



# Newsletter

## Post Covid-19 Statement from HBA Chairman

The last eight months have been difficult for everyone and we hope that the latest relaxing of restrictions will be able to continue and we can get back to some sort of normality as soon as possible. We take the health and well-being of our players, staff and supporters very seriously. We are guided by the Government advice and Badminton England, and we are committed to making our centre a safe environment.

Like every badminton county and social badminton club, Hampshire Badminton has had very little income during this period. I want to particularly thank Steve Harvey our treasurer who has done a fantastic job in keeping the finances under control.

Hampshire Badminton and the Westgate Performance Centre have been running training sessions from late July and we hope to allow the other clubs back in as soon as they are allowed. I'm very pleased that Hampshire now has four different county senior sessions running each week, which is a great improvement from two years ago when we had no senior sessions running. Having Mark Peckham back involved with Hampshire has made a big difference to the success of the teams, while also making the sessions fun as well. All our four county teams have done really well in the last year following on from our success the year before, we are in good positions to finish off

last season's SCC if and when we can!

I would also like to thank Richard Peters our Westgate Centre Manager who has made sure that the centre complies with all the COVID conditions so that we can keep playing as much as we can.

Lets all stay safe...



HBA Chairman Trevor Darlington

Email: [chair@hantsbadminton.net](mailto:chair@hantsbadminton.net)

### Inside this issue:

Hampshire Senior Singles Ladder by Mark Peckham	p2
Hampshire Juniors Update by Cristina Mitchell	p3
HBA's New Website by Richard Peters	p4
Coronavirus - Tell Us Your Story by Richard Peters	p4
BBC South Today visits Westgate by Richard Peters	p5

### Contact Information

**Richard Peters**

**Hampshire Badminton Development  
Manager**

[centre.manager@hantsbadminton.net](mailto:centre.manager@hantsbadminton.net)

**(01962) 444440**

# HAMPSHIRE SINGLES LADDER by Mark Peckham

---

One of my jobs as Senior Team Manager is to attempt to produce a team to win the English Senior County Championship (SCC). We have finished in 2nd place on two occasions in recent years.

At the present time, each county match consists of 11 games, three men's singles, two ladies' singles, two men's doubles, two ladies' doubles and two mixed doubles.

So a potential five points out of 11 comes from singles. Due to the schedule of matches played, singles wins become an important start to each match.

The Singles Ladder helps address the lack of singles sessions at Hampshire HQ and across the County as a whole. The Singles Ladder directly helps singles development for our teams. We have two parallel groups running on Wednesdays:

**Westgate Badminton Centre** 19.45 – 22.00 for players ranked 1 – 15 (run by Ollie Baczala)

**Hillingbury Sports Hall** 19.00 – 21.00 for players ranked 16 – 30 (run by Mark Peckham)

At the end of each month we have promotion and relegation – one player moves up and one player moves down.

Rules are simple – two sets of 21 points (no setting).

The player with the most points over the two sets wins and you move a position above your opponent.

Players can challenge up to three places ahead. A 'no show' at an event means you go down three places!

This is a unisex format so anyone can play.

We are currently restricted to 30 players but the more players that are interested will allow us to arrange more sessions.

- Mark Peckham (Senior County Head Coach)



Winner of September's Singles Ladder, Ben Muir



## HAMPSHIRE JUNIORS UPDATE by Cristina Mitchell

Hampshire juniors returned to training in September. Unfortunately, with no tournaments or matches on the horizon, the county junior players have focussed on practising their skills and improving their fitness.

Last season, two of our teams (the U16As and U18s) both qualified for the finals of the Shires league (U16As finishing in top place by a huge margin). The U14s finished the season in the play-off zone with a chance of reaching the finals.

However, due to the current circumstances and restrictions, we are unsure if the finals will actually take place.

The U18 Inter-Counties Tournament (ICT) was also cancelled this year.

We continue to run the county junior sessions at Westgate Badminton Centre every Sunday morning.



HAMPSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

- Cristina Mitchell (Hampshire County Juniors Secretary)



*Hampshire Junior squads back in training after lockdown*

# Brand New Website For Hampshire Badminton

---

Hampshire Badminton Association now has a brand new website!

With information ranging from county results and finding and becoming a coach to Covid-19 updates for the county and district leagues, there really is much more information than the old website.

With the new website also comes a brand new feature which allows individual clubs to advertise themselves for FREE by having their very own webpage. Contact Richard Peters for more information.

We hope that, in time, everyone will agree that the website has been produced with all clubs and players in mind. This certainly was the vision for the site when we first started to design and construct it. My special thanks go to John Lapham for assisting us with the structure and launch of the website and for his continued efforts in updating it on a regular basis.

We very much want you to be part of this website. If you have any stories, updates or even amusing anecdotes from times gone by (as long as they're clean!) we are happy to publish them. We would also love to hear from the county's coaching community as we would like to add coaching

information and share good practice. Maybe you have come across a specific practise, drill, activity that really works for your players and you would like to share this?

Either way, our long term mission is to allow you, the badminton community, to support this website and become part of its ongoing success for years to come.

So get writing and sharing your ideas with everyone!

*- Richard Peters HBA Development Manager*



## Coronavirus - Tell Us Your Story

---

After months and months of lockdown, uncertainty and the threat of another lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic, badminton - like many other sports - is struggling to get back onto its feet again. No sooner do new guidelines come out, another set of restrictions seem to take effect.

Like all other counties, Hampshire has been following and adhering to the guidelines set out in Badminton England's 'Return to Play' policy which, since 26th July this year, has paved the way for clubs and players to return to court.

However, latest reports suggest that as many as many as 60% of courts still remain closed. Some of these are in leisure centres where

the sports halls are being used for other purposes such as fitness, Zumba and Pilates. Other clubs rely on schools to reopen their facilities but as we all know, schools are quite rightly prioritizing the safety of their staff and students at present which means their lettings remain on hold for the foreseeable future.

All this means that the future is more unclear now than ever before.

We want to hear your views about how the pandemic has affected you as a player and your chances of getting on court. Maybe you are a member of a club with no access to courts right now. When do you hope to get back onto court?

What are you doing to fill the void between badminton and watching the TV?!

Tell us your story and where we feel we can help, HBA will try and find a way of getting you and your teammates back on court as soon as possible.

Email Richard Peters at:

[centre.manager@hantsbadminton.net](mailto:centre.manager@hantsbadminton.net)

*- Richard Peters HBA Development Manager*





## BBC SOUTH TODAY VISITS WESTGATE by Richard Peters

---

On 10th September, Westgate Badminton Centre welcomed BBC South Today to discuss the challenges facing the game of badminton both during and post lockdown.

News reporter Anjana Gadgil spoke to Hampshire players Maria Mitchell (England No.1 U14) and Ben Hammond (England No.1 U17). Also interviewed was Hampshire Development Manager and Centre Manager Richard Peters.

This is the third time in two years that BBC South Today has visited Westgate Badminton Centre so Hampshire is getting a good deal of exposure out there that's for sure! The first time was back in February 2019 when news reported Steve Humphrey attended the English National Badminton Championships and interviewed Hampshire hopeful Vicky Williams. More recently, sports reporter Andy Moon

visited the centre during a Performance Centre training session and interviewed rising stars Vlad and Yarik Lewis about their playing careers and aspirations for the future.

The focus of this visit was to hear first hand how the Coronavirus lockdown and subsequent restrictions have affected the game of badminton within Hampshire and the challenges the game, as a whole, is facing.

Use the link below to watch the interview in full.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQKtkopRurk&feature=youtu.be>

- Richard Peters HBA Development Manager



*BBC South Today news reporter Anjana Gadgil interviewing (left to right) Richard Peters, Ben Hammond and Maria Mitchell live on BBC 1*