

Chairman's Annual Report to Comets JBC 27th Annual General Meeting 29 June 2025

A big thank you to everyone who has made Comets JBC an enjoyable and successful club this year, these include:

- the member players, without whom there would be no club, and you have all tried hard, behaved well, and, it looked as though you were thoroughly enjoying yourselves
- the parents, without whom the members wouldn't be able to attend Comets sessions and events
- our coaches, without whom there would be no coaching sessions and events: Ku, Khalid, Oliver, Lázár, Aaron, Amy, Dylan, and occasionally, Gill
- our excellent badminton facilities, Herts Sports Village, Queenswood and Stanborough School.

We had 25 paid-up members in the Autumn 2024 term and 31 in the Summer 2025 term, with a waiting list of 4: a few others were advised to contact us in August for this September's availability.

Over the year, we were able to hold 40 Sunday sessions: 26 at HSV, 8 at Stanborough school, and 6 at Queenswood.

However, in the Autumn term we were able to have only 6 out of 15 weeks at HSV owing to their 'higher priority bookings'. Owing to a loss of funds in 2023-4, only 25 members (in the autumn 2024), an increase in court fees and the number of coaches to be reimbursed we were making further financial losses.

The steps we took to remain financially viable were to reduce the number of courts in the first hour from 8 to 4, and the reimbursement of 1st year Foundation Coaches reimbursement from £11, to £5 per hour.

To ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience we restrict the membership to an average maximum of 6 per court each hour: this is in keeping with Badminton England (BE) standards for Premier club status that we aspire to.

Our club affiliation fee to BE provides 3rd party-style insurance for club individual club members..

We have kept our website updated including our merchandise website link with opportunities to buy club shirts.

Competitive Play Opportunities

HJBA tournaments: many of our members participated in one or more of the HJBA's 17 organised tournaments each season. Many members participated in the other tournaments available. All said they enjoyed the events and some came in the top 3 with medals.

Several members attended the county squad trials and were successful in being invited to join the squads next season.

Community Engagement

With the support of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Ian Robinson, with the occasional help from Gill Bartlett, Sarah Bartlett, and myself provided outdoor badminton in WGC centre over 3 days last August. As Chairman I attend many meetings and events that are either badminton specific, such as chairing the Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network, attending HBA, HJBA, and BE (national) meetings, and others, such as Herts Sports Partnership, and NHS-related where I can promote badminton.

Coaching and Coaches' Courses

Our coaches are all qualified as Badminton England (BE) coaches. Khalid, Oliver, Gill, and myself, are Level 2 coaches. Ku near-completion L2, Aaron, Amy, Kate, Lazar, and Dylan are 'Foundation' (Level 1) coaches. Ku and I are our Club Welfare Officers: please contact either of us with any concerns. Oliver is our treasurer. We are very grateful to all our coaches and officers. We said sad goodbyes to Amy, Kate and Lazar this year as they go off to Uni. We encourage members and their parents to take the 2 day Foundation course. The next Foundation course is likely to be in the Autumn. Let me know if you'd like to try helping our coaches to see what it is like to be a coach and help young people enjoy and improve their badminton.

Several members have completed their Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) award with our help this year. If you are 14+ and your school manages DoE Award and we can help, let me know.

[We start back Next Season, Sunday 8 September 6-8pm](#)

HSV Management are yet to notified us of cancellations for next season, but we expect there are likely to be about 12 out of 16. Finding alternatives and the administration time involved makes engaging with HSV for the autumn unreasonable. So we are currently waiting quotes from Stanborough and The Ridgeway Academy. Queenswood have greatly increase their prices, so will only be asked if necessary.

Our club is a member of HJBA, HBA, Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network (WHCBN). Badminton England, and Herts Sports Partnership, and participate in their events as appropriate.

Detailed accounts and a financial statement are presented at this meeting by Oliver. Owing to an overall loss, fees for next season are likely to be very slightly increased: the decision to be made after the Treasurer's Report audit, and will be notified to members by the end of July. Please confirm to me that you wish to re-join and whether for 1 or 2 hours by 8th August.

[If you want badminton over the summer](#)

At Hatfield Leisure Centre: Contact ku E: ku786saf@hotmail.co.uk

- Adults only, 16+ : days/times?
- Children/youngsters

16+ at Herts Sports Village

- For those 16+, there are 'No Strings', Turn-Up-and-Play sessions at HSV, Tuesday and Thursdays, 10-12pm, and Thursday evenings 5-7pm, £3 per session.

Gosling Sports Park, 50+ No strings, Saturday 10 -11 am. Contact Sam E:samradulphrusling@gmail.com



Chairman and Head Coach, Comets Junior Badminton Club