



Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club



Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2023/24 season as CL000029.

Ray Phipkin - Head Coaches Report (30 June 2024)

From 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024, the intent during the School Autumn, Spring & Summer Terms 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 3 weeks 4-5pm session 02/08/23 - 23/08/23 had attendance between 3-11 players.
 - No session on 16/08/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 3 weeks 5-6pm session 02/08/23 - 23/08/24 had attendance between 2-6 players.
 - No session on 16/08/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 3 weeks 6-7pm session 02/08/23 - 23/08/23 decided this session would not be held.
- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 30/08/23 - 11/10/23 had attendance between 8-13 players.
 - No session on 11/10/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 30/08/23 - 11/10/23 had attendance between 17-20 players.
 - No session on 11/10/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 30/08/23 - 11/10/23 had attendance between 6-13 players.
 - No session on 11/10/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 4-5pm session 25/10/23 - 20/12/23 had attendance between 7-12 players.
 - No session on 06/12/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 5-6pm session 25/10/23 - 20/12/23 had attendance between 14-17 players.
 - No session on 06/12/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 8 weeks 6-7pm session 25/10/23 - 20/12/23 had attendance between 2-15 players.
 - No session on 06/12/23 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 4-5pm session 03/01/24 - 14/02/24 had attendance between 2-11 players.
 - No session on 10/01/24 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 5-6pm session 03/01/24 - 14/02/24 had attendance between 14-22 players.
 - No session on 10/01/24 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 6 weeks 6-7pm session 03/01/24 - 14/02/24 had attendance between 8-17 players.
 - No session on 10/01/24 due to Sports Hall used for NHS Blood donations.
- The 4 weeks 4-5pm session 28/02/24 - 19/03/24 had attendance between 8-13 players.
- The 4 weeks 5-6pm session 28/02/24 - 19/03/24 had attendance between 8-23 players.
- The 4 weeks 6-7pm session 28/02/24 - 19/03/24 had attendance between 2-14 players.
- The 7 weeks 4-5pm session 10/04/24 - 22/05/24 had attendance between 8-17 players.
- The 7 weeks 5-6pm session 10/04/24 - 22/05/24 had attendance between 11-24 players.
- The 7 weeks 6-7pm session 10/04/24 - 22/05/24 had attendance between 1-15 players.
- The 5 weeks 4-5pm session 05/06/24 - 03/07/24 had attendance between 15-19 players.
- The 5 weeks 5-6pm session 05/06/24 - 03/07/24 had attendance between 10-22 players.
- The 5 weeks 6-7pm session 05/06/24 - 03/07/24 had attendance between 10-13 players.
- At 30/06/24 potentially at the 4-5pm session 8 girls & 14 boys, at the 5-6pm session 12 girls & 14 boys and at 6-7pm session 6 girls & 16 boys. Total 70 members (with 66 paying fees).

All players attending had their respective membership renewed or a new membership which now expires on 31st October 2024.

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 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 2023/24, but this was not the case. 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.

For the LSBA Junior Club League in 2024 for year 6 and below required to have two boys and two girls for a team and was only held on one day. Club only had one girl in year 6 and one girl 4 but due to lack of the girls interested in taking part were unable to enter a team.

For 2025 the club could have one girl and three boys so maybe able to join with another club to form a team?

The Head Coach on behalf of the club participated in January 2024 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 night in 2024 when food & drinks were provided.
- For 2024 presented a total of 60 trophies to winners & runner-ups for U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 boys singles, U12, U14, U16, U18 boys double events. U11, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls singles, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18 girls double events
- Also "Most Improved Session Member" trophies to James Colebrook (4-5pm), Hattie Hine (5-6pm) and Otis Prescod (6-7pm). "Outstanding Club Member"; trophy was presented to Hattie Hine.
- 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 2023

- This was held on Wednesday 20th December 2023 between 4:00pm to 7:30pm with the meal & soft drinks served between 5:30pm to 6:30pm.
- Three courts used to play fun games & one court used to set up tables & chairs for the meal / drinks.
- The total of players attending was quite low. However, many parents also attended so still considered a great success under the circumstances.

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

2024/24 by coaches to indicate which each player needs to work on to improve on the respective shot.

Shuttles

- From July 2023 to June 2024 a total of 10 dozen Babolat Shuttlecocks no 3 have been purchased.
- No Yonex Mavis 300 shuttlecocks have been purchased during 2023/24 but will need some new ones of both medium (blue) and fast (red) for 2024/25 season as used mainly at 4:00pm to 5:00pm session and for part of the 5:00pm to 6:00pm session.
- 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 2024 a total of 2 dozen Babolat No 2 and 3 dozen Babolat No 3.
- For 2024/25 it is 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 36 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 2023/24 but will commence again for season 2024/25.

Consider over year 2024/25, 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 two courts in season 2024/25.

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 had completed and achieved his Badminton England “Foundation “Coaching award.

- He obtained a current DBS certificate & a “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” course - Classroom online certificate which enabled him to 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.

Hattie Hine has been a regular Junior member volunteer at the 4:00pm-5:00pm session.

In addition, from July 2023 to June 2024 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 2023/24 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.

Practice Badminton Rebound Trainers

Three Practice Badminton Rebound Trainers have been purchased. These can be fitted to the plastic brackets already fixed to the back of three separate basketball frames. A string that can be adjusted in length then hangs down with a shuttlecock attached to the bottom which can be hit to practice overhead shoots.

Automatic Shuttlecock Launcher

Ray Phipkin purchased this BKL equipment in 2016 with an update in 2017 but was not used in season 2023/24. However, the intent is that it will be used again in season 2024/25.

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 2023/24.

Both items hopefully in 2022/25 will be used regularly.

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 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.
- 6 x Yonex Arc Sabre 11 play badminton rackets.

The club have had to pay for 7 sets of Racket restrings 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 restring.
- 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 restring will be considered but just repair any broken string. If the racket is in poor condition, then will be thrown away. **Consider replacing with additional Yonex rackets.**

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 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 new Clubs Welfare Officer as without this position being filled the club would be unable to be a Badminton England 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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