

# Yorkshire Badminton Quarterly Newsletter

December 2020 Edition



## Welcome to the first edition of the Yorkshire Badminton newsletter!

The interactive newsletter will be produced quarterly throughout the year and will provide county associations, community badminton networks, clubs, coaches, volunteers and players with current news, opportunities, information and support across Yorkshire.



Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Holly Robson and I have been a keen badminton player, coach and volunteer for a number of years now; representing the Durham County senior teams and Elmfield Badminton Club in Newcastle as well as playing an active role on the Durham County Badminton committee.

In May 2018, I joined the Badminton England team as the North East Relationship Manager (covering Durham & Northumberland) then, as a result of the Badminton England staff restructure in November 2020, I will now also be the local point of contact for Yorkshire.

I will be working closely with the badminton community across these three counties to further develop badminton and provide more opportunities for people to get involved and grow the sport across the region.



**Holly Robson**  
North East & Yorkshire  
Relationship Manager

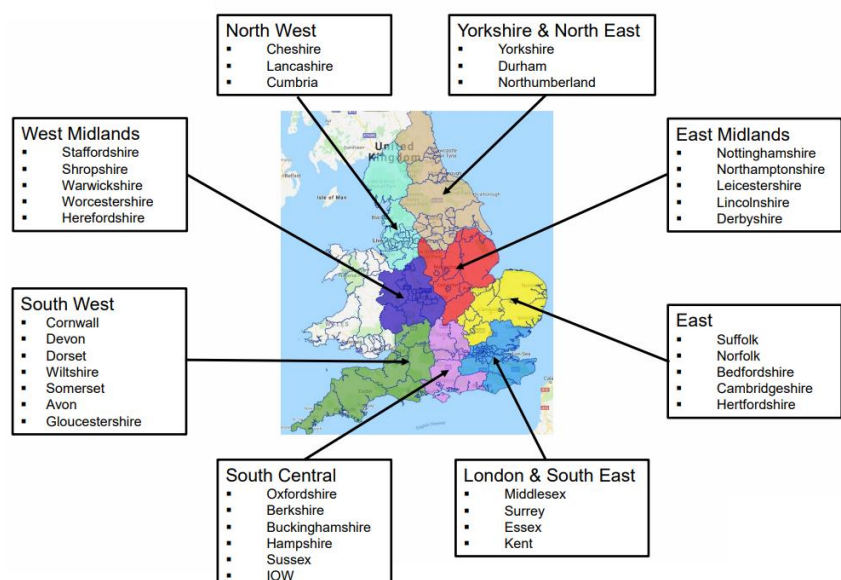
**Please see the end of this newsletter for my contact details.**

## Badminton England Staff Restructure

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Badminton England have been forced to have a staff restructure which will focus on protecting the core elements of the sport, ensuring that it can continue to help the badminton community navigate the impact of the pandemic and to stay active, while continuing to prepare for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer of 2021 and protecting the next generation of young talent.

There are now 8 Relationship Managers across the country and I'm delighted to say I have secured a role in the new structure where I will be covering Yorkshire, as well as Durham and Northumberland.

I am looking forward to this new challenge and working with Yorkshire Badminton Association as well as the clubs, coaches, volunteers & Community Badminton Networks across the region.












# COVID-19 Badminton Local Restrictions

Current rules for playing badminton in each tier of local COVID alert levels in England:

Activity Type	Tier 1 - Medium	Tier 2 – High	Tier 3 – Very High
<b>Informal activity</b> (activity which is not organised by a coach, club, or leisure centre e.g. pay and play)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles and Doubles</li> <li>✓ Rule of 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles and Doubles permitted for two households playing against each other (no mixing partners between households)</li> <li>✓ Singles and Doubles for disabled players</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles permitted for same household or support bubble only</li> <li>✓ Singles and doubles for disabled players</li> </ul>
<b>Organised activity</b> (club, group activity, group coaching and No Strings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles and Doubles</li> <li>✓ Adults - Rule of 6</li> <li>✓ U18s (max group size 15), disability and over 18s for education only</li> <li>✓ Coach can work across courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adults – Singles and Doubles permitted for two households playing against each other (no mixing partners between households)</li> <li>✓ U18s (max group size 15), disability and education only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ U18s (max group size 15), disability and education only</li> </ul>
<b>1:1 Coaching</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Competition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles and Doubles</li> <li>✓ Rule of 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adult - singles only</li> <li>✓ Singles and doubles for U18s, disability and education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Singles and doubles for U18s, disability and education</li> </ul>
<b>Coach Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Only prearranged courses will be delivered until April 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Only prearranged courses will be delivered until April 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Only prearranged courses will be delivered until April 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted to open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted to open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Permitted to open</li> </ul>
<b>Spectating &amp; Supervising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spectating to be minimised and avoided where possible</li> <li>✓ Parent/guardian supervision permitted (one per player)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Spectating to be minimised and avoided where possible. You should not mix with others from outside your household or support bubble</li> <li>✓ Parent/guardian supervision permitted (one per player),</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Parent/guardian supervision permitted (one per player), no other spectating permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If you live in a tier 1 area and travel to an area in a higher tier you should follow the rules for that area while you are there</li> <li>✓ Avoid travel to tier 3 areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If you live in a tier 2 area, you must continue to follow tier 2 rules when you travel to a tier 1 area</li> <li>✓ Avoid travel to tier 3 areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Avoid travelling in or out the area to participate other than:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For work or education purposes (e.g., coaches, elite athletes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Can travel through as part of longer journey</li> </ul>
<b>Social Interaction</b>	Social interaction before, during and after playing should be extremely limited and only take place in line with legal gathering limits and other social distancing restrictions.		

The Return to Play guidelines apply to any club session, coaching session, match, No Strings session or group activity and must be in place before delivering activity:

- ✋ A completed risk assessment for each session or match based on the venue, the activity they plan to deliver to ensure the session can be delivered safely and in line with government guidelines
- ✋ All clubs/groups must appoint a COVID-19 Officer for each session including league matches. This should be the coach if delivering a coaching session
- ✋ All coaches, officials, No Strings coordinators and Covid-19 officers should complete the ReActivate COVID awareness training

 <p><b>Club &amp; Competition Guidance</b></p> <p><small>Return to Play for Clubs</small> Click here to view the return to play guidance for badminton clubs and groups.</p>	 <p><b>Coach Guidance Documents</b></p> <p><small>Return to Play for Coaches</small> Click here to view the return to play guidance for coaches.</p>	 <p><b>Player Guidance Documents</b></p> <p><small>Return to Play for Players</small> Click here to view the return to play guidance for players.</p>
 <p><b>ReActivate from CIMPSA</b></p> <p><small>Reactivate COVID awareness training</small> Free training to give you the knowledge and skills to return to play safely.</p>	 <p><b>Discover Badminton tool</b></p> <p><small>Discover badminton tool</small> Click here to view our discover badminton tool for help managing and organising your sessions.</p>	 <p><b>Discover Badminton guide</b></p> <p><small>Discover badminton guide</small> Click here to download our guidance on how to use our Discover Badminton tool.</p>
 <p><b>First aid advice</b></p> <p><small>First aid advice &amp; statement</small> Click here to view the first aid advice and statement.</p>	 <p><b>Risk assesment</b></p> <p><small>Risk Assessment</small> Click here to view our risk assessment guidance pack.</p>	 <p><b>Covid-19 officer role</b></p> <p><small>Covid -19 officer role</small> Click here to view the job description for the covid-19 officer role.</p>

[CLICK HERE](#)

to access the Return To Play Resource Hub on the Badminton England website which is updated regularly and in line with current Government guidelines

## Badminton England Inclusion Hub

Badminton England have launched a new Inclusion Hub as we are committed to embedding inclusive practice across badminton at all levels of the game. Although COVID-19 has undoubtedly affected the badminton community, Sport England research found that disabled people, people with long-term health conditions and people from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

Badminton England believe now is the time to come together as a sport – through learning, understanding and practice – to demonstrate the desire to be a sport for all. We commit to improving our understanding of experiences and removing barriers to play, because we know that we are a community that is stronger together.

[CLICK HERE](#)

**for full information on the Inclusion Hub, access to resources and support, a link to our Diversity & Inclusion Survey, information on our new Inclusion Champions Programme and to watch the promotional video!**



## 2021 YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards

**The YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards are a fantastic way to thank a volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their role, particularly during this challenging year.**

This year there are once again two categories open for nominations: YONEX Volunteer of the Year (19 years & above) and YONEX Young Volunteer of the Year (13-18 years), both of which will be used to recognise volunteer contributions and ongoing commitment to badminton, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nominations are still open and will now close at **5pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021** (the original deadline was Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 but has been extended). All nominees (and those who nominate them) will be invited to the launch of the National Volunteer Conference on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 where the winners of the Awards will be announced.

[CLICK HERE](#)

**for more information on the YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards and to read about the 2020 Award winners!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**to nominate a deserving volunteer for an award**

2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



# 2021 European Mixed Team Championships

The European Mixed Team Championships are played in February every other year and crown the best national team in Europe.

The eight best teams in Europe will be competing for the title of European Champions from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 in Finland. The group matches will be played over three days, with the semi-finals and final being played the following two days.

The qualification stage was played in six different locations around Europe in December and the winners from each qualification group will join the reigning champions Denmark and hosts Finland at the final stage.

[CLICK HERE](#)  
for more information on the  
2021 European Mixed Team  
Championships

England were in action on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes where they faced Hungary, Estonia and Sweden. The team claimed impressive 4-1 victories over Hungary and Estonia and a 3-2 win over Sweden.

## Full Match Results for England

Order	Event	England 	-	Hungary 	Score	Points	Duration
1	MS	Toby Penty 	-	Gergely Krausz 	21-16 16-21 21-12	1-0	VS 0:53
2	WS	Freya Redfearn 	-	Laura Sarosi 	17-21 16-21	0-1	VS 0:30
3	MD	Ben Lane  Sean Vendy 	-	Gergo Pytel  Gergely Szita 	21-10 21-13	1-0	VS 0:21
4	WD	Chloe Birch  Jenny Moore 	-	Vivien Sandorhazi  Laura Sarosi 	21-7 21-12	1-0	VS 0:28
5	XD	Marcus Ellis  Lauren Smith 	-	Gergely Szita  Daniella Gonda 	21-1 21-11	1-0	VS 0:20



[CLICK HERE](#)  
to watch the action  
from all three  
matches on the  
Badminton England  
YouTube channel

Order	Event	England 	-	Estonia 	Score	Points	Duration
1	MS	Harry Huang 	-	Mikk Järveoja 	21-7 21-8	1-0	VS 0:21
2	WS	Grace King 	-	Kristin Kuuba 	16-21 10-21 0-1	0-1	VS 0:27
3	MD	Ben Lane  Sean Vendy 	-	Kristjan Kaljurand  Raul Käsner 	21-15 21-12	1-0	VS 0:23
4	WD	Chloe Birch  Lauren Smith 	-	Catlyn Kruus  Helina Rüütel 	21-17 21-13	1-0	VS 0:26
5	XD	Chris Adcock  Gabrielle Adcock 	-	Raul Käsner  Kristin Kuuba 	21-14 21-11	1-0	VS 0:20

Order	Event	England 	-	Sweden 	Score	Points	Duration
1	XD	Marcus Ellis  Lauren Smith 	-	Melker Z-Bexell  Johanna Magnusson 	21-14 21-14	1-0	VS 0:31
2	MS	Harry Huang 	-	Felix Burestedt 	8-21 15-21	0-1	VS 0:31
3	WS	Freya Redfearn 	-	Ashwathi Pillai 	19-21 20-22	0-1	VS 0:40
4	MD	Ben Lane  Sean Vendy 	-	Joel Hansson  Melker Z-Bexell 	21-13 21-13	1-0	VS 0:21
5	WD	Chloe Birch  Lauren Smith 	-	Moa Sjöo  Tilda Sjöo 	21-13 21-16	1-0	VS 0:36



# 2021 National Volunteer Conference

The 2021 National Volunteer Conference will provide a menu of quality virtual training and development opportunities for our volunteer workforce, facilitate valuable networking for volunteers to share practices and learn from each other and inspire volunteers to put their learning into practice to support grassroots development in their local areas. Whether you are a volunteer, coach, official, committee representative or coordinator, there is a good selection of workshops for you to choose from.

The 2021 Yonex Volunteer of the Year Awards will also be presented as part of the conference series. All webinars which are part of the 2021 Volunteer Conference will be delivered by a combination of Badminton England staff and external facilitators. All webinars will be either 1 or 2 hour short online sessions.

	Webinar Name	Date	Time	Deliverer	Booking Link
<b>Section 1: Launch Event</b>	Launch Event & YONEX Volunteer of the Year Awards	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2021	7.30pm – 8.15pm	Badminton England	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
	Mental Health Keynote	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	MIND, Badminton England & Toby Penty	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
<b>Section 2: Growing the Grassroots</b>	Designing Your Inclusive Club	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Badminton England, Activity Alliance & Wimbledon Racquets & Fitness Club	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
	Structuring Coaching Sessions for Long Term Player Development	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Steve Bish (Coach Educator)	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
	Engaging with Schools & Young People	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Heather Crump (Kingsbury SSP School Sport & Workforce Manager)	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
	Increasing Female Participation	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Badminton England & Riverside Leisure Centre Badminton Club	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
<b>Section 3: Challenging You</b>	Becoming a Better Negotiator	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Mandy Rutter Consultancy	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
	Improving Your Volunteer Experience	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Sport Structures	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place

**Booking is now open for all National Volunteer Conference webinars and it is essential to reserve your place on each webinar**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**to view the full details for each webinar and download the training brochure**



# Sport England Return To Play Funding

**The Sport England Return to Play: Small Grants Fund is currently open for applications and seeks to support projects addressing the challenges COVID-19 has posed to people taking part in sport and physical activity.**

The Sport England Return To Play: Small Grants Fund provides grants of between £300 and £10,000 to help not-for-profit community organisations create coronavirus-secure settings for community sport and physical activity to resume.

The fund will have flexible priorities, to be able to best respond to the frequently changing challenges posed to community sport. These could include having to deliver sport and physical activity in smaller groups, having the correct sanitation and safety equipment, needing more sports equipment to safely deliver activities and having the appropriate training for club volunteers to ensure you're meeting the current guidelines.

The aim of this fund is to support existing sessions to get back up and running and get more people back playing, not for new projects and this is a rolling fund with no specific closing deadline.



[CLICK HERE](#)

**for full information and to apply for the Sport England Return To Play Small Grants Fund**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**to access and download the Badminton England guidance for applying to the fund**

# Badminton England Challenge Cup

**Badminton England hosted the inaugural England Challenge Cup on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes.**

The England Challenge Cup was broadcast online via BBC Sport and featured various National squad players, two internationally acclaimed coaches and one England Challenge Cup title.

Team Captains, Raj Ouseph (England Lions) and Anthony Clark (England Dragons), attempted to lead their teams to victory with the Lions emerging victorious with a 17-4 win.

21 players took part in the competition and 8 matches were played across all five disciplines (women's singles, men's singles, women's doubles, men's doubles & mixed doubles) as well as a fun 3 vs 3 match at the end of the competition.

As well as providing some competitive match play, the tournament was designed to say 'thank you' to the badminton community for all the support they have given during the pandemic.



[CLICK HERE](#)

**to read the full report for the England Challenge Cup on the Badminton England website**

## Local Person

### Gordon Milne

Gordon has been Chair of Yorkshire County Badminton Association since 2005 and is the designated County Welfare Officer, ensuring safe practice is adhered to in all junior activity related to the county set up. Gordon is also Chair of the Senior County Championships Selection Committee and an active member of the Yorkshire League Committee.

Gordon has been involved in club and county committees all through his time as a badminton player and joined the Yorkshire committee when moving into the county with his family in 1996. He has volunteered for numerous roles over the years in all the areas where he has lived and played, since starting to play in 1974.

Gordon has served on the Badminton England Disciplinary Committee and chaired the Competition Review of 2018. He qualified as an advanced coach in the 1970s and mainly coached junior players in the schools where he was a teacher or headteacher during his career. If badminton was not a major sport in one of his schools, it soon became one!



Gordon became involved in badminton as he was not especially good at large team games like football and rugby which everyone at school seemed to like. He took up tennis at first when he was about 13, had coaching and played in teams but then moved over to badminton aged 17 after joining a local club and realising how enjoyable the sport was and that he wasn't actually that bad at it! Gordon has played badminton competitively since he was a teenager and has lived and played in three counties: Northamptonshire, Hampshire and Yorkshire. He played in the county teams in Northamptonshire in the 1970s and 80s and is currently the over 60s Yorkshire Masters captain.

Gordon's three children, Andrew, Lucy and Sarah, are all Yorkshire county players. Sarah and Lucy have played for England and Sarah was a GB player and reached the semi-finals in the ladies' singles at the 2010 Youth Olympics where Gordon, along with his wife, were lucky enough to attend as supporters.

Gordon still plays socially and in local leagues and his current club is Harrogate Racquets Club where he is also the Chairman of the club.

## Senior County Championships 2020-21

After consultations and gathering input from participating counties, it has been decided that the 2019-20 season for the Senior County Championships is void and the 2020-21 season will be run as an 'Exhibition Season'.

Counties have been asked to submit a formal expression of interest for the Exhibition Season and will also be asked to provide the known COVID-19 situation for their county which will help with setting divisions and fixtures.

Divisions and fixtures will then be determined but the competition will remain flexible in order to take local restrictions into account and keep all players safe.

### **Planned dates for the 202-21 Senior County Championships:**

- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

[CLICK HERE](#)

**for full information on the Senior County Championships**



# COVID-19 Free Online Training

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) have made their 'ReActivate' training available for anyone working or volunteering in sport, physical activity, leisure and fitness in England, including coaches and volunteers.

The training is designed to give you the knowledge and confidence for returning safely to play on court, and getting back to providing a valuable service to your members and community. The training is easily accessible and is loaded with content which will focus on COVID-19 and the best practices that you should use in your roles. You will need to watch/read all of the available resources in the modules available to you and complete some knowledge checks to gain your downloadable certificate.

The ReActivate training is **FREE** for all volunteers, coaches and club officials and it is recommended that club COVID-19 Officers and any active coaches complete this online training.



[CLICK HERE](#)

for full information and to  
access the Reactivate training

## Badminton England Online Training Courses

**The Badminton England online No Strings, Essentials and Racket Pack online training courses are currently FREE for coaches and volunteers!**

Each course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. There is no coaching prerequisite to become a No Strings Co-ordinator but only registered Level 2 (or above) coaches can complete The Racket Pack or Essentials training. By completing these online training modules, you will become a No Strings Co-ordinator or an Essentials and/or Racket Pack endorsed coach.

### **No Strings**

Suitable for all abilities, No Strings Badminton provides an easily accessible, social and enjoyable environment for those new to the game or looking to start again.

### **Essentials**

Essentials is an adult participation programme offering coaching courses to learn the badminton basics at a relaxed pace in a fun and friendly setting. An Essentials course is made up of eight sessions, ideally one hour in length with a maximum of 16 candidates per course.

### **The Racket Pack**

The Racket Pack is Badminton England's primary age (5-11 years) focused initiative. It is designed to deliver fun and engaging skill-based sessions, ensuring a positive first experience of badminton. The aim of The Racket Pack is to increase the number of young people taking part in badminton from an earlier age.

no strings   
badminton

essentials   
by no strings badminton



[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the online form where you will be granted access to the Badminton England online learning portal and enable you to complete the relevant training courses



# Club Volunteer Webinar Series

Badminton England developed a new 2020-2021 Club Volunteer Webinar series which provides monthly training opportunities throughout the year for club volunteers to develop their skills and knowledge.

These free webinars cater for volunteers of all experience levels and are relevant to all types of volunteer roles within your club. Each month uncovers a different theme, enabling you to learn from an expert, improve your knowledge and skills, and help your club thrive.

Webinars will be delivered virtually by a combination of Badminton England staff and Sport Structures facilitators, as part of the Sport England Club Matters programme. Each webinar is 1 or 2 hours in length and will be interactive to ensure you get the most out of attending. All workshops allow time to reflect and review your club whilst considering the key actions your club can implement to further improve.

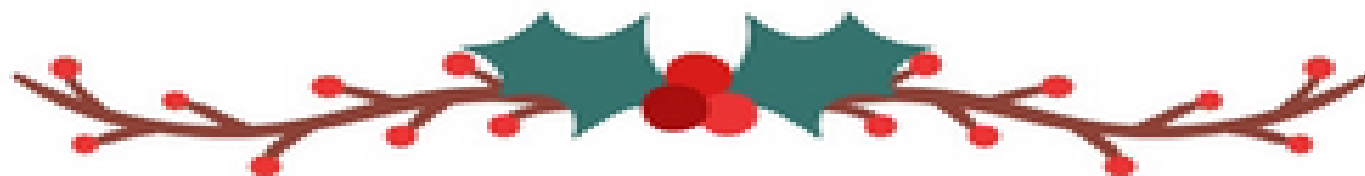
Webinar Name	Date	Time	Deliverer	Booking Link
Developing a Marketing Strategy	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2021	7pm – 9pm	Sport Structures	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place
Leadership Teams	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	7pm – 9pm	Sport Structures	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to book a place



**VOLUNTEERS**

[CLICK HERE](#)

to view the full details for each webinar, book a place on a webinar and download the training brochure



**May I take this opportunity to wish you  
all a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!**



If you would like more information or guidance on anything included in this newsletter or would like to see something featured in the next newsletter edition (March 2021), please get in touch.

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