



Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club



Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2025/26 season as CL000029.

Ray Phipkin - Head Coaches Report (30 June 2026)

From 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026, the intent during the School Autumn, Spring & Summer Terms was to have three main club Wednesday night sessions at 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.

For the 8 weeks of Autumn Term 1 from 27/08/25 to 15/10/25 had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 8-17 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 12-22 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 9-21 players.

For the 8 weeks of Autumn Term 2 from 29/10/25 to 17/12/25 lost one week for NHS Blood donations. For the other 7 weeks had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 13-17 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 16-20 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 13-17 players.

For the 6 weeks of Spring Term 3 from 07/01/26 to 11/02/26 lost one week for NHS Blood donations. For the other 5 weeks had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 15-18 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 14-20 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 18-22 players.

For the 5 weeks of Spring Term 4 from 25/02/26 to 25/03/26 had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 15-19 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 14-21 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 15-23 players.

For the 6 weeks of Summer Term 5 from 15/04/26 to 20/05/26 had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 15-21 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 15-24 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 14-19 players.

For the 5 weeks of Summer Term 6 from 03/06/26 to 01/07/26 had the use of all four courts.

- At 4-5pm session had attendance between 6-19 players.
- At 5-6pm session had attendance between 13-23 players.
- At 6-7pm session had attendance between 11-19 players.
- At 30/06/26 potentially at the 4-5pm session 10 girls & 12 boys, at the 5-6pm session 6 girls & 19 boys and at 6-7pm session 10 girls & 13 boys. Total 70 members (with 68 paying fees).

Although a total of 2 weeks had been lost over 38 weeks the club had already indicated at the start of the season that the monthly fee was based on 36 weeks.

All players attending had their respective membership renewed or a new membership which now expires on 31st October 2026.

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. When players leave, dependant on condition of garment they may be requested that this be washed and returned.

Appreciate to buy either shorts or skort has been reduced from £12.00 to £10.00. I hoped that the new price would have encouraged sales in 2025/26, but this was not the case. Having a FREE club shirt and FREE club hoodie has been a start of a way forward to own a full strip. **Therefore, for season 2026/27 any shorts or skorts in stock would be handed out FREE of charge on a first come basis.**

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 (Season 2025/26) on 19th April 2026 from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

Club paid £10.00 to enter a team as Zara Shapiro (Y6); Charles Bunten (Y4) ; Sullivan Blair (Y6) ; Lucas Azzouzi (Y6). They finished third out of six teams taking part and all players received a bronze medal & certificate. Ron Bunten was team manager with JB as his assistant.

Again, this year Harborough District Council decided not to hold the “Just” project and so not able to offer as part of the 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

- The presentation night is being held on Wednesday 1st July 2026 with food & drinks provided.
- For 2026 presentation a total of 56 trophies to winners & runner-ups for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 boys singles, U12, U14, U16, U18 boys double events. U10/U11, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls singles, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls double events.
- Also “Most Improved Session Member” trophies to Harry Colebrook (4-5pm), James Colebrook (5-6pm) and Ngai Ching Leung (Evelyn) (6-7pm). “Outstanding Club Member” trophy was presented to John Bunten.
- 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. The girls U10 single trophy has been updated to reflect for now U10/U11 with are winners names added.

Christmas Party 2025

- This held on Wednesday 17th December 2025 between 4:00pm to 8.00pm with the meal & soft drinks served between 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Badminton Shot Target Tasks during Summer Term 6

- Players carried out a respective shot task each week and recorded their scores in respect of the number of green, yellow or red out of 6 shuttlecocks used. This information will be used season 2026/27 by coaches to indicate which each player needs to work on to improve on their respective shot.

Shuttles

- From 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026 a total of 8 dozen Babolat Hybrid Feather Shuttlecocks, 6 dozen Yonex Aerosena AS20 feather shuttlecocks, 4 dozen Feather Shuttlecocks (via John Fannon), 10 dozen Babolat No 1 shuttlecocks and 3 dozen Yonex Mavis 2000 Nylon Shuttlecocks have been purchased.

- No Yonex Mavis 300 shuttlecocks purchased during 2025/26 but will need some new ones of both medium (blue) and fast (red) for 2026/27 season as used mainly at 4:00pm to 5:00pm session and for part of the 5:00pm to 6:00pm session. This time can be white rather than yellow.
- 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 30th June 2026 a total of 7 dozen Babolat No 1 worth £257.00.
- For 2026/27 it is estimated that each week for the three sessions we would use one dozen feather shuttlecocks per week over the 38 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 60 dozen at increase price of £40.00/dozen = £2,400.00. (Need to really reduce this amount).

Badminton England – “The Racket Pack” award scheme & now “Shuttle Stars” programme.

- In the past children in school years 3-8 would 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 indicated above not taken place in 2024/25 due to phase out by Badminton England.**
- For season 2025/26 the club introduced for 14 younger members at the 4:00pm to 5:00pm session the Badminton England Shuttle Stars programme. Parents paid £39.99 to Badminton England to receive a badminton racket, shirt and 6 shuttlecocks. As a goodwill gesture and without prejudice the club re-imbursed £40.00 to all these parents. The total cost to the club was £560.00. Coaches Penny Fannon & Hattie Hine with volunteer Nadia Azzouzi have held Stage One which has been carried out over 12 weeks with “Star of the Week” certificates awarded each week to the respective winner. Shuttle Stars Certificates Stage 1 will be handed out at the presentation night.

Consider over year 2026/27, 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 4:00pm to 5:00pm and 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Also encourage older players to attend the 7-8pm sessions which is run for adults but is free to these Junior members as the club will be paying for three courts in season 2026/27. In addition, again for season 2026/27 parents of Junior Club members will be allowed to attend these 7:00pm to 8:00pm sessions FREE of charge rather than paying as and when they attend a £4.00 weekly fee direct to Ray Phipkin.

Club Coaches & Volunteers

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

John Fannon the clubs assistant head coach is a now also a Badminton England Level 2 coach and is really proactive at the 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions.

Steve Chapman a clubs assistant coach has a 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.

Penny Fannon and Hattie Hine are now both Badminton England Foundation coaches and attend most 4:00pm to 5:00pm and 5:00pm to 6:00pm sessions.

Nadia Azzouzi attends most 4:00pm to 5:00pm sessions as a volunteer.

Club committee members Nancy Fitzmaurice, Julie Hine, Clare Scott and Lynda Haynes attend as volunteers to the later time session on an ad hoc basis when they can.

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.

From July 2025 to June 2026 John Bunten an older Junior Club member has attended as a volunteer at the 4:00pm to 5:00pm session earlier time sessions. In some cases, other junior members have attended, and

this has been part of their DofE awards for the volunteering section. However more Junior members have only used their respective time session for the physical section of their DofE awards.

More Junior members really need to have volunteering as the element of their DofE award and in this respect the club for 2026/27 will continue to encourage & pay for Junior Club members aged 16+ to attend these UK Coaching “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” courses.

The club would like as many Junior members as possible over 16 (and any Parents) to consider the first step on the coaching ladder by attending a Badminton England “Foundation Award” coach course. Although for a Badminton England member the cost is £205.00, as a goodwill gesture and without prejudice the club would be prepared to pay 100% of the cost (excluding accommodation & transport) to obtain this award. Application would need to be made to the club and then grant approved before course is booked via Badminton England.

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 2025/26 Club Kit order forms, details of weekly session programmes. External tournament event forms & photos of players winning trophies at American Tournament.
 - This will be updated for season 2026/27 with respective new documents.

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. Also, the club have provided a white board that is fixed to the wall in the Sports Hall behind court number 1 and this has been used to great effect especially by Hattie Hine.

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.

Badminton England Leaders Academy

John Bunten & Samuel Haakonsen-Sharp were successful in gaining places at the East Midlands event held at Peterborough. The knowledge they gained has been used to great effect especially by John as a volunteer at the 4:00pm to 5:00pm session.

Automatic Shuttlecock Launcher, Drone and Tablet

Ray Phipkin purchased this BKL equipment in 2016 with an update in 2017 but was not used in season 2025/26. However, the club now own two types of other makes of automatic shuttlecock launchers which have been used and will be used more in season 2026/27.

One is a quite simple GJ688 automatic shuttlecock launcher which 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.

The other machine is a Quepiem automatic shuttlecock launcher which was purchased by the club in 2024 via Amazon and is electrically operated with a suitable 6-volt transformer. This equipment will deliver the shuttlecock (i) a single variable distance to one position across the depth of the badminton court; (ii) a single variable distance across the width of the badminton court. A remote control can be used for all .

Both automatic shuttlecock launchers have been used in 2025/26 and hopefully will be used regularly in season 2026/76.

The grant obtained via Harborough District Council enabled the club to purchase a white HOVERAir X1 Drone and HOVERAir Batteries Accessory X1 Self-Flying Camera and a Samsung Galaxy Tab Active Pro 5 .

- The intent is for season 2026/27 to use this equipment to (i) record players badminton movements and share this with the respective players and (ii) Have the weekly register held on the tablet together with other club documents.
- Videos of players at the end of a session would be deleted from the tablet. The tablet is locked in a secure wardrobe cabinet in the Harborough Leisure Centre Sports Hall Storeroom.
- The club will have to bear in mind that their use in respect of the filming of Junior Players needs to exclude players whose parents have indicated they are not to be photographed and to comply with club policies which include “Safeguarding & Protecting Children”, have a Risk Assessment policy for the equipment that is then agreed with Harborough Leisure Centre. Also, completion of weekly risk assessment form.

Babolat & Yonex 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. In addition to what BISI rackets are still available are the following rackets.
- Three Babolat Prime Rackets (Essential -Head Light; Lite – Even Balance & Blast – Head Heavy).
- Two donated Ashway Rackets.
- Two donated Carlton Rackets.
- 12 x Yonex Arc Sabre 11 play badminton rackets.

When required the club have had to pay for Racket re-strings to the Yonex Rackets at £25.00 each.

- To help protect the strings a cover has now been applied to the top of these rackets when they had a re-string.
- All Junior members have been advised of the cost of a restring and the need to look after the rackets especially when picking up a shuttlecock from the floor using the racket.

In respect of BISI rackets no re-string will be considered but just repair any broken string. If the racket is in poor condition, then will be thrown away.

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.

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, the 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 12 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 Nancy Fitzmaurice the Clubs Welfare Officer as without this position being filled the club would be unable to be a member of Badminton England. To also club coaches John Fannon (additionally a second club welfare officer), Steve Chapman, Penny Fannon & Hattie Hine with great support from Lynda Haynes as club secretary, Julie Hine and Clare Scott as Parent representatives and all volunteers.

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.

I really hope that for season 2026/27 more parents of Junior Club members are able to join the committee or help as volunteers. The club can only continue in the future with this additional support from people much younger than myself. This is really essential for the 4:00pm to 5:00pm session as at present apart from the club head coach who has retired the other club coaches have full time employment. Therefore, volunteers are needed to ensure this earlier session can continue to take place every season. Would also be of great benefit to have a new badminton coach(s) join the club who could attend the 4:00pm to 5:00pm sessions. Anyone interested in any time session in respect of volunteering and/ or coaching, should please contact myself.



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