

Tribute to a BADMINTON COUPLE

Carol and Ray Harding moved to Loughborough after getting married in September 1968 and have just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

They joined Loughborough Badminton Club as soon as they moved to Loughborough and have never played at another club in all those years. Both being very keen badminton players they represented the club in the leagues for many years and have been really dedicated to developing Loughborough BC, Carol has held several jobs, ie. Secretary, Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary, Team Selector and Team Captain. Both Ray and Carol were made honorary members in 2017.

They both started playing for Leicestershire county in 1969 and reached 1st team standard. Ray became county captain in 1983 holding the position for six years. As Carol and Ray became eligible for veterans badminton, they both enjoyed playing in the teams and

encouraged others to do the same. Carol's good organisation skills came in handy as she volunteered her time to being the county veterans organiser from 1999 up to the present day. She tried to retire from the position last season but with the lack of anyone offering to take on the position Carol stayed on, unfortunately we will lose Carol at the end of this season as she determined to vacate the position, who can blame her after 20 years of service. A big thanks to them both for their commitment and drive encouraging players to participate in veterans badminton.

Ray started playing in national veterans tournaments in 1993 and continued until he stopped in 2016 during this time he won various open county tournaments and the All England over 55s men's doubles trophy in 2002. In subsequent years he reached the finals of the All England twice and the nationals three times. Ray represented England in the European Championships in Dresden and Sophia and also in the World Masters in Vancouver.



Since retiring from playing badminton Ray is still involved, he continues to share his vast knowledge of the game by coaching junior players racket skills and tactics ("which doesn't require too much movement!" says Ray). I know he now enjoys seeing the very talented young players that are coming through and is always there offering his support and experience.

This is a VERY potted version of what Ray and Carol have contributed to Leicestershire Badminton, a great big thanks to them both.

NON COUNTY TOURNAMENTS

The Derek Meakin Memorial Tournament for non-county players is held annually at the Hermitage Leisure Centre. It's so important that you encourage your junior players to enter. These are our future adult club players!!



MILTON KEYNES BADMINTON TRIP



Amie and I, with the help of a few parents, took a group of county players to what is becoming our annual trip to Badminton England's head quarters in Milton Keynes for coaching, and socialising!!! On Saturday they had four hours of coaching from Julie Mann and Lorraine Cole.

The ladies put the players through their paces and they

were ready for a well earned chill out. Next was dinner and onto the night out bowling. On arrival we were surprised to find that they had double-booked us ... But that didn't faze the party. Eventually the players did get to bowl but no room for the parents, what a shame, they just had to prop the bar up! Free drinks for the inconvenience! Back to the lodge and bed.

We did have a few issues the next day at the venue, breakfast and lunch, but again it didn't faze us, MacDonald's was at hand the parents rallied together giving lifts to the players to get their lunches. The players all enjoyed the weekend not even noticing the hiccups we had. It's nice to see them all together enjoying each other's company and having fun as well as accessing quality badminton coaching which was excellent. Julie and Lorraine knew just how to handle the group and made it

fun as well as hard work, and press-ups for the naughty ones!!

A big thanks to all the parents that came along, we definitely could not do this without their help.

We have already booked again for September (we must be mad).

Parents, a date for your diaries: August 31st and September 1st.

Carole & Amie



CENTRAL LEICESTER JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

The junior badminton club has been thriving as ever, with 50 plus subscriptions again for this season plus a waiting list of more wishing to join the club. We have faced a challenge with one of the venues being out of action for a whole term due to exam use. This will not deter us to continue to run the Monday club. Many thanks for the volunteers

helping out running the clubs and also it's nice to see the juniors progressing well in playing the league matches. We have had six of our juniors playing in the Leicestershire league this season. It's all great experience in their badminton journey.

Ajay

Over the last few years many players from the club have been invited to the training at Babington Academy. Some have gained places in the county teams and many invited into the Leicestershire Performance Centre, where they have all showed commitment to the sport by training twice a week and entering national tournaments, and are bringing home medals. We are very proud them.

Our aim at the club has always been to encourage young players into the sport and give them the opportunity to be as good as they can be, and to progress, which I am happy to say I think Amie and I are doing. However, with so many of our members training at Babington and competing this has affected our membership this season, the tournament players are unable to support the club as Badminton England tournaments are on a Saturday and that's our

club morning, they do come along when they can and are very keen to help the other members, which is great. We currently have 35 members 10 of whom train at Babington. We have recently gained new members who are showing promise and are fitting into the club well. We have a club lunch at the end of each season where we award trophies for the most improved players, last season's winners were: Ebony, Amy, Evie, Oli, George & Eddie.

My work recruiting new members is ongoing. I have worked in eight primaries in North West Leicestershire this year encouraging more youngsters into the sport. Amie and I still run the Wednesday evening badminton coaching at the Hermitage Leisure Centre for three hours, and have some lovely young players attending who are a pleasure to work with.

Carole & Amie





HARBOROUGH LC Junior Badminton Club



Harborough BC now have registered a total of 91 Junior Badminton England members for the 2018/19 season of which 21 regularly attend the 4-5pm session; 30 the 5-6pm session and 27 the 6-7pm session.

For season 2018/19 all members have been given both free club hoodie & club shirt and the opportunity to attend the Free Meal Christmas Party. For the younger members in the club the Badminton England "The Racket Pack" scheme for Tink, Flo & Wise awards are offered.

In July 2018 Ben Highcock was presented with the "Outstanding Club Member" trophy for 2018.

Members have continued to take a pro-active approach in entering the Non-County Tournaments. A special mention to Emily Hayes, Lucy Goodman, Ellis McKeown, Evie Stokes and Theo Parsons who have won trophies.

Junior Club member Caitlin Sullivan has attended the two Badminton England "Young Leader Development Academy" sessions and can now apply the skills learnt at the club.

The fourth internal club tournament events were held early this year so as not to disrupt older players exams. There will be a special

presentation where 44 trophies will be presented to winners & runner-up of U10s, U12s, U14s & U18s Boys & Girls Singles and Doubles events. Free food and drink will be provided for all club members. A glass display cabinet is now at the Leisure Centre to house the new annual Singles event trophies.

Steve Chapman & Elliot Baker have obtained their Badminton England UKCC Level 1 Coaches Award.

<http://www.harboroughlcjuniors.org.uk/> is the club's own web site and provides details of all club sessions, documents for all to be able to really appreciate what the club is about and what is available to young players.

All players continue to have the opportunity to test their skills against a BKL Badenko automatic shuttlecock launcher which is improving their skills and providing fun.

With a Constitution, Code of Conducts updated Welcome Leaflets, additional Level 1 coaches, and volunteers the club continue to receive renewal accreditation as a Badminton England Premier Club and Sport England Clubmark.

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach





JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

The weekly Friday club night sessions run from 4.30–5.30pm and 5.30–7.00pm at Brockington College. We now have 43 Junior players registered with Badminton England. For Spring Terms 3 & 4 a new project was carried out with Brockington College pupils taking GCSE Badminton PE which allowed them to attend the earlier session at a reduced rate as being non-club members with the intent to help with their grades.

Members continue to take a pro-active approach in entering the non-county tournaments such as the LSBA Junior American Tournament and the Whitwick Badminton Tournament. We also have members who are part of “Team Leicestershire” and, dependant on their technical and tactical badminton skills, have the opportunity to represent the LSBA in matches.

For season 2018/19 all members/volunteers, when joining, are presented with a free club T shirt and younger members take part in “The Racket Pack” award schemes.

The club held a new internal club tournament with girls & boys singles U10s, U12s, U14s & U17s events with trophies presented to the winners and runners-up. Also introduced was a new annual

Outstanding Club Member trophy with a smaller trophy for the winner. Callum Chapman to keep.

The club now has four Badminton England coaches available to be able to adapt the structured programme for each week of the term session to suit the player's technical skills on the respective courts.

To develop the Junior Members of a suitable playing standard, some are invited to stay on and join in part of the senior club sessions.

Parents, volunteers, coaches and especially players dedication, commitment, help and support enabled the clubs head coach to receive the Blaby District Local Sports Alliance Coach of the year 2018 award.

The Junior club has its own section within club web site:

<http://www.southleicesterbadminton.co.uk/login> which provides details of all junior club sessions, and documents for all to be able to really appreciate what the club is about and what is available to young players.

The club continues to receive renewal accreditation as a Badminton England Premier Club and Sport England Clubmark.

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach



MELTON JUNIOR CLUB

MELTON OLD GRAMMARIANS JUNIOR BADMINTON PROGRAMME FLOURISHES

Over the past three years the development of strong junior and intermediate sections has been a priority for Melton OGs Badminton Club building on its historic traditions of developing the sport across the Melton area.

In addition to having strong attendances at the junior and intermediate sessions, held at Long Field Academy on a Monday night, the Club has been taking the sport into local schools. In the run up to Christmas over 200 students attended a series of coaching sessions held at Somerby, Swallowdale, Ab Kettleby, Scalford and Long Field schools and the New Year will see further sessions take place across the Melton area. Any students seeking to develop their skills further can then feed into the junior and intermediate coaching at OGs club nights.

Commenting on this rapidly developing area for the Club, OGs Chairman Steve Mitchell said "We are fortunate in having three qualified coaches, Linda Hallam, Trevor Sanders and Mike Bennet, who are prepared to devote countless hours to ensure the next generation of

badminton players are well coached in every aspect of the game. As well as teaching them the core skills of the game we are keen to see their leadership qualities develop where appropriate.

We have received tremendous backing from both Badminton England and Leicester-shire and Rutland Sport who recognise that, with children now having a wide choice of activity available to them, badminton has to compete for their attention. Likewise Clare Marlow, School Sports Development Manager for Melton schools has been instrumental in helping us develop a good working relationship with local schools.

We are now in the fortunate position of being able to offer local students a seamless transition from junior level through to adult badminton at our Long Field base where both the coaching and playing conditions are of a very high standard."

Any parents or children seeking further details of the coaching available at Old Grammarians should in the first instance visit the Club website on www.meltonogbc.co.uk

RAY LIGGINS & COOPER CUP



RAY LIGGINS
Winner - William
Runner up - Mitchell



COOPER CUP
Winner - Carly
Runner up - Matilda



PRIMARY SCHOOLS FINALS

Hugglescote Primary School crowned County BADMINTON Champions



The 2017/18 primary school competition came to a climax at Babington Academy. Five schools competed in an exciting event, where Hugglescote Primary were victorious and won the gold medals. Hugglescote players showed their fighting spirit battling against some strong opponents and pulling together to try and achieve enough points for their school to be in with a chance of winning the County round.

Following the group stage, Fosse, Foxton and Hugglescote all had two pairs in the quarter finals; St Bartholomew's and Millfield with one each.

In the semi-finals Fosse (current title holders) lost their chance of retaining the title when their top pairing, despite a spirited performance, went out to the more experienced Hugglescote's pairing of George and Luca 15-9. Similarly, Foxton's up and coming Charlie and Theo bowed out to Hugglescote's Katie and Lola 15-7.

With an all Hugglescote final the team result was already known with Hugglescote about to be crowned Leicestershire Primary Schools Champions. However, the question remained, could the girl's pair actually beat the boy's pair. With greater serving and shot placement the answer was yes, as Katie and Lola won

the final 21-15, becoming the first all-girls pair to do so in the competitions' finals to date.

Trophies were awarded to Lola and Katie who won the doubles and George and Luca who were runners up. It was a wonderful experience for the children to work and support each other in a friendly environment as a team. For some of the players, having accessed badminton coaching in school, this event was their first taste of competition. The more experienced players understood that it was a team effort and supported and encouraged their fellow players. They all did exceptionally well and did their respective schools and Boroughs proud.

TEAM PLACINGS

- 1st Hugglescote (County Champions)
- 2nd Fosse
- 3rd Foxton;
- 4th St Bartholomew's
- 5th Millfield

Some of the players are now attending the Team Leicestershire and the Leisure Centre coaching sessions, and there are good school links with the various Junior Clubs.

Greg Howes

LSBA PRESENTATION EVENING

Friday 28th June
Hugglescote Social Club

Dennis Street, Hugglescote
LE67 2FP

LSBA JUNIOR COUNTY TRIALS

Babington Academy
Saturday 22nd June

2pm - 4pm

NATIONAL MEDALS 2018/2019

KATIE HOULT

Katie started the season not really sure if she wanted to play badminton or not!

She has many interests as you should at nine years old. Running, Swimming and Dance, and then Badminton. Unfortunately something had to go, so one by one she stopped the other activities and decided to concentrate on Badminton. As the season progressed so did Katie. She started entering tournaments and found she enjoyed competing and by the end of the season she entered the Nationals which she competed in singles and doubles. She surprised everyone and got into the semis of the singles and won a bronze medal, and the final of the doubles and won the silver. What a great end to the season.



OLIVER SEWELL

Oli is an all round sports man, a runner, a swimmer and a Triathlete, and he is making a very nice Badminton player.

Oli is a very determined player who is not easily fazed. He gives 100% every time he plays and at the Nationals it showed. He battled on and on and just would not give up even when playing more experienced players. Oli reached the semi finals in the boys doubles. Once again he showed what he is made of, playing in a fantastic match, which unfortunately they lost, BUT a well deserved bronze medal in the nationals.



GEORGE CLARE - NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPION

George achieved his dream at the Nationals by winning a GOLD medal in the boys doubles and being crowned champion. I think it's safe to say that George loves his badminton and wants to play every minute of the day, since he could first hold a racket he has always wanted to be on the courts. It's in the blood I guess as his Grandad Ian Clark and Uncle Anthony Clark were national champions. George and his partner had an outstanding day of badminton and never lost a game at the Nationals. They went into the tournament as number 2 seeds and definitely lived up to it. They played some excellence games and showed experience above their years. A well deserved victory. Congratulations George.



U12s MANAGERS REPORT

The season has been a very exciting one with most of the team being true Under 12 this year. We started the Shires league confident we could be a force to reckon with Nationally as the team was strong in both girls and boys alike.

First match was Yorkshire 1, old adversaries and last years winners so we were looking to focus and start our season positively and with a home venue we had high hopes. The games were good, but it was Leicestershire that dominated resulting in a 12/8 win despite our first girl being unavailable.

Match two was away against Lancashire and after a long journey Leicestershire were just too strong winning 20/0 quickly and efficiently again without the presence of a couple of our experienced players and showing the depth of our squad giving some less experienced players an outing showing no nerves and getting an excellent result.

Match 3 was another home match against Buckinghamshire with a full squad ready to give it their all, a few close games in this one but again no match for the strength of this squad and ending the day with a 17/3 win.

Match 4, a local derby, with Nottinghamshire at home saw an early home time for grateful parents as Leicestershire quickly sent them home after a 20/0 win.

Match 5 was a Norfolk away at the seaside for a 20/0 win and a lovely day at the beach for the team and overnight with meal for the families all making a thoroughly memorable weekend.

Match 6, our last match was away at Warwickshire and after a confident 20/0 win despite resting our 1 and 2 girls who were out representing the Under 14 squad the same day immediately after our match in a double header. So, an afternoon in the sunshine on the park saw the team enjoying a little downtime together with families, always a bonus.



This left us second in the Shires League qualifications after a count of games conceded and put us strongly into the Shires finals again at Stoke Mandeville stadium ranked second and ready to give it our all aiming to beat last years 6th place finish. On arrival a lot of excitement and nerves quickly dispersed to see the U12s beat Oxfordshire easily with a 18/2 result showing we were strong and winning all the mixed comfortably. Continuing to believe, we moved on to play for a top four finish and already beating our previous years finishing place. Taking on Surrey and battling every game we lost 11/9 despite some extremely close game finishes with only a point or two in it and seeing our girls totally dominate. Now playing for a bronze medal third place or a fourth place against Warwickshire 1 who finished the league matches above us. Nothing was stopping us at this point, the team wanted desperately to come home with a medal and confidently took the match 15/5 to the excited cheers of the families. Our team spirit is apparent to all and on the day our two mini managers Lola and Zara took great pride and responsibility looking after kit and taking all scores after games and updating the organisers desk which was frequently praised by other counties and officials throughout the day. A big thankyou to Pete Hall for also coming and helping with coaching and management throughout the day, it made a big difference.

Overall a fantastic season and a brilliant performance in the finals. Our squad is strong and especially in our girls having a good six girls to choose from in selection. Competition is tough for the top four places and especially as this season has seen Lexie Edwards storm into a current second position within the team. Our boys continue to develop in maturity and skill and support each other when confidence and nerves are an issue. Our girls are renowned in strength and ability as a county and have given both Alex and I some headaches when decisions must be made about selection. We have been very impressed with the attitude and understanding of the kids not selected at times best summed up by Lola Dale, a mini manager at the Shires finals who understood the selection perfectly but also told us she was disappointed not to be selected but it meant she would train harder and try to be in the squad next season when the madness begins again. A great attitude which shows our team bond and the drive these kids have. We have been extremely proud of our 'super minis' this season and can't wait to do it all again next season and finally a massive thanks to the parents for the continued travel and supporting of this team we couldn't do it without you and hope you've enjoyed our successes this year as much as we have.

Bring on the Shires finals this summer which will be very exciting..... watch this space!

NORTH MIDWAY JUNIOR BADMINTON LEAGUES

The NML usually takes place at the Concord Centre in Sheffield, organised by Gail Robbins. The leagues are run over two legs and for primary age, U13s, U15s & U17s, but unfortunately there was a problem with the venue this season so that could not happen. The leagues are an integral part of the tournament calendar and always well supported by many counties and the players love to take part in this team event. It seemed such a shame for the players to miss out, so Leicestershire offered to host some of the age groups at Babington. Laura Cowperthwaite offered to run the events and dates were found, but with the busy LBA Hall calendar it was only possible to find three dates, which allowed us to host the one primary and two legs of the U13s. The U15s & U17s did have to miss out this season. All three events were successful and were well supported by other counties, even though the last U13s one was played on Mothers Day. Thanks to the mums !! for allowing that to happen and thanks to many dads that managed the teams.

We managed to field two teams in each age group. In the primary event we came 1st & 6th place and our U13s teams came 3rd & 6th. We were really happy to help, its great to see so many young players enjoying the sport. Hopefully, the competition will return to Sheffield next season.



JUNIOR BADMINTON PLAYERS SWEEP THE BOARD



Leicestershire's young players enjoyed a great day's badminton at Babington Academy taking part in the Primary Schools North Midway competition.

Teams from Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Warwickshire competed for the title of North Midway champions.

All players must attend primary schools in their respective counties to be eligible to enter this competition, and what a turn out, 40 youngsters competed throughout the day enjoying some close and exciting games.

Leicestershire have quite a number of talented young players so we were able to enter two teams as well as Yorkshire and Warwickshire. Leicestershire's first team were just too strong for all the other counties, they didn't lose a match and only dropped six games out of 50 played, what a fantastic achievement by the whole team who worked so well all day.

Leicestershire's second team was made up of players with less experience of competitions, some only eight years old, but they battled on and showed great spirit and improved as the day progressed, finishing 6th out of eight teams. The runners up place went to Warwickshire's first team.

UNDER 14s SHIRES & COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

Leicestershire U14s were placed in a tough pool and had to dig deep to gain a place in the playoffs this year. The campaign began with a solid 16–4 win against a good Warwickshire 2 team and offered a great opportunity to try out new pairings for the season to come. Next up, an incredibly strong Notts team containing both friends and rivals for many of the players. Although losing to a 16–4 score line, the match consisted of many closely fought games taken to three ends separated by marginal differences, a great challenge and learning opportunity for all involved. Next was Norfolk 2, our first match where we didn't concede a game; winning 20-0. We were then off to play the experienced Warwickshire 1 team. This was the match of the season so far with many of our younger players really finding themselves and exceeding all expectations; the Leicestershire taking more games from the opponents than they had conceded in their previous five matches. The match came down to the last games, both to three ends, but unfortunately, although so close, we could not convert losing 11-9. To get this close to the draw was a testament to the ability, effort and commitment required at this level. This meant that a win at Yorkshire 2 was the only way to achieve a playoff position. Great venue, York Railway Institute, even better badminton... An excellent team effort and convincing performances from all led to an 18–2 victory and 10th in the league finish.

Next up we will be away to Hertfordshire to play for a place in the finals. Fingers crossed and lets be confident that our players,

whom are all growing in stature and confidence will make the most of this opportunity.

I'd like to thank all the players, and parents, involved for the commitment they have shown this year, the spirit of the squad has been an absolute pleasure to be part of.

Those who represented U14s in the Shires so far this year are, Carly, Sylvie, Matilda, Violet, Lexie, Fallon, Will, Mitchell, Eddie, Gabriel & Quinn.

U14s County Championships – Sunday 17th February 2019

This year's Championships saw 29 players participating across the three events. This amounted to 49 singles, 28 doubles, and 23 mixed rubbers, 240+ ends, 58 shuttles, 8.5 hours of court time, 50 empty bottles of Lucozade, over 300 cups of coffee/tea, and a lot of tired bodies. It was great to see many new and old faces taking part this year and bringing more diversity in age and experience to the tournament, testing themselves against the counties best. The standard of play and conduct of all players was, as always, exemplary with tough physical and mental battles to overcome and the forging strong relationships between the players.

An extra special well done to Carly who won at all three disciplines for the second year running.

A massive well done also, to all those who participated and the parents for their support and encouragement to all involved with the event, it was a credit to Leicestershire Badminton.



UNDER 14s CHAMPIONSHIPS



The U14s county badminton championships saw the best entry for a number of years, players as young as nine years old competed, all enjoying the experience of playing against the older players.

BOYS SINGLES

WINNER: Mitchell

RUNNER UP: William

GIRLS SINGLES

WINNER: Carly

RUNNER UP: Fallon

BOYS DOUBLES

WINNERS: Mitchell & William

RUNNERS UP: George & Quinn

GIRLS DOUBLES

WINNERS: Carly & Lola

RUNNERS UP: Matilda & Sylvie

MIXED DOUBLES

WINNERS:
Carly & William

RUNNERS UP: Katie & Eddie

LBA SUMMER CLUB

every Monday night

BABINGTON
ACADEMY

for more details please
contact

Richard on
07541133683

UNDER 16s REPORT

The under 16 team have had a great 2018/2019 season in the shires league winning all qualifying matches convincingly apart from 1 match where we were three players down and we came away with a 10 all draw. Thanks a lot to the players that stepped in for this match. Unfortunately this draw put us into the play offs where we played Warks 2 who we had already played in the leagues and won 20-0. With confidence they repeated the score, another 20-0 win, which takes them through to the Shires Finals. Going through in 5th position will make it difficult but the team are a determined group of players and I know they will give it everything they have to get the highest position possible.

Amie Hoult



UNDER 18s REPORT

U18's is always a big year, for many their last chance to play for Junior County. With three major competitions in the year (Shires League, RIO and ICT).

SHIRES – The initial target for the year was to qualify well for the play-offs and hopefully the end of year finals. However, the team have performed incredibly all year to secure automatic qualification for the upcoming Shires Final in May, by finishing in the top four, and will certainly go in to that full of confidence. We went undefeated for the season, beating Nottinghamshire 16-4, Norfolk 17-3, Yorkshire 2 13-7, Lincolnshire 19-1, Derbyshire 16-4 and Cheshire 19-1.

Players involved throughout the season were – Jess Allen, Tamsin Betts, Izzy Pike, Jess Rodgers, Sophie Watson, Sameer Chenia, Harry Clare, Rowan Clark, Joe Goodenough, Luke Hoult and Tom Paterson-Watts.

RIO – With a Target of cracking the top 4, the team went up to York ready for another great weekend's badminton at the Railway

Institute. Leicestershire immediately set about by upsetting the hosts Yorkshire beating them in a closely contested match and setting us up for a real shot at taking our spot in the Top 4. Next up we had Surrey who sadly proved a little too strong and we came out the wrong end of another very contested match. We knew that we had to win and win well against Lothian to qualify for the Top 4, however, there was no need to worry as this ever reliable team performed and eased past Lothian. With Yorkshire also beating Surrey this put us in a really strong position going into day 2. We had to play Warwickshire and Hertfordshire, both with very strong squads this was going to prove a real test. The players again performed incredibly beating Hertfordshire but sadly Warwickshire proved just too strong. This all meant that Leicestershire finished an impressive 2nd place, a sign of things to come...

Players involved were Jess Allen, Tamsin Betts, Izzy Pike, Jess Rodgers, Grace Sherwin, Sophie Watson, Danny Beynon, Sameer Chenia, Harry Clare, Rowan Clark, Luke Hoult and Tom Paterson-Watts.

U18s COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS



GIRLS SINGLES

Winner: Jess

Runner up: Sophie

GIRLS DOUBLES

Winners: Jess and Tamsin

Runners up: Sophie & Jess



BOYS SINGLES

Winner: Sameer

Runner up: Luke

BOYS DOUBLES

Winners: Luke & Rowan

Runners up: Harry & Sameer

MIXED DOUBLES

Winners:

Luke & Tamsin

Runners up:

Harry & Jess



RIO UNDER 18s TOURNAMENT



Team: Jess, Tamsin, Issy, Jess, Grace, Sophie, Danny, Sameer, Harry, Rowan, Luke, and Tom

Leicestershire were once again invited to take part in this prestigious team tournament in York which is run over a weekend. The players love this event, and are keen to take on some of the best counties in the country.

The weekend started with a great win v Yorkshire 8-7, the second match v Surrey saw the team go 5-1 up, but sadly the wheels then fell of a little and they lost 8-7. Leicestershire then finished the first day beating Lothian 12-3 and going into the top box on the Sunday. The second day the team had a tough start, they had to play the number 1 seeds Warwickshire first, they gave it their all and had some fantastic games but lost 12-3, the result really didn't reflect the performance as all the team played hard and tried their best.

The team finished the weekend by putting in a fantastic performance to beat Herts 9-6 and ended up taking 2nd place and the silver medals.

**Who is this
crazy person???**



LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON LEAGUES 2018/19 SEASON

When I first started working as the Development Officer for Leicestershire in 1999 one of the first projects I undertook was to work in partnership with a teacher at Charnwood College to formulate the schools leagues. It took a while to build the leagues, but after many hours of corresponding with the schools it started to pay off. The project grew and grew until we had built the biggest schools leagues in the country.

Schools competed in their respective areas, then sent their area winning school to compete in the County round which was held at Babington Academy. In the years that followed Badminton England (BE) introduced their Centre Parc schools competition, and I worked together with BE and the County Sports partnership to amalgamate the Leicestershire Schools Leagues and BE's competition. It was felt that having one badminton offer to the schools would be the best thing to do and a great opportunity to be involved in a national programme. Our County winners could now progress on to play in a Regional round and even National round which BE offered. This has been the case up until this year when Badminton England introduced an affiliation fee for entry into their national competition. For us this caused a problem as Leicestershire badminton have a good working relationship with the County Sports Partnership, which the schools pay an annual fee in respect of their combined sports offer.

I understand that only six schools from Leicestershire affiliated to BE and played in the National competition, most

schools we work with declined and therefore could not progress into the BE regional or national round.

HOWEVER, it hasn't stopped the enthusiasm and commitment from schools in the county. Our county finals saw 40 schools getting through to the Finals which ran over four nights, plus eight more schools taking part in the U19s Leagues. Last year's finals were in the grip of snow storms. This year it was completely different, sunshine and no threat to the finals taking place. KS3 boys started a very busy week of badminton; Newbridge High securing first place, just beating Crownhills 3-2. On day two KS3 girls saw Iveshead dominating, winning all the group stages and taking first place beating Brookvale/Groby 4-1. KS4 boys was a close final between King Edward V11 and Babington Academy, Babington winning 3-2. On day four, Loughborough High, KS4 Girls, were victorious beating Beauchamp 5-0.

The following week Greg ran the U19s leagues finals. In the boys section, Ashby school dominated all their matches only dropping one game and were worthy winners. Second place was Uppingham. The girl's winners were Loughborough High, again a very strong side who beat Beauchamp 7-1 in the final.

Scary knowing that some of the U19 players actually drove themselves to the finals!!! How times have changed.

Another year over and some great badminton played. Thanks to all the schools that continue to support badminton and the leagues.

Carole Spencer



ICT REPORT - 2019

The Big One, with Leicestershire being seeded 3/4th expectation was high for this team to achieve top four for the first time in over 10 years. However, the draw looked incredibly tricky.

Day 1 always a tricky day were things can go so wrong so quickly, but 3 9-1 victories over Suffolk, Sussex and Herefordshire, put us into the top half of the competition.

Day 2 had us drawn against Berkshire, Avon and Hertfordshire. All three ties looked tough on paper, we set the tone early dismissing a Berkshire team stacked with very talented boys and national medallist 8-2. Getting the same result against an Avon team that proved very difficult to put away. This set up the evenings match against Hertfordshire, winner get Top 4. As ever with this team when the pressure is on and Leicestershire won 6-4 in an amazing contest.

Day 3 Top 4, Warwickshire, Hampshire and Yorkshire. Warwickshire were first up the obvious favourites for the title with a squad full of top talent throughout, a very tough match with a hard to take score line, 9-1 loss. Next up was Hampshire, how do we react to our first loss of the tournament? Answer – Pretty well... We won this 5-5, by one rubber. Everybody again performed well.

Day 4 Leicestershire vs Yorkshire, winner takes 2nd Place. Yorkshire were out for revenge after we had beaten them up at RIO, but this team was more than a match, too many times in the past have we come out the wrong end of a Yorkshire scrap, not this time, a 6-4 victory. The highest finish ever for Leicestershire, an incredible achievement.

The players involved were Jess Allen, Tamsin Betts, Izzy Pike, Jess Rodgers, Sophie Watson, Sameer Chenia, Harry Clare, Rowan Clark, Luke Hoult and Tom Paterson-Watts.



The coaches were Martin Beynon, Jai Chandarana, Hayley Deas, Pete Hall and Hope Warner.



I am so proud of everything this team has achieved this season, not least because of the genuine team ethic that we have displayed, every single member of this team has performed throughout the year.

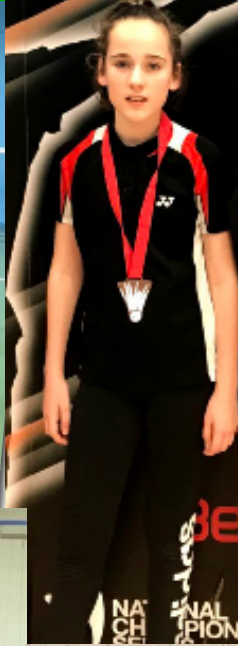
Chris Hall



PAST ICT COMPETITORS



NATIONAL MEDALISTS



NATIONAL MEDALISTS



LEICESTERSHIRE PERFORMANCE CENTRE

As the badminton season for 2018-19 draws to close, it is time to reflect on the season and look forward to next season. Training at the performance centre has been excellent this year and we have introduced new sessions on Monday's and Wednesday's to bridge the gap between juniors and seniors and offer training for our senior county players so that they can continue to improve. Many of the PC players regularly bring home medals across all age groups, and we are competing well at junior nationals. This is great to see, and I hope we can build on that again next year.

As we continue with our journey as a performance centre we will of course try to do even better next year. Next year we will be looking to offer training sessions for junior players that don't quite make the

standard for our full performance centre training, as well as aiming to improve our Team Leicestershire match play session on a Wednesday evening.

In terms of integration of our junior, senior and masters level county players, under the Team Leicestershire umbrella, there is still more to be done but I'm encouraged by the number of younger players that have played senior county this year; Ryan King, Martin Beynon, Jess Allen, Sophie Watson, Jess Rodgers, Sameer Chenia, Izzy Pike and Owen King - well done to all of them and I hope to see others joining them next season.

I hope you all have a great summer break and do plenty of training ready for the new season ahead.

Mark King, Chairperson

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR COUNTY 2018-19

Overall an excellent year for senior county with our three teams doing very well. Especially pleasing for me is watching the development of our junior players and seeing them successfully bridge the gap between junior and senior county. The future is very bright for Leicestershire badminton and I'm sure there will be even more competition for places in our county teams next year and beyond as our PC continues to produce excellent young players.

Links to show how the three teams have done this year:

<https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=0F195493-B72E-4FE5-B85F-30D3B06247DD&draw=2>

<https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=B169A029-E14A-4B60-9557-3979EC33F764&draw=10>

The county 1st team led by Tom Armstrong have backed up last years incredible 3rd place in the premiership with an excellent 4th place, while Yorkshire 1st team were relegated!! 1st team player of the year goes to Tom Armstrong/Samuel Ricketts with 65% win ratios and Emma Ault very close behind at 64% (great to see Emma back in the team this year). Special mention to Jess Allen and Sophie Watson who both made their debut this year.

The county 2nd team led by Toby Moon have had a brilliant year bouncing back after the disappointments of last year to be promoted as Champions. All too easy winning seven out of seven matches. Really close fight for player of the year but with a 100% record Jenny Scarlett takes it with Matt Rofe, Simon White, Jess Allen really close behind winning over 85% of their matches. With the team on a roll division 2 beware next year! 2nd team county colours for: Jess Allen, Juno Thomas, Ryan King, Izzy Pike, Emma Butterworth.

The 3rd team led by Mark Jeffreys have had a really good year in division 3 and in the end were really close to coming 2nd behind our 2nd Team – 3rd position was an excellent result and next year they should fight for promotion. 3rd team player of the years goes to Mark Jeffreys with an 80% success ratio (exactly the same as last year!), with Kyle Cherry and Cameron close behind. 3rd team county colours: Cameron Collins, Martin Beynon, Jess Rodgers, Britanie White, Sameer Chenia, Sophie Watson.

County restricted '19/20: Friday 27th Sept. Singles, Sunday 29th Sept. Doubles and Mixed.

*Mark King
Leicestershire Badminton County Captain*

WITHERS MEN'S & LADIES DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Player Quote:

"It was a great tournament to start the season off"

Greg and I decided this season to give it a go and resurrect the old Withers doubles tournament and we were very pleased with the response. The tournament saw 52 men and 22 ladies competing in what turned out to be a very enjoyable event. The aim was to encourage all abilities to enter, play it in groups and incorporate a plate event for non-league players, this seemed to work well. The players going through to the quarters were Carl Bannister & Pete Chapman who stormed through their group winning all their games as did Tom Cowpethwaite & Harry Clare, Tom Patterson Watts & Danny Beynon & John Sleath & Phil Herbert. The second placed players in the groups that went through to the quarters were James Evans & Danny Sanders, Nigel Lewis & John Eason, Thomas Homme & Matt Clough and Ethan Hoskins & Rowan Clark. The competition came to a climax with a competitive final between youngsters Harry & Tom and experienced players Carl and Pete. Carl and Pete won 21-14. The plate event was won by Ravi & Nakuru Rajani, second place went to Leo Jadav & Vay Rawji.

It was a shame not to see more ladies entering, but for the first year 22 isn't bad. It was well supported by a group of talented junior county players.

Old pals and former junior county team partners Amie Hoult & Emily Lenton graced the courts again after many years out of badminton, they even managed to get through their group and into the semi finals by just beating Issi Paterson Watts & Hritaka Modi 21-20 in the quarters. Unfortunately injury then struck Amie and that was the end of the tournament for this time.... they lost in the semis.

Other quarter finalists Sophie Watson & Jess Rogers played Kerry Durham and Lisa Pycroft just loosing out 21-15. Grace Sherwin & Tamsin Betts beat Jane Rayner & Steph Coates of Loughborough Leys 21-11. Grace & Tilly then went onto win the semi v Kerry & Lisa. Jess Allen & Tilly Dale went through to the semis by beating Jane Astrop & Marie Whithead, then took Amie & Emily in the semis.

So the final was a youngsters affair, an exciting game saw Jess & Tilly just beating Grace & Tamsin 21-18.

The plate event was won by Shema Sivaganeshwaran & Katie Evans and runners up were Gillian Cross & Emma Powley.

We feel the tournament was a success and will be repeated again next season, with the edition of a mixed competition. Thanks to all the players that supported this event.

Details of next seasons tournaments will be sent to all club secretaries.

Carole & Greg



LBA - AGM
Thursday 9th May
BABINGTON ACADEMY
LEICESTER
7.15pm

LBA
PRESENTATION EVENING
Friday 17th May
LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN HALL
7.15pm onwards



REPORT FROM 'THE BADMINTON MAN'

Greg Howes
Leicester City
Development Officer & Coach

PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPETITIONS/PROMOTIONS

Once again less Schools but more children

Last year I reported that we had seen a fall in participation in Leicester City from around 20 to 12 schools participating. Yet again we have seen a slight drop in the number of City primary schools taking part in our promotions. This is hard to believe when there are so many testimonials regarding what we do and so many success stories out there. I have not taught a class in these ten years where the vast majority of children have not loved the game of badminton. So, schools pick up the phone and book us for next year!

Badminton in general

I am now in my tenth year of organising coaching and running competitions that have mainly been directed at schools. In the last few years that concentration has been more and more on primary schools. This is where learning skills for life start, and after all we have the largest

secondary schools badminton league in the country waiting for these children. Despite the fall in participation above, I am inundated with calls from parents wanting to get their children involved in badminton. Many of our sessions around Leicester are full and it is becoming quite difficult to find them places. We need two things to happen. Firstly, we need more coaches. I am pleased to say that Badminton England is helping us recruit more. Secondly, we need to stop the ever-increasing use of sports facilities for exam purposes. Despite the academic importance of such exams, this is another form of what schools refer to as 'intervention' and defies the aim of getting children moving rather than sitting around.

However, finishing on a very positive note, the number of children engaged in Team Leicestershire's coaching programme continues to grow, resulting in our County teams being some of the strongest in the country, at all age levels.

LBA SECRETARY'S LEAGUE REPORT 2018/19

Congratulations go to SSC for a magnificent double in the Mens league. Their first team finally confirmed promotion to the topflight with a demolition of their nearest rivals, Meltonshire, ultimately winning all ten of their matches. Their second team won nine out of their ten matches to win division 3A and also earn promotion for next season. At the time of writing the topflight mens division is the closest for many years, with no team really dominant. Loughborough Town must win their remaining fixture to post seven wins from ten matches and pip Loughborough Students. At the other end of the table Regal Arts currently at the foot, may need five wins just to survive. Other clubs having had a successful season are Trinity with both teams promoted, along with Regal Arts having secured promotion for their second and third strings.

Loughborough Town has won the topflight Ladies division, whilst Loughborough Students seconds and Panthers have won divisions two and three respectively.

Honours are spread across the clubs in the Mixed league, but notably, Loughborough Students will have two teams in the topflight division for next season.

Whitwick are arguably the youngest side ever to have won division one of the Hall League, whilst Croakers complete the list of winners by taking division two.

Greg Howes
LBA League Secretary

NEW LADIES CLUB PLANNED

Marie Whitehead has been playing for Huncote BC for nearly 30 years. It started as a non league club and then, with the encouragement of Marie, moved into entering the Leicestershire Leagues. Since that point she has played a fundamental part in organising and continued every year as a committee member. The last few years she has selected all the three Men's teams and the Mixed teams and organised all their fixtures, and has also captained the Mixed and Men's 2. Marie admits she has enjoyed it but as time has gone by she has realised that she has not really reaped any of the benefit as the club still only has two lady members. This means club night is completely dominated by the men and their league matches, which she spends a lot of time sorting out.

Marie is not trying to be critical because as she says "I love these guys and most of them are my friends, however when it comes to badders they can be selfish.

Over time I have encouraged ladies to come down and play. However, these guys tell them what to

do and where to stand etc etc. so inevitably they leave.

The feedback I have received is they feel they are not strong enough to play at club level. My daughter came down last year and she said it was not an enjoyable experience but she plays with me and others each week.

So I thought enough is enough. I want to play ladies matches whilst I still can and I would also like to give something back because it's a great sport and you can make some fabulous friends. I think ladies need a less male dominated environment to develop and gain confidence. This could also allow them eventually to intergrate into other local clubs. Sometimes we underestimate that younger women are quite self conscious. The 'all ladies' environment really does help to eliminate this.

I have time and the energy now to invest in a new venture and we definitely need ladies to get involved again in this great sport.

My intentions are to set up a 'Ladies Only' club".

Marie Whitehead

HARRY CLARE

Harry has been playing for the county junior teams since the age of 11 years old, and has progressed so well gaining a lot of experience on the way through entering many National tournaments. He currently trains in the top group at the Leicestershire Performance Centre twice a week, and is a member of Loughborough Badminton Club playing in Men's 1. He also finds time to play for the Whitwick BC New Hall team which is made up of young players from the PC.

Harry recently moved his playing experience up by entering the Kent Senior Open with his new partner Callum. It was definitely the right thing to do - the lads came runners up! What a fantastic achievement, and rewarding, as he won some cash!!!



SOPHIE'S PROGRESS

Leicestershire's Sophie Watson has had a busy year since becoming U15s National Champion at girls doubles.

Joining the England Pathway Sophie has jetted off to Sweden twice, Finland, Estonia, Holland and Belgium - quite an experience for a 14 year old. In September she represented England for the first time at the U15s Swedish games, finishing in third place in the team event. Her main achievement was in December when she won her first international at the Carlton International in Hoensbrook, Holland - Gold medal in girls doubles.

She has competed well this season winning three bronze and one silver in the U17s Golds at doubles and still a year young. She has been very busy playing for Leicestershire too, reaching the Shires finals with both U16s and U18 teams and second place at the ICT tournament. She also made her debut for the senior county in the premiership this year.

Sophie trains most days in the week at Babington and Loughborough Uni, but still finds time to play for her local club, Loughborough Town, and captained the Ladies 1 this year to winning Division 1 and also winning the league with Mixed 1. Sophie has just become a Leicestershire and Rutland 'Go for Gold' Ambassador which will help to fund her to reach her full potential. Plenty more training this summer and two England camps Sophie will be ready for another busy season ahead.



RECOGNISE ANYONE?



ADULT BADMINTON COACHING

Ongoing sessions are held regularly at Babington Academy on Saturday evenings 8-9pm. If you are beginner/improver and want to improve your game and learn the skills and techniques, this is the course for you. It will be on a first come first serve basis and places are limited.

To get more information please contact Ajay on:

ajay.pitrola@outlook.com or visit www.lbabadminton.org

FRIENDS REUNITED ON THE COURTS

Amie Houlst (Spencer) and Emily Lenton (Brodrick) joined together once again on the courts in this seasons Withers Tournament after many years of hanging up their rackets to bring up their families.

They first met at Julie Popes junior club, that still runs on a Saturday morning at Babington. Immediately they became friends and partners and represented Leicestershire and also entered national tournaments throughout their junior years including being selected for the prestigious ICT. Then onto the senior county teams and playing in the clubs, but as the years went on more things got in the way of them competing. Amie got a knee injury

which stopped her playing, so she put her time back into the sport by becoming a badminton coach encouraging many youngsters into the sport. Emily tried a new sport that she excelled in and became Captain of England rounders. Then they both had families which we all know takes up a great deal of your time, working mums !!!!

Now approaching 40 yrs old they are eligible to play in the county masters teams (if knees allow it). Come on ladies get training, your county needs you !!!!!

**2019/20 Season
OVER 40 Masters Team
please get in touch**



WHITWICK WIN HALL LEAGUE 1

The intention when entering a team of youngsters to play in the Hall League was for me to still be able to play as they are young and can run for me! Plus to be the taxi, and for them they would gain the experience of playing against adults which I felt would be of benefit to them. The team excelled themselves last season and won Division 2. This season has been even better, they have been very dedicated and always wanted to play even the singles (well at 15 years old you do). It was a nice feeling not having to persuade people to play, their enthusiasm and drive for the game is infectious. They have enjoyed playing as a team and the icing on the cake was when they beat Loughborough Students who we had lost to earlier on in the season. Division 1 Champions for this young side is great and hopefully they will all be at the presentation evening to pick up their medals.

The Team: Harry, Luke, Joe, Tamsin, Grace, Tilly and ME! and thanks to Rowan for helping out .

Cheers Captain Caz

My plea to the clubs:

Come on & enter a team next season

LEICESTERSHIRE RESTRICTED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018/2019 SEASON

Well done to everyone who played at the weekend, some great matches and great to see a number of our juniors competing against our senior players.

RESULTS

Mens singles: James White beat Tom Armstrong 21-9, 21-19

Ladies singles: Sarita Patel beat Jess Allen 16-21, 21-18, 21-13

Mens Doubles: Tom Armstrong and Chris Hall beat James White and Simon White

21-23, 21-17, 21-17

Ladies Doubles: Sarita Patel and Zoe King beat Izzy Pike and Jenny Scarlet 21-7, 21-13

Mixed doubles: Tom Armstrong and Zoe King beat Chris Hall and Sarita Patel 21-16, 24-22.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO COMPETE!

Every other year the World and European Senior (Masters) Badminton Championships take place and for the last four years I have been invited to join the England squad of players for these tournaments. My first invitation was in 2015 when I was asked to play in the Over 65 singles in the World Championships in Gothenberg, Sweden. I had played a bit of singles in tournaments that year winning the Northumbria Open and achieving runner-up in the Scottish Masters. Those of you who know me will however know that singles is not really my game so I declined the invitation.

Since then I have been invited each year since for the Mens and Mixed. I played in the European Championships in 2016 in Podcetek in Slovenia, losing to the eventual winners in the first round of the Mixed and making the second round of the Men's with a Russian partner, Oleg Chernik, my English partner having suffered a stroke two months before we were due to play. Last year the European Championships were held in Guadalajar, just outside Madrid in Spain.

My partner, Dave Chapman from Kent, and I lost in the second round of the Men's to the top Danish pair in three sets. In the Mixed, my partner Sylvia Gill from Lancashire and I made the quarter finals achieving some fame along the way by defeating the Danish top seeds in the second round.

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to have been able to continue playing at club level and to play in the Masters Tournament circuit and national competitions. I count myself very fortunate that in my 50th year of league badminton I still enjoy the game and have made good friends both in this country and from abroad through the game. In particular I would like to thank my county master's colleagues who gave me, never a top player, the confidence to try at the top level. In my age group, Over 65s, the English dominate the sport with English players being World and European Champions in singles, men's and mixed so just to be in the mix is a dream come true for me.

Edward Hayes



OVER 35s ALL ENGLAND MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONS

A great win for Mark King and Mhairi Smith in this seasons Over 35 years mixed doubles beating Morten Rasmussen and Sarah Burgess to three ends 17 -21. 21-14, 21-18.



OVER 65s COUNTY MASTERS TEAM REACH THE FINALS



The Team: Jan, Cathy, Carole, Edward, Dave and Richard

The Over 65 team stormed through the leagues this season and into the play offs against Cheshire.

The match started off very nervously as they knew Cheshire were going to be tough opponents. As the day progressed the match was neck and neck. Cheshire took all three mens doubles and Leicestershire took the three ladies games, so down to the mixed. Two out of the

three games was needed to secure the win. It went down to the last game which went to three ends, and Leicestershire came out on top and won taking the team through to the finals.

Off they went to Birmingham to compete in the National finals knowing that the weekend would be a tough one.

The team played really well in the semi final against an experienced Surry side, but unfortunately lost 6-3. This meant back on the courts the following day at 9am v Avon playing for 3rd and 4th places. This match was much tighter, it was 4-4 going into the last mixed game, expectations were high, but on this occasion Avon won and Leicestershire took 4th place.

The team were disappointed not to win but pleased with an overall team performance on both days.

PROUD DAD ROLES BACK THE YEARS

A moment of weakness saw the return to a senior Gold tournament for Mark King partnering with his daughter Zoe King at the recent Notts event. A quick check on tournament software shows that the last time Mark played such a tournament was before modern day records began and at best guess about 20 years ago!

The goal to win a match was achieved quite comfortably, entertaining the crowd with a fair amount of shouting and trademark drive winners and fist pumps from Mark (much to Zoe's embarrassment). Picture was taken and Mark was quite happy to go home at that point, but a 2nd match was required and that was a step too far.

Great day and a lot of fun.



MASTERS REPORT 2018 - 19

This year Leicestershire entered an O40, O45, O50, O55 and an O65 team in the Masters County Championships.

Several matches had to be conceded due to shortage of available players on the day. We need more players interested in joining the squads for each age group. Players need to be of a good club standard and willing to play on Sundays.

The O65 team again had a very successful season, winning all their matches. The squad of 5 men and 4 women, beat Buckinghamshire 8-1 twice, Hertfordshire 7-2 and 5-4 and Northamptonshire 9-0 and 7-2. They have still to play Cheshire in the play offs on the 14th April.

The O55 team, struggled for men this season, having to use some O65 men. They beat Northants, away 9-3 and Shropshire at home 8-4, but lost the reverse fixtures and the four matches against Cheshire and Nottinghamshire.

The O50 team won against Lincolnshire 7-5 twice, Norfolk 10-2 and 12-0, but lost to Nottinghamshire 3-9 twice. Again a shortage of women aged 50-55, meant they had to be helped out every match by the O55 ladies. We need more women of this age group to come forward, WHERE ARE YOU LADIES!!!!

The O45 team really struggled for players this season and although they only had 4 matches, the match against Shropshire, away, had to be conceded due to lack of available players. They beat Shropshire 8-4 at home losing to Nottinghamshire twice, 2-10 and 1-11. Unfortunately I don't feel we can enter an O45 team next season.

The O40 team lost all their matches. The non-availability of players meant we had to concede one match and only send two lady players to another, again we need a larger pool of players.

The O55 and O65 teams also entered the Masters County Challenge competition held over a weekend in January. The O55 came 2nd in Division 1, winning one match, drawing three and losing one. The O65's playing in the Premier Division, found the opposition too strong, losing 5 and winning 1.

Teams for the following season have to be entered by mid May.

Practice sessions, trials, are held at the LBA Hall, in September, usually Friday evenings, for any players interested in joining the Squads, please come along.

County Colours have been awarded this season to:

Darren Smith, Adam Sewell, Sally Turner, Caroline Grindey, Alex Sherwin and Jules Vermaak.

Badminton England are also keen to improve Masters badminton, so if anyone is interested in becoming involved in promoting Masters badminton in Leicestershire, please volunteer to become a Development Officer.

As stated in last years report, I, after 20 years as Vets/Masters Co-ordinator, am finishing this season, and Sue Mahmood has volunteered to take over my position, I wish her good luck for the future.

Carol Harding

MASTERS

If you are turning of age! 40 years plus and would like more information on the Leicestershire Masters Team

please contact: Sue Mahmood

0116 2704799 / 07879023281

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.lbadminton.org
(Senior)

www.leicestershireba.co.uk
(Schools)

AGE GROUP SELECTORS

In 2015 Badminton Europe international age groups were changed. The domestic age groups were changed to align the domestic and international age groups, whilst retaining a competition season running from July to June. However, with age groups that do not match the competition season there is still a level of confusion especially in the younger age groups and for new players, and this has been exacerbated by players being a year younger under the new age groups.

As a result, the junior tournament season will be moved to an annual season from 1st January to 31st December to support a more simplified structure. This will align the age groups with the playing season, whilst remaining aligned to the Badminton Europe and Badminton World Federation.

Age Group Selector

The example below, shows the effect for a current U15 age group player (born 2005)

- * There will be an 18-month season in 2019-20 as we transition into the new annual season. Players will end the new 2019-20 season 6 months older than the current season.
- * Players will start and end the new season, starting from 2021 onwards, 6 months older than current season.

Player born 2005	1 July – 31 Dec 2018	1 Jan – 30 June 2019	1 July – 31 Dec 2019	1 Jan – 30 June 2020	1 July – 31 Dec 2020	1 Jan – 30 June 2021	1 July – 31 Dec 2021
Current Season Age Group	2018-19 Season Under 15		2019-20 Season Under 16		U18 2020-21 Season Under 17		Etc...
New Season Age Group	2018-19 Season Under 15		2019-20 Season Under 16			2021 Season Under 17	

The age group selector below shows the age group of players as we move to an annual January to December junior tournament season.

fiBorn	2018-19 Season	2019-20 Season	2021 Season
	1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 – 31 Dec 2020	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021
2001	U19	U20 (Senior)	U21 (Senior)
2002	U18	U19	U20 (Senior)
2003	U17	U18	U19
2004	U16	U17	U18
2005	U15	U16	U17
2006	U14	U15	U16
2007	U13	U14	U15
2008	U12	U13	U14
2009	U11	U12	U13
2010	U10	U11	U12

LBCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We, in Leicestershire, have had another successful season both locally in developing badminton at all levels: grassroots, school coaching, performance centre and county training. This has also led to many successes in local and national tournaments.

This couldn't be done without the hard work and dedication of our team of coaches and volunteers, I would like to extend my thanks to all those that have helped this year and as always a special thanks to my fellow management committee. The committee has worked well during the year. I will work hard this year to try and increase the number of coaches that are subscribed to the association as with our collective working, we can only strive for greater things in the future.

ADULT BADMINTON COACHING

Ongoing sessions are held regularly at Babington Academy on Saturday evenings 8-9pm. If you are beginner/improver and want to improve your game and learn the skills and techniques, this is the course for you. It will be on a first come first serve basis and places are limited.

To get more information please contact Ajay on: ajay.pitrola@outlook.com or visit www.lbabadminton.org

LSBA - AGM

Monday 20th May

Details of venue and time to
be confirmed

NO STRINGS BADMINTON

Now in its 7th year running at Babington Academy, the beauty of No Strings Badminton is its simplicity. There are no membership fees, no contracts or hidden clauses to tie you down.

There is a good mix of ability and genders and everyone thoroughly enjoys the fun, friendly atmosphere. It is also nice to see so many take the next steps from attending the sessions to moving on to some coaching or taking the plunge and joining a competitive league club.

SATURDAY JUNIOR BADMINTON SESSIONS

To fill the gap of juniors moving up the badminton pathway at Babington Academy, I run a session that runs each Saturday between 12-2pm. This session is to support the junior coaching undertaken in schools by Greg Howes and Dave Watts and provides a pathway in the Team Leicestershire setup. The sessions have grown in popularity since they started in November 2017. The aim is to encourage more grassroots players into the sport. Averaging 10+ turning up each week.

PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE OR GREG

If you would like to take any coaching qualification, start up your own Junior Club or be a badminton volunteer

Coaching opportunities for your
members

carolespencer5525@gmail.com

Phone 01530 811984

greghowes71@gmail.com

Phone 0116 2621476

NEW FRIENDSHIPS MADE ON THE COURTS

Ladies from De Montfort University have taken to the courts representing their university both in the BUCS leagues and varsity events where new friendships have been formed.

All the ladies played badminton before coming to the university and were keen enough to see how that could continue whilst studying in Leicester.

Unfortunately, their experiences so far have not included playing in the Leicestershire Badminton Association's (LBA) senior league this season.



However, that could be about to change as Greg and I have started talks with the Student club committee by explaining our Leagues and how they work. We are also preparing to run a Doubles competition for them. Hopefully this will start to build a relationship with De Montfort, and they will consider entering team/s into our leagues again after many years of absence.

Please see a few quotes from the team on why they enjoy being a member of the De Montfort Badminton club.

Members of the team are:

Britanie White. Former Leicestershire junior and senior player. Brit stopped playing after having her daughter, but when she went back into education as a mature student at DMU, her enthusiasm returned for the sport.

"I have many responsibilities at home and with studying, playing badminton was a chance to relax and have some fun."

Holly is 21 years old and has played since the age of 11 and represented her home county Surrey for over four years. She joined the DMU team to start playing more frequently again as well as making new friends.

Chloe is 21 years old. Played junior and senior county in Guernsey.

"What I like about the club is that you get to meet people from all over the country no matter what age or experience and you can all appreciate the love of the game."

Katie is 20 years old, from Oxfordshire, and has played for Banbury Town league before coming to DMU.

"What I love about the club is that everyone comes together with completely different backgrounds and badminton skills and we always manage to work together as a team and enjoy our matches."

Emma is 21 years old, and was a county level player before attending DMU.

"I joined the badminton club three years ago and have met some of my best friends through the team. They are a great group of people who support each other both on and off the courts. Playing against other universities has been tough, but we have all stuck together and made it through as a team."

Jenny is 25 years old and is the Badminton club Chairperson. She has played for Lincoln University and Norfolk Beccles club.

"I love the De Mont badminton club because of the people and the atmosphere. Everyone helps each other, and we have had some great matches and games this season."



The team are committed. They train twice a week on the courts, plus they attend the gym working on strength and conditioning. I think it's plain to see that the ladies' friendships have been formed from their love of playing Badminton!! Who wouldn't want these girls in our LBA leagues?

WHERE WILL BADMINTON TAKE YOU?

At the age of six years old Sophie joined me at the Whitwick Junior Badminton Club and soon came to love the game. She had trials for County training and at the age of nine she joined Leicestershire County training squad, where she continued until the age of 18.

During this time, she competed in national tournaments alongside playing for the county team. In 2007 she suffered a serious injury which took her out of the game for over a year. Her recovery has been frustratingly slow and although she's had many set-backs her passion for the game has never wavered.

She obtained her Level 1 Coaching Certificate in 2012 and in the same year she was invited by BE to attend a residential for the National Young Coaches Academy. The following year she was one of two people in the country to be selected, again by BE, to attend this time as a mentor.

In 2009 she was invited, by her coach Martin Powell, to be a volunteer at the Special Olympics held in Leicester. This was to be a pivotal moment in Sophie's life. At 13 years of age this started her on a path she could not have imagined. During the event she met a young man from Wales taking part. His name was Kevin Egan. For the following ten years he became Sophie's main focus and inspiration to work with disabled people and give them every opportunity to play and love the game as she had. She became involved with many aspects of

disability sport and continued to keep a special relationship with Kevin and his family.

She has volunteered, on many occasions, for events all over the country and in 2013, when the Special Olympics were held in Bath, she stayed and covered the whole week of events, and was reunited with many of the friends she had made along the way.

While at the games she made another life-changing decision, to choose Bath University for her degree course. Even knowing the entry levels were high she was determined to get there. The following year she started her degree course in Bath. As a requirement of her course she spent a year on placement working in London at the Special Olympics Great Britain head office, and finishing the year at the Special Olympics Games in Sheffield in 2017.

She returned to Bath University for her final year and continued to play badminton for their team. After graduating last year she has returned to her local badminton club, Loughborough Leys and has continued to compete.

Sophie now works for a university in Leicester for the Students Union and is heavily involved in sport, activities and providing a wide range of opportunities for all students. She has recently led a Disability Awareness Campaign at the university and a number of inclusion activities, including charity events and training workshops in order to increase understanding and to work towards creating a more inclusive and accepting community.

What a journey! We wish her every success in her new role.

Carole Spencer



LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY 1ST TEAM REPORT

The final weekend of Premier division action saw Leicestershire in 3rd place, however still looking over our shoulder due to the tight nature of our league this year. A tough fixture list of title chasing and reigning champs Middlesex up first, Surrey second and relegation fighting Glasgow last didn't ease those worries.

The first tie started with singles as always, and Sahil back from his many trips abroad got us off to a flying start, and Sam equally so. James struggled to find his rhythm losing his singles. The girls then had some tough matches, Laura against quality opposition, then Hope relishing her single opportunity missing out in 3 ends. The men's doubles played by Carl & Jai and Tom & Chris and the 2 mixed of Sahil & Hope and Tom & Zoe all went to 3 ends but unfortunately we lost them all. Laura and Sarita took the ladies doubles, Zoe and Emma had a tough doubles losing in 2. Final score 8-3. Tough match and had us anxiously looking over our shoulder for the next match, against a very strong Surrey Team.

The match vs Surrey looked an uphill task, their singles line up frightening including World top 50 Toby Penty, and so it proved, the same singles line up as the first match returned no wins, 5-0

down after singles, an old school Leicestershire doubles recovery was needed. A shuffle of the doubles pairings also gave us a new impetus, Carl, this time with Sam started the comeback, with a fantastic victory. Tom and Jai then paired up and laboured to a 3 set win! Laura and Sarita carried on their winning ways and Zoe and Emma were on course to carry the comeback through, but unfortunately lost in 3 in a great match. The tie was gone but important games were still on offer in the mixed. The same mixed pairings stepped up to the plate and took both games to bring us an invaluable return of 5 points!

Final match on the Sunday vs Glasgow, the team was confident and the boys didn't disappoint, winning all 3 singles! The girls came up against some tough players, Laura struggling with her ankle didn't help and Zoe stepping in fighting but just coming up short. Carl and Sam, and Jai and Chris produced the goods in the men's doubles, then Sarita and Hope just missed out in an epic 3 setter, 22-20 in the third. Emma and Zoe then won theirs, and Tom and Hope and Jai and Sarita won the mixed comfortably making the final score 8-3. Safety secured and 4th place finish!

Another great season for the 1st team staying in the top division in the country.



COUNTY 2nd TEAM PROMOTED

The final county weekend had arrived for Leicester 2nds and we found ourselves in a strong position at the top of the table before play started. Redemption for last year's relegation beckoned and the team did not disappoint. Some replacements were drafted in as Juno, Ryan and Emma were all unavailable, but the very energetic Izzy Pike and old war horse Mark King (sorry Mark) proved to be more than up for the challenge.

We started the weekend against Shropshire 2 and got off to a flying start. Simon and Matt both comfortably coming through their singles games to put us 2-0 up. Due to the circumstances, there had been whispers of a return to the singles court for myself and I regret to say the rumours were true. However, somehow the score moved to 3-0 and this was followed by two more wins from our excellent ladies singles players (Jess and Izzy) who both have very bright futures. Men's doubles next and Matt and Simon made short work of the second doubles after Mark and myself had gone down in three sets with a strange performance. Ladies doubles next and Jenny and Jess did what they had done all year and won, but unfortunately for the new pairing of Wembley and Izzy, they couldn't quite get across the line and lost in three sets. Mixed to finish with and Matt and Jenny again came through theirs unscathed before Mark and Wembley completed the victory with a hard fought three sets victory. 9-2 to Leicester and promotion was all but assured.

Oxford 3 were the unfortunate team to face a team brimming with confidence and again Simon and Matt got us off to a great start, although Matt fancied a bit more of a run around so took his to three. My singles renaissance continued with a victory against one of the most unorthodox players I have ever played. The ladies singles was next and Jess "ice in her veins" Allen again made short work of her opponent, whilst Izzy did the same on the court next to her. Men's doubles saw a return to winning ways for myself and Mark, although not without a bit of a scare and Matt and Simon again came through their game with relative ease - leaving Simon with a 100% record to protect on the final day. Jess and Jenny won comfortably again and the same result ensued in the second ladies doubles. Just the mixed required now to complete the 11-0 and Matt and Jenny won

comfortably - Jenny now also with a 100% record to protect with one match left. Wembley and myself also won in two straight games to make the final score 11-0 and secure the title for Leicester 2.

The final day was one that we could enjoy having assured promotion and young Owen King was drafted in to replace his dad for the final match against Berkshire. Simon and Matt again did the business in the first two singles. Owen was up next to make his debut and put up a good fight before eventually losing to a bigger and stronger opponent. Jess was up next in her singles and found herself in the rare position of being down at 11 in the first. A few quick words and some great play from Jess soon saw the game turned around and normal service resumed. Izzy also got off to a slow start, but after losing the first played superbly to take it in three sets. Simon and Matt for once looked to be struggling in their doubles and with a 100% record to protect for Simon, this was no laughing matter. Unfortunately, they couldn't turn things around and the record had gone - there were murmurings in the press that some sort of deal had been struck between Jenny (also with a 100% record) and Matt, but these have never been verified....

Moving on, Owen and myself got things back on track again, as a very mature performance from the young and energetic junior ended in well earned three sets victory. Jenny and Jess again made no mistake, but unfortunately Izzy and Wembley were just edged out again in three sets. Just the mixed to go and Jenny nearly saw her record lost in the last game, before herself and Matt came through in three sets. Wembley and myself completed the victory in routine fashion and a final score of 8-3 completed an excellent season.

Congratulations to everyone for a brilliant year and we look forward to doing it all again next year to try and go up again. I see no reason why we can't! Special mention to Jenny for her 100% record this year and also to the younger players coming through who I thought were really good this year. Also a big well done to the 3rd team for comfortably staying up.

It has been a pleasure as always to manage the team and I look forward to next season.

Toby



LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY 3rd TEAM MATCH REPORT 23rd - 24th March 2019

Leicestershire 3 came into the final weekend in 6th position in the division 3 table with 19 points, one place above the relegation zone.

The first tie started off against Worcestershire 2, which was arguably the most important tie of the weekend as they also started the weekend on 19 points. The team thrived on this pressure and got off to a successful start; winning all 5 singles matches. Sameer, Cameron and Jess battling through to win in three. Kyle/Mark and Cameron/Sameer comfortably won their men's doubles, winning both in two ends. The ladies split the doubles, with Brit and Nat successfully winning a tough hard fought match in three. We finished the match with two more mixed wins to leave the final score at 10-1, a great result against our relegation rivals.

Next up was Lincolnshire, who were second in the table and almost guaranteed promotion at this stage. Sameer, Martin and Cameron all fought

hard in their singles, however were all edged out by a more experienced Lincolnshire men's singles line up. Sophie successfully won her second singles of the weekend whilst Jess was outclassed by a very strong opponent, which left us 4-1 down after the singles. The men's doubles pairs fought back, with two comfortable wins by Leicestershire. However, it wasn't enough to stop Lincolnshire from victory as they went on to convert the next two women's doubles matches. The overall score was 6-5 as Kyle/Brit and Mark/Nat won both the mixed doubles. A superb result against a team being promoted from the division.

The confidence that the team had gained from Saturday's matches was demonstrated on the Sunday morning against Oxfordshire 3. The team showed their class and defeated Oxford 11-0, not dropping a single set. This pushed the team up the table and into 3rd position.

What an excellent end to a great season!

LBA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The school system is ever changing and with the emergence of Academies, we have had to re-engage with new partners at Babington Academy and ensure our voice is still heard when it comes to matters relating to the use

and improvement of the badminton hall and the facilities attached to it.

We invited James Lillystone, the Communication & Marketing Officer, to our meeting in February. James was very happy to attend and we had a positive discussion about the way forward for Leicestershire Badminton being part of the new Academy setup.

Carole Spencer and Greg Howes have been in regular contact with De Montfort University in an effort to get them back in the leagues. Their persistence is beginning to bear fruit because they have agreed to put a team in next seasons New Hall League.

The senior county teams have once again had a successful season and I would like to congratulate all three teams for there efforts throughout the season.

The Performance Centre is going from strength to strength and we are starting to see some of our very talented juniors filter through to the senior setup.

Carol & Ray Harding have been the backbone of badminton in Leicestershire over the last 40 to 50 years. Their contribution in that time has been immense and my few words here do not do them justice, but I know that Carole Spencer in the Newsletter has done a larger and more complete history. I just want to let them know that everyone really appreciates both their dedication and commitment over the years and that they will be sorely missed. I do wish them a happy retirement and all the best for the future.

Ian Bosworth
LBA Chairman

LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report for the - 2017/2018 season



I once again take great pleasure in providing this end of season report. This Association work with Schools, Clubs and Local Sports Associations throughout the County to provide Competitive play for children from the ages of 8 to 17 years.

Again many thanks to all of our Team Managers and Coaches for the management and team selection during our competitive campaign this season. Unfortunately I have to report that during the season we had to accept the resignation of two of our most respected team managers. I would like to thank personally, both Amie Houtt and Alaina Goodenough for the time as Team Managers. We could not expect more dedicated and caring managers. Also thanks to all parents and volunteers – we could not function without your tireless support.

I would like thank our Junior County Captain – Chris Hall, a position he has held for five years. Chris provides a valuable connection between the players, performance centre and parents. This season has been a testing one for team selection/management. Chris's support and experience has been invaluable.

We continue to be supported by Greg Howes, Leicestershire's Badminton Development Officer. 'Mr Badminton' efforts and involvement is not only Junior but all aspects of Leicestershire Badminton.

Congratulations to all the players in their competitive play, both individually and at team level. Details can be found on the LSBA website.

This is our 6th year of the formal Team Leicestershire/Performance Centre set up. Well done to Chris, Mark, Anthony and all coaches involved.

Team results so far to date:

- U11 North Midway 2nd place
- U12 Shires Teams coming 2nd in the country
- U14 Shires Teams reached the Play-off finals
- U16 Shires Teams have reached the finals
- U18 Shires Teams have reached the finals
- U18 2nd place in the Rio tournament

The U18 ICT Team had a fantastic tournament this year finishing 2nd out of 32!!! This is the first time Leicestershire have reached this lofty position!

The legacy of this result is that we are continuing even further to reap the success of the 'Team Leicestershire'/Performance Centre set up.

More players are now making the transition from junior play to senior play. This is borne out by junior players pushing for places in the senior county teams and local club leagues.

LSBA players also continue to do well in the National Age Group Tournaments.

We also continue to provide junior players that are of interest to the England Junior Selectors.

Without players there would be no LSBA. We have a dedicated network of coaches and officials that take every opportunity to 'talent spot' for young new players. This is done at area coaching sessions, schools leagues, trials and club coaches introducing their players. A special mention again to Carole Spencer, Greg Howes, Terry Talbot, Graham Forryan for their efforts.

As mentioned above this season has been a testing one for team selection/management. As a result it has been identified that we need to look how we can better manage both managers, players and parents expectations. In the off season we will be looking at how best to achieve this. As Chairman I would welcome all coaches, players, parents and officials to contribute to this debate.

A final mention, not only those mentioned earlier, but to all members of the LSBA Committee who work behind the scenes.

Please feel free to contact me on any item of interest, concern or ideas etc.

Dave Armstrong

Chairman - Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association

Email : david.armstrong3@ntlworld.com

Mobile : 07847271827

and finally ...



I would like to start with the usual congratulations to all the League teams and the County Senior teams hopefully you have had an enjoyable season. Another great season for Leicestershire Juniors as all age groups win the playoffs and qualify for the League finals, and what a season for the under 18 years players. Congratulations on winning Silver in the Rio and Silver at the ICT. A special thanks to all the coaches that are working so hard to encourage and nurture our future players, and to the club/committee member's, without these wonderful volunteers, badminton could not survive. Keep up the good work.

While approaching my 70th year on this earth, 50th year playing badminton and 30 years coaching (which is a scary thought) I am still keen to promote this wonderful game that we all enjoy playing and has kept me reasonably fit for half a century. I am still coaching in the schools and still enjoying it, but we need some young blood to carry the work on. Coaching is really rewarding, watching players improve under your guidance is a great feeling, so if you think coaching could be for you, please let me know, I am happy to pass on my knowledge and experiences if it helps.

As you can see from this year's edition the juniors are doing really well again, representing the county throughout the country in the national tournaments and county matches. The excellent training provided by the Performance Centre is definitely having an impact on their success, long may it last. I am sure that some of these players will be representing the senior county in the future and hopefully playing in our clubs.

Just a bit more news, Badminton England have appointed a new Relationship Manager, Helena Russo, and Leicestershire is included in her remit. Helena has been to quite a few committee meetings trying hard to familiarise herself on how our County works and what our needs are. She approached us with the idea of piloting Badminton England's new adult social player's tournaments. We decided to give it a go and scheduled in three tournament dates to be hosted at Babington. Unfortunately, through lack of entries, we had to cancel the first one, but we are still going ahead and running the other two. These events are a chance to maybe identify future club members which in turn could help with club membership. Helena has reminded us again that there is still funding available from BE for club development. If any club wants advise on how to apply please get in touch with either myself or Greg who will be happy to help.

Well I will sign off now, another season nearly over and the holiday season approaching and I am off to Majorca again! And while I am there, there won't be a mention of the "B" word.

Enjoy your summer



I hope you have enjoyed reading the 2019 edition of the LBA newsletter/Magazine!! A big thanks once again to Angie Connors for helping to put this Newsletter together.