

# Chew Valley

## Junior Badminton Club

**Name of Club:** Chew Valley Junior Badminton Club

**Date of return:** 12th and 17th April

**Number of Juniors:** we had 68 players over 6 sessions.

The sessions have been a huge success. We felt confident enough to return with a full team of coaches with all players on court at all times, to a ratio of a maximum of four players to one coach.

The sessions were made safe by following the Badminton England Covid protocol and keeping within the specified group sizes, ensuring social distancing was maintained wherever possible, and players entering and leaving in one direction of travel to avoid waiting groups meeting with leaving groups in reception areas. Since lockdown we have changed our booking process so we now all book online so we have a ready-made register to meet Covid requirements, no cash is handled, and admin is minimalised.

We have had to overcome a few obstacles. Players had been booked for sessions in Jan-March that couldn't happen during lockdown, so we just transferred those bookings into the Spring and Summer months, so nobody lost out, it was relatively painless. The sports hall is now run by the school rather than an outside company, so we had to adapt to some new working practices, but they were easy enough to overcome - in-fact it's easier now to run the club than it was before March 2020! We were also worried we might lose some players to other sports, or some players might feel nervous about coming back, but every single junior player has returned, and we also have five new primary school aged players joined in the first week.

There are still some restrictions on practices and drills that we used to use but I'm sure we will be able to get back to those soon, for now we are just very happy to be on court, enjoying playing badminton again. We are going to run every Tuesday for 4 hrs and every Saturday for 5 hrs throughout the whole of the Summer, even the summer holidays to make up for lost time!

We are also looking forward to the return of Seniors on May 17th and integrating our Junior and Senior sections over the Summer in readiness for next season



Sam Hobbs (11yrs) – said 'I'm sure I'm taller now than the last time I played, and my feet are bigger so I can jump higher and hit my jump smash harder'.

Ralph Bridge (16yrs) – said 'it's just nice to be back on court playing with my friends. I even won the half court singles tournament so I'm very happy'.

Lucy Mellersh (15yrs) – said 'I've been waiting to get back to badminton for ages, I've really missed my friends, it was fun'.

Coach Pete Booker (18yrs) - said 'It's great to see the young players back, especially the very little ones, we did some sessions outside on the tennis courts before coming inside so it's nice now to play without any wind, rain or under the moonlight'.