

Chairman's Report

The last year has been an interesting one for BAT's Badminton Club.

1 - Premier Club Status:

Straight after my appointment as Chairman BAT's had to complete the annual Club Mark Status form. Unfortunately a number of our certificates were out of date so members of the club needed to complete three courses as follows:

Child Protection - Julian and Alan

Equity in Coaching - Abi

A Club for All - Jonathon and Heather

On completion of the courses the club was given its Club Mark Status for the last year. Recently we have been served with the four year Premier Club review. This has been completed and we are awaiting Badminton England to respond.

2 - Discussions:

At the end of last years Devon Games to Inspire I was talking with Rachael and made her a promise; namely that I would work towards providing her with the opportunity locally of gaining her Level 1 Coaching Certificate. In September last I had the first of a number of discussion with Hannah Colston from West Devon and Jenny Phipps from Badminton England. As a result of the first meeting both Jenny and Hannah wanted a development plan which was produced.

The development plan was accepted at the next meeting as a basis to move badminton forward in West Devon. At that meeting I met up with people from Okehampton and staff from Tavistock College who are working to increase access to the sport of badminton.

From the initial position that BAT's were in where we were contributing towards badminton in West Devon I then found that we became centre stage and central in the West Devon developments. The aim now is to make West Devon a Community Badminton Network within Badminton England within two years.

Some of you will be surprised to know that West Devon could be involved with the 2012 Olympics. The area has been given 'pre-Olympic Training Camp Status' where we could have a visiting country staying locally and doing their training in the weeks leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games - badminton is one sport West Devon have been given. I have now represented badminton and BAT's Badminton Club at two meetings and we will have to wait and see how things progress.

3 - Successes over the Year:

In addition to members attending the ClubMark Courses

Four members attended and completed the Referees Course and are now Referees:

Abi, Rachael, David and Alan

Four players have completed the Level 1 coaching course:

Collete, Abi, James and Rachael

Three players will be doing their Level 2 course in September:

Jonathon, Abi, Rachael

4 - Funding:

Funding is one area where I have to admit to not being as successful as I would have hoped. Most of you will not be aware but over the year I have tried for funding from both Sports England and West Devon. Both Sports England applications were turned down but, with Hannah Colston (West Devon Sports Development Officer) encouragement, an application to West Devon (£700), Horrbridge Badminton Club (£150) and Active Devon (£120) were successful.

As a result of the successful grants the club have supported four players in gaining their Level 1, one player will be funded for the Level 2 and five players attended the courses required for Premier Club status within Badminton England.

In addition, after talking with Jenny Phipps from Badminton England, we have gained 66% funding for two additional players to do their Level 2 course. At the moment the Level 2 coaching course will take place in the Plymouth area in September.

5 - Thank-you's:

This year has not been an easy one for me. I am not someone who likes to take the lead and, as most of you will know, I work best in the background organising and getting things done quietly. As a club we have made ourselves very welcome in new places - West Devon and Badminton England look at BAT's Badminton Club as a 'badminton beacon' in the West Devon area. I will also apologise to the club and say that I have upset one or two individuals / one club on behalf of BAT's Badminton Club.

There are a number of individuals I would like to thank:

Collete for managing out the accounts over the last few years;

Paula for stepping into the role of secretary when Chris Carter stepped down;

The team captains - Collete and Jonathon for organising the teams over the season;

Rachael for a small thing she did for someone else at, what she didn't realise at the time, was an important moment; I will need to blame her for much of what has happened with badminton locally since July 2009.

The four players who recently completed their Level 1 Coaching course;

- I can now step back and watch how it should be done properly