

HSBA Report 2016/17

The season has again proved to be most successful for the Association.

Again, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Squad Managers, Coaches and Committee members who have freely given their time to help both County and non-County players.

Our under 18 squad surprised everybody by finishing in a highly noteworthy 5th position at the ICT amongst a total of 35 Counties. This should bode very well for future Hertfordshire Senior teams.

We are currently exploring the possibility of fielding an under 20 squad, which would continue to provide competitive badminton beyond the time when players are at risk of dropping out.

The HSBA Committee continues to be exercised about the way we structure our future spending. However, the Association continues to spend an ever-increasing proportion of their budget on the promotion of junior badminton at a time when the sport has lost substantial funding. Our newly introduced AIM project will continue to help encourage primary school children to become involved with badminton.

Apart from offering bursaries to suitable individuals, HSBA independently finances free badminton for members throughout the summer, hosts a county tournament for Primary Schools, helps promote the Young Leaders award course and assists aspiring coaches to gain their Level 1 and 2 qualifications. Of course, HSBA provides financial support in many other ways such as subsidising squad fees and important events such as the ICT.

The Association does not rest on its laurels and continues to strive for better coach to player ratios, higher numbers of courts and continues to listen to the needs of our members.