

Chairman's Annual Report to Comets JBC 27 June 2021

Introduction

A big thank you to everyone who has made Comets JBC an enjoyable and successful club this difficult year, these include:

- the member players, without whom there would be no club, and you have all tried hard, behaved well and, it seemed to us, to have thoroughly enjoyed yourselves
- the parents, without whom the members wouldn't be able to attend Comets sessions and events
- our coaches, without whom there would be no coaching sessions and events: Micky Mahbubani, Gill Bartlett, Ku, Kahlid, Oliver Youell, Dillan Bartlett, Lisa Morgan, Sheenagh McKillop, and Oliver Bartlett
- our excellent facilities, Herts Sports Village.

Several members have completed their DoE award with us this year and others have had the GCSE PE sessions logged and in one case assessed through us.

Comets JBC Administration

The pandemic had a large impact on all of us in the club and we are grateful for members and coaches for their help and patience. We were required to familiarise ourselves with and abide by Government and Badminton England covid-19 regulations and advice. Gill Bartlett became our designated Covid Officer and she and the chairman prepared the Risk Assessment (published on our website). HSV brought in stringent management practices requiring waiting outside until asked to enter, the wearing of masks when not in the hall, and no parents in the hall or watching from the balcony.

We were able to hold 12 sessions from September to Christmas, and since Christmas, 11 sessions from 12 April to 27 June. We lost 19 sessions in total due to the pandemic. In previous years we have had courts from 5-7pm: 8 courts for the first hour for coaching and 4 courts for the second hour mainly for games and occasional matches. However, owing to restrictions preventing mixing between courts of 6 players we had to have two separate sessions of one hour each. Since the 12 April we have been able to mix courts of up to 15 players allowing us to have (by 27 June) two club tournaments in each session. With all the changes, some at short notice, we have still managed to remain a viable club with near covid capacity of about 20 per session (24 maximum on 4 courts)

I would like to thank Gill who despite health complications has continued to maintain the club administration during some complex and difficult times. She has confirmed the finances are basically in good order (see her report) and has booked and paid in advance for our HSV sessions for September 2021 onwards which we are required to do to secure the booking.

Coaching and Coaches' Courses

The club's success depends on our coaches. We have always encouraged club members to become coaches themselves. This year Oliver Youell and Dillan Bartlett are leaving for university at the end of September: we hope to see them back to visit whenever they are available. So, we will need to call on other coaches. Sheenagh is taking her Level 1 Badminton England coaching Course in July, and hopefully Ku and Khalid will be able to take their Level 2 when this can be organised by Herts Badminton Association's (HBA) Coaching Co-ordinator. To take the Level 1, 'Foundation' course participants need to be 16+. The Level 2 is open to those 18+ who have completed their Level 1. It is

very pleasing that over the years we have been able to help several of our members become coaches and they in turn have helped the club.

New Season September 2021-22

Owing to the pandemic unpredictability we haven't promoted Comets JBC shirts this season. It does look good, particularly when we play against other clubs, and at other tournaments and events. So, we will look to making them available again in September.

Announced last AGM, the good news for us is that Comets seniors have relinquished their 2 evening courts and we have now regained them for this 3 September onwards. This means that we will revert to our pre-covid times, but this time with 8 courts for 2 hours – with more play in the second hour for everyone.

To enable this there needs to be an increase in fees from September. So, for example, for the 8 sessions to half term (from 3 Sep to 24 Oct) the fees will £48 an increase of 8 pounds.

August Summer Camp

We have organised a Summer Camp from 2-4pm, 23 -27 August, as previously emailed to members. The aim is to have enjoyable coaching in the first hour, we'll have 1 coach per court, and a mix of social and competitive games in the second hour. Enjoyable in its own right, it also sets members up for a good start to the new season with hopefully matches and tournaments again. We need 24 members for financial viability so if we don't get enough of our Comets members signing up by 1 July we will open it up to the community at large.

Herts Junior Badminton Association, Schools, and Community Engagement

Herts Junior Badminton Association County Trials Brought Forward to 7 July

A few of our members are already in the HJBA squads. HJBA have reverted the trials for the coming season back to Wednesday 7 July at Hertfordshire Sports Village. The squads meet on Wednesdays and are for U10 and U12, U14, U16 and U18. For those interested in entering see the details on the HJBA website: <https://hjba.org.uk>.

As well as HJBA, HBA, and Badminton England our club also belongs to Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network (WHCBN). The WHCBN AIM project led by coach, Ian Robinson, helps deliver badminton in WH schools, with the help of other coaches, such as John Stobo. In normal years we also provide promotional sessions at local events and the Hatfield Galleria. All of these sessions promote Comets JBC (as well as other junior clubs) to all the participants.

We start back Next Season, Sunday 8th September 5-7pm

Please confirm to Gill that you wish to re-join. We hope you have an enjoyable summer.

If you want badminton over the summer, as well as our Summer Camp, Hatfield Leisure Centre provides junior badminton: beginners - Saturday 8.45-9.45am, intermediates - Saturday 9.45-10.45am, advanced - Saturday 10.45-11.45am, Dynamic badminton for all juniors - Thursday 4.30-6pm. Please contact:

ianbrobinson@hotmail.com / phil_adams36@hotmail.co.uk / ku786saf@hotmail.co.uk

For those 16+, there are a few 'No Strings', Turn-Up-and-Play sessions in Welwyn Hatfield each week: details are on Badminton England website, search 'No strings'.



Dave Bartlett, Chairman Comets Junior Badminton Club