



Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club



Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2021/22 season as CL000029

Ray Phipkin - Head Coaches Report (31 December 2021)

For year 2021, the intent was to have three main club Wednesday night sessions as 4:00pm to 5:00pm; 5:00pm to 6:00pm and 6:00pm to 7:00pm. These would all be subject to the £13.00 monthly payments, the same conditions and opportunities including that a third child would now be FREE. Due however to Coronavirus-Covid 19 at the start of the year, no sessions could be held. Later only sessions at 3:45pm to 4:45pm & 4:45pm to 5:45pm. This meant the fee was £13.00 per month for April to June & £5.00 for July. Only at the start of season 2021/22 could all three sessions be held at their normal times. Certain players have been given the opportunity to move to different time sessions.

- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 06/01/21 - 10/02/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 06/01/21 - 10/02/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 06/01/21 - 10/02/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 4 weeks 4-5pm session 24/02/21 – 24/03/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 4 weeks 5-6pm session 24/02/21 – 24/03/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 4 weeks 6-7pm session 24/02/21 – 24/03/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 7 weeks 3:45-4:45pm session 14/04/21 - 26/05/21 had attendance between 14-17 players.
- The 7 weeks 4:45-5:45pm session 14/04/21 - 26/05/21 had attendance between 15-18 players.
- The 7 weeks 6-7pm session 14/04/21 - 26/05/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 5 weeks 3:45-4:45pm session 09/06/21 - 07/07/21 had attendance between 9-11 players.
 - The session on 30/06/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 5 weeks 4:45-5:45pm session 09/06/21 - 07/07/21 had attendance between 11-18 players.
- The 5 weeks 6-7pm session 09/06/21 – 07/07/21 Cancelled due to Coronavirus -Covid 19.
- The 3 weeks 3:45-4:45pm session 04/08/21 – 18/08/21 had attendance between 4-8 players.
- The 3 weeks 4:45-5:45pm session 04/08/21 – 18/08/21 had attendance between 9-15 players.
- The 3 weeks 6-7pm session 04/08/21 - 18/08/21 decided this session would not be held.
- The 8 weeks 4-5pm session 25/08/21 – 13/10/21 had attendance between 5-10 players.
 - No session on 22/09/21 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 5-6pm session 25/08/21 – 13/10/21 had attendance between 16-18 players.
 - No session on 22/09/21 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 6-7pm session 25/08/21 – 13/10/21 had attendance between 8-18 players.
 - No session on 22/09/21 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 4-5pm session 27/10/21 - 15/12/21 had attendance between 8-11 players.
- The 8 weeks 5-6pm session 27/10/21 - 15/12/21 had attendance between 13-19 players.
- The 8 weeks 6-7pm session 27/10/21 - 15/12/21 had attendance between 5-20 players.
- At 31/12/21 potentially at the 4-5pm session 3 girls & 11 boys, at the 5-6pm session 9 girls & 12 boys and at 6-7pm session 7 girls & 12 boys.

When the sessions were able to be resumed, then players attending had their respective membership renewed or a new membership which now expires on 31st October 2022.

All club members as part of initially joining the club have a “FREE” club hoodie & a “FREE” club shirt which the shirt is required to be worn at the clubs weekly sessions. Both these items can be exchanged throughout the season if required for a larger size. In autumn Term 1 it has meant that nearly every Junior member has received a new club shirt & club hoodie. When players leave, dependant on condition of garment they may be requested this be washed and returned.

Appreciate to buy either shorts or skort has been reduced from £12.00 to £10.00. I hope that the new price will encourage more sales in 2022, but having a FREE club shirt could be a start of a way forward to own a full strip?

In respect of external tournaments, events and league

Members are always encouraged to take a pro-active approach in continuing entering the Non-County Tournaments. However due again the Coronavirus – Covid19 only one tournament took place on 5th December 2021 with many members taking part. A special to mention to Daniel Betts, Daniel Cairns & Austin Wigley (and partner from the PC) who reached the final of the U14’s Boys Doubles Event. The Daniels being runner-ups in the final but did beat their opponents in the group round.

Although not held in 2021 due to Coronavirus – Covid19 the Head Coach on behalf of the club will participate in January 2022 with the “Just” project and offer badminton sessions on a Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The “Just” project is aimed to engage previous inactive females aged 14years +. The participants can just turn up and join in, no need to book. They can attend any of the sports and could change this from week to week or just stay with the same sport.

In respect of internal club tournament events

- With no presentation night in 2021 any trophies for events completed for season 2019/20 have been hand delivered by the head coach and in some cases to the homes of the winners & runner-ups players. In addition trophies handed out for Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club” 2020 trophy to the “Outstanding Club Member”; trophy to the “Most Improved Session Member” at 4-5pm; 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions
- Due to Coronavirus – Covid19 no tournaments events could be held for season 2020/21. However was able to determine that Lucy Goodman was the winner of the “Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club” trophy to the “Outstanding Club Member” 2021.
- All trophies held in the glass cabinet in the corridor adjacent to the Sports Hall entrance at Harborough Leisure Centre have been engraved with the respective winners names for the required year.

Christmas Party 2021

- This was held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 between 4:00pm to 7:30pm with the meal & soft drinks served earlier from 5:00pm rather than 5:30pm to 6:30pm.
- Two courts used to play fun games & two courts used to set up tables & chairs for the meal / drinks.
- No doubt due to the knock-on effect of Coronavirus – Covid19 the total of players attending was only around 30. However many parents also attended so still considered a great successes under the circumstances.

Shuttles

- Due to Coronavirus – Covid19 decided when restricted sessions could take place, that only Mavis 300 Plastic Shuttlecocks should be used with Red speed at 3:45pm to 4:45 session and Blue speed at the 4:45pm to 5:45pm.
- The total cost in year 2020 was the sum of £62.55.
- Prior to Coronavirus – Covid19 it is estimated that each week for the three sessions we would use one dozen feather shuttlecocks per week over the 37weeks. However in future, as players improve in all sessions then they should be allowed new shuttles rather than keep using damaged ones so assume we will then use 50 dozen. **This will need to be considered based on club funds.**

Badminton England – “The Racket Pack” award scheme.

- Children in school years 3-8 will have the opportunity to take part in “The Racket Pack” award scheme.
- “Tink” award for between 7-9 years old; “Flo” award for between 9-11 years old and “Wise” award for between 11 – 13 years.
- **Awards not taken place in 2021 but will commence in 2022.**
- At present at the 4-5pm session then 7 would be on the “Tink” award & 5 would be on the “Flo” award & 9 would be the “Wise” award.
- At present at the 5-6pm session then 0 would be on the “Tink” award & 2 would be on the “Flo” award & 9 would be the “Wise” award.

Consider over year 2022, the club’s strategy should be to work to ensure we are still able to have a full membership at each session especially at the 4-5pm session. Also encourage older players to attend the 7-8pm sessions which is run for adults.

Club Coaches & Volunteers

John Fannon a Badminton England UKCC Level 1 coach and is really proactive at the 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions.

Steve Chapman has now completed and achieved his Badminton England UKCC Level 1 coaching award and again attends as many 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions as he can. Also attends most 7-8pm sessions.

The intent is that all club coaches will be on the Badminton England list of registered Coaches which means they will need to have a current DBS certificate. In addition, they will be members of the Leicestershire Badminton Coaching Association. Also hold a current UK Sport, “Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course” certificate.

Fiona Booth and Jitka Bubleova during Summer Terms 5 & 6 at the 3:45-4:45pm session have been volunteers and have a HVO Badminton England membership. Fiona also attended during Autumn Terms 1 & 2 the 4-5pm sessions when she could.

Penny Fannon has been adult volunteer at the 4:45pm-5:45pm session and at both 4-5pm & 5-6pm sessions for Autumn Terms 1 & 2.

Caitlin Sullivan an older Club member help at the 3:45 -4:45pm sessions in Summer Terms 5 & 6.

Peter Stacey an older Junior Club member has just started at the end of Autumn Term 2 to be a volunteer at the 4-50pm session

The club for 2022 will continue to encourage & pay for Junior Club members aged 16+ to attend these UK Coaching “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” courses.

With a Constitution, Code of Conducts & updated Welcome Leaflets the club are able to have renewal accreditation as a Badminton England Premier Club and Sport England Clubmark.

Club Web site & notice board

- Due to the continuing great efforts of John Fannon, the club now has a great web site <http://www.harboroughlcjuniors.org.uk/> via “Easyspace Starter Plus Yearly, Easyspace Domain”.
 - This site has details of the past clubs AGM minutes with coaches & treasurer reports, BACS Bank payment details for 2020/21 Club Kit order forms, details of weekly session programmes. External tournament event forms & photos of players winning trophies at American Tournament.

Badminton England provided a notice board to Harborough Leisure Centre, which the Leisure Centre fixed to the wall in the corridor in the entrance to the Sports Hall. This notice board is now being used solely by the club.

The club now has a glass display cabinet on the wall adjacent to the entry to the Sports Hall. This will contain the annual club trophies.

In addition, the web site of Leicestershire Rutland Sport is being used to advise all the club details and weekly sessions.

Pathway to Adult league

Steve and John when considered suitable invited some of the older players to participate in the Harborough Feathers club nights.

Automatic Shuttlecock Launcher

Ray Phipkin purchased this BKL equipment in 2016 with an update in 2017 but due to Coronavirus – Covid19 it has not been possible for the players to have had the benefit of its use again with the new routines for 2021. To date no charge has been made but it may mean in 2022 a charge is made for any replacement Shuttlecocks needed.

A quite simple GJ688 automatic shuttlecock launcher was purchased by the club in 2019 via Amazon with batteries and a suitable 6-volt transformer. This equipment will only deliver the shuttlecock a single set distance to one position. As younger children are unable to hand feed accurately this equipment can be used to ensure an accurate feed to allow net shots, net lifts, service returns to be practised. Also as being battery operated (as well as mains electrical down to 6v) means children under adult supervision can operate the equipment.

Both items have not been used in 2021 but hopefully in 2022 they can be used regularly.

New Badminton Nets & Weights

Due to the poor quality of the badminton nets provided by Harborough Leisure Centre the club purchased four nets at a total cost of which are being used solely by the club at their own sessions. As the badminton posts are unstable and the top of the post leans in towards the court the club have purchased 8 x Gorilla Sports Vinyl Tri Grip Weight Plate 10KG. These are placed on the top of the existing badminton net post base weights to ensure the badminton nets maintain their correct height of 5'1" at the post and 5'0" in the centre. Ray Phipkin has made a vertical pole device which is 5'0 high which is now being used to help to ensure correct height of the net in centre of the court.

New Babolat Club Rackets, Grips & Graps

Junior Players & parents are often enquiring as to what is the best & type of racket they should buy. For season 2019/20, the club purchased some rackets for our Junior members to use for them to be able to try before purchasing suitable rackets at competitive prices. Irrespective of which manufacture is finally selected players can determine which type of racket head balance is preferred.

- The three Babolat rackets from the "Prime Range" (2020) we have selected are price competitive with other manufacturers and offer a really good "first" racket to own. These however have been replaced in 2021 by "Pulse" Range.
- The "Pulse" range Essential and Lite versions (Head Light & Even Balance) Retail at £55.00 and the Blast (Head heavy) version Retails at £60.00.
- In lieu of Withers Sports, no doubt discounts off these retail prices are available from such suppliers as
 - "Direct Badminton" (£44.00; £44.00; £47.99 for Pulse) but involves additional carriage cost.
 - [Babolat | All Badminton Rackets | Badminton Rackets | Direct Badminton](#)
 - "Central Sports" (£34.00; Not Available; £42.49 for Prime) but involves additional carriage cost.
 - [Babolat | Badminton Rackets | Central Sports](#)

As required the club will continue to purchase Grips & Graps for badminton racket handles. Steve Chapman at any session has and will continue to apply Grips and or Graps to Junior Players racket handles all free of charge.

Would like to thank all club coaches, volunteers, and committee members, for all their help & support over the last 12 months even though we have only been able to have limited sessions in Summer Term 5 & 6 and back to normal sessions for Autumn Terms 1 & 2.

Finally a very, very big thank you to all parents & players as without their interest, dedication & commitment we would not have a Junior badminton club to serve the Market Harborough area.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a great group of players and people & continues to make the 45 mile round trip each week worthwhile.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R S.P.', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

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