



## BADMINTON WYCOMBE ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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### MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

#### **A Challenging 2014 & 2015**

We have over the last two years faced challenging times with regards to keeping the costs to all members as low as possible. In both 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal years, the Centre made losses in the order of £8,000 per year. We are happy to say that our reserves remain healthy and that we are optimistic that the Centre will return to a surplus situation this coming fiscal year. The Committee continues to plan the finances to allow affordable opportunities to play for everyone, whilst at the same time, trying to stay one step ahead of ever rising costs. Returning the Centre to a surplus will allow opportunities to further invest in the Centre, so that it will continue to be a Badminton facility of which we can all be proud.

#### **Changing our Constitution**

Badminton Wycombe is changing its constitution and therefore will be holding a General Meeting to formally adopt these changes on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January at Badminton Wycombe, 7.30 p.m. in the bar. All members are welcome to attend as we formally vote through the changes. So why are we doing this? The main changes are:

- we will no longer be formally controlled by High Wycombe and District Badminton Association (HWDBA); and
- to legitimise the newly created and more representative Committee.

This will enable us to support all levels of badminton at the Centre, with a view to being as fully inclusive as possible.

Sport in the UK has been evolving over the past few years and shows no sign of slowing down. The 2012 Olympics inspired many to take part in sport as both watchers and participants; with increasingly busy lives the way people participate in sport continues to change. When Wycombe Badminton Centre was conceived and built, its main purpose was to provide excellent playing conditions for the Wycombe

League clubs and league teams. When it opened in 1985, some 20 plus clubs were based at the Centre and only one court was reserved for public and non-league play. League matches were played six evenings a week with a total of 25 divisions across mixed, men's and ladies. Matches sometimes played to midnight and beyond. The Wycombe, Chalfont and Thames Valley leagues all flourished with the Centre being at the heart of these. At that time the HWDBA led badminton in the area and controlled the Centre for the league.

The sport has evolved over the past few years with changes in school and club play as well as the end of badminton evening classes - badminton has seen the focus move from league to social play. Wycombe Badminton Centre has become part of that evolution, supporting grass roots, informal play, junior development, clubs and badminton excellence whilst still providing a first-class venue for the founder clubs, many named in our bar on the awards boards.

We remain a non-profit organisation run by a voluntary management committee employing a professional staff to administer and run on a day-to-day basis; however, the time has come to acknowledge the revolution in our sport and prepare and safeguard badminton here for the future.

If you would like more details about the changes to the constitution of Wycombe Badminton Centre Ltd. please contact one of the following:

- **Alistair Jones** or **Helen Corps** at the Centre
- **Douglas Gordon** ([douglas.gordon@queens-oxford.com](mailto:douglas.gordon@queens-oxford.com))
- **Jeff Brydon** ([jeffbrydon@me.com](mailto:jeffbrydon@me.com))

Please contact Helen Corps by email ([helen@badmintonwycombe.co.uk](mailto:helen@badmintonwycombe.co.uk)) or through the General Meeting Webpage ([www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk/badminton-wycombe-news/notice-of-general-meeting](http://www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk/badminton-wycombe-news/notice-of-general-meeting)) to inform her that you will be attending the General Meeting.

### **Jeff Brydon**

*Chairman & Director of Badminton Wycombe*



### **MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER**

Everyone at Badminton Wycombe, including myself, the Directors and Committee, wish you all a Happy New Year.

This is the first Annual Report produced by the Centre and we hope that you will find it interesting to read and learn more about what has happened at the Centre and some of our plans for the future. 2015 was busy and we don't expect the second half of the 2015-16 Season to be any quieter.

## Membership Fees & Future Changes

I am pleased to say that the £10 online membership fee continues to be well received. This reduction has proved popular as membership numbers have risen by 4% during the last 12 months.

Perhaps more importantly (as far as current members are concerned), we are going to shift our membership year, so that **the next membership year will start 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016**. So why are we doing this?

1. All our current members will effectively be given a month's free membership (Belated Happy Christmas!); and
2. More of our members will have been to the Centre after their summer vacations and therefore fewer members should face last minute issues in renewing.

## We Have Held Exciting Events at the Centre in 2015

It is just over a year since we welcomed Gail Emms M.B.E and Marcus Ellis to our



“Yonex Event” where all those in attendance had the opportunity to watch and play against the stars - a great evening to inspire all of us to raise our game. Since then we have held a number of other events including:

### **AOC Sport Finals**

The UK College Badminton Championship finals were hosted at Badminton Wycombe for the first time in March. It gave players from around the country the chance to play at our facility. The feedback from the organisers was very positive, which for those of us who sometimes forget what excellent playing conditions we have, was a timely reminder.

Exeter College took on and beat Cirencester College in the Cup Final (6-4) and Havant College beat New College Pontefract decisively in the Plate (9-1).

### **Summer League**

Once again teams played against each other using the unique handicapped medley format with the team “B... and Moan” captained by Russell Page were the overall winners. Well done to them! It all starts again in May, details and the ability to register your interest are already available on the Badminton Wycombe website ([www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk/summer-league-2016.html](http://www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk/summer-league-2016.html)) - we are always looking for new teams.

## **Badminton Wycombe 2015 Annual Singles Tournament**



In June, we hosted our inaugural Singles Tournament. 32 players competed in the Main and Plate competitions with Daryl Jacobs and Jamie Chan winning respectively. Players from all levels (club to elite) had a great day.

Daryl Jacobs (left) and Gary Fox (right), who was the runner up in the main competition, are shown in the photo.

### **Online Booking**

The online booking system goes from strength to strength, as we now see the vast majority of people using it as their first choice to make a booking. For the very few of you who have experienced a glitch when using the system, thank you for being patient. If you haven't yet tried using it, we truly believe it is the quickest, easiest and most accurate way to choose and pay for the sessions you wish. Please keep an eye on the website ([www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk](http://www.badmintonwycombe.co.uk)) as we often have online only special offers, where courts are available at reduced rates.

### **Cash for Clothes Cabin**

You may have noticed a "Cash for Clothes" cabin on the grass in front of Reception (it isn't particularly well hidden). Members of the public can bring items of clothing to the cabin that are weighed and for which a payment is made in return.

The cabin rents the land from us. The income is used to offset some of the cost of running the Centre and hopefully in turn keep the costs of playing as low as possible. Please support it, as in doing so you are supporting the Centre.

### **Groups at the Centre**

#### **Performance Centre (PC) Players and England Performance Training (EPT)**

The PC players at Badminton Wycombe continue to lead the way both nationally and internationally, with too many successes to mention; although, some of these can be found in the News section of our website.

Thanks must go to our Coaches: George Bevan, Gary Fox, Daryl Jacobs and Mike Smith, who have created an environment of high quality training for over 50 young players. Well done and a big Thank You! to all of them.

#### **50+ Groups**

The 50+ groups continue to grow with many of the group going on to represent Bucks County in different age categories.

If you are interested in joining the 50+ groups, please look on the website or contact the Centre directly and we will point you in the right direction.

## **Bringing More Players into the Sport**

### **Junior & Adult Courses**

We have held Junior and Adult courses throughout 2015 and have further ones planned for 2016 - the current sessions started on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The Junior courses (Little Smashers and Big Hitters) introduce young players from 5 to 11 years old to the game in a safe and fun environment. They are taught the skills they will need to play the game.

The Adult Beginners course is a great way for those new to the game to develop the basic skills to gain fitness and enjoyment from badminton.

For those who have completed the Beginners course or who have been playing for a while, we have Adult Improvers. The course helps players to further develop skills and strategies to play at an improved social level or as a way to join a badminton club and into more competitive games.

### **New Adult Pay & Play Session**

As of 9<sup>th</sup> January, we have introduced a new Pay & Play session on a Saturday afternoon. The session is for players who have just completed a Beginners or Improvers course and wish to put into practice what they have learnt with other players of a broadly similar standard in a fun, non-competitive environment. We hope that with time and practice these players will gain the skills and confidence to join Casuals, our other adult pay & play sessions on Sundays and Wednesdays. The new sessions are running in January (and may be extended if the sessions prove to be popular) at £3 per session between 1pm – 2pm. Please email [helen@badmintonwycombe.co.uk](mailto:helen@badmintonwycombe.co.uk) if you would like to join the group and to receive more details.

## **What Else Can We Do to Improve Badminton Wycombe?**

### **Would You Be Interested in a Gym at Badminton Wycombe?**

We are at the early stages of looking into the possibility of installing a gym at the Centre. If we were to install a gym at the Centre it would only be for the use of our Members.

Whilst we know that the Performance Centre and EPT players would undoubtedly find this of use, we would very much like to hear from the rest of our members as to whether a gym would be of interest to you?

Please send your thoughts about a gym (positive or negative) by email to [alistair@badmintonwycombe.co.uk](mailto:alistair@badmintonwycombe.co.uk) before Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

### **Any Other Suggestions & Thoughts**

Please feel free to contact the Centre if you have any ideas on groups or initiatives that you think would help us deliver an even better experience for you, our members.

**Alistair Jones**  
*Centre Manager*