



Second season back and player numbers have started to improve, although there is still a distinct lack of female participants.

Myself, Greg and Carole had a meeting with Sue Storey, the new CEO of Badminton England (BE) and realised we were not the only county to have suffered a significant decrease in players over the last decade. Sue didn't hide the fact that she has a tough job ahead, trying to re-structure the organisation. The reason for the tour of the counties, was to get a handle on what we needed from BE, as well as seeing what we do well in our county.

Mark King and his team continue to do a great job running the PC, and the junior clubs across the county are also going strong. This situation would not be possible without the early years work in schools by Carole and Greg, and the hard work of the LSBA and Coaches Association.

I'd like to thank all the members of the LBA committee for their efforts over the last year and thank all club committee members across the county for giving up their time to keep our sport moving forward.

Congratulations to all the league winners this year.

Our county can also boast success in the Masters competitions with Mark King and Carl Jennings winning both the National and All England over 50s titles. What an achievement!



Masters National Winners 2022



All England Over 50 winners 2023

I hope you all have a great summer and comeback next season ready to go again.

Ian Bosworth
President

Report from 'The Badminton Man'



Primary Schools Onsite visits and competitions

Firstly, congratulations to St Johns Whitwick on winning our county primary finals last June.

At the time of writing this year's county competition stands as follows:

Qualifiers: Millfield (Braunstone), Hallam Fields (Birstall), North Mead (City) & Sandfield Close (City). Tournaments yet to be played: North West & North Charnwood.

Other competition winners: Year 6 tournament::St Johns Whitwick
South Charnwood Cup: Retained by Highcliffe
Mead Cup: Yet to be played

My thanks to the team that help in the running of these competitions: Carole, Maurice, Cathy, Ann, Lesley, Sue & Dave.

Team Leicestershire Junior Coaching (Babington)

Once again the weekend coaching sessions have been well attended, some even over-subscribed at times. It is good to note that our juniors come from a wide range of schools across the county.

Festivals

Four festivals have been held thanks to a £500 grant secured by Mike Reid, our Relationship Manager, at Badminton England. The first three were in the North Charnwood area whilst the fourth was held in the South Charnwood area. Our festivals are based on a test of skills rather than an actual badminton competition. The primaries involved were approached with a view to them entering our county competition and referring children to local junior clubs and junior coaching sessions.

My thanks to all the schools that have supported our promotions this year and given their children the opportunity to take part in one of the most popular and active of all sports.

Greg Howes, Coach and Development Officer



Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

Primary Schools Testimonials

Thanks again for a great tournament and insightful coaching -**Stokeswood**

Thanks again for the coaching this half term and for organising the tournament – the kids loved it! - **Rowlatts Mead**

Thank you for all the work and passion you have put into this. It has given our children a fantastic opportunity and we were really proud of what they have achieved . - **The Hall**

Thank you for another successful term of coaching. It's lovely to see our children progressing.—**Sandfield Close**

We are very proud that our school invests so much into teaching our children the wonderful sport of badminton. It's great for the children to receive expert coaching and help the teachers CPD. With the support of Whitwick Junior Badminton Club, who we have had a long and productive association with, our children learn new skills, develop confidence in a new sport and understand the value of sportsmanship. Our link with Whitwick Junior Badminton continues to go from strength to strength and this year has seen even more children accessing expert badminton coaching. - **St Johns Whitwick**

Participating Primary Schools 2022/23: Sandfield Close, Rowlatts Mead, Thurnby Mead, North Mead, The Hall, Highcliffe, Hallam Fields, Riverside, Fossebrook, Lady Jane Grey, Millfield, Foxton, Stokeswood, Stonebow, Mountfields, Whitwick St Johns the Baptist, Hugglescote, Warren Hills, Coalville All Saints, Willesley, St Charles, Packington, & Boothwood.

County Finals to be held at Babington Academy on Thursday 29 June 2023.

Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association Award

This year's Meritorious award has been given to Whitwick St Johns the Baptist.

'St Johns primary thoroughly deserves this award for their continual support year on year for badminton. It's always a pleasure to visit the school and the staff's enthusiasm for our sport is commendable.' **Carole**



Primary Schools Finals

Roll of Honour

Team Champions

Doubles Winners

| | | |
|------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2010 | No Team Event | Glebelands |
| 2011 | Fosse | Forest Lodge |
| 2012 | Fosse | Belgrave St Peters |
| 2013 | Fosse | Fosse |
| 2014 | Mowmacre | Forest Lodge |
| 2015 | Thurnby Lodge | Thurnby Lodge |
| 2016 | Thurnby Lodge | Thurnby Lodge |
| 2017 | Fosse | Burton on the Wolds |
| 2018 | Hugglescote | Hugglescote |
| 2019 | Hugglescote | Hugglescote |
| 2021 | Millfield | The Hall |
| 2022 | St Johns Whitwick | St Johns Whitwick |



Leicestershire Under 11yrs club league

This season saw an increase in teams into the Junior club leagues, making 6 teams in all. We were pleased to welcome Parklands, the LBA Club & Loughborough Leys this year. The other clubs were Whitwick, Central and Harborough. Teams consisted of 2 boys and 2 girls from each club who competed in a round robin basis over one day.

All the players had a fantastic time, not only playing badminton but making new friends. The medals went to: 1st place Whitwick (by 1 point), 2nd LBA & 3rd Parklands.

The leagues are an important part of our development strategy to encourage more young players on to the courts, and to offer competitive opportunities. The feedback from last season's leagues is that 9 players have now enjoyed their new training sessions with the Performance Centre.

Also, we had so many interested players we entered a second under 12/13yrs team into the Shires national leagues this season. So, to the junior clubs - please enter a team next season.



Leicestershire UNDER 12 Invitation Doubles Tournament

A Leicestershire Clear sweep !!!!

Winners - Zara and Bella

Ru/up - Alisia & Mutiara



Cooper Cup Winner Zara Edwards



Ray Liggins Cup Winner George Clare



Reports by Carole Spencer

Non County Competitions Participants and Winners





Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

Key Stage 3 & 4 Finals

During early March we have had our KS3 and KS4 Team Leicestershire County Badminton Finals at the Babington Academy.

Congratulations and thank you to every school that attended these County finals, the level of badminton played over the course of the week was outstanding, as was the spirit and sporting values demonstrated by all participants, team managers and spectators.

The final standings for the KS3 Girls:

1. Newbridge
2. Loughborough High
3. Gartree
4. Humphrey Perkins
5. Castle Mead & Priory Belvoir



The final standings for the KS3 Boys:

1. Newbridge
2. Loughborough Grammar
3. Soar Valley
4. Lutterworth College
5. Castle Mead
6. Beauchamp
7. Bosworth Academy
8. Humphrey Perkins



The final standings for the KS4 Girls:

1. Brookvale
2. Crown Hills
3. Woodbrook Vale
4. Gartree
5. Welland Park
6. Babington



The final standings for the KS4 Boys:

1. Soar Valley
2. Brockington
3. Lancaster
4. Loughborough Grammar
5. Beauchamp
6. Redmore



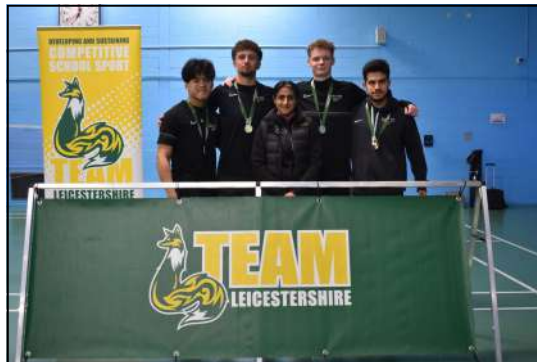
Team Leicestershire U/18 Boys and Girls Finals

The Team Leicestershire U18 Badminton County finals were held at Babington Academy during February and March. More schools engaged in these competitions this year than ever before, meaning we had to run two separate boys and girls competitions, which is fantastic!

The boys finals were incredibly close, with the top 3 teams all tied in terms of wins and games, they could only be separated by points won. The winners finishing with 120 points, the runners up on 118, and the bronze medallists on 117. Several matches went right down to the wire, eventually ending 21-20 points.

The final standings for the U18 Boys were:

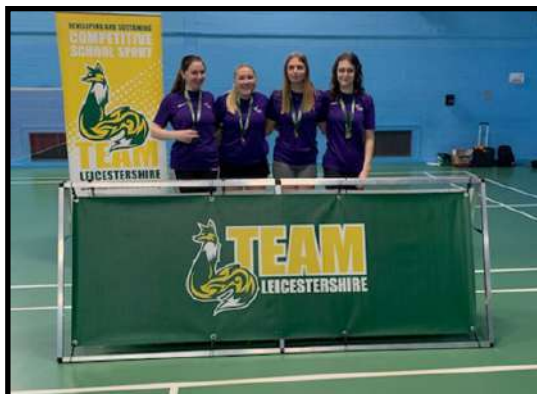
1. Wigston College
2. Beauchamp College
3. Bosworth Academy
4. Leicester Grammar
5. WQE
6. Iveshead School



There were also some really tight games in the U18 Girls Badminton finals a couple of weeks later. For this competition teams played a round-robin format meaning that got to play all the other teams. Throughout all the matches there was some fantastic teamwork, especially during the doubles matches. What really stood out was the respect for each other, with many examples of players congratulating their opponent on a good shot.

The final standings for the U18 Girls were:

1. Iveshead
2. Wigston College
3. Loughborough High
4. WQE



National Junior Competitions Participants and Winners



The Leicestershire Schools Presentation Evening 2022

The Annual presentation evening was held last July and is always looked forward to by the players and parents , its a chance for everyone to get together to celebrate the years achievements . County winners receive their cups , special awards are given and all players receive a certificate of recognition of their dedication to badminton in 2022. The photo shows the amount of silver ware that is presented to the players congratulating them on a seasons hard work and achievements.

Not all of this seasons Championships have been completed yet , but the results so far are:

U12 girls singles was Mutiara - r/up Alicia

U12 boys singles was Leon - r/up Max

U12 Girls doubles winners - Alicia & Mutiara - R/up - Bella & Khia

U12 Boys doubles winners - Leon & Ibthi - r/up - Max & Niam

U12 Mixed winners - Leon & Bella - R/up - Alicia & Rishaan

U18 Girls singles - Lexie - r/up Paulina

U18 Boys singles - Mitchell - r/up Eddie

U18 Girls doubles winners - Lexie & Katie - r/up - Matilda & Sylvie

U18 Boys doubles winners - William & Mitchell - r/up - Eddie & Leo

U18 Mixed doubles winners - William & Katie - r/up - Mitchell & Lexie



U12/13 Shires League

This season saw Leicestershire enter two under 12/13yrs teams in the shires leagues. This hasn't happened for many years so everyone was pleased to get involved to ensure the new young players had a great first time experience.

Starting the season we just had enough girls to field one team, but believe it or not we were short of boys. We then ran a talent id session along with a junior clubs league; and what a success they were. This resulted in us having enough players to field two teams, obviously less experienced but very keen. As such, the second team was added into the Shires leagues.

We then needed to identify a manager. Along came Michael English to the rescue and has done a great job pulling the second team players together. Thanks to Michael the team has gelled well and some good friendships have been formed. The training for these players has been delivered by our brilliant PC coaches.

We are now looking forward to next season and need to recruit again. This time we do have quite a few boys but are short on girls. So we will be hoping that the junior clubs can help us to identify girls that might be interested in joining us next season. We have a Junior club meeting planned where this will be discussed.

Not many Counties can field two teams in one age group, so let's show them that if all the junior clubs and coaches work together Leicestershire can!

Carole



Leicester U/13 A Team

The team from Leicestershire saw many new kids join their Performance Center last year, and I was thrilled to be appointed as the U12/13 manager, leading the youngest Leicestershire badminton team for the first time. Our team consists of girls Mutiara Mandala, Alicia Wang, Bella Gokani, Khia Gokani, Sofia Hilmi, and Ruby Davenport, as well as boys Leon Kiran, Max (Yanyu) Zhang, Niam Radia, Rishaan Parekh, and Ibthiha Oli. We began the Shires League with a victory against York2, winning 18-2, but faced a tough loss against Kent, losing 3-17. In December 2022, we won our last home game against Derbyshire with a 17-3. In 2023, we played an away game against a strong Yorkshire 1 team, resulting in a 10-10 draw. We finished the league with two more away games, winning against Cheshire 20-0 and Leicestershire 2 with 18-2. This secured us a guaranteed fifth place in the league table, and we advanced directly to the Shires final in May, with no play-off necessary.

I want to congratulate the entire team for their achievements so far and thank the parents for their help and support throughout the season. Good luck to our team in the finals, and I hope our performance continues to be fantastic. - **Andy**

Leicester U/13 B Team

Firstly, I'd like to begin by congratulating all of the Leicester under 13's 'B team' on completing their first season representing our county. Thank you for giving it your all to the boys: Daniel, Alex, Archie S, Archie W, Manav, William and Jayden. Well done you to the girls: Isabelle, Ruby, Poppy and Ella.

This season was a difficult one for sure! All players found it quite tricky to get into the swing of the competitive format with it being their very first season as a county player. With this in mind, it has been a complete pleasure to have been given the opportunity to manage such a great group of kids (even the slightly bonkers ones!!) Being able to watch them go from rabbits in the head lights to fully giving it their all and wanting to better themselves in matches and PC sessions has been very rewarding.

Unfortunately this season didn't bring in the wins we would have hoped for and only 4 successfully played games out of the 6 in the shires and a couple of friendlies which threw up some good results for us.

It's a shame that the players are going to be split up at the end of this season due to their differences in ages, as I believe they would make a great team together as I've watched some of their partnerships grow already.

A final "thank you" to all the parents/carers for their support and encouragement.

Keep smashing those shuttles next season!!

Micael English (Manager)

U14/15 Team Report

We've had a great year this year and it is lovely to have some new players into our amazing little team. Our first match was against local rivals Derbyshire, which we won convincingly 20-0. Next up was Notts, who are always a tough opponent, the team dug deep and we came away with a 19-1 win.

After the well deserved Christmas break we came across Norfolk the first weekend back and saw us winning again 20-0. February was a very busy month with 3 shires matches being played. First up was Suffolk (winning 16-4), then Cambridgeshire (winning 20-0) and finally Staffordshire (winning 17-3). This had us finishing with an automatic invitation to the shires finals in May.



Can I just say a massive thank you to all the players and parents for their part in the team. It's been a joy to manage them again this year and looking forward to the finals in the next few weeks. **Natalie**

U16/17 Team Report

The u16/17 team kicked off the season with a fantastic win 17-3 against Derby away. Next up was Wiltshire away which was scheduled for late December, unfortunately despite our best efforts, sicknesses meant we were unable to field a team and Wiltshire claimed the match. We came out strong with a 18-2 win against Cheshire at home, followed by an equally impressive performance to secure an 18-2 win against Lincs at home. We were scheduled to play Staffs away next, however the date clashed with a major team tournament which involved the majority of our squad and Staffs were unable to offer an alternative date. It was settled on a 10 all sporting draw without the match being played. The last match of the season was the toughest. Buckinghamshire brought out their A team and whilst the team gave it their all, putting in their best efforts we were unable to swing the balance and lost 7-13.



The u16/17 team maintained good performance and attitude this season, the team was young for the age group with the boys consisting entirely of the u14/15 quad! They all stepped up and put in their best. The final standing for the team was 14th place which all being considered is a really good result and I am very proud of them! Well done to all the u16/17 squad- you were amazing as always, thank you for your commitment and efforts this season. The fabulous u16/17 squad:
Lexie, Lola, Matilda, Sylvie, Zara, Polina, Josh, Jack, George, Ollie, Lucas and Ross
Anna Edwards - U16/17 manager

U19 Shires League Report

With an increasingly experienced squad, including many with a few years left at this level, the U19s got off to a very promising start in this year's campaign. Strong wins were recorded over Yorkshire 2, Staffordshire, and Northumberland where we won 53 out of 60 rubbers, this all before the Christmas break. Tougher matches were to follow, firstly against a very strong Hertfordshire, losing a few games to very narrow margins meant a loss and therefore a must win game versus Warwickshire to reach the playoff positions and more importantly, a home draw. The team played amazing securing an 18-2 win and 5th in the league round. As fate would have it, the playoff meant a rematch versus Warwickshire, again. Fielding a slightly changed team and a few new combinations, Warwickshire came with intent and provided an extremely well fought match. Fortunately the wins came and shortly into the last stage of the match, the win was achieved. Next stop – the finals. A great achievement to follow up last years success.

As always, a massive thank you to all the players and parents for your continued support. Our squad is large, every player counts and has represented the county superbly.

The 13 players included this year to date are:

Boys - E Patchett (22), L Grade (21), M Allen (20), W Sewell (20) T Platzer (13)

Girls – M Sherwin (24), L Edwards (20), S Walker (16), K Houlton (12), N Brown (12), V Shaw (4), C Stevens (4), P Shandybina (4)

Adam



Report from the 2023 Rio Competition

Leicestershire were invited to enter a team in the Rio badminton tournament no not in Rio in York! This annual event is one that the players really enjoy being a part of.

The team consisted of 6 boys and 6 girls, who had some fantastic games over the 2 day event finishing second overall. The silver medals were theirs.

These are a great bunch of players that always give everything they have got, doing Leicestershire proud.



Hutchinson Cup

Bill Hutchinson was a player and coach very dedicated to the sport. Following his sudden death, his family decided to donate a trophy in his memory to be presented to a player each year for their "Contribution to Badminton".

2022 WINNER - **MITCHELL ALLEN**



Garrick Appleton Trophy

Garrick was a young man who loved his badminton and who tragically died in a motorcycle accident a number of years ago. His family donated the cup in his memory to be awarded to "the Most outstanding player of the season" .

2022 WINNER - **KATIE HOULT**



Colin Kent Award

Colin was an outstanding coach and hard working member of many committees within our badminton family.

He donated this award to be presented to someone who the committee decided had given outstanding services to the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association.

2022 WINNER - **RAY PHIPKIN**



Inter Counties Tournament

ICT is the biggest event on the junior county calendar, and takes place over 4 days during the easter break. Leicestershire sent a team of 10 players, with a mixture of both full age players and players 3 years younger. Nevertheless, the team went into the first group with Derbyshire, Northumberland and Wiltshire and showed our quality immediately, winning 10-0, 9-1 and 10-0 respectively.

The format of ICT means the matches should get gradually harder, and with Leicestershire's success in the first group, it meant the team were now playing for positions in the top half. Our first match was against a Suffolk. The team made quick work of this opposition winning 9-1. Next came Avon, who had caused an upset earlier in the tournament against Surrey, and in a closely contested match with 5/10 matches going to 3 sets and 3 being settled 15-14, Leicestershire came out on top 6-4. With this victory Leicestershire had secured a top 8 finish. The final match of the group was against the second seeds Middlesex. Another closely fought match with several great performances, sadly resulted in our County's first loss of the tournament, 7-3.

As a result, Leicestershire were now playing for positions 5-8 in a group with Hampshire, Yorkshire and Kent. First to play were Hampshire and after a solid performance the team ran out 6-4 winners. Next up came Yorkshire, who had come into the tournament as top seeds. Unfortunately, the team lost 6-4 with many of the matches being close. The last match of the tournament was against Kent, and after 4 days and a lot of badminton, the team took to the court and managed to grind out a win, 5-5 winning by 2 games.

This meant Leicestershire had finished in 6th Place; a great finish, backed by impressive performances by all 10 members on the squad. Team: Lexie Edwards, Katie Houlton, Matilda Sherwin, Carly Stevenson, Sylvie Walker, Mitchell Allen, George Clare, Dani Hilmi, Eddie Patchett and Will Sewell.

I would like to thank Natalie Clare for sorting the kit, my coaches Harry Clare, Luke Houlton, Amie Houlton and Sarita Patel, and of course my assistant manager Pete Hall.

Lastly a huge thank you to the loudest support out there. Thanks to everyone who came and supported and made this such a special tournament for everyone.

Chris

Action from Inter Counties Tournament



National Honours

England Call up for Katie Hoult and George Clare



Badminton England 's tournament season runs from January to December, and Katie had a brilliant 2022 season by winning 4 silver medals and 5 gold in the girls doubles and mixed events.

These achievements were recognized and rewarded. Firstly by North West Leicestershire receiving their top award of "Sports person of the year". Secondly, she was even more delighted to be selected by Badminton England to play in Germany to represent England in the 8 nation's tournament, where she enjoyed every minute. What a great opportunity, and she was determined not to waste it. She enjoyed being a part of a team who all worked well together to achieve 3rd place and a bronze medal.



George Clare received the email he had been waiting for all his life !

He has been selected to represent England in the under 15yrs Team in the 4 Nations tournament in Wales.

George has worked hard in training to achieve a high level of skills that are now beginning to enhance his play.

He has won many badminton England medals during the 2022 season for doubles and mixed and was upgraded in his singles to Gold Star.

He has now achieved BE selection criteria and has been rewarded by being invited to play in this event.

Needless to say he is over the moon to be a part of the team and I am sure will show them he is worthy of this selection.



England Smash it in Wales

Katie and George recently teamed up with five boys and 5 girls chosen to represent England in the 4 Nations held in Wales. The English team showed their experience as they stormed through to win the team event.

Success for Katie and George in the individual events. They did themselves proud by winning a silver medal in the Mixed doubles event and bronze medals in the Level doubles. Katie went on to reach the quarters in the Singles. A successful weekend and a great experience for them.



Carole

Senior County Report



Excellent year for senior county with the 1st team doing very well to stay in the top premier division (coming 7th), 2nd team staying in division 1N (after promotion last year) and 3rd team (season to be finished).



Tom Armstrong with help from Chris Hall ran the 1st team with a great combination of experience, Loughborough students and younger players. Overall they played nine counties, won three and lost six.

Sarita and Tom were the stand out players winning 15 and 14 games respectively while Hope won 8 of the 12 matches she played. Rowan Clark, Sameer Chenia, Matthew Lee, Jade Liu and Sophie Watson secure 1st team colours this year.

I looked after the 2nd team, and this was a very challenging but ultimately very rewarding year resulting in one of my proudest moments as county captain.

Division 1N is a tough division and to put in to context when I started playing for Leicestershire many years ago this was the division where our 1st team played! So as a team we were really looking forward to the challenge but had a very tough baptism getting well and truly thrashed by Gloucestershire 10-1 and Avon 2, 9-2. So with three points we were well and truly bottom of the league... At the end of the 2nd weekend we were still bottom with a very small glimmer of hope as we beat Yorkshire 3, 7-4 and picked up 4 games against Lanarkshire who would ultimately win the division. So final weekend in York... all to play for and the team played out of its socks winning 10-1, 9-2, 9-2 against Lancashire 2, Lothian and Warwickshire 2 to put us in a very proud 4th place overall. Everyone deserves a mention but on paper Cameron, James, Owen and Carly did best while super sub Zoe was undefeated with 6 wins out of 6. Harry Clare, Lexie Edwards, Katie Hault secure 2nd team county colours.

3rd team was brilliantly run by Mark Jefferies and Mark Cooper

At the time of writing the 3rd team are mid fight as there is still one weekend to go, they are currently 6th out of 8 teams and six points clear of the drop but with a tough final weekend ahead. Hopefully they can take inspiration from the 2nd team. Matt Rofe and Andrew Frost are the stand out players so far and Emmanuel Sali has so far secured 3rd team colours.

Overall a great season (fingers crossed for 3rd team on 27th and 28th May) and Leicestershire senior county has so many of our own home grown players that have come through the performance centre set-up – a wonderful success story, so well done to all involved.

Thanks

Mark

Senior County Captain (Leicestershire Badminton Association)



The work that I have been doing in the local primary schools has definitely paid off. Our local schools have been really supportive and I believe will continue again next academic year as the Primary schools have secured another 2 years of funding for sport within their school.

Some of our young players have enjoyed the experience of playing in the Leicestershire 2023 Junior club League, and were really pleased as they finished in top place. This year we reinstated the Derek Meakin Doubles tournament for grass route players and hosted it at the new Whitwick/Coalville LC and will repeat this again next season.

Our club awards for the most improved players went to James, Daniel, and Poppy. The club award went to Ruby.



We now have 9 members of the club attending the PC sessions at Babington which I think is a great achievement. For this to happen and for us to offer the coaching needed for the players to progress, we need help! We

definitely get this from some of our older members who, when they are not busy competing in tournaments, come to the club to help. Coach development has been strong this season with Mitchell, Will and Eddie passing their Level 1 badminton award and helping out most weeks. It's great to see their confidence grow when working with the players, and the younger ones love them. A big Thanks to Kieran



Evans, a former member of the club who comes every Saturday to help out and it's been great to have Luke back from his travels!!! Thanks also to Liam, Oli and Mackenzie, another three lads that give their time to help the youngsters. We are really pleased and encouraged by the interest shown in Badminton in North West Leicestershire. Long may it continue.

Carole & Amie



On the coaching front, the initiative with the local community and schools introduced by Melton OGs some years ago continues to grow. The programme is attracting ever increasing numbers to junior and intermediate coaching on a Monday evening. What is particularly encouraging is we are now seeing a number of the juniors and intermediates reaching a level that enables them to join the main club night for adults and showing real promise. Our activity with local schools remains undiminished and our juniors are now playing matches, which has not happened in Melton for many years.

Steve - Melton OGs Juniors

Successful year overall with lots of junior players enjoying playing badminton. The Monday and Saturday clubs continue to be popular with excellent numbers while the new Thursday night session at the university is light on numbers. This is the 1st year all three clubs have been directly linked to the performance centre and that has helped with the admin side of things, and also recruiting of new players whilst some of the players have progressed to the performance centre. This year we also helped get two Ukrainian junior players back on court. Session times are:

Monday 6.30-8 and Loughborough grammar school

Thursday 5-7 at Loughborough university

Saturday 9-4 (9-10 primary, 10-12 KS3, 12-2 U18, 2-4 advanced) at Loughborough grammar school.

Thanks

Mark



The club is enjoying a successful season and now has 52 members, 26 boys and 26 girls, who play over a 3 hour slot on a Saturday Morning at Loughborough LC.

This amount of players could have posed a problem as players develop and need to move up into the next session. So a decision has been made not to accept any players over the age of 12yrs at the moment, in order that the existing numbers can be managed.

Competition wise, we encourage the players to take part in the tournaments and we entered a team into the Leicestershire under 11yrs Club league this season.

The Coaching is delivered by myself and Atu, as well as some of our older junior members.

Dave Whitcroft

LBA Junior Coaching

The numbers of juniors coached on a Saturday morning has increased greatly to 26 beginners and 32 intermediates. Fortunately, we are well off for coaches and helpers, and, as a result, the standard of our children's play has improved significantly. Coaching is split into 3 areas: warm up, coaching, and playing games.

We have run competitive club play in both singles and doubles and a singles ladder board for singles, with trophies awarded at the end of the main season. Players ages range from 7 to 18 year old, and all are encouraged to play in as many Leicestershire tournaments as possible. Many do.

We also provide the opportunity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Grahame Forryan and Julie Pope.



The weekly Wednesday night 4-5pm, 5-6pm & 6-7pm sessions are on the four courts at Harborough Leisure Centre. We now have registered a total of 39 “Junior Player” & 23 “The Racket Pack” Badminton England membership for the 2022/23. Currently attending are 22 girls & 40 boys aged from school years 3 to 13.

For season 2022/23 all members have been given both Free club hoodie & club shirt and the opportunity to attend the Free Meal Christmas Party on 14/12/22. The club has for the younger members the Badminton England “The Racket Pack” scheme for Tink, Flo & Wise awards.

At the Club trophy presentation night & meal on 26/04/22 Freddie Parsons received the “Outstanding Club Member” trophy for 2022/23. Toby Hall (4-5pm); Martha Hall (5-6pm) & Mia Fannon (6-7pm) received the “Most Improved Session Member” trophy 2022/23.

The seventh internal club tournament events were held during Spring Term 4 so as not to disrupt older players exams. This enabled all events to take place in respect of the Girls & Boys Singles & Level Doubles events for U10’s; U12’s; U14’s; U16’s, U18’s . A total of 60 trophies were presented to all winners and runners up.

The club for 2023/4 will continue to encourage & pay for Junior Club members aged 16+ to attend these UK Coaching “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” courses. Also, Badminton England Foundation Coaching course.

The club have helped members in respect of their D of E awards in respect of volunteering and / or physical elements for all levels. Also, any video recordings required for their Badminton PE GSCE.

The club’s own web site <http://www.harboroughlcjuniors.org.uk/> 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.

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

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach



Badminton Junior Club

The venue at Broughton Astley Leisure Centre enables the club to have sessions for all the weeks of Schools Autumn, Spring & Summer Terms. The weekly Friday club nights sessions now run from 5:00pm – 6:00pm and 6:00pm – 7:30pm. We now have all players registered with Badminton England as 27 “Junior Player”; 2 Junior Player Compete”, 14 “The Racket Pack” & 1 – The Racket Pack Compete” who regularly attend the weekly sessions.

The club entered one team in the LSBA Junior Club League (year 6 & under) for the event on 5th February 2023. A total of four players from the club had the opportunity to take part with 1 as Y6; 3 as Y5.

For season 2022/23 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 forth internal club tournament events were held during Spring Term 4 so as not to disrupt older players exams. For the first time level doubles was added to the single events. This enabled all events to take place in respect of the Girls & Boys Singles & Level Doubles events for U10’s (no Girls doubles); U12’s (no Girls Doubles); U14’s; U16’s and U18’s .A total of 52 trophies will be presented to all winners and runners-up at the Club trophy presentation night to be held on 7th July 2023. This will also include the “Outstanding Club Member” trophy for 2022/23.

The club have helped members in respect of their D of E awards in respect of physical elements for all levels. Also, any video recordings required for their Badminton PE GSCE.

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 players 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 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm.

Parents, Volunteers, Coaches and especially players dedication, commitment, help and support enables the club to continue to grow at the new venue.

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

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach

Adult Competition Winners



ICC Division 1A Winners



Irish Invitation Silver



White Brothers Winners



National O50Mixed Winners



McCoig Trophy England Squad

Edward Hayes

Edward Hayes is still on the courts !!! and doing well. One of Leicestershire over 70yrs Masters players and member of Central Leicester Badminton Club, Edward Hayes, has had another successful season, showing us all that age is no barrier to competition and achievement. He's had another brilliant season by winning the Kent Masters Gold Oct 2022 mixed event and coming runner-up in the mens doubles. Also he was, mens doubles winner in the Northumberland Masters Silver.

Other results were:

- 1) European Seniors, Sept 2022, Ljubljana - quarter finalist in mens and mixed doubles.
- 2) English Masters Nationals, Dec 2022 - semi finalist in mens and mixed doubles.
- 3) Yorkshire Masters Gold Feb 2023 - third in mens doubles and semi-finalist in mixed doubles.

Edward was treading on new ground when he decided to give the singles a go in the Cumbria Masters Silver and guess what, he got the runner up place.

Congratulations Edward you are an inspiration to us all.





After a record-breaking season last year, we had a challenge on our hands at the start of this season, with the loss of 6 ladies due to injuries, family commitments and work relocation. We had a dilemma whether to pull teams out of the league, but this was not an option as we never give up. Suffice to say we were able to attract new ladies to join the club and in the end, we have had another very successful season with 2 division wins (congratulations to Mens 2 and Mens 3). As an interesting stat, we also played 81 matches and a full team was put out for every match. That is some achievement! Thanks to all members of the club for pulling together to support all of our teams.



Our junior clubs have been going from strength to strength, and we have 4 sessions fully subscribed with a waiting list. In total we have over 105 juniors that are coached weekly by our able coaches. It is so humbling to see many of the juniors representing the county at various levels.



Ajay

WHITWICK BADMINTON CLUB

I thought it would be a good idea to enter a team of youngsters who have come through the Whitwick junior club into the Leagues. This was intended to help them with the transition from Junior play to Adult play, and what a success story this has been. In two years, they have developed so much and showed full commitment to the team, always trying their best to play every match. This season they were rewarded firstly, by winning the New Hall League.

With the team newly promoted from Division 2 last season in the Ladies league, I wondered how this season would pan out. Having realised I'd be the taxi driver during this year, I said to the team when we started the season, "we are not going to win it!" However, it soon became clear that that's not what the players had in mind. Their competitive spirit and determination to win was amazing. They are now this season's Ladies Division 1 Champions, and didn't lose a match. What a fantastic achievement for such a young team.

Some of the players have joined other clubs but still choose to play together in the New Hall and in the Ladies Team. I can understand that, as they are all great friends and enjoy each other's company.

Congratulations to Matilda, Sylvie, Lexie, Katie, Tilly, Tamsin, Mitchell, William and Leo. Not forgetting super sub Amie for helping out, and Luke and Greg for playing in our hour of need. They will all be at the presentation evening to celebrate their successes.

Every year we say a sad farewell to our junior players as they move onto Jobs or University. The good news is that they still love to play badminton and jump at the chance to come back to play for Leicestershire in the adult clubs and the senior county teams.

Tilly, Grace and Luke have played together since joining the Whitwick junior club when they were Tiny. Look how they have grown !!!



Captain Caz



Loughborough Students Badminton Club is made up of over 100 members joining and leaving each year. Since Covid-19, our club has made an outstanding effort to bring our members closer together by expanding their participation with the club and with one another through weekly socials and charity events.

Our biggest social was the beach-themed 'welcome social' at the start of the year which helped to engage our newest members into the club. Our most famous social the 'Past vs Present' weekend will be occurring in May, where we invite Loughborough Badminton alumni to compete against the current club members, followed by a vibrant weekend of activities for everyone to enjoy. From a charitable perspective, some highlights include our 'Movemeber day' during which we raised £145 for Mind Charity by waxing our unfortunate volunteers and accumulating a total of 100k in a month to raise more money.

We've also had a fantastic year in British Universities and College Sport (BUCS). Our women's singles player earned first place in the BUCS Individuals, and we advanced to the quarterfinals in every other event. Our men's first, second, and fifth teams, as well as our women's fourth team, all won their BUCS leagues.

Similarly, in the Leicester League, although the results are not yet finished, our Women's 2nd team and Mixed 2nd team have performed admirably. Overall, LSBC had a fantastic year full of unforgettable experiences and we are looking forward to another excellent year. We wish all Leicestershire County clubs the best of luck in their remaining competition games as well as the future season, and we are excited to compete next year.



As the badminton season moves towards its close Melton's Old Grammarian Badminton Club (OGs) continues to progress on all fronts. The progress seen in recent years has been maintained and the club continues to enjoy very healthy membership numbers close to the maximum we can cope with. This having been said, we would still like to attract players seeking to play league badminton as, although we continue to field 5 teams in the Leicestershire leagues, we remain vulnerable to injuries or unavailability.

On the financial front, the Club continues to enjoy a very healthy position and when combined with an active social calendar, OGs is continuing to provide a sensible balance between social and competitive badminton. At a time when many badminton clubs across the county and indeed the country are struggling on the membership and financial fronts, we are increasingly determined to ensure OGs continues to build on the progress of recent years. We offer an environment that embraces various levels of ability and in particular gives back to the community via junior coaching and other initiatives we are currently exploring. We will again be running a Summer Club in 2023 and with members currently being able to enjoy two club nights a week playing with feather shuttles, the club is offering tremendous value to anyone keen on badminton.

LOUGHBOROUGH LEYS BADMINTON CLUB



Loughborough Leys has had a mix and match season this year, but it has been a year of fun and lots of badminton!

This year we have been blessed with lots of new members throughout the year, which has been amazing to see post-covid. It has been refreshing to see several younger members coming to club nights and beginning their senior career at the club.

In terms of results, our men's teams have done brilliantly, supported by the influx of new players joining the club with our Men's 3rd Team still undefeated and going on to win the division. With a few games remaining for our other teams, our men have really smashed it out the park this year!

This year has been one for injuries amongst the women, so our mixed and ladies' teams have been challenging, but it has given us an amazing opportunity to play some of our new and less experienced players in some matches, and our player have really taken it in their stride and supported one another throughout. We are hopeful going into next season that we have managed to recruit a few more ladies for our teams which we are all really excited for!

Our junior club, ran by the fantastic Dave Whitcroft is still going strong, filled with enthusiastic children every Saturday morning!

Over the past year, we have had a lot of changes, starting with a new committee made up of younger players that have come through the club since their junior years. The old committee have been incredibly supportive and have mentored our newbies since last summer, and we couldn't thank them enough for all their help. Our new committee hope to implement some of our new ideas over the summer, and we are very excited moving into next season to see what we can deliver!

We have seen lots of socials this year for the club, and it has been incredible seeing our players interacting outside the sports hall, even if this results in a few extra pounds after some lovely meals and a few sore heads on a Saturday morning!

All in all, Loughborough Leys has been a wonderful club to support and be part of this year and I cannot wait to see what next season brings!

Sophie Connors



LBA Badminton Leagues

The 2022/23 season has now drawn to a close. Although there was a slight reduction in the number of teams entered this time, overall player numbers have now started to recover since the pandemic. However, there remains concern over the number of female participants and the consequent reduction in the number of ladies divisions.

This season's honours have been shared between a number of clubs, as shown below. Highlights include Whitwick's brace of trophies, the first in the club's history, and North Leicester making the winners list after a long absence. The men's league saw a rare occurrence in the two previously promoted sides in division 2 Trinity and Central Leicester finishing the season in the top two positions, the former now promoted to the topflight.

Our Association hopes to see more teams competing in the LBA Hall league next season and a re-running of the LBA knock out cup.

| | Divisions Won | Other Promotions |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Central Leicester | 2 | |
| Loughborough Leys | 2 | |
| Loughborough Students | 2 | |
| Loughborough Town | 2 | |
| Whitwick | 2 | |
| Ashby | 1 | |
| North Leicester | 1 | 1 |
| Regal Arts | 1 | |
| South Leicestershire | 1 | 1 |
| Trinity | 1 | |

On behalf of the Leicester Badminton Association, I'd like to thank those members that accepted an administrative role in their club, thereby ensuring the smooth running of yet another very enjoyable season.

Greg Howes, League Secretary

Varsity Championship 2023

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that Leicester University has won the Varsity Championships 2023 against De Montfort University. This is a fantastic achievement, and I am incredibly proud of each and every member of the team. Our players have worked tirelessly throughout the season, and their dedication and commitment have paid off in the form of this impressive victory. In addition to our regional success, we have also had some standout performances in the BUCS competitions. In conclusion, I want to say a huge congratulations to our Leicester University Badminton Team on their incredible achievements this season. Your hard work, dedication, and talent have been truly inspiring, and I am honoured to be the Head Coach of such a fantastic team.



Ajay—Head Coach Leicester University

LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2022/23

To ensure full squads for all the teams several players committed to playing extra matches out of their nominated age group to help out other teams. A big thank you to those players.

O40

A tough start as some of the ladies in the squad were not available at the start of the season. So finishing 3rd out of 6 teams with only 2 loses was a good first season for this newly formed squad. Good wins against Worcs, Oxfordshire and Warks.

Thanks to those who played – Lisa Pycroft , Hayley Mogg . Emma Butterworth , Catherine Collins , Karen Macrae , Neera Bakrania, Sue Mahmood , Sheryl and Jules , Mark King , Carl Bannister ,Michael Shaw , Simon and James White

O50

With over half the squad over 55 it was going to be a tough ask this season

Two good wins against Suffolk and Beds saw us finish 6th . The matches against Lincs and Cambs were very close and could have gone either way.

Thanks to those who played – Lorraine McNeill , Neera Bakrania ,, Sheryl Williams , Jules Vermaak , Sue Cripwell , Maurice Roberts , Nigel Lewis , Steve Heath , Martyn Norman , Dave Whitcroft

O60

We welcomed a new player to the squad , Barry Pick , proving it's never too late to play in the Masters

The team finished 2nd with only 1 loss to Notts , the unbeaten division winners

Thanks to those that played – Sue Mahmood, Jane Roberts, Sue Cripwell, Debbie Merry , Mina Sumaria , Carole Spencer Tahir Mahmood, Barry Pick , Ian Bosworth, Antony Cripwell, Pete Goadby , Doug Jeffreys

O65

The team finished 3rd with only 2 loses . Three good wins against Notts , Warks and Worcs

Thanks to those who played – Lesley Howes, Mina Sumaria, Cathy Buckler, Carole Spencer, Sue Mahmood, Greg Howes, Pete Goadby, Edward Hayes, Richard Dayman, Dave Watts , Antony Cripwell

O70

Having been National Champions last season , there were high expectations this season .

Due to the lack of teams “in the midlands “ we were placed in the North Division with Lancashire and Yorkshire , 2 very strong counties . We were tied at the top with Lancashire and it came down to the last match , sadly we lost and came 2nd in the division

Thank you to those who played – Cathy Buckler, Carole Spencer, Ann Cooper, Edward Hayes, Richard Dayman, Dave Watts, Greg Howes

Congratulations to players who received their **Masters County colours**:

Barry Pick, Karen Macrae, James White, Simon White, Carl Bannister, Michael Shaw, Emma Butterworth, Catherine Collins, Hayley Mogg, & Lisa Pycroft.

LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2022/23

In the **Masters County Challenge**, held over the 2nd weekend of January we entered 2 teams :

O40 finished 2nd in their group with just one loss to Cambridgeshire .

O70 topped their group and gained promotion to the Premier Group. Well done.

Here are some of the competitions Leicestershire players have entered:

Well done everyone for some amazing results:

Edward Hayes

West of England MD70 finalist

Kent Masters MD70 XD70 finalist

Cumbria MS70 finalist

Northumberland MD70 **winner**

Carole Spencer and Cathy Buckler

Nationals WD70

Steve Heath

Yorkshire Masters MD50

Mark King

Nationals MD 50 XD **winner**

Yorkshire Masters MD50 semi finalist

Simon and James White

Yorkshire MD40 **winners**

Yorkshire MD35 finalists

Nationals MD40 **winners**

Nationals MS40 James finalist

/ Simon semi finalist

In the LBA leagues you play against young and old. Why not test yourself against your own age group?

You can commit to as many or as few matches as you want .

Matches are played on Sundays and our home matches are at Babington at 2.30pm

Teams for next season have to be entered by mid May so if you want to express an interest please contact me.

Next season I am looking to enter teams for O40, O50 (50 and 55 combined), O60, O65, and O70

Sue Mahmood Masters co coordinator 078790 23281 suemahmood@hotmail.co.uk

Practice / get to know the squad sessions will be held on Friday evenings at the LBA Hall Babington in September, please come along if you are old enough, that is over 38.

100 Caps for the County

Last year's presentation evening saw a group of players presented with awards that recognised their commitment to the county by playing over 100 times for the County teams.

The players were : Ray & Carol Harding , Cathy Buckler, Carole Spencer, Jan Thompson, Jayne Roberts, Audrey Preston, Dave Watts, Edward Hayes & Richard Dayman.

Congratulations to all the players. This is a fantastic achievement .





Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association

Firstly, I would like to thank each and every one of our committee members for their hard work and dedication in our county. It is because of their commitment that we have been able to achieve so much development in the past year, and I am confident that we will continue to do so in the future.

It is with great sadness that I have to also report the passing earlier this year, of one of our long-standing coaches and past Secretary of the Coaches Association, Dave Marr. Dave's contribution to badminton in our county was almost immeasurable. Both adults and juniors alike benefitted for many years from Dave's vast knowledge of our sport. Not only was Dave an excellent coach, he also played badminton at club and county level and was a well-known face at badminton's premier competition, The All England, where he supported teams from abroad. In 2019 Dave was presented with the county's meritorious award for his contributions. An honour thoroughly deserved. Thank you, Dave.



Finally, I would like to remind all active coaches in Leicestershire the importance of being members of the Association. As coaches, it is essential that we work together to ensure that our county is successful both on and off the court. There is so much good work being done but we can always improve if we have more people on board. Let's continue to strive to be the best county.

Saturday No Strings Badminton and Adult Coaching – Babington Academy

The Saturday No Strings sessions is now in its 11th year and still performing extremely well. Each week a full house of 28-30 players attend from all ages and abilities to play socially. It is a testament that the session has been running through word of mouth and still attracting so many new people to the sport.

Many of the promising players are then undertaking the Adult coaching sessions offered between 8-9pm each week. The end goal is to improve their game and many have gone on to join the local Leicestershire Adult league.

For more information about the sessions, please visit www.lbabadminton.org

Ajay



Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

Chairman's Report for the - 2022/2023 Season.

I cannot believe I have been providing an end of season report as LSBA Chairman for the last 12 years.!!!

In that relatively short time, I have seen a lot of changes to our Sport and Association. It is very gratifying to see how we are able to adapt and change to the many challenges that are presented to us throughout the season.

For the last 3 Years I have also been taken up the role of acting LSBA Secretary! I would like to express my thanks to members of the committee for their efforts to help me through these 3 years. Special mention again to Carole Spencer, Ray Phipkin and Dave Watts. Unfortunately, due to health reasons I will be giving up the role of Secretary at the end of this season.

Many thanks to all our Team Managers and Coaches for the management and team selection during our competitive campaign this season. It would again be remiss of me not to mention the support of all parents and volunteers. Well done to you all, we could not function without your tireless support.

This is our 9th year of the formal Team Leicestershire set up. I am sure all those involved will agree this has been another successful year for the Performance centre coaches and assistants.

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

Without players there would be no LSBA. Our 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 to Chris Hall (and all PC Coaches), Carole Spencer, Greg Howes, Terry Talbot and Graham Forryan for their efforts.

A mention to all members of the LSBA Committee who work behind the scenes. We could not function without the efforts of our hard-working committee.

Dave Armstrong – Chairman April 2023.

New head coach joins the Leicestershire Performance Centre

Atu Mandala is a former international player who we are exceptionally lucky to have as our new Head Coach. Atu takes over from Anthony Clark who has now moved on to work permanently for Badminton England.

As Anthony leaves our PC players are in safe hands. Atu is a lovely lady and great player and brilliant coach whose enthusiasm for the sport is infectious. We look forward to working with her as she shares her wisdom and badminton knowledge with our next generation of young players. Welcome Atu.



Like Mother - Like Daughter

Whilst mum, ATU, is the current Leicestershire County Singles Champion, daughter Mutiara has been busy collecting trophies around the country.

She has won multiple times at the National U11 Gold competition circuits. A Gold medal at U11 Hampshire Gold 2022, and a Gold medal at U11 Kent Gold 2022.

In her first International competition she won a U11 Silver medal at the Youth Mirna Slovenia Open 2022.

She studies at Fairfield Prep School Loughborough, which gives her lots of opportunities to try many different sports to support her main sports which is badminton. She dreams of becoming a world class badminton player, and is currently the number 1 rank U12 in England.

Another star in the making, undoubtedly.





TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE



Leicestershire Performance Centre

The PC have enjoyed another year of coaching the Leicestershire youngsters, with many entering Badminton England tournaments and doing well. So, a big thanks to all the coaches who are doing a brilliant job and to the parents for supporting their children to play badminton.

With Atu Mandala taking over the head coach position this season, we say a sad farewell to Anthony Clark who has been with the PC for many years, but has now moved on to work permanently for Badminton England. A big thank you to Anthony who has coached and shared his vast knowledge of the game to many Leicestershire players. We are sad to lose him but pleased that he is progressing in the coaching world and feel privileged to have had him as head coach.

Our excellent current PC coaching team now comprises Atu, Chris, Sarita and Harley.

Mark
Chairman LEICS PC.



AND FINALLY

It's a pleasure to still be able to promote and encourage more players to pick up a badminton racket and get on the courts.

I know that clubs have been working hard to get new members into their clubs. It's not an easy task, but I believe that we are strong in Leicestershire and show the will to survive and build our clubs. It's a waiting game for the youngsters to come through, but they will, as Greg and I are working hard with the junior clubs and schools to promote the game.



I know we have said it many times but promoting your club is key to gaining new members. Each club needs to look at what they are trying to do to encourage new players into their club, not just expecting them to appear! Especially Ladies I hear you say. If you do want any help, please contact either Greg or myself. We are happy to meet up and go through some ideas.

Congratulations to the County Senior and Junior teams who have had a good season and have been flying the flag for Leicestershire.

The ICT (inter Counties Tournament) under 18yrs team was a complete pleasure to watch as they played their hearts out at Nottingham University giving 100% effort throughout this prestigious tournament. The team finished in a very creditable 6th place out of 28 counties. The players did Leicestershire proud.

I will end by thanking everyone; the committee members who are running the clubs, the County Association committees and the coaches. Thanks to you all for giving your voluntary time to badminton and keeping the game alive.

Have a fab Summer.

Cheers **Carole**

Carole Spencer: carolespencer5525@gmail.com

Greg Howes: greghowes71@gmail.com

Websites:

Leicestershire Badminton Association: www.lbabadminton.org

Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association: www.leicestershiresba.co.uk

Leicestershire Performance Centre: www.leicspc.co.uk