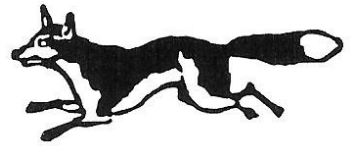
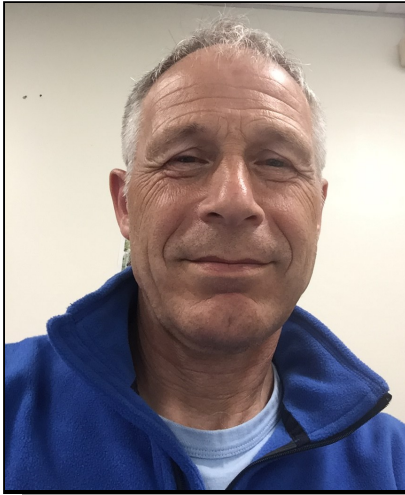


# LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN 2016/2017

Date: May 2017



My name is Ian Bosworth and last year I became the chair of the Leicestershire Badminton association, taking over from Steve Lofthouse.

First of all, I'd like to say many thanks and express mine and the committees' gratitude to Steve for all his hard work and commitment to a role he made his own. I hope to be able to continue his good work.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a member of South Leicester Badminton club and have been the match secretary there for several years.

I've been in the role of Chair for the last year and have been given tremendous support by the rest of the committee.

As I'm sure many of you are aware, Badminton England lost their funding for the top players and this could have a cascade effect on the general badminton community.

At present, badminton in Leicestershire is strong and healthy, but it's incumbent on us all to push badminton and encourage the youth to take up our great game.

We have great coaches, donating their time and efforts in the pursuit of excellence and I'd like to thank them for all their tireless work.

Likewise, Greg Howes and Carole Spencer do a fantastic job promoting our sport through the schools.

My aim as Chair is to ensure we remain in a position of strength, doing all I can to improve the membership and promote Leicestershire as a county, determined to produce top quality players for the future.

Thank you to all our members for all their hard work during this season.

*Ian Bosworth, Chair LBA*

## Leicestershire and Rutland Sport launch "TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE "

The new umbrella association offers all young people a high quality schools sport competition programme.

Team Leicestershire is a new voluntary umbrella association which brings together all secondary schools across Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland and eight voluntary school sports associations, Leicestershire schools Badminton is one of the eight sports.

If you require further information please visit [www.teamleicestershire.org](http://www.teamleicestershire.org)

Leicestershire BADMINTON players seen here wearing their new "TEAM Leicestershire " kit.



# LSBA LEAGUES/NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS/SCHOOL GAMES COUNTY ROUND

## Key Stage 3 Girls

Jess Rogers, Esme Thompson, Eve Bennet, Natra Gupta and Naomi Brown from Loughborough High School won their group matches by only dropping three games out of 20, they then had a clean sweep in the semi-finals beating Wigston Academy 5 - 0. The second semi-final was between Newbridge and Humphrey Perkins, this was a tight match, going down to the last game, Newbridge came through as winners 3-2 and went through to the final. The Newbridge girls Tilly Dale, Molly Cooping, Georgina Bremridge and Halle Parker were pitched against Loughborough in the final. Newbridge did all they could and fought hard but it was Loughborough that came out on top winning 4-1 and took the title.



## Key Stage 3 Boys

Luke Hoult, Freddie Clare, Noel Kew and Leo Grady from Newbridge High School in Coalville took the title of Champions of Leicestershire.

The Newbridge lads won all of their group games against Crownhills, Belvoir and Leicester Grammar, this took them through to the semi-final v Babington College who had won three out of four group games. This was great match, Luke took his singles, Leo Grady played really well and got an unexpected win in his singles game 21-16. The match was poised at 2-1 to Newbridge. Luke and Noel then clinched it by winning the next doubles match and they were through to the final. In the other half of the draw Crownhills battled against Manor High. Crownhills fought hard but Manor High were just too strong and won 4-1. The final was an exciting one. Newbridge went 2-0 up then Manor won the next singles making it 2-1. Newbridge just needed one game out of the last 2 games, both doubles games went on at the same time, the matches ended up 20-21 to Manor and 21-20 to Newbridge to give them the win. The Manor team - Teiren Mistry, Daoyi Chen, Mo Abdulla and Khalil Gaffar,



## Key Stage 4 Girls

The same team as last year, Eve Dale, Ella Haines, Natasha Grocock and Ebony Harrison from King Edward V11 College, Coalville, stormed through all their group matches not losing a game, they then went on to beat Beachamp College 5-0 in the semis. In the other half of the draw Leicester High girls Hritika Modi, Riya Chosh, Shivani Kumar and Mahbubah Durojaiye were doing well, they too won all their group games then beat Kibworth in the semis. The final was a good match with some good scores, but King Edward V11 were just too strong and never dropped a game, winning the match 5-0. Well deserved champions! The girls didn't lose a game all evening, winning all their matches 5-0 - quite an achievement.



## Key Stage 4 Boys

The Team from Ashby, Harry Clare, Marcus Kilby, Kieran Evans and Joe Goodenough showed their experience in the group stage by only losing one game out of 20 games played.

This took them through to the semis where they played Martin High. Going into this match Ashby's advantage of having three County players in the team paid off, even though there were some good games played Ashby won 4-1. In the other half of the draw Beachamp came through as winners, but had some really close matches against Martin High and Soar Valley.

Beachamp then took on Babington College who had finished in second place against Ashby. This was a very close match, but Babington just did it and won 3-2. Babington knew the final was going to be tough, and they were not wrong, the Ashby lads really raised their game to storm through and get a 5-0 victory.

The Babington team were:

Aman, Usamah, Shrey and Chetan.

The teams going through to represent Leicestershire in the regional round were decided:

KS3 GIRLS - Loughborough High

KS 3 BOYS - Newbridge High

KS 4 GIRLS - King Edward V11

KS 4 BOYS - Ashby School



## Regional Round

Leicestershire has been successful in getting a team through to the National Finals of this competition. Ashby KS4 Boys team played fantastic, winning all their games in the regional round competing against teams from Lincs, Notts, Derby & Northampton.

The hardest match was the last match of the day against William Farr, all the games were close, it went down to the last game of doubles to decide who would get the gold medals and go through to represent the East Midlands at Milton Keynes, it was a nail biting match, but Ashby just clinched it getting a 3- 2 win.

Good luck to Ashby School in the National Finals who will be flying the flag for the East Midlands and Leicestershire.

## LSBA U18 SECONDARY SCHOOLS' FINALS 2017

### SEMI FINALS

Boys	Region	Result	Opponent
	Region 1	Winner	Loughborough Grammar A
	Region 2	Runner up	Ashby
	Region 2	Winner	Beauchamp College
	Region 1	Runner up	Gateway

Girls	Region	Result	Opponent
	Region 1	Winner	Loughborough High
	Region 2	Runner up	WQE
	Region 2	Winner	Beauchamp College
	Region 1	Runner up	De Lisle

### FINALS

Boys	Region	Rank	Opponent
	Region 1	1st	Beauchamp College
	Region 2	2nd	Loughborough Grammar A
	Region 2	3rd	Gateway
	Region 1	4th	Ashby

Girls	Region	Rank	Opponent
	Region 1	1st	Loughborough High
	Region 2	2nd	Beauchamp College
	Region 2	3rd	De Lisle
	Region 1	4th	WQE



# Katie and Lola



Two little stars in the making I am sure. Katie and Lola are following in the footsteps of their siblings.

Katie's brother Luke and Lola sisters, Tilly and Eve, have inspired them to take up the game at an early age.

Both girls attend the Whitwick JBC every week as well as attending Saturday training at Babington College and they are only seven and eight years old.

The girls entered the two Under 10s doubles tournaments this season and won both. Well done girls!!!!



## NAMES TO REMEMBER !

Silver and Bronze medals for England on the final day of the European Junior Championships



England's rising stars MAX FLYNN and CALLUM HEMMINGS defied the seedings with a series of magical performances in France to win the boys doubles at the U19 European Junior Championships. For DAVID JONES, European Junior championships bronze is an excellent return from an individual event in which he was seeded 14th.



Note:  
HOPE WARNER ★  
from Leicestershire  
in the squad

## MASTERS COUNTY REPORT 2016-17

This has been a successful season for two of the five Masters teams entered in the Masters Inter County Championships.

The Over 65s, captained by Edward Hayes, won the East Midlands Division. They won all six matches, 45 rubbers to 9. They then played Warwickshire, West Midlands winner and beat them. This took the team through to the Finals in Hatfield where they finished in third place in the Country.

The Over 60s, captained by Greg Howes, also won the East Midlands Division. They won all six matches 49 rubbers to 23 therefore a trip to Hatfield where they ended in fourth place.

The Over 50s, captained by Debbie Merry, came second in the East Midlands division, winning five matches and losing three, 51 rubbers to 45.

The Over 45s, captained by Martyn Norman, also came second in the East Midlands Division, winning three matches losing three, 34 rubbers to 38.

The Over 40s, captained by Carl Jennings, also came second in their Division, winning two and losing two, 31 rubbers to 38.

In the Inter County Challenge, held in January, the Over 65s won Division 1A, and will be promoted back to the Premier Division next season. The Over 50s in Division 2A came fourth. The Over 40s, playing in the Premier Division, came fifth out of eight.

County Colours this season will be awarded to Amelia Dowdye, Nicole Bradley and Mark Poulson for the Over 40s. Darren Riches for the Over 45s, Dave Whitcroft for the Over 50s and Anthony Cripwell

for the Over 60s, which proves you are never too old to start representing your County.

We are always looking for players, over 39, who may be interested in representing the County Masters. Matches are usually on a Sunday. Next Season, unless we find more ladies, we will not be able to enter an Over 40s team.

Over the next few years there is a definite shortage of males and females, registered with the LBA, born in the years 1977—1982. Where have all these players gone ??

If you are interested, or know anyone else who might be, in playing for the Masters, please contact Carol Harding on 01509 550207, or any of the Masters players. Trials/practice sessions are held at the L.B.A. Hall, in September.

**CAROL HARDING**  
*Masters County Co-ordinator*





# WHITWICK JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB



Whitwick Juniors celebrate another brilliant season, with a total of 60 members on the books. The work that Amie and I do at the Hermitage Leisure Centre on a Wednesday evening with children from the age of 5-16 years is allowing us to keep our club membership up. As the children become more interested in the sport they are invited to the club, which runs every Saturday morning and has done for 26 years!! Thirteen of the players have represented Leicestershire this season and attend the Performance Centre training sessions at Babington College. When these players are not playing in national tournaments they give something back to the club by coming along to help the less experienced players. We have some

dedicated players at the club who are not county standard but work hard to be as good as they can be. We do encourage all our players to compete in the local tournaments and this year many have done really well bringing back medals. We have a presentation lunch at the end of each season to celebrate their successes, prizes are given to the most improved players. Last season players were: Louie Stevenson, Mitchell Allen, Freddie Clare, Tilly Dale, Issi Pike and our overall Club winner was Eve Dale. We do enjoy our Saturday mornings and it's a pleasure to coach the players, we are very proud of what they are achieving.

*Carole and Amie*



## South Leicestershire



At the weekly Friday night sessions at Brockington College we now have 32 juniors registered with Badminton England for the 2016/17 season who regularly attend the 5:30 to 7:00pm session. Members have started to take a pro-active approach in entering the Non-County Tournaments such as the LSBA Junior American Tournament and the Whitwick 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. The club presented free T-shirts to all members/volunteers and polo shirts to coaches who attended Autumn Term 2 or Spring Term 3. The club now has Badminton England coaches available on all four courts to be able to adapt the structured

programme for each week to suit the player's technical skills on the respective courts.

The junior club now has its own section within main web site <http://www.southleicesterbadminton.co.uk/login> which provides details of all junior club sessions, documents for all to be able to really appreciate what the club is about and can be offered to young players. Due to the growth and interest in the Junior Club we may need to look at introducing a further early session on a Friday and discussions on this topic will be held at the main clubs AGM. The club is still a Badminton England Premier Club and Sport England Clubmark.

*Ray Phipkin, Head Coach*





# HARBOROUGH LC Junior Badminton Club



The weekly Wednesday night's sessions are on the four courts at Harborough Leisure Centre. We now have registered a total of 82 Junior Badminton England members for the 2016/17 season of which 15 regularly attend the new 4-5pm session; 26 the 5-6pm session and 30 the 6-7pm session.

Members have continued to take a pro-active approach in entering the Non-County Tournaments. Lucy Goodman & Emily Hayes U14s runners-up & Ellis McKeown & Ella Bills U16's runners-up at the LSBA Junior American Tournament on 4/12/16. Ella Bills & Leah Denning won the U16's Girls Doubles at the Whitwick Badminton Tournament on 4/02/17.

The second Internal club tournament for season 2015/16 was held with 44 trophies presented to winners & runner-up of U10s Boys Singles & Doubles; U12s, U14s & U17s Boys & Girls Singles and Doubles events. Hannah Farr won the "Outstanding Club Member" trophy for 2016.

The Internal club tournament events for season 2016/17 were held early this year so as not to

disrupt older player's exams and a special presentation night with free food and drink for members will be held on 26/04/17.

The club now has its own web site <http://www.harboroughlcjuniors.org.uk/> which provides details of all club sessions, documents for all to be able to really appreciate what the club is about and can be offered to young players.

All players have had 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



## LBA JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB NUMBERS GROWING

The club play every Saturday morning at the LBA hall and has done for many years.

After struggling with low numbers for the last two years our beginner group has reached full capacity and with the advanced group also full it has been a good season.

We have been very lucky to have four qualified coaches and parent helpers which has enabled us to give some of our young players individual tuition.

I will be running summer sessions during May and June.

**Grahame Forryan**

# NON-COUNTY TOURNAMENTS





# JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SEASON 2016/17

With the end of the 2015/16 Badminton England tournament season came a change to the existing age group rules for Team Leicestershire to get to grips with. As well as the knock-on effect on team competitions like the Shires League and the North Midway League, players now found themselves moving up not one but two age groups and it's fair to say it took a while to assimilate all these changes – for both players and parents alike.

And so it was the new season kicked off on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a degree of uncertainty about what the year would bring. Almost 12 months on from that point and reviewing the year gone by on the BE tournament circuit, what has been certain is the commitment and dedication shown by the Leicestershire players as a group, representing their county with pride in all 4 corners of the UK and everywhere in between! A special mention must also be given to all the parents who have supported their child's competitive endeavours, regularly giving up weekends and Sunday morning lie-ins to get up at the crack of dawn in order to make that 9am on-court start!

The players' commitment has been more than matched by their success on the BE circuit, at all age groups, and in all standards of competition, from bronze, silver and gold, right through to National Championship level. It would be impossible to record every noteworthy success here – there are far too

many and Carole's newsletter will only stretch so far! However, all the players who entered competitions this year and who came home with a medal or three for their trouble, or who simply tried their hardest and played their best, are to be warmly congratulated for showing the grit and fighting spirit which are becoming recognised at all levels of the junior national competition circuit as a feature of being part of "Team Leicestershire".

However, I would like to single out the achievements of several players who have earned the rare honour of a medal at a National Championship. Back in September 2016, Eve Durrance and Sophie Watson won Bronze at the U13s English National Championships, a feat repeated by Jess Allen and Tamsin Betts at the U15s Championships only recently. Carly Stevenson also brought home Gold to Leicestershire from the U11s National Championships with her Notts partner. U11s William Sewell was also successful in achieving a Bronze medal at the same events, Congratulations to all the players!

So as this 2016/17 winds down towards the (short!) summer break from competition, the players can look back with pride, ready to enjoy a rest and some time to relax before firing the engines back up ready for the new season to come!!

*Jo Pike (LSBA Publicity Officer)*

## NATIONAL MEDALS



Jess Allen and Tamsin Betts  
U15s Bronze medals



Sophie Watson and Eve Durrance  
U13s Bronze medals



Carly Stevenson  
Under 11s Gold Medal  
William Sewell  
Under 11s Bronze medal

## PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPETITION

As a part of Leicestershire's Primary Schools programme I have been working in a few primary schools in North West Leicestershire, Greg, Maurice, Ray and Rowland have been doing the same in other areas of the County. We offer six weeks coaching for years 4/5 in the schools and then invite them to enter a competition.

I ran the North West area round of the competition at Newbridge High school with the help of some young volunteers. Four schools competed in the competition, St Johns the Baptist, St Charles RC, Ellistown and Hugglescote. Forty players enjoyed their first experience of playing on proper badminton courts and not just in the small school hall. They all did brilliantly and hopefully will try it again at their local LC. The winner, St Johns the Baptist, will now go on to play in the County round at Babington College on July 6<sup>th</sup> competing against other area team winners.



## BADMINTON ENGLANDS NEW Primary Schools' Initiative



I was asked by Badminton England if Leicestershire would like to pilot the new primary Schools 'Racket Pack' initiative, this takes place of the old 'bisi' programme. The 'Racket Pack' is a primary focused initiative designed to deliver fun and engaging skill based sessions ensuring a positive first time experience of badminton.

The initiative can be delivered within Curriculum time meeting national curriculum requirements as well as in extra-curricular. A part of the 'Racket Pack' is a skill based festival, where the schools are invited to send along teams to take part in 10 activities, the team accumulate points on each activity and an overall winning team is awarded medals.

The event went really well, all the children seemed to enjoy it. I am sure we will do this again next season.

**Results**

1st	Hugglescote boys
2nd	Hugglescote girls
3rd	New Swannington

Thanks to NWL school sports partnership who supported this event.

**LBA - AGM**  
**Thursday 11th May**  
**BABINGTON COLLEGE**  
**Leicester**  
**7.15pm**

**LBA**  
**PRESENTATION EVENING**  
**Friday 26th May**  
**BIRSTALL GOLF CLUB**  
**7.30pm onwards**

## Leicestershire Senior County 2016-17

Well done to everyone involved with the senior county. This season was a successful one for all three teams!

The county 1st team led by Tom Armstrong has again comfortably won Division 1 North and have qualified for the playoffs. Playoffs are very late this season so fingers crossed we fair better this year and get promoted to the premiership. Again it will be tough with Leinster, Hertfordshire and Middlesex to play. 1st Team colours for Anthony Clark, Jai Chandarana and Richard Kuhl.

The county 2nd team led by Toby Moon, had a great season winning five out of seven matches and finished third in a very tough division 2. Next season they have every chance of pushing for promotion. Well done to everyone involved. Great team performances. 2nd team county colours for Zoe Hallam, Sam Ricketts, Eve Dale, Megan Sell and Matthew Rofe.

The 3rd team led by Louise Lester were determined to put the disappointment of beating everyone in the division last year but still finishing third firmly behind them. They were again undefeated this season. Excellent efforts by everyone and a fantastic team spirit led to convincing wins in every match and Leicestershire finishing 13 points clear to get PROMOTED!! Brilliant news and really well deserved. Third team county colours for Shane Wilson. They look forward to the challenge of division three next year.

I look forward to next season where I hope we can develop 'Team Leicestershire', get more people involved and of course continue to win!

**Mark King**  
*Leicestershire Badminton County Captain*

## Senior County Restricted Championships

We had a great turn-out for the Senior County Restricted Championships, with double the entries in all events compared with last year. There were a lot of tough matches throughout the draw, and it was great to see so many of our up and coming juniors playing. This comes on the back of our Wednesday evening county club for county players of any age, where we have had great turn outs, and hopefully that will continue all season - come down 6pm onwards for young county juniors, and 7pm onwards for older juniors / senior / masters players.

### Results:

#### **Mens Singles** 21-10, 21-16

Winner: Richard Kuhl  
Runner-up: Tom Armstrong

#### **Ladies Singles** 21-14, 21-9

Winner: Zoe King  
Runner-up: Hritika Modi

#### **Mens Doubles** 21-23, 21-16, 21-8

Winners: Tom Armstrong and Carl Jennings  
Runners-up: Chris Hall and Jai Chandarana

#### **Ladies Doubles** 21-11, 21-12

Winners: Sarita Patel and Laura Mercer  
Runners-up: Emma Ault and Zoe King

#### **Mixed Doubles** 21-11, 21-18

Winners: Tom Armstrong and Zoe King  
Runners-up: Laura Mercer and Richard Kuhl

**We also ran a plate event, and there were some keenly contested matches there as well:**

#### **Mens Singles Plate**

21-11, 12-21, 21-17  
Winner: Martin Beynon  
Runner-up: Mark Paradine



#### **Ladies Singles Plate** 21-15, 21-11

Winner: Issy Paterson-Watts  
Runner-up: Shemangari Sivaganeshwaran

#### **Mens Doubles Plate** 21-19, 21-15

Winners: Rowan Clark and Anthony Clark  
Runners-up: Owen King and Mark King

#### **Ladies Doubles Plate**

19-21, 21-13, 21-11  
Winners: Eve and Hritika  
Runners-up: Issy and Jasmine

#### **Mixed Doubles Plate** 21-15, 21-17

Winners: Issy Paterson-Watts and Anthony Clark  
Runners-up: Wembley and Cameron

Well done to everyone who played.

**Mark King**  
*Leicestershire Senior County Captain*

# Report from 'The Badminton Man'



**Greg Howes**  
**Leicester City Development**  
**Officer & Coach**

## **A DEVASTATING BLOW TO OUR SPORT**

'Incomprehensible' is the word used by the Chief Executive of Badminton England in December 2016, describing UK Sports decision to take away all funding from our sport at the elite level, despite continuing to invest in grassroots badminton through Sport England.

As Chair of the Leicester City Community Badminton Network I have been involved in many funding applications regarding the coaching of juniors. The question is always asked is there an exit route, a clear pathway for participants to follow once the initial work has been done. In December 2016 part of that clear pathway was removed by the very people asking the question. Consequently on behalf of our Network I

challenged UK Sport to address our views:

*'UK Sport argue that their sole concern is winning medals at the Olympics. We believe that this should not be their only goal. They are dealing with the very top level of sport which inspires youngsters to get involved. So they cannot act in isolation from every other level below that. Every sport needs its role models and badminton is no exception. To take away UK Sport funding from badminton where five months ago we were celebrating an amazing achievement by our top men's pair winning bronze in the Olympics, is not just 'incomprehensible'. When you consider the possible impact all the way down the line, with no role models and no targets for our talented players to aim*

*for, it is scandalous. It shows no consideration for the greater picture or the future problems facing this country.'*

UK Sport report insufficient funding from Government to support all the sports they wish to fund. Well we don't see much Rowing or Sailing going on in schools. Their aim they say is 'to inspire the nation'. However they omitted to say to do what.

At the time of writing discussions are ongoing as to why both Sport England and UK Sport act independently of each other and why PE and its associated benefits to health is not a core subject at primary school.

**Greg Howes**  
**Chair Leicester City**  
**Community Badminton**  
**Network**

## **A RECORD THAT WILL NOT BE REPLAYED?**

A match in Leicestershire's adult badminton leagues consists of nine rubbers each the best of three games. In a one-sided match the victor might score nine 3 rubbers to 0, 18 games to nil and a total of 378 points. However, when a team amasses eight or nine games in a match the most common result is a 5-4 defeat. So how unlucky were Central Leicester Men's team in this season's match against Loughborough Leys when winning nine games, scoring over 420 points, yet losing the tie by eight rubbers to one. In recent times this is a record, but not an enviable one. Better luck next season guys!

**Greg Howes**  
**Match Secretary**

## CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

In 2016 our team of coaches extended the primary competitions to include schools from the County. The format mirrored that of the School Games in that each participating borough held its local competition to establish our finalists.

To conclude the 2015/16 season, the County Final was held on 1 July at Babington College involving Thurnby Lodge (City), Fleckney (Blaby/Harborough); Wigston Academy



(Oadby/Wigston), Hugglescote (North West) and Burton on the Wolds (Charnwood). Seeded one, Thurnby Lodge succeeded in getting three pairs through to the quarter finals and edged in front in the team competition. When their top two pairs progressed to the semi finals the team competition was won. To round off a great day for the school Thurnby Lodge's number ones beat their counterparts from Wigston Academy. Final placings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thurnby Lodge; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wigston Academy; 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleckney; 4<sup>th</sup> Hugglescote; 5<sup>th</sup> Burton on the Wolds. Prizes for the winners included a supply of new rackets for the school from Badminton England, an invitation to a Sky Sports National Badminton League match at Loughborough University and a day out at the 2017 All England.

To cap a great year for Thurnby Lodge Primary School their title winning team came runners up in the Leicester City Sports Awards 2016.

New primary schools joining us this academic year are Bridge, Rolleston, Millfield Academy. Ravenhurst & Braunstone Community.

## Busy badminton year for the King family!

With Ryan making a return to competition this year after two years without playing tournaments and Zoe playing around Europe it has certainly been a busy badminton year for the King family. Some of the highlights for Mark, Owen, Ryan and Zoe this year include:

Mark winning Bronze at European Masters Over 40's Men doubles and runner-up at Nationals Overs 40's with Carl Jennings.

Mark and Owen reaching senior restricted plate final!

Zoe playing for Suffolk Saxons (thank you Clarky) and being within two points of taking Gabby Adcock and Chris Langridge to a final set in the NBL.

Ryan winning two U19 tournaments with Cameron

Zoe winning senior county singles and mixed.

Zoe playing and winning a few matches at International tournaments:

Slovak, Belgian U19, Danish U19, Scottish, Welsh and German U19 opens.

Zoe winning three out of four games for Club Deportivo Badminton Mercapinturas Almeria in the Spanish league.

Ryan playing and winning some excellent singles matches including beating Cameron at the County restricted!

Owen reaching the finals of four bronze tournaments and winning U14 county restricted doubles with Luke, plus final of singles and mixed.

## TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE/PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The 2016/17 season is coming to an exciting conclusion on many fronts, once again, I see myself, and the coaches returning to last year's report amongst other markers to reflect on how far we have come in that time. It is not always easy to see progress when you are intensely involved week in week out so periods of reflection are always very important. It has been a testing year for all involved in the Performance Centre with relationships under the Team Leicester banner being tested to the max in order to find the best way forward. This is countered with a real positive influx of individual and team results across all our age groups with more and more players embracing tournament and match play as well more engagement with our coaches on and off court. We have had more medals at higher grades than we have had for many years across all age groups and we have received glowing feedback from Badminton England again with regards to our PC structure and coaching team. With these uncertain times for our National Governing Body, it is important more than ever that we back ourselves and each other in what we are implementing and trying to achieve, while not wavering from our principles that underpin our coaching as a team, which in turn delivers top quality development and training opportunities for our players. All things point to us moving in the right direction and reassuring us that we are doing the right thing.

Strong ties with external bodies such as Loughborough University, have strengthened our development

pathway this year and already we are seeing the benefit of this with our senior players and experienced gained from having players from the University come and work with us. Extra support through Strength and Conditioning has been brought in to help our players develop better physically giving our players the tools to put the work in on and off the court. To me the future is looking bright and I hope that brings more success in the near and distant future.

To me one thing we constantly must ask ourselves is what does success look like for the Performance Centre and us? Does everyone connected with it know what our goals are, what our aspirations for the players are? What the coaching team is trying to achieve and implement? I would confidently say that many individuals, if asked, would answer the previous questions with a no. Is this because we do not communicate those goals as well as we could, possibly and we aim to improve that. Alternatively, is it because players and parents do not share those goals the coaches have or at the very least, they do not buy into those goals and strategies. Only with collective buy in can any athlete achieve their very best potential. I find myself again dipping back to last year's report and making no excuses for it, as I believe it is pertinent now more than ever:

*"While many great coaches I have met have athletes with titles, medals, or both, what I learned from them runs counter to what might be expected. Many of these coaches maintain that focus on the process has been a key ingredient for their success. They define "the process" as the emphasis on player growth and group development, mastery of*

*skills, and mastery of elements of their respective games."*

So how do we master skills? How do we improve tactical awareness? Is it through hours and hours of repetitive practice? Is it through playing 30 tournaments a year? The unequivocal answer from the coaches would be no. So what is the answer? We as coaches can only give players the tools with which to succeed and develop. Players (and parents) need to invest in the strategies and techniques we as coaches' use. The biggest struggle we have had this year **by far** is application during training. That is not just physical application through effort (which should be a given!!), but also buy in to practices, routines or strategies, buying into problem solving and questioning each other, try and think how will this positively affect my game? Good coaches love nothing more than being challenged; we don't just want robots we want to empower our athletes to problem solve and to always be asking 'so what's the next challenge?' So let's keep moving forward, pushing each other towards excellence but ultimately pushing in the same direction.

I'd like to thank all the coaches once again for their hard work, enthusiasm, seeing the quality that our coaches' produce really makes me proud of what we have here in Leicester, and long may it continue. Like always we are always keen to share our knowledge so coaches and inquisitive parents are always welcome to observe and help out at our PC sessions, just make sure you contact us first! Once again, keep working hard on and off the court and enjoy your summer.

**The Performance Centre Coaches**

## U11s MANAGER REPORT

### U11s PRIMARY MIDWAY

**1<sup>st</sup> Leg** – This tournament gave us chance to use a wider range of players and allow the mixing up of partnerships. The work rate for each other was the key to success allowing some close fought wins and a second place finish in this first round.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Leg** – The team, eager for medals were thrown straight into the deep end with the groupings putting the top five teams together, which meant a very challenging day of badminton. Every single player worked for every point earning us one straight win against Cheshire, two draws, won on point's difference and one loss on point's difference. This confirmed our second place and a very well deserved Silver Medal.

Well done team!

*Squad: Carly, Abi, Fallon, Sylvie, Isla, Sansha, Matilda, Will, Mitchell, Archie, Baptiste, Jack*



## U12s & U13s MANAGER REPORT

### UNDER 12 AND UNDER 13

With a squad of young and mostly inexperienced players, the season had to start early with a get together in October to organise potential pairings involving those eligible at both age groups. It was a chance for the squads to get to know each other and the team managers and proved to be a very successful occasion.

### U12s SHIRES LEAGUE

The U12s were thrown straight into the newly formed U12s Shires League. This was a massive step up for many young and inexperienced players who needed to overcome nerves and show a high levels of endeavour in every match. This they did, the newly formed team overcame Norfolk, a very strong Essex and Staffordshire but unfortunately, although putting up a great fight, lost out to Hertfordshire and despite the final score line, suffered only marginal losses in the games to a very good Warwickshire team.



With pride, we are very pleased to say that we have qualified for finals day May 21<sup>st</sup>, sneaking in at 8<sup>th</sup> place.



*Squad:  
Carly, Abi, Fallon,  
Sylvie, Isla, Sansha, Matilda, Will,  
Mitchell, Archie,  
Baptiste & Ali*

## U13 MIDWAY

This tournament was always going to be tough especially with only two of the eight players from the true age group. We therefore knew this was going to be learning curve, but supported by the more experienced players, the young team earned deserved wins and challenged good opposition throughout, leaving us in third after the first leg.

The second leg saw some more challenging games as other counties fielded stronger teams. The team rose to the challenge and but narrowly missed out on third due to the number of games won and lost.

Final result – a tough but well-earned fourth place.



*Squad: Carly, Abi, Isla, Sylvie, Sansha, Matilda, Will, Mitchell, Tom, Mohammed, Leo*

A massive thanks to Graham and Terry who supported the initial get-together, allowing us to learn lots about the players and the concept of mixed doubles... and alongside Dave have supported the development of the younger player and selection. Thanks also to Alan for all the fixtures, and Carole for keeping us on our toes with regards to bookings, fixtures,



hosting and general FAO's in our first year as team managers, we could not have achieved this well without you. Most of all we'd like to thank the vast numbers of players that have represented us this year. You've done yourselves proud.

*Adam & Karen*

## DIVISIONAL WINNERS LEICESTERSHIRE ADULT LEAGUE 2016/17

<b>Hall 1</b>	Loughborough Leys 2	<b>Ladies 1</b>	Loughborough 1
<b>Hall 2</b>	Loughborough Leys 1	<b>Ladies 2</b>	Meltonshire 1
<b>Mens 1</b>	Regal Arts 1	<b>Ladies 3</b>	Loughborough 2
<b>Mens 2</b>	Longslade Stoneygate Mens 1	<b>Mixed 1</b>	Loughborough 1
<b>Mens 3</b>	Regal Arts Mens 2	<b>Mixed 2</b>	South Leicestershire 2
<b>Mens 4A</b>	Meltonshire Mens 2	<b>Mixed 3</b>	Loughborough Leys 3
<b>Mens 4B</b>	Feathers Mens 1	<b>Mixed 4</b>	Huncote Mixed 1
<b>Mens 5A</b>	Melton Mens 1	<b>Mixed 5A</b>	Loughborough 2
<b>Mens 5B</b>	Huncote Mens 1	<b>Mixed 5B</b>	Melton Mixed 1
<b>Mens 6A</b>	Hermitage Lakeside Mens 1		
<b>Mens 6B</b>	Panthers Mens 2		



## TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE U14s REPORT 2016-17

The U14s have travelled the length and breadth of Britain this year entering tournaments and competing in their County matches. They have been very busy and very dedicated to Badminton and all their hard work has shown as they have beaten Nottingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire 2, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire to qualify for the Shires League Finals on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

This will be the pinnacle of the County matches, it will be an intense day of badminton but I know this team have it in them to perform to the best of their ability and come away with a strong finish in the league.

This season some of the team have represented Leicestershire not only in their age group but in age groups above and have held their own, well done to all of you.



Apart from playing the badminton we have been entrained all season by Ayush with his usual quotes for the day, even though we didn't always understand them! We had graffiti from Owen on Luke's back (don't ask) a singing rendition from the lads, well I think that is what you call it, then not to be left out crazy dads Chris and Neil succeeding in being the most embarrassing parents.

An eventful season that we hope will finish well in the finals.

Thanks to all the parents for their support this season.

*Amie Houlton, U14 Manager*

*The team: Luke Houlton, Owen King, Ayush Panchal, Lewis Whyley, Sophie Watson, Eve Durrance, Evie Pike, Tilly Dale and Grace Sherwin*



## UNDER 14s CHAMPIONSHIPS

### RESULTS:

#### BOYS SINGLES

Winner Luke Houlton  
Runner up Owen King

#### GIRLS SINGLES

Winner Sophie Watson  
Runner up Eve Durrance

#### BOYS DOUBLES

Winner Owen King & Luke Houlton  
Runners up Ayush Panchal & Lewis Whaley

#### GIRLS DOUBLES

Winners Eve Durrance and Sophie Watson  
Runners up Evie Pike & Grace Sherwin

#### MIXED DOUBLES

Winners Sophie Watson & Luke Houlton  
Runners up Owen King & Eve Durrance



Just to mention huge well done to Sophie and Luke who both did the treble

## UNDER 15s NORTH MIDWAY TAKE 4th PLACE



*Evie Pike, Jessica Allen, Tamsin Betts, Tilly Dale, Grace Sherwin, Callam Capman, Lewis Whyley, Louie Stevenson, Danny Beynon, Harrison Collins, Tom Paterson-Watts and Coach Cameron Collins*

Sunday 19th February saw the U15 North Midway team tackle the second leg of the fixture, having achieved 5th place in the first leg. With a couple of counties having dropped out, the competition was played as a round robin. First up was Lancashire 1 who were lying in 2nd place after the first leg; the team reversed their first leg defeat to win 7-3. Unfortunately the team was unable to match this feat against eventual winners Yorkshire 1, losing 3-7 after some very tight matches which could have gone either way. We then beat Cheshire 10-0 and finished off beating local rivals Notts 7-3 to finish runners up on the day and improving our overall standing to 4th. A great team effort, particularly considering the inexperience of some of the players.

## TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE U16s REPORT 2016-17

The U16s team have had a great season this year, winning three out of the five Shires League matches (one team pulled out).

The team's wins were matches against Worcester 19-1, Lincolnshire 14-6 and Nottingham 15-5. The other two matches were against tough competitors, Yorkshire 1 and Warwickshire, although we lost the matches the players all played brilliantly and the scores did not reflect the level of badminton played on the day.

They have finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Shire League and have earned themselves a place in the Play-Offs to played on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April.



## TRIPLE CHAMPIONS

We have four players that did the triple in their age group County Championships this season.

What an achievement for these players all four of them were crowned champions at Singles, Doubles and Mixed doubles.

- Under 14yrs - Luke Hoult**
- Under 14yrs - Sophie Watson**
- Under 16yrs - Jessica Allen**
- Under 18yrs - Eve Dale**



## INTER COUNTY SINGLES EVENTS



**Winner of the Cooper Cup**  
**Jess Allen**  
**Runner up: Tamsin Betts**



**Winner of the Ray Liggins Cup: Luke Hoult**  
**Runner up: Ayush Panchal**  
**Winner of the plate event: Mitesh Chauhan**  
**Runner up: William Sewell**

## U18 RIO TOURNAMENT

The Rio Team Tournament played at the York Railway Institute saw the return of Leicestershire onto the prestigious Yorkshire guest list after a number years! Great weekend of badminton with the team coming a well deserved 5th place!

Sameer Chenia, Tom Cowperthwaite, Martin Beynon, Ryan King, Nikhil Chotai, Harry Clare, Issy Paterson-Watts, Jess Allen, Izzy Pike, Eve Dale, Ella Haines, Hritika Modi.

## U18 SHIRES LEAGUE

The team have had great season, winning five out of the six matches played, they came 10<sup>th</sup> in the league, this took them through the play offs, which was a very tight match against Lancashire, they came through with a good performance and won the match, this has now given them a place in the finals!

Jasmin Bullock, Hritika Modi, Tom Cowperthwaite, Nikhil Chotai, Eve Dale, Ella Haines, Jai Chandarana, Ryan King. Other players not pictured, Martin Beynon, Issy Paterson-Watts, Izzy Pike, Jess Allen, Harry Clare.

## U17 NORTH MIDWAY

This tournament is played over two legs, November and March.

The first leg saw them finishing in 1st place, the players were: Dan Youngs, Matt Betts, Eve Dale, Marcus Kilby, Emily Williams, Tom Cowperthwaite, Tamsin Betts, Jess Rodgers, Tom Lund, Izzy Pike.

The revised team for the 2nd leg kept the pressure up giving Leicestershire first place and the gold medal for all fourteen players who took part!!

Tom Lund, Marcus Kilby, Joe Goodenough, Matt Betts, Dan Youngs, Grace Sherwin, Tilly Dale, Sophie Watson, Tamsin Betts, Jess Rodgers



### The Results of the Under 18yrs Championships 2017

#### Boys singles

Winner Nikhil Chotai  
Runner up Tom Cowperthwaite

#### Girls singles

Winner Eve Dale  
Runner up Hritika Modi

#### Boys doubles

Winners Jai Chandarana and Ryan King  
Runners up Nikhil Chotai and Tom Cowperthwaite

#### Girls doubles

Winners Eve Dale and Hritika Modi  
Runners up Tamsin Betts and Jess Allen

#### Mixed doubles

Winners Jai Chandarana and Eve Dale  
Runners up Martin Beynon and Ella Haines

# LEICESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



## Chairman's Report for the 2016/2017 season

I have been providing an end of season report as LSBA Chairman for the last seven years.

Prior to taking on the Chairman's role I have been involved as Secretary, Publicity Secretary and five years as Team Manager. An involvement for over 20 years!

Over that time I have seen many changes not only to our own sport but also to the way associations such as ours are run.

As I look back over the seasons past I am encouraged by the way, the LSBA has developed and evolved with the new challenges presented to us, i.e. Age group changes (and back again), the formation of Team Leicestershire with the coming together of every aspect of Badminton in Leicestershire, guiding players and parents expectations to ensure enjoyment and lasting involvement against short term gain etc.

All of the above would not be possible without the dedicated support and time given by the LSBA volunteers, officials, coaches' managers etc.

Once again many thanks to all of our Team Managers and Coaches for the management and team selection during our competitive campaign this season. It would be remiss of me not to mention the support of all parents and volunteers.

This is our 4th year of the formal Team Leicestershire set up. The Performance centre goes from strength to strength. We once again thank Chris, Tom, Mark, Anthony and all coaches involved.

We continue to be supported by Greg Howes - Leicestershire's Badminton Development Officer - 'Mr Badminton' efforts and involvement in not only Junior but all aspects of Leicestershire Badminton goes from strength to strength.

Congratulations for all of our success in competitive play both individually and at team level. Details of which can be found on the LSBA website.

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 final mention again to all members of the LSBA Committee who work so hard behind the scenes.

*Dave Armstrong – Chairman  
April 2017*

### **LSBA-AGM**

**TUESDAY 23RD MAY**

**At 7.30pm**

**Babington College**

### **LSBA**

**PRESENTATION  
EVENING**

**Friday 30th June at 7pm**

**Hugglescote Social Club**

**Dennis Street, Hugglescote**

**LE67 2FP**

# ICT REPORT - 2017



**Martin Beynon, Jai Chandarana, Nikhil Chotai, Tom Cowperthwaite, Ryan King  
Eve Dale, Ella Haines, Hritika Modi, Issy Paterson-Watts, Izzy Pike**

Inter-Counties Tournament: for those who haven't heard of it, the pinnacle of junior badminton in the UK, when 35 counties converge on the University of Nottingham campus for four days of intense competition. Each county selects its top 10 junior players, five boys and five girls and this year, Leicestershire pride rested on the capable shoulders of Team Manager Chris Hall and the 2017 team:-

## DAY 1

After settling in to their rooms and having the official team photo taken, it was time to start the campaign. Round 1 saw Leicestershire seeded #2 in a group with Suffolk, Northants and top seeds Cheshire who the team knew would be the biggest hurdle. With each rubber consisting of two boys singles, two girls singles, two boys doubles, two girls doubles and two mixed doubles, team selections were communicated to the players during each pre-match 'huddle', each player knowing what their role was to be and a final chance for visiting supporters to pass on last words of wisdom, including Performance Director Anthony Clark and County Captain Mark King as well as assorted players from previous years!

With the first rubber due to start at 12.30 against Suffolk, the team wanted to make a positive start and the team performed as well as they had hoped for, with only two very strong Suffolk girls able to carve out lone wins for a final scoreline of: **Leicestershire: 8 Suffolk: 2**

With no time to rest before the next rubber, the team knew they had a difficult task against a strong Cheshire team. The scoreline had the counties neck and neck through both singles and doubles with the pick of the games being a stunning victory for Issy P-W against Annabelle Bellis 9-15 15-5 17-15 that had the already vocal Team Leicestershire supporters cheering themselves hoarse! Unfortunately, Cheshire managed to win the final two mixed doubles games of the rubber to just sneak the win:- **Leicestershire: 4 Cheshire: 6**

After a break for the evening meal it was time for the final fixture of the day, the team knew they had to win this to progress through to Day 2 in the top half of the draw. As expected, Leicestershire managed a straightforward win against a clearly weaker Northants team, finally rounding off a long day at 10.00pm with the players returning gratefully to their rooms for a shower and bed.

**Leicestershire: 8 Northamptonshire: 2**

## Day 2

The team prepared themselves for what they knew would be a very tough day with Leicestershire now in a group with Yorkshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire. On paper, it was local rivals Derbyshire, Leicestershire sailed through winning 7-3.

**Leicestershire: 7 Derbyshire: 3**

The team knew this next match would be close, the teams halved the singles 2 all with Lancashire just edging into the lead after the level doubles 5-3 and Leicestershire pulling back level by taking both the mixed for a final score of 5-5 a dead heat! However, on count back, Leicestershire were on the losing side with Lancashire nicking the win by just 7 points. Proof once again of the importance of every single point!

**Leicestershire: 5 Lancashire: 5**

With the final two matches of the day against two very strong teams in Yorkshire and Hertfordshire, the team fought hard but were unable to manage a win, despite the scoreline not being reflective of some very close losses which would have brought the teams closer:-

**Leicestershire: 3 Yorkshire: 7**

**Leicestershire: 2 Hertfordshire: 8**

### Day 3

After a tough second day, the team were glad of a slightly later start time of 10.45am on Wednesday and with just 2 matches scheduled for the day, the team were (mostly!) looking forward to an early finish in order to prepare for the last night disco, a highlight of the event for many of the players (and team managers perhaps!) The match ended in a good win for Leicestershire.

**Leicestershire: 7 Dorset: 3**

The next match was against Avon and the team knew this would be a tougher challenge from a county possessing strength in depth across boys and girls. The team made the start they needed by winning 2 from 2 in the mixed but were unfortunately unable to win any of the 4 singles, putting the team on the back foot and needing to win at least 3 of the 4 level doubles....but it wasn't to be. With the counties sharing 2 apiece, the final score was:

**Leicestershire: 4 Avon: 6**

### Day 4

After a late night for some throwing shapes on the dance floor, there were some tired faces around the breakfast table the following morning!! The team knew by this point they were playing off against Sussex in the final rubber

for 15th/16th place and while they may not have been competing for the top four places, there was no less determination to put 100% effort into a final win for Leicestershire. All the players played their part in this very exciting match, there was some high scoring games and near misses. With the match score poised at 5-4 to Leicestershire it was left to Eve & Ryan to try to get the outright win for Leicestershire against a very strong pair from Sussex, they fought hard but their opponents were just to consistence on the day. Once again demonstrating the importance of points on the board, with all the close losses playing a critical role in a countback situation despite a draw in games, the win was awarded to Leicestershire.

**Leicestershire: 5 Sussex: 5**

So after an intense 4 days of fantastic team spirit, determination and pride in wearing the team shirt, Leicestershire finished ICT 2017 in a creditable 15th place, bar for a couple of very close losses they could have placed even higher.

Congratulations to all the team who played and fought so hard and supported each other as a team throughout the whole week. Huge thanks go to Chris Hall for his skills as Team Manager and his unfailingly positive attitude, even when the going was really tough, and to

Hayley for her usual care for her charges during such a challenging experience. Also thanks go to Anthony and Mark for their input and encouragement from the sidelines through the week.

Thanks must also go to the motley crew of Team Leicestershire supporters, parents, assorted family members and Leicestershire ICT team members from years gone by, with the calls of "Let's Go Leicester, LET'S GO!" still ringing in their ears, every one of the 10 boys and girls who carried Team Leicestershire's hopes into ICT 2017 can look back with great pride on their performance; an incredible experience none of them will ever forget!

*Report by Jo Pike*



# LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON COACHES ASSOCIATION

## Chairman's Report



I was elected as the new chairman as Rowland had decided to step down. First and foremost I would like to thank Rowland for all the hard work and dedication he has shown not only to the association but to the sport of badminton. I know he works tirelessly and know he will still be around helping in some capacity. I wish him all the very best.

I am very passionate about making sure badminton gets noticed and played more at all levels and I will do my utmost to make sure this happens. I urge that all active coaches subscribe to the association as we will only get stronger if we all work collectively and share good practices.

Finally I would also like to thank the committee and the various coaches that spend their time developing the sport within Leicestershire.

*Ajay Pitrola*

## ADULT COACHING

I started the first adult coaching sessions at Babington College in March 2017. I was overwhelmed with the interest and the first block is fully subscribed. The aim of these sessions is to give confidence to social adult players that want to improve their game. Many just need some help and guidance so they can join competitive league clubs.

I plan to run this coaching throughout the year.

For more information on Adult Coaching and registering your interest, please visit:

[www.lbadminton.org](http://www.lbadminton.org)

## LEVEL AND MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT



Sunday 27th November 2016





## CENTRAL LEICESTER JUNIOR CLUB

Central Leicester junior club are fully subscribed with 50 regular members. I scouted the improvers from Friday and moved them over to the adjacent Friday Team Leicestershire training. It shows the seamless pathway we have as we are all working collectively to ensure juniors get the best opportunity to excel in the sport.

## NO STRINGS BADMINTON

### Saturdays at Babington

This has gone from strength to strength, with 30 plus turning up each week. A great variety of mixed abilities attend and everyone seems to enjoy the games.

## COSSINGTON LADIES BADMINTON

This is now a self-sustaining group which I have worked closely with the ladies to build upon. It is now managed and run by the ladies themselves with support from myself. I am very pleased as this was setup in 2011 and is still going strong. Long may it continue!

# SINGLES TOURNAMENT

The Singles Tournament held at Babington College was a great success. 32 entrants (12 ladies, 20 men) in the various categories. I was very pleased with the turnout and the standard of badminton was exceptional. The morning got off to an early start at 9am but the enthusiasm of the participants was such that everyone was on time! There were seven Intermediate boys, eight Intermediate girls, 13 League standard mens and four League standard ladies. For some of the participants who were playing their first tournament of this kind, it was quickly apparent that singles was indeed a test of fitness and stamina as well as technique and footwork. However, all rose to the challenge and there were many close games with the semi-finalists being decided by points in some cases after having identical win loss records.

The semi-finals and the finals were all of great standard and it was nice to see so many staying on to support and spectate. We even finished ten minutes before the Masters County were due to start. The results are below:

#### Intermediate Ladies

Winner: Sufyaana Dhanji  
Runner Up: Hamsi Ganesh

#### Intermediate Mens

Winner: Akash Gokani  
Runner Up: Dhanush Barathan

#### League Ladies

Winner: Manni Gill  
Runner Up: Katie Fleming

#### League Mens

Winner: Mark Paradine  
Runner Up: Billy Stevely



A big congratulations to all that took part and especially the winners and runners ups. I intend to resurrect singles badminton in Leicestershire with more tournaments like this and perhaps looking at how we can implement the singles league or ladder system that will keep more people interested in the discipline and is easier to manage. Attached are some photos from the tournament.

Ajay Pitrola

## INTRODUCING LEICESTERSHIRE'S JUNIOR COUNTY CAPTAIN

A year ago the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association and Team Leicestershire decided that it would be a good time to create a new position on the LSBA committee and introduce a junior county captain. Chris Hall took on this position. Chris has been involved in badminton in Leicestershire as a young player playing in the junior County teams and as a senior player, he's enthusiastic and has a passion for the sport.

I thought it would be nice to give a bit of background on Chris, so here we go. At eight years old Chris turned up at the Ibstock after-school club with his sister Jodie and asked if he could join in. This he did and soon became a regular face at the Ibstock and Whitwick JBC. He then started to show his competitive side and entered the local junior tournaments. This led to him being asked to go along to the training at Babington College and his county career started. He represented Leicestershire from 12 years old until ending his junior career at 17 years by playing in the renowned ICT Team. It was obvious the next move would be to play for the senior county teams which he got asked to do at 16 years old and is still doing today, hopefully he will be flying the flag for the county for many more years.

Chris also has other commitments to the sport, he enjoys playing for his club Loughborough Leys where he is also the treasurer.

And as if all that wasn't enough he took his coaching awards and became a Level 2 coach which has come in very handy as he now is one of the performance centre coaches. He is the current under 18s county team and ICT manager and an LSBA and PC committee member.



While doing all this badminton work he works full time studying accountancy and is still only 23 years old.

He is doing a great job of junior county captain. It's nice to see someone as young as Chris, who is so dedicated to making the county and its players as good as it can be.

Thank goodness Chris came along to the Ibstock junior club all those years ago.

*Carole*

**LBA  
SUMMER CLUB  
every Monday night  
at BABINGTON COLLEGE  
for more details  
PLEASE CONTACT  
Richard on 07541133683**

### **Adult Badminton Coaching starting in May!!**

Adult Badminton classes starting in May at Babington College and Cossington Leisure Centre. 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 07891871836.

## BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Since the turn of the century, I have been coaching years 5 & 6 at the school on a Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7.45 am until 8.45 am with 8 pupils for each session. Unfortunately, the court is about 2 meters short with the roof approx. 6 meters at the highest point and 4 meters at its lowest. Two small courts, side-by-side are painted on the wooden floor. For a full width court, I have to put rubber strips down. However, with all these difficulties, the children cope admirably and over the years have progressed onto County Youth Team players and some playing in University teams. I

try to encourage them to take part in the various tournaments arranged for their age groups. I have great support from everyone at the school, also from the parents, who make sure that their child attend regularly and on time. All-in-all, it is a pleasure to be associated with them.

The photograph shows most of the two groups who attend this year.

## A VISIT FROM THE OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLISTS



Leicestershire Performance centre players enjoyed an evening with the Olympic Bronze Medallists Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge at Babington College.

The bronze medallists shared their knowledge and experiences with the players, speaking honestly about how they got to where they are today and what motivated them.

They also got on the courts and showed off their skills as well as playing against the PC players.

Both Marcus and Chris gave the players a lot of good advice, which included to train hard, listen to the coaches but never lose sight of why you started playing - to enjoy it!!! Good advice I think. Everyone really enjoyed the evening which ended with an opportunity to have photos taken with the bronze medallists.

## WHITWICK LADIES - NEW TEAM

I started the season by asking a few of the young players from the under 14/16yrs county teams if they would be interested in playing in a team in the ladies leagues, they jumped at the chance, and I had eight girls wanted to play! Issi Pike, Evie Pike, Tamsin Betts, Eve Durrance, Jemima Haines, Tilly Dale, Katie Evans and Grace Sherwin, too many ladies! That's a first. So the Whitwick Ladies led by "Captain Caz" (that's me) started the leagues, the first two matches we lost, then a win! Good feeling, as the season progressed we got better having some close games and ended on a high winning our last match 6-3, and finishing 3rd in the League.

Most of the players started their playing careers at the junior club, it's great to see them progress and a pleasure to play alongside them, and an advantage of course to have some young legs to run around me. Playing against adults has been a great experience for the girls which has definitely benefited them and I know they have loved it.

We had three other team members that didn't know at the start of the season they would be playing. One week when some of the youngsters were not available, three mums stepped in and played, Natalie Clare, Alex Sherwin and Amie Hout, there were a few aching muscles the following day, but they all agreed they would play again if needed, which is fab, as we are intending to enter a team again next season.

Well done to the whole team who were so keen to play and fun to be with. My next task is to organise a lads team, and hopefully enter a team in the men's division next season.

*Captain Caz*



## LBA HALL SECRETARIES REPORT

With Steve leaving us last year I took over the bookings in the LBA hall. He left everything in good order and we have had a smooth season with no major issues.

The hall still continues to be very popular and in demand, seeing full usage is great. Just to give you an idea of the usage:

Badminton England have hired the facility on a few occasions for county weekends and coaching courses which brings in income to the Association.

Various clubs have booked nights when their own facility is not available through exams in their halls.

Mondays and Fridays we have the New Hall matches.

The Vets club is continuing on a Monday evening.

The PC and the Junior County still have their regular booking on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sundays for matches.

Wednesday nights are allocated to Senior county training. This year Mark King opened it up to all LBA club members plus the more advanced junior players. I understand this was well received and will run again next season.

Saturday evening is booked every week for the "NO STRINGS" that Ajay runs and the newly formed adult coaching session.

The County Vets use the hall for matches on some Sundays.

Greg is also intending to use the facility to host local primary schools competitions.

As you can see the courts are being used for all ages and abilities, as it was always intended to do.

Aren't we lucky to have our own facility!!!

*Carole Spencer*

# PANTHERS



Every club has a long history but Panthers badminton club is a new establishment that has progressed and expanded in a short period of time. Panthers badminton club was formed by a group of friends who played badminton regularly as well as socialising as friends. In turn, this group started to expand and more players wanted to be a part of this group leading to the formation of Panthers Badminton Club.

Panthers Badminton Club first entered the Leicestershire Badminton League in October 2015 with just a Men's team and a Mixed team. Coming close to victory that season in the League drove members to become dedicated, motivated and push themselves to succeed. This also attracted members from other clubs to join us and this led to an increase in members (both mens and ladies) giving us the ability to enter four teams in the Leicestershire League in October 2016.

Season 2016/17: We have two Men's teams, a Mixed team and a Ladies team. We are in hope to expand this in the coming years. Our Men's team have won the Leicestershire League this season and the other teams have fought furiously to stay in the top three in their divisions.

Panthers badminton club has an established satellite club for juniors. We offer regular group and one-to-one coaching (subject to availability) which has been a great success. We currently have over 20 children aged from six years old to 14 years old of all ability levels. Some of our juniors have gone on to enter and win external competitions as well as join their academy teams.

Panthers Badminton Club has been working closely with Leicester City Football Club through their Premiere League for Sport campaign. This has enabled our club to attract players from senior school to college level. Some of these students have been entered in various tournaments in the view to compete in the National League through their academy.

Our club is for intermediate level players and players of this standard and above are all welcome to join. Our club members and guests can come play badminton socially with a view to joining the league if desired. We welcome all players who would like to play as part of a fun and enthusiastic group of people, whether it be for regular exercise, keeping fit or just a social aspect to get away from the daily routine.

*Prina Karia  
Club Secretary*



## MASTERS

If you are turning of age! 40 years plus and would like more information on the Leicestershire Masters Teams please contact **Carol Harding**  
[carolharding99@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolharding99@hotmail.co.uk)

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.lbabadminton.org](http://www.lbabadminton.org) (Senior)  
[www.leicestershireba.co.uk](http://www.leicestershireba.co.uk) (Schools)

# THE END OF ANOTHER SEASON !

As we come to the end of another season and we are all winding down looking forward to those summer holidays, I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers that run our clubs and committees, the tireless task of arranging fixtures, booking courts, collecting club fees, captaining the teams, purchasing the shuttles!!! Oh, the life of a committee member! Thankfully there are a lot of people willing to put the hours in to running a club and our County committees successfully, so WELL DONE !

You will have read Greg's article about the lack of funding coming into our sport for elite players, this is a devastating blow, what are our young players going to aspire to without the Olympic players to look up to?

We can only try to continue with the great work that is taking place in Leicestershire and I guess many other counties by our volunteers and dedicated coaches, who are trying their hardest to encourage youngsters into the sport and providing quality coaching.

I go to a lot of Junior National tournaments now that my grandson Luke is competing, and I can honestly say the standard of some of the youngsters is brilliant, I really do believe that the introduction of the Performance centres is contributing to the high



standard of the youngsters competing in the sport.

Most tournaments are over subscribed!! The sport is alive and kicking at Junior Level, which is great for the future. Have a great summer and see you in the new season.

Thanks again to Angie Connors for helping with the news letter.

*Carole*

## PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE OR GREG

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

Coaching opportunities for your members

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