



# HARBOROUGH LC Junior Badminton Club



**Club AGM. 02 July 2025**

## **Chairperson's Report.**

It's been an interesting year since our last AGM with a few challenges for the club to overcome, one of which has not materialised, thanks to the efforts of local people in the Harborough community and, notably, John Fannon, our assistant coach. Despite these hurdles, the club continues to be popular and successful.

At the risk of repeating myself for another year, I must thank Head Coach Ray Phipkin for his unstinting efforts. Not only for managing the club and attending every coaching session, but for all the unseen organisational work he undertakes, accommodating the young players when they need to change sessions (typically as they get older). Also, let's not overlook Ray's magical ability to 'juggle' the club's tournament schedule to account for many older players who sometimes understandably struggle to fit badminton around their GCSE studies, revision and exams.

A note about those challenges faced by the club. The first was a significantly reduced playing area in the Leisure Centre sports hall late last year as refurbishments to the building took place. For some weeks, we only had the use of three courts – but with a few creative adjustments (including two sideways-on short courts), the club's coaching sessions continued unabated. There was a silver lining to the inconvenience in that the hall itself received a makeover which (finally!) saw the walls painted 'badminton' blue, new LED lighting installed, and the floor thoroughly cleaned. That made it one of the best badminton facilities in the District.

However, earlier this year, the Leisure Centre's management decided to plan to move all sports into the rebuilt MH Arena (formerly the Dome) to make way for other activities to take place in what had just become an ideal badminton facility. The MH Arena is not an ideal badminton facility. After months of discussions, sports hall user surveys, meetings, official objections, Council liaisons and more, the plans were not approved by Harborough District Council. The club thanks John Fannon for being at the helm of many of these initiatives. It means that we can continue to enjoy the current sports hall facilities that suit the club so well.

Other members of the club's volunteer cohort deserve a mention. Secretary Lynda for her great work organising trophies and the players' clothing. Assistant Secretary Nancy for attending committee meetings and producing the minutes. The adult and junior committee members for their valuable participation and feedback. Not forgetting all the volunteers who generously give up their time to help oversee the coaching sessions. Our thanks to you all.

*Steve*

**Steve Chapman**

Club Chairman