

9 September

[Full Press Release for publication in HBA and HSBA newsletters and websites]

## Badminton Herts Communication: Performance Centre on Hold

Many of you have heard that HBA, HSBA and several Premier Clubs (Baldock, Comets and Swifts JBCs, and Knebworth BC and JBC), have been working hard for the last twelve months to set up a Performance Centre in Hertfordshire. This is an initiative proposed by BE to improve the level of badminton, and in particular singles, across England. One of the advantages would be funding to pay specialist coaches for the next three years, although the Centre would have to be self-funding thereafter. In June 2008 BADMINTON England approved our application in principle, and a Head Coach was duly appointed.

Unfortunately, unexpected difficulties have since arisen in interpreting BADMINTON England's requirements regarding our Performance Centre. The resulting discrepancies between their expectations, and our ability to achieve them quickly, have created a situation contributing at least in part to the resignation of the Head Coach.

As the new season has already started, we decided to review the situation rather than just appoint a new Head Coach. The Performance Centre is therefore on hold until we are sure we are acting in the best interests of all our young players and for the general good of badminton in Hertfordshire.

We will be evaluating BADMINTON England's response to our situation and reviewing the way forward in the coming months.

The Acting Executive:

Malcolm Fraser (Chairman); Angela Blowers (Deputy Chairman); Colin Walker, Gill Bartlett; Duncan Conway, Marion Conway; Pat Walker; Bob Green; Philip Gray; Brian Jackson; Dave Bartlett.