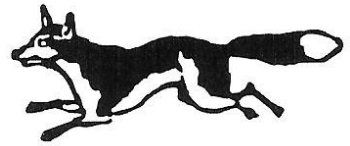


# LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN 2014/2015

Date: May 2015

## HEAD COACH REPORT



This year has seen many challenges to the Leicestershire Performance Centre and along with many stories of success for 2014/15. The limits put on us by the demolition work happening on the Babington site has been very frustrating for all parties, but I feel with have still put together an excellent programme of training and coaching for all players accessing the sessions. The dedication from the team of coaches and PC Committee volunteers behind the scenes has given players all the tools they need to succeed and we have had some great success from our players this season, so well done to all of them. With the formal introduction of Anthony Clark to the coaching set-up his invaluable experience coupled with the current coaches really gives us one the most qualified and experience coaching teams in the country and I am positive that we can build even greater relationships between players and coaches next year.

Personally having been involved for over a year now, I can see players starting to reap the benefits of the new structure we put in place last year, and with most of the disruption now behind us (fingers crossed) there should be nothing stopping us progressing even further. But how far is it that we want to go? Are we happy at being a middle of the pack county? I know what my answer would be to that question and I hope any player, coach or parent involved would have a similar response. So where can we gain invaluable insight in to where we may want to go? After spending three out of the four days at the recent ICC U17 Championships in Nottingham, it was great to see new county's, traditionally nowhere near the top, pushing their way into new top 10 territory. Counties like Berkshire and Sussex have risen fairly quickly and are now considered top counties, and how have they done this? Quite simply, the Performance Centre Initiative gave them the foundations to create an excellent training environment, the rest is down to excellent coaching and development programmes, but most importantly the edge they have is the buy in from players and parents. I know this from talking to the Head Coaches at the various PCs, they buy into the mantra that excellence is derived from hard work and a positive attitude to training, and understand that to become excellent and excel, hours of hard work and training is needed. So why can't we do that? We have the hours available for players to train, no other PC currently offers as many hours for players (six on-court hours) as the Leicestershire PC, we've

already mentioned we believe we have the coaches to help players achieve their potential, so what is left? Buy in from players and parents. In the coming months at the end of the season and during the summer we will be putting together a programme for next year that focuses on

### All England Over 40 Masters Winners



**Congratulations to Mark and Carl  
What an achievement!**

performance players and what they need to excel and do we have that in place? What we promise in return are all the tools necessary to become a performance player, including access to England Performance Training (if deemed of that level) and fully dedicated team of coaches to support you.

Like I said at the beginning of this report, this year has seen many challenges, but we mustn't lose track of the goals of our PC and what a PC is there for - to ensure everything is in place for players to meet and exceed their potential and produce performance players. Whether that's a world champion or county champion, the goal is the same, High Quality Performance badminton training. This can only be achieved through dedication from players, coaches and parents, hard work - on and off the court and most important, to enjoy what you are doing. Badminton England still see the Performance Centre structures as key to their performance strategy, however every PC is under intense scrutiny to see whether it is producing players that can compete, we need to make sure we are always striving to improve.

Congratulations again to all the success that the players and parents have had this year, it's always great to hear on the first session back in the week all the players excited to tell me how they did at the weekend. Final thank you to the coaches and all the hours they put in. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the PC this year and I look forward to working with you in the future.

*Tom Armstrong*



## **Team Leicestershire Performance Centre**

As the badminton season for 2014-15 draws to close, it is time to reflect on the season and look forward to next season. For the performance centre it has certainly been a challenging year, but I feel we have coped with everything that has been thrown at us and provided quality coaching and training for everyone. Indeed a freezing cold hall, building works, minimal toilets, restricted courts etc have not stopped us and have certainly demonstrated to me our determination to be a force to be reckoned with in English Badminton. This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication that all the people involved with the performance centre have given alongside the patience that players and parents have shown. Thank you to everyone involved.

As we continue with our journey as a performance centre we will of course try to do even better next year. We are one of the biggest (perhaps biggest) performance centre's in the country and I would like to think we have some of the best coaches as well. So in my mind there is no

reason why we cannot develop a reputation for being one of the best in the country. Indeed my old county Bucks has that reputation at present, so it is about time we challenge that. Of course that won't happen overnight but as we look to improve our training that is where we want to get to.

Looking forward to next season, there will be a greater emphasis on our performance players committing to regular training and entering national competitions. In addition I hope to also provide a means for the integration of our junior, senior and masters level county players under the Team Leicestershire umbrella along with an emphasis on adult competition through our senior clubs in the county.

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

Thanks.

**Mark - Chairperson**  
**Team Leicestershire**  
**Performance Centre**

### **LSBA - AGM**

June 8th at 7pm

**Babington  
College**

### **LSBA Presentation evening**

July 3rd at 7.30pm

**Babington College**  
**Leicester**

### **LBA SUMMER CLUB**

**every Monday night**  
**at BABINGTON College**

**for more details**

**PLEASE CONTACT**  
**Richard on 07541133683**

## LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR COUNTY 2014-15

Well done to everyone involved with the senior county teams, it has been a challenging year with the building works at Babington, but we can look forward to some changing rooms and showers next season!

The first team has re-established themselves as a strong division 1 team. The team led by Tom Armstrong has done very well winning six out of nine matches and finishing the year in 4<sup>th</sup> place. 1<sup>st</sup> team county colours for Zoe King – well done!

The county 2<sup>nd</sup> team led by Holly Mee, had a tough start to the year, but came out fighting in the New Year to end in 4<sup>th</sup> place with three wins out of eight. Unfortunately Holly has decided to stand down as 2<sup>nd</sup> team county captain, after many years running that team – thank you for everything you have done Holly.

It is brilliant to report that the 3<sup>rd</sup> team won their division after disappointing relegation last year. The thirds have showed great team spirit and enthusiasm throughout the season, winning many matches by large margins. After narrowly losing away, they won the crunch return game against the Isle of Wight. Overall they won five of their six matches and beat Isle of Wight by two points to win the division. Well done to Louise Lester and the rest of the team. This year they have had some new faces, including a return to county badminton for Hayley Mogg who receives her third team colours along with Raphael Wong and Chris Poli. All have been excellent assets to the team.

The 4<sup>th</sup> team led by Ashley Bolstridge have again had a tough year losing all their games and picking up one point. All who have played have represented Leicestershire with pride. Unfortunately due to the re-structuring of how county badminton will be run next year we have had to make the difficult decision to drop the 4<sup>th</sup> team for financial reasons. Thank you to Ashley and everyone who has represented this team over this season and previous ones and I can assure you that if we can we will bring this team back in future seasons.

I look forward to next season where I hope we can develop 'Team Leicestershire', get more people involved and of course win! I've got some plans for Wednesday training next year and will be in touch about that shortly.

**Mark King**  
Leicestershire County Badminton Captain



### COMMUNITY GAMES 2014

Once again funding was accessed to run the Badminton Community Games.

Teams from five areas of Leicestershire took part in a fantastic day of badminton at the Hermitage Leisure Centre.

The Games were started in 2012, the Olympic year, how time flies 2016 Olympic year looming!!!

# Report from 'The Badminton Man'

**Greg Howes**

**Leicester City Development Officer & Coach**



My fifth year as Leicester City Coaching and Development Officer is now drawing to a close and these are the highlights.

2014/15 started in pretty much the same way as the previous year with the question of whether there was sufficient funding available in the City to continue the promotion of our sport within the schools, in particular primary schools. Fortunately there has been, although in future years it now looks as if we will be reliant on schools allocating more of their sports premium to badminton.

## CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

The 2014 academic year finished in grand style at Aylestone Leisure Centre with seven schools entering teams comprising five doubles pairings. Although Forest Lodge won the individual pairs medals, Mowmacre took the overall team trophy.

In our first project of this school year, newcomers Thurnby Lodge made a big impression not only by winning our first tournament but by introducing badminton to their lunch time activities. Also new on the scene were Stokes Wood who were full of enthusiasm for the game. With regulars Forest Lodge, Rushey Mead and Sandfield Close appearing again, 2014 ended on a high.

The start of 2015 saw yet another new school embrace badminton – Catherine Juniors. Knighton Fields returned to pick up the winners medals for our third tournament of the season and Stokes Wood with Year 3s, entered the youngest ever squad. Thurnby Lodge bagged a double before Easter by winning our fourth competition.



Perhaps the success of running these projects for the last five years can be summed up by the testimonial from Thurnby Lodge:

*'Thank you for organising the very successful tournament. It is lovely to see so many children enjoying badminton. I hope many more primary schools will introduce the sport – the "take up" at our school has been so great that I am unable to offer the experience to all those who want to have a go.'*

## OTHER PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROMOTIONS

Although my main work is to promote badminton in the City of Leicester I occasionally get requests to go into the County. Earlier in the last 12 months I coached and ran a tournament for Newcroft and St Botolphs primaries in Shepshed aimed at introducing more players to the Shepshed High School Junior Club. This was followed by a request to repeat the same at Foxton. Fleckney and Lubenham primaries, introducing players to the Market Harborough Junior Club.

## SPORTIVATE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND FE COLLEGES

For the fourth successive year coaching has been carried out by myself and fellow coach Maurice Roberts in WQE, Gateway and Regent FE Colleges, together with Moat, Crown Hills and Rushey Mead Secondary Schools. The projects culminate in an annual Colleges tournament which this year was won by Crown Hills (Girls) and Gateway (Boys). Players are encouraged to join local senior clubs.



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS BADMINTON LEAGUE

As secretary of what we understand to be the largest of its kind in England, the secondary schools league produced its fair share of excitement. Leicester High took their first ever trophy by winning the girls Under 18s final, Beauchamp College dominated the Under 16s leagues, Loughborough Grammar added to their haul of winners medals and Newbridge impressed by winning the Under 14s girls final.



## JUNIOR CLUBS

I'm directly involved in junior clubs at Central Leicester where we have around 50 juniors on our books, Huncote Pavilion juniors, which is increasing steadily in numbers, and Humphrey Perkins Juniors. All involve a number of children who, along with those from the primary projects above, are now enjoying additional training sessions with the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association.

*Greg Howes*

### The LSBA Schools Leagues results

17 March 2015		U14	
BOYS		GIRLS	
<b>Winners</b>	Loughborough Grammar A	<b>Winners</b>	Newbridge
2nd Place	Kibworth High	2nd Place	Loughborough High
3rd Place	Ibstock	3rd Place	Leicester High
4th Place	Babington College	4th Place	Kibworth High
18 March 2015		U16	
<b>Winners</b>	Beauchamp College	<b>Winners</b>	Beauchamp College
2nd Place	Loughborough Grammar A	2nd Place	Woodbrook Vale
3rd Place	Babington College	3rd Place	Sir Jonathan North
4th Place	Ashby	4th Place	Market Bosworth
19th March 2015		U18	
<b>Winners</b>	Loughborough Grammar A	<b>Winners</b>	Leicester High A
2nd Place	Loughborough Grammar B	2nd Place	Loughborough High
3rd Place	WQE A	3rd Place	Beauchamp College
4th Place	Groby	4th Place	Leicester High B

### LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Loughborough Grammar school come out on top again winning the Under 14s Schools Leagues trophy. This season the schools league finals were excellent, the level of play in all age categories was the best we have seen. Schools badminton is definitely improving, this can only be a good thing for the future of the sport in the county.



### NEWBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL Under 14s Girls Badminton Team



The Newbridge High School girls, Ella, Eve, Molly and Natasha stormed through to a great victory by winning a gold medal in the Leicestershire Schools badminton Leagues held at Babington College, Leicester.

This team also went through to represent Leicestershire in the Regional round of Badminton England's Centre Parcs Championships at Loughborough University, where they finished in Silver medal position, only narrowly missing out to go through to the National finals. All of the girls are current members of Whitwick Junior Badminton Club.

The club have had another good season, membership is up to 52. Some good tournament results have been achieved by the players this season. In the first tournament of the year Under 10 Carly Stevenson got a runner up medal, Under 12 Girls Grace Sherwin and Evie Pike won their event as did Under 14's Girls Katie Evans and Isabel Pike. Jemima Haines got runner up in the Under 16's. The Whitwick girls showed what they were made of again in the second tournament of the season at the Hermitage Leisure Centre. Under 10's Georgina Bremridge in her first tournament got first place and Evie and Carly were runners up. Grace, Ellie, Katie and Jemima all won their age group events. James Emberton flying the flag for the boys got a well-deserved runner up medal in the Under 16's Boys. The club has other players coming through

that we are sure will do well in future years, we have children as young as five years old attending twice week, which is amazing at such an early age. This season the club selected 14 players to attend a talent ID day at Babington College, I am sure that some of the players (if not all of them) will be invited back. I do believe that the success of our club is that we have so many helpers, the older players are always keen to help and play with the younger ones. We have had a very enjoyable and successful season which will be celebrated at our annual presentation lunch in July.

We have a brilliant bunch of parents who are very keen to support their children, so a big thanks to them and to our valuable volunteers who are doing a great job.

**Carole and Amie**



## **CENTRAL LEICESTER JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB**

Central Leicester Junior Club which runs on Friday at Babington CC was set up in 2011, now in its 4th year, the club is fully subscribed with 25 members and has a waiting list.

Catering for children from the ages from 7-16, many of whom are progress to either county coaching or join our adult badminton club.

**Ajay (Club Coach)**





# HARBOROUGH LC Junior Badminton Club



*Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2014/15 season as JNR/1403*

In January 2015 the first AGM was held for Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club which enabled two new decisions to be made.

(i) As the only Junior Badminton Club in the Market Harborough area it was decided to make this available for players from aged eight to under 17 (as classified by criteria for school Year 12). This change would also help current members in Year 10 to remain longer as Junior Club Members especially bearing in mind that Badminton England classifies Junior Members up to 17 years of age.

(ii) To meet the continuing long term strategy and development of the club then in addition to the Wednesday night 5.00 to 6.00pm session introduce a 6.00 to 7.00pm session. This would also enable a splitting of age groups, ability for beginners/intermediate.

Further joint ventures between Harborough District Council and the club on 'Sportivate', a 'Satellite/Smash-up Club' and 'Rock- on the Rec' projects have continued to introduce badminton into the community. These projects helped to have new members join both the weekly Wednesday night's sessions on the four courts at Harborough Leisure Centre. We now have registered 42 Junior Badminton England members of which 40 regularly attend with a further four players due to try out the Club for the Summer Term.

Over 50% of Junior members are now wearing their own distinctive club shirts, shorts, or skorts which incorporate the club badge (logo) designed by a junior member.

Members have taken a pro-active approach in entering the Non-County Tournaments for the first time with 13 entering singles and eight pairs level doubles. Elliot Baker and Mitchel Adams were runners up in LSBA American Tournament 6th December 2014. Tom Conboy and Edward Battersby won the U14's Boys Doubles at the Whitwick Badminton Tournament 7th January 2015. At the LBA Junior Club U14s Tournament, four boys reached the quarter finals, two the semi-finals with Tom Conboy being the runner-up. Elliot, Mitchel, Tom and Edward have been invited to trials with 'Team Leicestershire Performance Centre' training sessions.

Nine younger members are attending the Talent ID session U11s 2015 and from this four have now been invited to the weekly Saturday 4.00pm to 6.00pm sessions which comes under 'Team Leicestershire Performance Centre' (PC) and is linked to the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association (LSBA) who run the Junior County Teams.

A Junior member of the club, Ewan Waddington, obtained the Badminton England Level One coaching award, but to date being away at University means the club is still to benefit.

**Brief Resume of Club (9<sup>th</sup> April 2015)  
Ray Phipkin (Head Club Coach)**

## ***BADMINTON IN RUTLAND***

There are now two clubs taking place in Rutland with a Junior section meeting At Uppingham Community College and Catmose Sports Centre in Oakham. Both Groups are run by Richard Wilson, who is also involved in many tennis projects in the area. The Oakham group meets on Thursday and the Uppingham group on Fridays (Sept-April). Apart from attracting new players to the game the sessions have proved popular for would-be young coaches and Richard is never short of players wanting to help and coach others. One example of this Eleanor Bland, 15, who attends Catmose Secondary School. She said "I have been playing there for over two years now. I really enjoy badminton and have also started coaching at a session in Oakham, which is really good fun and helps me learn new skills and coaching tips".

Eleanor has used this to help her and has been invited to the Performance Centre at Babington on a Wednesday night. Eleanor recently won a singles competition and also won a doubles competition with partner Eve Tipple.

***Richard Wilson***

# MASTERS REPORT 2014/2015

A FINE SEASON FOR THE VETERANS THIS YEAR. WE ENTERED FOUR TEAMS IN THE MASTERS ICC THIS SEASON AND THREE OUT OF THE FOUR TEAMS WON THEIR DIVISION. WHAT MAKES THIS ACHIEVEMENT EVEN MORE REMARKABLE WAS THAT ALL THREE TEAMS (the Over 40s, 50s & 60s) WERE UNDEFEATED. PLAYED SIX WON SIX WAS HOW THE TABLES READ.

Starting with the Over 40s, captained by Jane Cleaver. The squad has amazing depth in their men and proved too strong for the opposition. And you can see why as the team includes English All England mens doubles winners Mark King and Carl Jennings.

The rest of the team supported these two very well, rubbers won 54 to 18 lost. The team goes through to the finals weekend in May.

The Over 45s, captained by Sarah Gamble, only played two counties losing to Nottinghamshire home and away, but beating Oxfordshire twice.

The Over 50s captained by Tahir Mahmood boasts an English National Masters singles winner in Abdul Gaffar and a runner up in Tahir. It's not surprising then, that as a pair they were undefeated in the League all season. However the strength in this squad lies with the ladies as Sue Cripwell and Sue Mahmood were undefeated all season and Debbie Merry and Jane Roberts only lost one game. Unfortunately they lost to a strong Cheshire team in the challenge match East v West Midlands.

The Over 60s, captained by Edward Hayes, proved very dominant only losing 10 rubbers in their six matches. They also go through to the finals in May to be held at Loughborough University.

At the Masters Inter County Challenge played over a weekend in January, the Over 40s, playing in the premier division, came 2<sup>nd</sup> only losing to Essex. The Over 60s playing in Division 1A won seven matches and one draw, and will be promoted back to the premier division next year.

Well done to all the players who represented these teams over the season.

It's great to see Badminton being played at such a high level in Leicestershire in the Masters leagues.

Anyone interested in being considered for the Masters teams, please contact Carol Harding, 01509 550207, or any masters players. Trial/practice sessions are held at the LBA Hall in September.

## OWEN AND AYUSH

get Bronze medal at  
the Under 11s Nationals

### Soar Valley Leisure Centre Host Coaching Courses

*Nationally there are 601 sites  
signed up with 85% live, Soar  
Valley LC have now hosted  
five essentials courses,  
attendance was strong and  
feedback excellent.*





## OVER 60S MASTERS PROMOTED

### County Badminton Vets Back in Top Flight

Following their demotion from the Premier Division in January 2014, the Over 60s Vets roared back to the top division of the National County Challenge competition at Lilleshall Sports Centre this January with an unbeaten performance in Division 1A. Although getting off to a slow start with a first game draw against Suffolk the rest of Saturday's three games were outright wins against Shropshire, Wiltshire and Nottinghamshire dropping only three games overall from the 16 played. Sunday produced an even better performance in the return games with four straight wins dropping only two games from the four matches played. So Leicestershire topped Division 1A with 15 points from 16.

Pride of place must go to Audrey Preston and Greg Howes, playing at second mixed who returned a 100% result – eight wins. Close behind were the ladies pairing of Cathy Buckler and Jan Thomson and the first mixed pairing of Carole Spencer and Edward Hayes (with three of them playing down an age group) who lost only one game each. The mens doubles pairing of Richard Dayman and Dave Watts won five of their eight games to round off a magnificent weekend of Leicestershire badminton. Thanks must also go to Barry Preston who acted as our scorer and supporter for the weekend.

Well played the team!

*Edward Hayes, Captain*



### ROWAN & SAMEER

Win Gold in the  
Under 12 National  
Tournament 2014  
held at Babington College

#### LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

We have had a great season with on average over 16 kids playing every Monday from 6.45–7.45pm at Loughborough Grammar School.

Thanks you to Phil, Babu, Alison and Ryan who have helped me run those sessions for kids ranging from 7–16 years old.

We are always looking for new junior members so feel free to contact me, Mark King, at [M.A.King@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:M.A.King@lboro.ac.uk) if you are interested in joining.

## NON-COUNTY JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS 2014/5 SEASON

The Junior tournaments still prove to be a success, both doubles events were well supported this year, players from all over the county took part and is always a fantastic days badminton.

We also run one singles tournament per season which attracts over 100 players, ages from under 10 years to under 16 years.

These tournaments are still one of the best ways to start to encourage the youngsters to enjoy competing against other players outside of their school or clubs.

The evidence that these tournaments work is there to see, as many of the current county players came through this system.



# ★ ★ DEVELOPING OUR YOUNG PLAYERS ★ ★



The LSBA are always looking for ways to encourage more young players to take up the sport. This season three talent ID sessions were hosted at Beaumont Leys school, all the junior clubs in the county were contacted and asked to send their under 11 years players. It was a success, after only one session six players were invited to attend the Saturday Training session at Babington Community College. More will be invited in September. We had players as young as five years old enjoying the fun session, some of who you see in the photo, what a lovely group.

Thanks to Terry, Graham, Greg and Ray for all their help, without their enthusiasm and time this couldn't happen.

## THE FIRST U11s COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNE 2014

The U11s Championships were introduced last season and got off to a flying start. All the players seemed to have a great time competing. The Championships definitely sparked the interest in competition, many of these players have been entering National tournaments throughout the this season and some bringing back medals.

I think the "BADMINTON" seed is set in these young players, I am looking forward to seeing them progress, they are a lovely group of children and I am sure we will hear their names mentioned for many years in this newsletter. This year's championships will be held on 21st June at Babington.



### THE RESULTS:

Boys Singles winner: Luke Hoult, R/up Rowan Clark

Girls Singles winner: Eve Durrance, R/up Jessica Allen

Boys Doubles winners: Rowan Clark and Luke Hoult - R/up Owen King and Ayush Panchal

Girls Winners: Tamsin Betts and Jess Allen - R/up Eve Durrance and Tilly Dale

### PLATE EVENT results:

Boys Singles Plate winner: Lewis Whyley R/up Josh Irving

Boys Plate Doubles winners:

Tom Paterson Watts and Danny Beynon - R/up Kyle Metcalfe and Lewis Whyley

Girls Singles Plate winner: Tilly Dale - R/up Emma Thornley

Girls Doubles Plate winners: Emma Thornley and Emily Gallacher - R/up Emily Dakin and Sophie Watson

## LEICESTERSHIRE'S U11'S HAVE HAD A BUSY SEASON

We started our season with two match play sessions to help with pairings and team bonding which I feel has been hugely successful.

The U11s don't play in a League as the older age groups so we decided to arrange a few friendly matches one against Derbyshire and we played Warwickshire home and away, winning all three matches.

In the Warwickshire match we were able to give four of the younger players games, which is great experience for them for next season.

In the primary Midway League this season we had some very hard fought matches where we very narrowly missed out on 2nd position, but we were very proud of our 3rd position only losing to Warwickshire by one or two points who ended up in 1st position overall.

Some of our U11's have also been involved in U12 and U13 events this season giving them lots of experience. The keenness of the players and the support of their parents has grown throughout the season with many of the U11's travelling the length of the country gaining lots of experience by entering the national tournaments, more than we have ever had six of these children qualified for the U11 nationals in Essex where they all did amazing well especially Owen and Ayush who came away with a bronze medal in the doubles. The last competition of the season will be the U11 Championships in June will be a very tight competition this year for the current U11's.

The growth of the young players this season on and off the court has been amazing to see, we really are developing a lovely group.

*Amie Hoult - U11 Team Manager*

## U12s TEAM TRAVEL TO YORK & GET SILVER MEDAL

Six boys and six girls travelled to York to take part in a singles and doubles tournament on the Saturday and a team tournament on the Sunday.

What a weekend of badminton, all the players did themselves proud trying their hardest against some tough opposition. Five out of our six girls are under 11 and will be eligible to play in this event next season, they played the hearts out and never stopped trying all day. Tamsin did well getting through to the Quarter finals as did Tom but unfortunately losing to the more experienced opponents. In the doubles event it was fantastic to see all three boys' pairs reaching the semi-finals. Unfortunately Tom and Danny came up against the number one seeds, the boys played well, but lost the game to a very strong pair. The second semi was an all Leicestershire affair partnerships of Owen and Tom v Luke and Rowan, a nail biting match for everyone, Luke and Rowan came out as winners and then had to take on the number one seeds, the lads worked hard and gave them a good game but lost 21- 15 so ended up as silver medallists. Tom, Danny, Owen and Tom all received Bronze medals.

Day 2 was the team tournament, all fired up the team got off to a flying start, taking the first two matches against, Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> and Cheshire. The 3<sup>rd</sup> match was against Yorkshire 1<sup>st</sup> which they knew would be tough, the managers really had to get their thinking caps on to try and win this match, and they were so close but lost the match 4-3. The next three matches all went our way which gave the team a well-deserved Silver Medal.

It was a great achievement as seven of our players will be eligible to play in this age group again next season.

### **The Team:**

*Sophie Watson, Tamsin Betts,  
Emma Thornley, Tilly Dale,  
Emily Gallacher & Eve Durrance*

*Rowan Clark, Owen King,  
Danny Beynon, Luke Hoult,  
Tom Williams & Tom Patterson Watts*

*Team managers:  
Mark King and Anthony Clark*



## **YORK DOUBLES TOURNAMENT**

### **Under 12s Silver and Bronze Medalists**

**Silver Medals**  
Rowan and Luke

**Bronze Medals**  
Danny, Owen, Tom and Tom



## **Under 12s North Midway League 2014/15 Season**

### **GOLD REWARD**

The Under 12s A team, who were undefeated in the first leg of the North Midway league, returned to Sheffield to play the 2nd leg. The day started with a great win against Yorkshire 2nd team 9-1. This was the start of many more wins, a 6-4 win against Derby and a 10-0 win v Nottingham took them on the road to victory. These wins meant that Leicestershire went through to the top half of the competition. The next three matches were won 8-2, 7-3 and going into the last match knowing that the gold medal was in sight the whole team gave a great performance even though they had been playing for over 6 hours. They dug deep and pulled off

a convincing win of 7-3. Rowan and Owen and Tom and Danny winning both boys doubles, Eve and Tilly winning the girls doubles, Jess and Tilly had a really close singles games both just losing 21-19. Both mixed games were won by Tom and Tamsin, Luke and Eve, and Rowan and Luke finished it off winning both boys singles. The gold medal was theirs. What a fantastic result, 12 matches won over the two legs with no losses.



**The Team:**  
Jess Allen, Tamsin Betts, Tilly Dale and Eve Durrance, Danny Beynon, Rowan Clark, Luke Hoult, Owen King and Tom Patterson Watts.

## UNDER 12s NORTH MIDWAY LEAGUE B TEAM 2014/15 SEASON

To give more players the opportunity to participate in a competition and to gain good experience Leicestershire entered a B team made up of younger players. In the first match they faced Warwickshire, who were the strongest team in the group and lost 9-1, with Emily and Lewis taking the only win in the mixed doubles. They then fought hard but lost to Cheshire 8-2. Then came Yorkshire who proved to be too strong, Leicestershire only winning one mixed game by Ayush and Emma. They had a much tighter match v Nottingham with most of the games being lost to the high teens. Sophie won her singles



and Tom and James took their boys doubles, resulting in an 8-2 loss. The last match of the day was Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> the team ended the day on a high note, winning 6-4 with great performances from the whole team.

The players will have gained from the experience and come back fighting next season, seven out of the ten players are eligible to play.

### The Team:

*Emily Gallacher, Evie Pike, Grace Sherwin, Emma Thornley, Sophie Watson, Finn O'Brien, James O'Brien, Ayush Panchal, Lewis Whyley, Tom Williams*



## GOLD MEDALS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

**\*CONGRATULATIONS\***

*to the U12, U14 and U16 teams for  
winning the North Midway Leagues.*

***This is the first time Leicestershire have won all three age groups in the same year, what an achievement!***

## UNDER 13s REPORT

This year's team have been represented by Sameer Chenia, Harry Clare, Joe Goodenough, Ollie Brown, Rowan Clark, Jess Rodgers, Jess Allen, Sophie Irving, Tamsin Betts and Izzy Pike.

We had a good start to the season with a win in our first game. Over the six games we came out with three very convincing wins. The whole team have represented Leicestershire fantastically and have all played their hearts out in every game.

Six of the players have also been active in the Badminton England tournaments this year and have amassed quite a few medals between them.

On whole a great season for all involved.

**Alaina Goodenough**  
U13s Manager



## COACHING SESSIONS

There are coaching sessions run at the following venues.

Saturday at Gateway College from 6 to 8pm, junior players 14 plus and also kids who enjoy playing badminton.

Sundays at Beaumont Leys School from 12.00 to 2.00pm.

Sunday at Evington leisure centre 9.00am (all ages welcome) KAS Badminton

## BABINGTON COLLEGE

It's been a difficult season with the demolition of Babington College which has caused disruptions for everyone using the LBA hall and the sports hall, but we think things are now on the move, we look forward to next season when we will have new changing rooms, toilets and the balcony will be accessible again. I think this has really hit home that we are so lucky to have our own facility, and what on earth would we do without it.

## UNDER 13s CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS



### BOYS SINGLES

Winner Sameer Chenia  
Runner Up Harry Clare

### BOYS DOUBLES

Winners Harry Clare & Ollie Brown  
Runners Up Sameer Chenia & Rowan Clark

### GIRLS SINGLES

Winner Jess Rodgers  
Runner Up Izzy Pike

### GIRLS DOUBLES

Winners Jess Rodgers & Jess Allen  
Runners Up Tamsin Betts & Sophie Irving

### MIXED

Winners Harry Clare & Jess Allen  
Runners Up Sameer Chenia & Jess Rodgers

## UNDER 14s GOLD AWARD



Girls - Ella, Hritika, Jasmin, Eve and Mia.  
Boys - Martin, Tom C, Tom L, Sameer and Marcus.

The under 14s Leicestershire 1st team who were also undefeated in the first leg of their North Midway League tournament returned to Sheffield to play the 2nd leg on 8th February.

Their first match was against Cheshire, previous tough opponents, who put up a good fight with some very close matches. Leicestershire won the match only losing one game. Great 9-1 win to start the day!

Next up was Staffordshire, another win, this time 8-2, with again some close matches!

The third match was against Yorkshire's 2nd team. The team were feeling confident now having got two wins under their belt and didn't disappoint winning convincingly 10-0.

The final group match was against Nottinghamshire, who came 3rd in the first leg, the team beating them narrowly 6-4 on that occasion. The team rose to the challenge, with first place in the group stage now in their sights and won the match 9-1!!

This meant that the team would now meet Yorkshire 1, the winners of the other group to play for first or second place of this league.

They had beaten Yorkshire 1 in the first leg but the team were not complacent and didn't want to be defeated at this stage. The match started with 2 wins in the mixed, after the singles, the score was 4-2 to Leicestershire, we needed two more wins to secure the match! The team went on in the doubles to win three out of the four games! Leicestershire 7 Yorkshire 3!

Brilliant result for the team who were undefeated over the two legs and came home winners of the gold medal!!

Well done to each and everyone of the players who played really well.

*Laura Cowperthwaite*

## UNDER 15s YEARS 2014/2015 SEASON

It's been a very successful season for the Under 15 team this year. Leicestershire finished eleventh of the thirty eight Counties in the Shires League with wins over Norfolk 1, Worcestershire, Derbyshire 2 and Norfolk 2. Eleventh place put Leicestershire into the play-offs, but that was a step too far as we were beaten by a very strong Warwickshire team.

Thirteen different players were used in the season with only three being true under 15s, so the rest of the squad will be eligible to play again next year. The team was Eve Dale, Isobel Patterson Watts, Martin Beynon, Tom Cowperthwaite, Ella Haines, Tom Lund, Nikhil Chotai, Ryan King, Jasmin Bullock, Hritika Modi, Sameer Chenia, Jolie Haywood and Mia Clark.





## UNDER 15s RESULTS

### Mixed

Martin Beynon & Ella Haines  
beat  
Nikhil Chotai & Hritika Modi

### Girls Doubles

Ella Haines & Jasmin Bullock  
beat  
Eve Dale and  
Isabel Patterson- Watts

### Boys Doubles

Ryan King & Jai Chandarana  
beat  
Nikhil Chotai & Tom Lund



## U16s NORTH MIDWAY BADMINTON LEAGUE MATCH REPORT

### Leicestershire Win Despite Swan Delay!!

#### TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE:

**Boys** - Nick Twells, Cameron Collins, Sam Wood, Joe Hill (1st leg), Mat Fields (2nd Leg) and Jai Chandarana (2nd Leg)  
**Girls**: Chloe Wilkins, Wembley Prince, Ella Haines, Eve Dale and Isobel Patterson-Watts, Rachel Wen (2nd Leg)

#### ROUND 1 26th October 2014

The 1st leg didn't start well with the Twells Team Bus being delayed due to a SWAN on the M1!! This limited the amount of warm up time that the Team had, which did have an impact on the first Match, which was against a strong Cheshire Team. As there were only 4 teams for the 1st leg the format was changed to increase the number of games per match.

Results of the first round of matches:

Match 1 Leicestershire 7 v Cheshire 9

Match 2 Leicestershire 11 v Yorkshire 5

Match 3 Leicestershire 11 v Warwickshire 5

We finished 2nd place overall, with a great chance to push for 1st place on the second leg.

#### ROUND 2 - 2 February 2015

There were now six teams entered, with Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire 2 taking part. However, with points carried over these teams could not win the competition.

Match 1 Leicestershire 10 v Yorkshire (2) 0

Match 2 Leicestershire 5 v Yorkshire (1) 5 (Leics won on points)

Match 3 Leicestershire 4 v Warwickshire 6

Match 4 Leicestershire 10 v Cheshire 0

Match 5 Leicestershire 4 v Nottinghamshire 6

The final results meant that the top 3 teams finished on the same number of matches won. The final result was based on games and points. Leicestershire came through as the ultimate winner, another fantastic result.

Well done and thanks to all the players, parents and Chris & Pete Hall for all their help.

**Alan Twells**  
**Team Manager**



Team photo Round 1

## THE UNDER 17s

The under 17yrs team had a successful season in the Shires Leagues by winning four out of their six matches, beating Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire 2nd, Lincolnshire, Warwickshire, they got a 10 all draw v Derbyshire, only losing one match which was against Yorkshire 1st team.

This was enough to put them through to the Playoffs against Cheshire. The players tried their hardest but unfortunately Cheshire proved to be too strong on the day and Leicestershire lost 15 - 5 .

This has been a busy season for many of the players as they also enter National tournaments which takes them playing all over the country.

The County Championships is always a tight affair, competing against your team members and players that you train with weekly is always a nervous occasion but one the players relish. This years results are listed below.

Then comes the mighty ICT which is always the pinnacle of the season, and something they have to train hard for. Then its a well earned rest, well from badminton, for some it's those dreaded exams !!!!

The teams dedication to their badminton this season has been commendable to see.

The winners of the under 17yrs championships were:

Boys Singles winner - James Yang

Girls Singles winner - Zoe King

Boys Doubles Winners - James Yang/Nick Twells

Girls doubles winners - Michelle Luo/Chloe Wilkins

Mixed Doubles winners - Nick Twells/Zoe King in mixed.

**Chris Hall**  
**Manager**

## ZOE KING HAS A GREAT SEASON

For the first time Zoe won the U17 county championship – winning the singles and also the mixed with Nick Twells.

Zoe has represented Leicestershire's Senior County 1<sup>st</sup> Team this year winning six out of ten matches and will get 1<sup>st</sup> team county colours.

In national tournaments Zoe has done very well including winning the singles at Essex U17 Silver, York U17 Gold and Solihull & Shirley U19 Bronze. At the U17 nationals Zoe and Wembley were the only pair in the ladies doubles to push the number 1 seeds to three sets. This season Zoe's national ranking has jumped from 160 at the start of the season to currently 83, with her ranked number 8 for her own age group.



*Photo: U17 County Championships Singles Winner*

## INTER COUNTY TOURNAMENT



50<sup>th</sup> year

**DAY 1** - The first match was against Isle of Man, a somewhat unknown quantity however a win was expected in this opening match, as it proved with Leics running out 7-3 winners. The second match was the crunch match in the group, against Kent. We knew going in to the tournament that this would be an extremely close affair. This proved the case as the match finished tied 5 all, sadly Kent taking the win by 1 end. The 3rd match on a hectic first day was against reigning champions and pre-tournament favourites, Bucks. Despite some impressive performances Leics went down 10 -0. Last match of the Day, was against the tournament debutants Hereford, Leics eased to a 10-0 victory.

**DAY 2** - Drawn into a group with Devon, Worcestershire and Middlesex. In what originally looked like a tricky group the players, proved too strong for any opposition dismissing of the group 8-2, 10-0 and 9-1 respectively.

**DAY 3** - Leics were drawn into a final group with Notts, Suffolk and Oxford, for the final two days. The first match in the box was against the old enemy Notts. The match looked as if it all would hang on the mixed, Leics again proved too strong

coasting through both mixed and eventually easing to a 7-3 victory. Suffolk was the other match on day 3, a team which had perhaps looked like the easiest match in the group. Leics won again 7-3, however this match was far from easy as the coaches noted and commended the amazing work ethic from the entire Suffolk team, which made every game a tricky encounter.

**DAY 4** - The final match of the competition was against Oxford, this match was expected to be close and proved that way, the players showed that fighting spirit that they had been consistently doing throughout the four days ground out a 6-4 victory.

Leicestershire finished 17th.

Many thanks to all the players who represented Leicestershire proudly and many thanks to all the coaches and supporters who gave up their time to make the ICT the experience it is! A special thanks to Hayley Deas and Pete Hall who assisted me over the four days.

*Chris Hall*  
**ICT Manager**

## WOMENS BADMINTON



The B-Active project which had been successfully running for three years ended in December 2014. However there were now a large group of ladies that had got hooked onto playing badminton and wanted to continue. To cater for the demand, Ajay Pitrola worked in partnership with the Leisure Centres and local community groups to ensure the sessions still operated. More than 20 ladies turn up regularly at the Cossington session which is popular than ever.

## LEICESTER UNIVERSITY 'LETS DO LEICESTER' PROJECT

'Let's Do Leicester' is an exciting three year project launched on 26th January 2015 offering increased opportunities for students to participate in activities being delivered across the University Campus and Halls of Residence. The Let's Do Leicester project makes a number of activities accessible to students on their doorstep and on campus for little or no cost at all. The project makes use of the University's excellent facilities across both the City and Oadby campus sites as well as spaces within the students Halls of Residence.

Ajay Pitrola set up several badminton sessions for students that currently were inactive or those that had never tried the sport. Sessions at Roger Bettles Sports Centre and Charles Wilson Sports Hall have been increasing in popularity.

## NO STRINGS BADMINTON

Now in its fourth year. The No Strings badminton session at Babington Community College still runs each Saturday evening. It seems to be popular for returning players that have decided to come back to the sport. The competitive games as well as having a qualified coach in attendance makes it a highly attractive night.



## JUNIOR BADMINTON AT COSSINGTON

Ajay Pitrola has been working in partnership with local schools and Cossington Leisure Centre and has recently set up an after-school junior club that runs each Thursday from 3.30-5.00pm at Cossington Leisure Centre. There was latent demand for juniors to play badminton in the area and it is reflected in the regular attendees each week.

*Ajay Pitrola*

## BADMINTON ENGLANDS CENTRE PARCS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to the four teams that went through to represent Leicestershire in the regional round of the Centre Parcs Championships at Loughborough University in March.

They all enjoyed a fantastic days badminton competing against teams from Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Northamptonshire.

Silver medals were won by Newbridge High School KS3 Girls and Beauchamp College KS4 Boys.

King Edward VII KS4 Girls and Babington College KS 3 Boys got the bronze medal.

Well done to all the players and thanks for flying the flag for Leicestershire.



# LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON COACHES ASSOCIATION

## Chairman's Report – 2015



Another busy year has quickly gone by since my last report. Again, I thank all coaches for their hard work and dedication in providing skilled tuition to all ages, especially youngsters. The results of which have been

reflected in some of the attendances in the tournaments that have been arranged. Here I, and many others, thank Graham, Terry and Carole for the organisation of them. However, it was disappointing not to be able to run the Under 11s league this year, but the three dates in March, April and May have acted as some compensation for this. It is heartening to know that some youngsters are progressing through to the PC and also into the County Teams. However, I am concerned that we are losing some through not keeping 'tabs' on why they do not attend after a period of time, especially when they showed enthusiasm and interest in the beginning. I try to get in touch with parents and school should this happen in my coaching sessions. I realise it is difficult when you have large classes, but I know from experience it pays off.

My thanks go to the committee, especially the officers. We try to provide opportunities to encourage as many people to participate and to progress and on the whole, we succeed.

However, this success would not be achieved without the help and support of all the coaches throughout the County.

The County owe a great debt to Carole Spencer, who works unstintingly in the background to obtain grants to enable us to fund courses and supplement tournaments etc, plus many other jobs that are required.

The NBL provided a window with which to show off badminton to the public and it was encouraging on the opening match in Loughborough last year to see so many young people there especially from the schools. I am sure young (and old) marvelled at the skills and fitness of the players.

Finally. There are a lot of adults playing badminton, some play with friends just for exercise, some socially and some who belong to groups who play competitively on a regular basis. At one time there used to be 'night school' courses for badminton, or coaching carried out at Leisure Centres for adults only. These appear now to be few and far between, but people are still playing. I know we do a lot for young people (and rightly so), but are we able to do something for adults too?

**Rowland F. Tatton**

**Chairman Leicestershire Badminton Coaches**

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## SATELLITE CLUBS

*Aimed at 11 to 25 years old, the satellite club programme can bridge the gap into community sport and provide new opportunities for young people to create lifelong sporting habits. Satellite Clubs are established through community sports club delivering badminton in a host school/college or University, developing an extension to the club. The benefits of this include greater awareness of the club and increased membership with potential funding available to help set up sessions. If your club is interested in setting up a satellite club in the local community contact Michael Nyarko, Regional Manager on 07725074533.*

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## COMMUNITY BADMINTON NETWORKS (CBN)

*There are now 64 CBNs nationally, Leicestershire have two, Leicester City CBN and Charnwood CBN. Leicester City CBN are strong and committed around developing wider badminton opportunities linked into local need. Example of activity which the CBN want to drive and include is a pilot for primary school sessions. Greg Howes Chairman of the CBN has put together plans aimed at Primary schools.*

## ELLA WINS NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR SPORTS WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Ella has been playing badminton regularly for the last six years. She has become an excellent player who represents Leicestershire in the under 15 years County team. Ella enters many National tournaments and is a very committed player, training three times a week with Team Leicestershire and still finds time to support her local junior club where the badminton seed was first set. Ella is also a keen all round sports person who in the last 12 months represented her school in at least six different sports which included being a member of this years schools Badminton team that got through to the regional round of the Centre Parcs championships. Ella has also been selected to attend the youth sports trust inspiration programme in the national school games. A very well deserved winner of this award.

## LEICESTER MERCURY JUNIOR SPORTS WOMEN OF THE YEAR

### HOPE WARNER

Hope won the Oadby & Wigston Junior Sportswoman of the Year award for her achievement's in 2013/4 season.

That season included the wins for National singles and doubles titles and representing England in the Under 13 years in Denmark, Germany and in the home counties tournament in Wales.

Winning this local award meant that Hope was nominated for the Leicester Mercury young sports women of the year awards with a virility of other sports winners, she was short listed alongside a gymnast and a pole vaulter.

Hope's achievements were recognised and she was declared the winner of this ward.



## JAI CHANDARANA

Jai, aged 14, first picked up a badminton racket at the age of four. He started off playing with his Dad (Rashmi) in their lounge and accompanied Avinash his eldest brother on the tournament circuit. When there were breaks at the tournament, Jai and his dad would have a knock up on the empty courts. Because of his love for the sport, he decided, he wanted to progress and become one of the top players both in the county and nationally.

Jai started training for the Leicestershire County at the age of seven years and would attend the Saturday sessions at Babington and then went onto play County and National Tournaments from the age of nine years. He has never looked back as he made a lot of friends along the way. He also participated in some International Tournaments and is also recognised as one of the best team players. His ambition is to represent England.

Last season he won Leicestershire U15 championships in singles, doubles and mixed events, he also entered the U17 County championships, winning the singles category.

This season, Jai has put a lot of effort and determination in his training and has performed well and his achievements are as follows:

**BE U15s Gold Tournament Cheltenham**

*Bronze Medal in Doubles*

**BE U15s Gold Tournament Lancashire**

*Bronze Medal in Doubles*

**BE U15s Gold Tournament Surrey**

*Gold Medal in Singles in the Gold Category & Silver Medal In Doubles in the Gold Star Category*

**BE U17s Silver Tournament Nottingham**

*Gold Medal in the Singles event & Bronze in the Doubles event*

**BE U16s Kent Open Tournament**

*Gold Medal in the Doubles event*



## NBL NATIONAL BADMINTON LEAGUE ON SKY

It's been a great start for the first year of the National badminton league, especially as we have had two matches on our door step. Loughborough University hosted two successful events this season which allowed local people to have the opportunity to watch and be inspired by top class badminton players. When asked for local volunteers to help at the event there was no shortage, Pete Goadby organised the Line Judges, County players were asked to do sweeping of the courts, refreshments were provided by volunteers of the LSBA and Six PC players enjoyed the experience of playing on the show court with the national players.

Loughborough Sport finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the league which gets them through to playoffs in Crawley on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Looking forward to more next season!





## Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association

Report for the LSBA at the close of the 2014/2015 season.

The Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association promotes badminton at all ages as a healthy life long experience. The Association work with schools and clubs throughout the county and as a county Association we provide the competitive element for children from the ages of 8 to 17yrs.

Our associations with the Team Leicestershire has now been in operation for two years. Players of all ages are continue to benefit from the ability based training provided by the Performance Centre – again under the Team Leicestershire set up.

As an example of the success of Team Leicestershire I was fortunate to attend the two National Badminton League matches at Loughborough University this season. Team Leicestershire provided players and coaches for pre-match coaching demonstrations, line judges, door officials and catering for spectators. Not to mention our own Anthony Clark providing the commentary for Sky Sports!

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. Well done to you all - we could not function without your tireless support.

I would also confirm my own and the association's appreciation for the work carried out by Carole Spencer. Although Carole does not have an official role within the LSBA her wide knowledge of our sport and many contributions at all levels continues to be invaluable.

We continue to be supported by Greg Howes, Leicestershire's Badminton Development Officer. Greg has worked very hard work this season to maintain and promote the Schools Leagues.

Congratulations for all of our success in competitive play both individually and at team level. We are proud of the success of our players and we must again acknowledge the efforts of our coaches and managers for all they give to the players.

A final mention to all members of the LSBA Committee who work behind the scenes to ensure all of the administration and paperwork is in order. Special mention to Cathy Buckler our Secretary and Ray Phipkin our Treasurer.

**Dave Armstrong**  
Chairman



## BADMINTON ENGLAND WINS GOVERNING BODY OF THE YEAR

Badminton England is celebrating after being named National Governing Body of the Year 2015 at the BT Sport Industry Awards.

The BT Sport Industry Awards is the most prestigious commercial sports awards in Europe and we won the Governing Body of the Year award, beating several other governing bodies on the shortlist, including British Cycling and British Athletics.

The winners were announced at a star-studded ceremony in London on Thursday evening to the delight of our Chief Executive Adrian Christy, who collected the award with our Chairman

Derek Batchelor from Welsh rugby star Sam Warburton.

Adrian said: "I am delighted and tremendously proud that Badminton England has won the National Governing Body of the Year in recognition of all our hard work in 2014.

"We had some fantastic achievements over the last 12 months including the greatest increase in participation since Active People Survey records began, a Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and the launch of the innovative National Badminton League (NBL), the first professional badminton league in the UK.

"None of this would have been possible without the great efforts, commitment and support of our volunteers, staff, players, sponsors and partners - in particular Yonex, who continue to be an integral partner and major contributor to our commercial success - who came together to make 2014 such a successful year.

"I would like to thank everyone involved for making this award possible because without doubt, they are the people who make Badminton England such an inspiring and highly achieving organisation."





## LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

### DIVISIONAL WINNERS

<b>Ladies 1</b>	<b>Mens 5A</b>	<b>Hall 3</b>
Lough Students 1	Oadby 2	Croakers 1
<b>Ladies 2</b>	<b>Mens 5B</b>	<b>Mixed 1</b>
Loughborough 1	Huncote 1	South Leicestershire 1
<b>Ladies 3</b>	<b>Mens 6A</b>	<b>Mixed 2</b>
Central Leicester 1	Huncote 2	Loughborough 1
<b>Mens 1</b>	<b>Mens 6B</b>	<b>Mixed 3</b>
Lough Students 1	Loughborough Tech 1	Longslade Stoney 3
<b>Mens 2</b>	<b>Mens 6C</b>	<b>Mixed 4</b>
Longslade Stoney 1	Trinity 1	Central Leicester 1
<b>Mens 3</b>	<b>Hall 1</b>	<b>Mixed 5A</b>
Lough Students 3	Lough Students 1	Leicester University 2
<b>Mens 4</b>	<b>Hall 2</b>	<b>Mixed 5B</b>
SSC 1	Enderby 1	Longslade Stoney 4

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Over 500 league matches took place throughout the County this season and those teams that were successful are shown above. Loughborough Students won three out of the four topflight trophies, with South Leicestershire preventing the 'grand slam' by taking Division 1 of the mixed league. The Students made it four titles by taking Men's Division 3. Longslade Stoneygate also enjoyed a successful season taking three trophies. Celebrating a brace of title wins were Loughborough Town, Central Leicester and Huncote.

The number of league players has stayed fairly constant in recent years, but the Badminton Association would dearly like numbers to rise. The writer has enjoyed many years of competitive badminton and would urge anyone who is like-minded to go out and join a club.

*Greg Howes*  
LBA League Secretary

**LBA - AGM**  
**Thursday 21st May**  
**Babington College**  
**Leicester**  
**7.15pm**

**LBA**  
**PRESENTATION EVENING**  
**Friday 22nd May**  
**THE JUNGLE CLUB**  
**Leicester**  
**7.30pm onwards**



*SmashUp* was a new concept that was introduced and launched by Badminton England early last year. It received both, negative and positive criticism by many coaches, including myself. Sadly though, criticism was more negative than positive. However, after qualifying as an activator, delivering sessions and seeing the results of this programme I am convinced that this was a brilliant concept and way of exposing the racket sport to new comers who hadn't swung a racket before. No rules, no dress codes, no previous experience and no qualifying criteria to join sessions made *SmashUp* more accessible and more appealing to less competitive learners who weren't involved in any school clubs, local sporting clubs or after school clubs, especially females.

*SmashUp* has proven to be very popular and innovative for new comers to badminton and for existing players as well. The variety of games, continuous support from Badminton England and the influx of participating schools has been very encouraging. The fact that learners can turn up at a session without any weekly commitment and/or without any knowledge of the game has proven very successful in most schools and colleges, which have promoted *SmashUp* sessions initially as 'drop-in' sessions. Numbers from these 'drop-in' sessions have increased drastically over the initial few weeks with more and more learners turning up weekly and because of the popularity of the session these numbers are still very high. At some venues 60+ learners turn up at a session, expecting to play badminton, however, due to health and safety and venue capacity, learners have to be turned away and booked onto the next session. *SmashUp* has taken off really well in several schools and colleges, and numbers are too high to accommodate all in one go, hence, I've had to separate sessions for girls and boys ie. girls in one week and boys in the other or alternatively 16 girls and 16 boys per session only. These numbers were determined by the availability and number of courts.

Learners from these *SmashUp* sessions have developed skills, desire to win, ability to socialise and communicate effectively with fellow players, and

more especially a love for the game. Hence, participating schools and colleges have now set up satellite clubs and after school clubs to cater for learners who show a keen interest in the sport. But this is not all, some schools and colleges that I work closely with have gone a step further, and in this summer, we have commenced badminton sessions in the morning before commencement of school. This session is held for 1.5 hrs on a daily basis with different students turning up and having a go with a racket. New comers and existing players are thoroughly enjoying this new session and once again badminton has become the most popular sport with the highest turnout of participants in participating schools and colleges.

More schools are looking to sign onto the *SmashUp* programme since its launch, however, lack of Activators, funding and inadequate venues are some contributing factors which hamper delivery/progress in these schools and colleges.

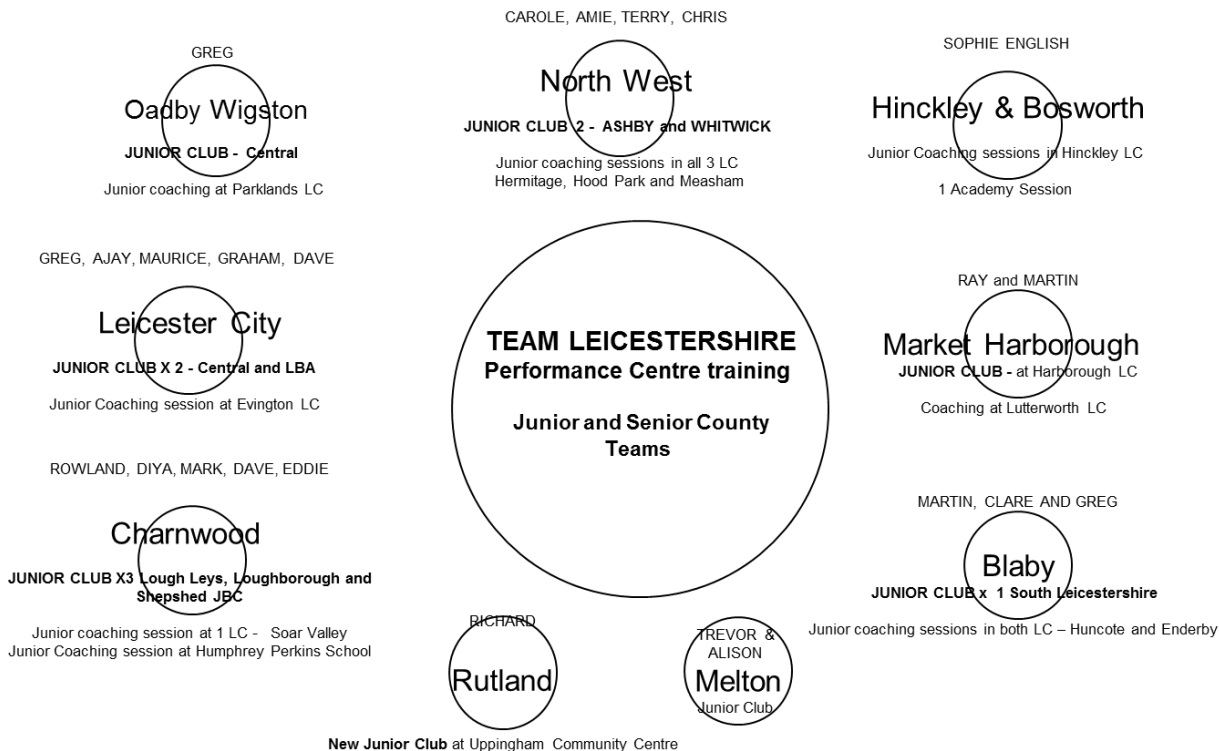
I would also like to add that the *SmashUp* programme has been a very good platform to spot learners with ability and scope for further development with regards to badminton. Hence, quite a number of learners from the *SmashUp* sessions have now commenced playing in their school clubs, after-school social clubs and a few have become members of local junior badminton clubs.

Also, learners from the *SmashUp* sessions have now become very competitive and several learners are now participating in tournaments against other schools and/or tournaments organised by the Leicestershire Badminton Association.

**DIYA HURILAL**  
**Co-ordinator**



## 12 Junior BADMINTON CLUBS IN THE COUNTY & Coaching Sessions at 10 Leisure Centres



### PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE OR GREG

If you would like to take any  
coaching qualifications

Start up your own  
Junior Club

To be a badminton volunteer  
Coaching opportunities for your  
members

**spencer5525@btinternet.com**  
Phone: 07881750562

**greghowes@btinternet.com**  
Phone: 0116 2621476

### MASTERS

If you are turning of age ! 40yrs  
plus and would like information

on the

### LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS TEAMS

please contact

**Carol Harding**

[carolharding99@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolharding99@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Useful Websites:

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

# *and finally ...*

I cannot believe we are coming to the end of another busy season, how time fly's when you're enjoying what you do.

Since retiring I have spent more time doing what I love, developing junior badminton in the county. I have been coaching in the local schools and working with the LSBA and the PC to encourage more youngsters into the sport.

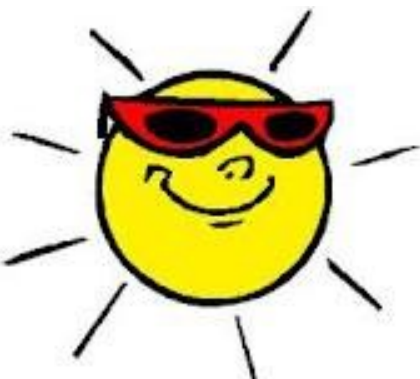
Its been a pleasure to see some of the PC coaching sessions, they are looking great, many changes have been made to the way the training is being delivered, the players are responding well, and more medals are being won. A big thank you to all the PC coaches.



Thanks also goes to the 32 very dedicated Level 2 coaches who work with young players throughout Leicestershire in 10 Leisure centres, 12 junior clubs and in many schools.

I have just produced a document which lists all of the above and can be used to direct players to the suitable sessions, this can be found on the LSBA and LBA websites.

I am sorry to have to report on the sad loss this season of one of our coaches who became a friend to me over the years, Clive Ellames. Clive gave so much to the sport as the National Development Manager for Badminton England, The Chairman of the LSBA, and as Leicestershire Community Badminton Coach working in many schools throughout the County. He will be especially missed in the Hinckley area where he worked to encourage so many youngsters into the sport. A very sad loss.



Well that's about it from me, lastly a big thanks once again to Angie Connors who helps me every year to put this newsletter together.

And remember the future of our clubs depends on encouraging the young players into the sport we all love.

Have a *Smashing* summer !!!!!

**Carole**