additional needs there, one of who has autism.

**Sir Frederic Osborn, new sports hall** is offering students £2/h to play any sport 10-5pm, during half term, 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> Feb. tel: 01707 351352

### **Herts Open 2014**

The 2014 Herts Open took place at HSV on the weekend of 30 & 31 August but unfortunately numbers of entries were well down on previous years. There were still over 150 players who took part, coming from all over the country. Hertfordshire was well represented with both juniors and seniors looking to get tournament practice early in the season.

The mens and ladies singles was played on the Saturday using all twelve courts to start. There were 66 entries in the mens singles and 26 in the ladies singles. In the mens singles the number one seed Ben Muir (Surrey) and the number two seed Joel Douse (Bucks) both got to the final with Ben winning a tough three setter with Hertfordshire's Matthew Widdecombe in the semi-finals. Ben was the victor again in the final winning

21-19, 21-17. In the ladies singles the number 2 seed Jo Dix (Hants) met the Hertfordshire based Nicki Chan-Lam in the final. Jo Dix ran out the winner 21-16, 21-15 to claim her first Herts Open title having been coming to the tournament for over a decade.

Sunday started with the level doubles again on all twelve courts, and as the day progressed the mixed doubles were started. All in all 65 games were played during the day with the last final coming off court at 8.00. In the mens doubles final top seeds Joel Gayle (Essex) and Victor Liew (Middlesex) were comfortable winners beating Martin Drabble (Yorks) and Robert Golding (Middlesex) 21-15, 21-9. In the ladies doubles final the pairing of Paige Butler and Lucy Mason (Bucks) beat Chrissi Nettleton (Yorks) and Rachel Vickers (Cheshire) 21-19, 21-10. The last game to be played was the mixed final between Joel Gayle and Caroline Westley (Essex) and Matthew Widdecombe and Claire Weaver (Cheshire). Joel and Caroline retained their title winning 21-10, 21-10.

Overall it was another successful Herts Open tournament, played in good spirit with lots of excellent badminton. A tournament of this size would not have been possible nor would it have run so smoothly without the help of a number of people, and so I would like to thank the referee, Lesley Owens, Jo Williams, Bob Welsh, Graham Hall, John Herdman and the staff at HSV for their time and effort over the weekend.

*Eddie Lintott*

### **League Results**

#### **InterCounty**

#### **Senior County Championship report**

**Captains: Gail Emms, Andy Walden, Liz Austin**

#### **Herts 1**

Herts 1st team were in Premier A action at the National Badminton Centre on the 8th / 9th November and had an "ok" start to the campaign. After losing 6-4 to Warwickshire, we were hoping to get a draw with Avon, but things took a turn for the worse when Mark Sadler ruptured his Achilles in his singles. Herts managed to get 3 games against Avon but it was sad to see a team mate go down injured in such a way and we all wish him a speedy recovery. The

next day was against Surrey and to be honest, it could have been a 10-0 or a 9-1 defeat to the current champions, but I am happy to report that we only lost 6-4 and it could have been a draw and we even won a mens' doubles.

The second weekend in Nottingham on 13th / 14th December saw debuts for 3 players with Dan Leers, Ben Vrankjovic and Laura Bygrave joining the team. Good performances from everyone resulted in 5-5 draws against Lancashire and Hampshire on the first day but the next day was a strong Nottinghamshire side and despite some close games we were defeated 8-2. Well done to Dan Leers who triumphed in 2 of his 3 singles matches over the weekend.

Herts now lies in 9<sup>th</sup> place (out of 10), and although it is quite close between 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the final weekend in March has some hard matches so it will be a tough climax to the season.

### **Herts 2**

The second team were a little unlucky not to pick up their first match against Worcestershire. Great performances from Caroline Hale and Cayleigh Bambrick saw us win both the ladies singles but despite an epic 30-29 game from Dan Leers we were not able to pick up either of the men's. The doubles were all closely contended with lots of 3 setters, but not many went our way leaving it all on the mixed. Great performances from Andy Walden & Sarah Garner and Dan Leers & Liz Austin saw us get two of them, however sadly the third one was just beyond our reach and we just lost 8-7.

The second match was against a relatively unknown Yorkshire 4 team who were promoted up from their own regional division. Straight wins in the singles and doubles for the ladies and excellent performances from the men saw Herts go into the mixed doubles having already secured the maximum points. Nicki Chan-Lam and Doug Furze fought a very close 3 setter just losing out 19-21 in the final game but leaving us with a thoroughly deserved 12-3 victory overall.

The third match against Buckinghamshire saw

more excellent results across the team with straight wins from the ladies doubles and good performances from the men who won 3 out of their 4 doubles. Herts then went on to win 2 of the 3 mixed to secure maximum points winning the match 10-5 overall.

### **Herts 3**

The 3rd team got off to a great start to the season, beating Kent 2nds 9-6 in the first match, narrowly losing 8-7 to Middlesex 3rds at home but turning that result round to beat them 8-7 a couple of weeks later away, where Liz Austin and Luke Jones turned two previous 3 set marathon losses into a 3 set marathon win to clinch the match!

It has been pretty much 'business as usual' for the ladies, who dropped only two doubles games in the first 4 matches, but it is also good to see a few men's doubles being picked up along with a spectacular win at first singles for Ben Vrankjovic against Kent and winning both the men's singles against Norfolk. Sadly though, it was against a strong Norfolk team in our most recent match where we registered our first 'no points' loss of the season despite the good start. We currently sit second from bottom but are level on points with 3rd place and only 1 point behind second place, so there's all to play for in our last three matches.

It's great to welcome both new and returning faces to the team in Ben Vrankjovic, Phil Skinner, Simon Chiverton, Dan Leers, Luke Jones, Elliott Miles, Isabelle Sadler and Lia Willis who are all very welcome additions. Here's to not having to fight a relegation battle this year with a bit of luck!!

*Eddie Lintott*

### **County League**

See; <http://goo.gl/BJeAWZ>

### **Hertford Area League**

See:

<http://w.fixtureslive.com/league/3230/competitions/Hertford-Area-Badminton-League>

## Letchworth & District League

Nothing much to report here, ticking over without incident so far this season.

One of the suggestions at the AGM was to use some of the money in the bank to organise a First Aid course for those clubs interested. We are looking into this for some time after Easter.

### Division 1

Team	P	Rbrs	Gms
Highbury	5	25	52
Norton Bldck A	4	18	36
Redhoods A	4	17	35
Codicote	5	10	25
St Johns A	3	6	17
Strings	5	2	5

### Division 2

Team	P	Rbrs	Gms
Cam Gears	6	24	49
Onyx	6	19	48
Norton Bldck B	4	18	37
St Johns B	5	14	32
Redhoods B	5	13	33
Redhoods C	6	8	21

## Stevenage League

Division 1 Summary				
Team	Played	Home Pts	Away Pts	Total Pts
<a href="#">St Johns A</a>	6	18	9	27
<a href="#">Norton and Baldock</a>	5	7	14	21
<a href="#">Cam Gears</a>	6	7	14	21
<a href="#">Masters</a>	5	2	7	9
<a href="#">Academy A</a>	3	6	2	8
<a href="#">Icarus</a>	3	3	0	3
<a href="#">Couzens</a>	2	0	1	1

Division 2 Summary				
Team	Played	Home Pts	Away Pts	Total Pts
<a href="#">Knebworth</a>	9	18	10	28
<a href="#">St Johns B</a>	6	10	17	27
<a href="#">Datchworth</a>	7	13	11	24
<a href="#">Strings A</a>	7	16	4	20
<a href="#">Saracens</a>	5	3	13	16
<a href="#">Cam Gears</a>	6	10	5	15

Division 2 Summary				
Team	Played	Home Pts	Away Pts	Total Pts
<a href="#">Codicote</a>	8	8	6	14

Division 3 Summary				
Team	Played	Home Pts	Away Pts	Total Pts
<a href="#">Academy B</a>	7	17	22	39
<a href="#">Academy C</a>	8	14	14	28
<a href="#">Knebworth</a>	7	15	7	22
<a href="#">Great Ashby</a>	7	11	10	21
<a href="#">Redhoods</a>	6	5	9	14
<a href="#">Stevenage AS</a>	7	4	9	13
<a href="#">Strings B</a>	8	5	8	13

## South West Herts League

League results can be found at:  
<http://www.swhbl.co.uk/leaguetales.html>  
 If reading online, click these direct links:

[Ladies](#)      [Medley](#)      [Mixed](#)

[Mens 4](#)      [Mens 6](#)

## Coaching

Herts Coach Ed Week, organised by Herts Sports Partnership is 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February with very many courses: for BE Level 1, 20<sup>th</sup> Feb., Level 2, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. and Smash Up 17<sup>th</sup> Feb., courses: see website <http://goo.gl/pVFK2F> for contacts..

Learning badminton well enough to coach someone else is a great way, perhaps the best, to improve the whole of your game! Learn how to do it all properly and halt or reduce the aging effect!

**STOP PRESS:** The cost of the courses has halved through a HSP bursary providing you book onto a course by end of March and give back at least 5 sessions free of charge. See HBA website 'Dates for Your Diary' for course details and sign-up.

## RAY LEARNEY MEMORIAL FUND

The Ray Learney Fund was set up in 2007 by Hertfordshire Badminton Association in memory of national coach Ray Learney and his contribution to the development of badminton. Many juniors, adults and coaches in Hertfordshire have been encouraged, inspired and had their badminton skills developed by Ray. As Ray was

particularly keen to help youngsters become involved in badminton coaching, the fund has been primarily used to subsidise young people to go on coaching courses. In return for the assistance the county asks applicants to help coach at 5 sessions free of charge once they have passed.

Initially the family of Ray donated £1,030 but since 2007 the fund has been topped up by further donations from Ray's family, local badminton clubs and by transfers from Hertfordshire Badminton Association's general reserves.

Since 2007 the county has made 22 awards totaling £2,100 to support local players to attend coaching courses run by Badminton England. All 22 were successful in passing their course to become Level 1 or Level 2 coaches.

There is still plenty of money left in this Fund for future applicants. If you wish to apply please use the form on the HBA website under Funding and Resources:

<http://www.hertsbadminton.net/default.aspx?id=59>

and send to: Colin Walker, HBA Treasurer at 9, Valley Close, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8BD (or via email to: [colin.walker4@ntlworld.com](mailto:colin.walker4@ntlworld.com))

## **Grassroots & Junior News**

### **HSBA Junior Inter club FunTournament Sunday 1st March 2015, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longed, Hatfield, AL10 0AN**

Consisting of three mini age group tournaments  
U11 (Year 6 and below) 12am-2pm  
U13 (Year 8 and below) 2-4pm  
U15 (Year 10 and below) 4-6pm

All standards of play welcome.  
Entry Fee £8 per player per age group tournament

Entry form can be downloaded from the HSBA website at:  
[www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk](http://www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk)  
or phone Barbara Lewczynska for details, email:  
[lewczynskab582@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lewczynskab582@yahoo.co.uk) Or tel: 01923  
856539 or 07979 384603

### **No Herts Youth Games 2015, But...**

Herts Youth Games badminton tournament is no more. Funding cuts by Local Authorities in the main have made it impossible to run. However, Herts HYG Team

Managers are looking at the possibility of organising an event; contact Barbara Lewczynska as above.

## **NEWSLETTER NEWS**

### **Advertisements**

Advertisements help reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter and or add to HBA's ability to fund events, and subsidise courses - and hopefully give added interest to readers! If you know of any potential commercial advertisers, please put them in contact with me. Even better, if you could help find prospective advertisers regularly (3 times a year), please let me know! Gill Bartlett::  
01438 715374 [Gill@Bartlett1.plus.com](mailto:Gill@Bartlett1.plus.com)

### **Have you received your Newsletter?**

For various reasons (to be explained at the AGM) we have had to send this newsletter via email. It is being sent to all members 16+ with correct email addresses.

**The new Bird2 Revolutionary  
synthetic shuttle is now available.**  
This has been developed in  
Hertfordshire by Gordon Willis and is  
distributed world-wide by Goode Sport .  
£18/dozen  
All enquires to Goode Sport . 01707  
321397