

BADMINTON SECTION REPORT
FOR CWSC AGM – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Badminton as a sport has suffered more than most under the past couple of years of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. So a heartfelt thank you to all our members for their patience, forbearance and willing compliance as rules came, changed, went, changed, went and came back again! Many thanks also to the tennis section for letting some badminton players become tennis players while the badminton court was legally out of bounds – the chance to hit something with a racquet was much appreciated.

Despite these setbacks, the badminton section has grown and thrived. We had less than 12 adult members in summer 2019 – now we have more than 60. The court is used every day by enthusiastic and loyal players. And the shuttle and guest fees collected from every session bring in income over and above membership subs. The “rule of six” in Covid times means this is the pattern that Catford badminton play has fallen into, groups of roughly six to eight people playing in two-hour slots at regular weekly times. But we also offer an open session on a Tuesday and plan to run other open sessions at the weekend and in weekly daytimes, plus possibly more coaching courses for beginners, going forward. Groups do cross over and play with each other, and we operate a lively WhatsApp group where all input is welcome, issues are discussed and (mostly) resolved. We don’t accept new members now unless we’re confident they will be able to find a spot in the section schedule to play regularly.

We don’t currently play in any local leagues or have any competitive teams. This is not something the majority of members seem to want (according to a membership survey conducted in the summer) but it remains a possibility in the future. The section has tried to change with the times, and adapt to what players want and need in 2021, rather than sticking to a rigid format of how things have been done in the past.

Thank you to everyone who has helped within the section, or offered assistance in any way – it has been much appreciated. As ever, the indefatigable Val has continued to do more for the club in general and the badminton section in particular, than seems humanly possible.

For personal reasons I have to step down from the CWSC board and away from running the badminton section. Patsy Waithe is going to take on the role of Badminton Director, ensuring our dynamic, diverse, friendly badminton community will continue to go from strength to strength, in the next year and coming years.

Maggie