



# Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club



Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2021/22 & 2022/23 seasons as CL000029.

## Ray Phipkin - Head Coaches Report (30 June 2023)

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 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 agreed monthly payments, the same conditions and opportunities including that a third child would be FREE. Certain players have been given the opportunity to move to different time sessions.

- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 05/01/22 - 09/02/22 had attendance between 10-13 players.
  - No session on 12/01/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 05/01/22 - 09/02/22 had attendance between 13-23 players.
  - No session on 12/01/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 05/01/22 - 09/02/22 had attendance between 13-17 players.
  - No session on 12/01/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 7 weeks 4-5pm session 23/02/22 - 06/04/22 had attendance between 9-14 players.
- The 7 weeks 5-6pm session 23/02/22 - 06/04/22 had attendance between 16-20 players.
- The 7 weeks 6-7pm session 23/02/22 - 06/04/22 had attendance between 13-16 players.
- The 5 weeks 4-5pm session 27/04/22 - 26/05/22 had attendance between 9-13 players.
- The 5 weeks 5-6pm session 27/04/22 - 26/05/22 had attendance between 18-21 players.
- The 5 weeks 6-7pm session 27/04/22 - 26/05/22 had attendance between 10-19 players.
- The 5 weeks 4-5pm session 08/06/22 - 06/07/22 had attendance between 6-15 players.
- The 5 weeks 5-6pm session 08/06/22 - 06/07/22 had attendance between 10-21 players.
- The 5 weeks 6-7pm session 08/06/22 - 06/07/22 had attendance between 6-9 players.
- The 3 weeks 4-5pm session 03/08/22 - 24/08/22 had attendance between 7-10 players.
- The 3 weeks 5-6pm session 03/08/22 - 24/08/22 had attendance between 3-5 players.
- The 3 weeks 6-7pm session 03/08/22 - 24/08/22 decided this session would not be held.
- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 31/08/22 - 12/10/22 had attendance between 10-17 players.
  - No session on 28/09/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 31/08/22 - 12/10/22 had attendance between 8-18 players.
  - No session on 28/09/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 31/08/22 - 12/10/22 had attendance between 14-19 players.
  - No session on 28/09/22 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 4-5pm session 26/10/22 - 14/12/22 had attendance between 8-16 players.
- The 8 weeks 5-6pm session 26/10/22 - 14/12/22 had attendance between 7-16 players.
- The 8 weeks 6-7pm session 26/10/22 - 14/12/22 had attendance between 8-18 players.
- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 04/01/23 - 15/02/23 had attendance between 14-17 players.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 04/01/23 - 15/02/23 had attendance between 14-22 players.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 04/01/23 - 15/02/23 had attendance between 14-17 players.
- The 5 weeks 4-5pm session 01/03/23 - 29/03/23 had attendance between 14-19 players.
- The 5 weeks 5-6pm session 01/03/23 - 29/03/23 had attendance between 14-20 players.
- The 5 weeks 6-7pm session 01/03/23 - 29/03/23 had attendance between 12-19 players.
- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 19/04/23 - 24/05/23 had attendance between 13-20 players.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 19/04/23 - 24/05/23 had attendance between 13-21 players.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 19/04/23 - 24/05/23 had attendance between 11-22 players.

- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 07/06/23 - 12/07/23 had attendance between 12-19 players.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 07/06/23 - 12/07/23 had attendance between 15-18 players.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 07/06/23 - 12/07/23 had attendance between 12-14 players.
- At 30/06/23 potentially at the 4-5pm session 5 girls & 15 boys, at the 5-6pm session 12 girls & 12 boys and at 6-7pm session 11 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

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 club's 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 2023, 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.

LSBA Junior League 2022, the club entered one team at a cost of £10.00. This was for school children aged Y6 and below and the intent was for a team to have two boys and two girls. Finally, a total of six teams entered as a round robin event over two Sundays. Concessions allowed teams to have additional boys if girls not available and could have different players, if need be, the second week. A total of six boys and one girl represented the club which finished fifth and all players received a medal in respect of taking part.

For the LSBA Junior League in 2023 as required to have two boys and two girls for a team and was only held on one day. Club had six boys indicating they would like to be considered but due to lack of interest of girls interested in taking part were unable to take part.

The Head Coach on behalf of the club participated in January 2022 & January 2023 with the "Just" project and offered badminton sessions on a Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The "Just" project is aimed to engage previous inactive females aged 14 years +. 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**

- Held presentation nights both in 2022 and 2023 when food & drinks were provided.
- For 2022 presented a total of 60 trophies to winners & runner-ups for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls & boys singles and double events. Also "Most Improved Session Member" trophies to Stefan Thompson (4-5pm), Daniel Betts (5-6pm) and Poppy Angus (6-7pm). "Outstanding Club Member"; trophy was presented to Poppy Angus.
- For 2023 presented a total of 60 trophies to winners & runner-ups for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls & boys singles and double events. Also "Most Improved Session Member" trophies to Toby Hall (4-5pm), Martha Hall (5-6pm) and Mia Fannon (6-7pm). "Outstanding Club Member"; trophy was presented to Freddie Parsons
- All Girls & Boys Single trophy cups which are 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 2022**

- This was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 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.
- The total of players attending was only around 30. However, many parents also attended so still considered a great success under the circumstances.

## **Shuttles**

- From January 2021 to June 2023 a total of 10 dozen Babolat Shuttlecocks no 1 and 30 dozen Babolat No2 have been purchased.
- Feather shuttlecocks are always used at the 6:00pm to 7:00pm session and when suitable during the 4:00pm to 5:00pm & 5:00pm to 6:00pm sessions. We have in stock as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 a total of 8 dozen Babolat No 2.
- For season 2023/24 it is again estimated that each week for the three sessions we would use one dozen feather shuttlecocks per week over the 36 weeks. 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.

## **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 2022/23 but will commence again for season 2023/24**
- At present at the 4-5pm session then 12 would be on the “Tink” award & 8 would be on the “Flo” award & 1 would be the “Wise” award.
- At present at the 5-6pm session then 5 would be on the “Tink” award & 3 would be on the “Flo” award & 8 would be the “Wise” award.

Consider over year 2023, 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**

Ray Phipkin the clubs head coach is a Badminton England Level 2 coach and attends as the 4-5pm, 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions. Also attends the 7-8pm sessions.

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

Steve Chapman the clubs assistant coach 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.

Freddie Parsons has now completed and achieved his Badminton England “Foundation “ Coaching award.

- He is in the process of obtaining a current DBS certificate & a “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” course - Classroom online certificate so he can then join the coaching register.

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.

Penny Fannon has been adult volunteer at both the 4:00pm-5:00pm and the 5:00pm – 6:00pm sessions.

From January 2022 to June 2023 some older Junior Club member have attended as volunteers at earlier time sessions. In some cases, this has been part of their DofE awards for the volunteering section.

**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 2022/23 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 an issue with the software not working on the faulty tablet it has not been possible for the players to have had the benefit of its use again with the new routines for January 2022 to June 2023. A new tablet has been purchased by Ray Phipkin and fortunately have been able to transfer the BKL software onto the new tablet. This means the machine will be used again in season 2023/24.

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. This has been used in 2022/23

Both items hopefully in 2023 will be used regularly.

### **New Babolat Club Rackets, Grips & Graps**

- The condition of most of the BISI make of club rackets was poor and many needed to be thrown away as they are out of shape. However, two BISI badminton rackets had some broken strings repaired at a total cost of £6.00. The committee discussed how to prevent damage to the

rackets. It was suggested by RP that the coaches could do some work around this. Also, some work on throwing the shuttles would benefit as part of the training – many struggle with this.

- The club have three Babolat Prime Rackets (Essential -Head Light; Lite – Even Balance & Blast – Head Heavy).
- Two donated Ashway Rackets.
- At a total cost of £250.00 have obtained from Racquetteers, 6 x Yonex Arc Sabre 11 play badminton rackets. Plus 1 x used red/white 9 pro tour bag (FOC)

It is worth noting that the “Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club Rackets & Racket String Tension” document contains the recommended stringing tension range as follows: -

Beginner: - 12-20lbs / Casual: - 20-23lbs / Regular Club: - 24-25lbs / Advanced/County: - 26lbs and above.

Junior Players & parents are often enquiring as to what is the best & type of racket they should buy. with the club have continued to purchase 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.

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 18 months.

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.

A special thank you to Jo Ireland who will not be seeking re-election at this year’s AGM. Jo has been the Clubs Welfare Officer since the club was first started and became a Clubmark/ Premier Club.

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.



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