Leicestershire Badminton Association

Newsletter/Bulletin 2025/2026 Date May 2026



What an incredible end to our badminton season. After 46 years of trying to win the coveted Inter Counties Tournament, Leicestershire has made it. This competition is the pinnacle of a county player's career as a junior and we've come close on a few occasions before. Needless to say, I'm delighted that I've been fortunate enough to head a team that has helped enormously in achieving this success. This win is not just a triumph for the players involved, but the whole of Team Leicestershire. From talent id in schools and clubs, to organising junior competitions, to running a successful adult league, to supporting both new and existing coaches and to training our players to the highest level, all four wings of Team Leicestershire have come together to make this dream come true.



My congratulations to our three international juniors, Veer Radia, George Clare and Mutiara Mandala, and their respective successes, shown elsewhere in our newsletter. Hopefully we'll see them grace our county courts for many years to come. You'll also see in the following pages, that our long serving Master, Edward Hayes, has been on the winning trail again. Silver in the World over 75s and National over 75 doubles champion. That's some record.

Over the summer period our Development Officer, Greg Howes, worked with the providers of an online league, Baddersweb, to help build an online system that could cater for our specific league rules. I'm delighted to report that this has been achieved and has been running successfully this season. I'm also delighted to report that the numbers of players registered to our leagues has increased by over 10% this season. After 18 years Greg is handing over his position as League Secretary to a slightly younger member of our team! Thanks Greg for all you've done.

Whilst on the subject of Development, the other member of our dynamic duo, Carole Spencer, was awarded the top prize at the North West Leicestershire awards evening for her contribution to badminton in the area. What will we do when these two retire?

I must finish by thanking every member of Team Leicestershire for their continued hard work in support of our County. Come and join our celebrations at 2Funky on Friday 19 June 2026. There's plenty to cheer about. Have a great summer and we'll see you next season.

Ian Bosworth, President

Report from 'The Badminton Man'



Primary Schools Onsite visits and competitions

Firstly, congratulations again to Whitwick St Johns on retaining their title of County Champions, making it four team wins in a row and beating Fosse's record of three consecutive wins. They were prevented winning the doubles final for a fourth time by The Hall 's number one pair.

Participating Primary Schools 2025/26: Sandfield Close, Lady Jane Grey, The Hall, St Barnabas, St Josephs, Millfield, St Marys Fields, Packington, Whitwick St John, Hugglescote, Willesley, Ibstock & Warren Hills.

Once again. my thanks to the team for their invaluable help in the running of these competitions: Carole, Maurice, Cathy, Ann, Lesley, & Dave.

I'm pleased to report that, yet again, our weekend coaching sessions remain fully subscribed. My thanks to the teachers that have encouraged their children to further their badminton skills. A special mention for one of them; Harry Ferns who recently left Lady Jane Grey. Best of luck in your new career, Harry.

Greg Howes, Coach and Development Officer

WHITWICK ST JOHNS THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL—The Double

Adding to their triumph in the County Final, Whitwick St Johns followed up by winning this season's year 6 team competition for the second consecutive year. After the group stages, St Johns got all 3 pairs through to the top half of the event. Every player played their part in a very competitive event and proved yet again that they are the top primary school in the county.
Jeremiah and Amber won the doubles event , 2nd place Teddy and Marly, 4th place Maia and George.





Carole Spencer, Coach and Development Officer

Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

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
2023	St Johns Whitwick	St Johns Whitwick
2024	St Johns Whitwick	St Johns Whitwick
2025	St Johns Whitwick	The Hall





Non County Competitions Participants and Winners

















Leicestershire Primary Club League

Five clubs (6 teams) competed in the Leicestershire Primary Club League , all fighting for the top place.

From start to finish the players had a brilliant time, with some very excited youngsters competing for the very first time.
This tournament is a lovely way to start their badminton careers, and to see all those smiling faces having fun and making new friends is great.
All 6 teams played each other in a round robin event. The players all experienced playing singles and doubles, where there were some really close games and matches.
The event had a very tight ending with Loughborough and the LBA club tied on 4 matches all; the LBA club just edging it with 23 rubbers won to 21. The LBA boys team were delighted to receive the Cup and gold medals.
One down side was the lack of girls in the teams, which isn't good for the future. Hopefully we can encourage more to enter next season.

A big thanks to the volunteers on the day for managing their teams and the coaches that gave up their Sunday to bring their players. Also, to Terry who organized the event and our sponsor, Ray Phipkin, who kindly donated the cup.

1st place LBA
2nd place Loughborough
3rd place Harborough
4th place Whitwick 1
5th place Whitwick 2
6th place South Leicestershire



Primary League 2026

The annual primary players tournament was hosted again at Babington Academy. Leicestershire entered 2 teams to play against Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.
This competition is played over two legs, first leg in April and the second leg on July 5th which decides the overall winning county. Each team consisted of 4 boys and 4 girls, who competed in singles, doubles and mixed.



Both Leicestershire teams had a great day of badminton. The B Team won 2 matches which means they go into the second leg in third place. The A team got off to a flying start by winning all their games and ended the day in first place. All the players played their part and achieved some brilliant results. It's great to see the young players enjoying their badminton.

Carole Spencer

County Championship

U12/13
Boys singles Veer
Girls singles Gloria
Boys doubles Veer & Archie
Girls doubles Isabella & Gloria
Mixed doubles Veer & Gloria





U14/15
Boys singles Alex Ashmoor
Girls singles Bella Gokani
Boys doubles Niam & Alex
Girls doubles Isabella & Gloria
Mixed doubles Bella & Alex





U16/17
Boys singles Oliver
Girls singles Mutiara
Boys doubles Josh & Oliver
Girls doubles Katie & Zara
Mixed doubles Katie & Oliver






The above shows Oliver Sewell as this year's Triple Champion.

U18/19
Boys singles George
Girls singles Lexie
Mens doubles George & Oli
Ladies doubles Katie & Lexie
Mixed doubles George & Lola





Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

Key Stage 3 & 4 Finals



The final standings for the KS3 Girls:

1st - **English Martyrs**
2nd - Delisle
3rd - Brookvale
4th - Brockington



The final standings for the KS3 Boys:

1st - Bosworth Academy
2nd - Castle Rock
3rd - Beachamp College
4th - Robert Smyth Academy



The final standings for the KS4 Girls:

1st - **Soar Valley**
2nd - Newbridge
3rd - Gartree
4th - Loughborough High



The final standings for the KS4 Boys:

1st - **Loughborough Grammar**
2nd - Priory Belvoir
3rd - Market Bosworth
4th - Soar Valley

All of the winners went through to represent Leicestershire in the regional rounds which was held at Nottingham University. The three in bold above, got through to the national rounds held at Milton Keynes. What an achievement.

Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

Key Stage 5 Finals





The final standings for the KS5 Girls:

1st - Loughborough High
2nd - Bosworth Academy

The final standings for the KS5 Boys:

1st - Loughborough Grammar
2nd - Ratcliffe College
3rd - Bosworth Academy

From Active Together: "This year's Team Leicestershire Secondary Badminton Finals brought together an exceptional field of young athletes from schools across Leicestershire and Rutland.
These finals form part of the wider EXCEL programme, providing pathways for students to strive for their best in a high□quality competitive environment. A special thank you goes to Carole Spencer, Greg Howes and the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association for their continued dedication, as well as for running and hosting the finals at their performance centre at Babington Academy. We hope everyone enjoyed the tournament and hopefully we will see you again soon at a future Team Leicestershire County Final event."

Top Schools Award

The girls of Newbridge school were pleased to receive the 2026 top school award in North West Leicestershire for their contribution to badminton.



National Junior Competitions Participants and Winners



















National Junior Competitions Participants and Winners



























National Honours

VEER RADIA

If the 2024/25 season for Veer Radia was amazing, this season can only be described as a dream. Here's his remarkable achievements:

ELITE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
• Chosen for the England Junior Pathway Programme • Trained with England No.1 singles player Harry Huang • Ranked among the top players in England for his age group • Selected for the Leicestershire Gold Programme (Loughborough University) • Sponsored and brand ambassador for Li□Ning, one of the world's leading badminton brands
INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS
DK Denmark Open — DOUBLE GOLD
• Gold in Singles • Gold in Doubles
HOLLAND — TEAM ENGLAND
Selected to represent England (Team England finished 2nd overall, competing against 14 countries) Individual events:
• Silver in Singles • Silver in Doubles
NATIONAL & GOLD CIRCUIT HIGHLIGHTS
• Double Gold at the Kent Gold Tournament • National Championships medalist • Consistent podium finishes all season
TRIPLE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPION (U13) Competed two years above his age group and won Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles — an exceptional achievement for a **10 year old. COMMUNITY & MEDIA RECOGNITION**
Received an Honours Letter from his local Member of Parliament for dedication, sportsmanship, and inspiring others.
BBC NEWS FEATURE
Appeared on BBC News with coach Jonty Russ, sharing his journey, training, and ambitions.







Parag and Shweta

National Honours

GEORGE CLARE

George has had another successful season gaining more experience and competing in International events. Some of his achievements are listed below.

Sept 25 - Wimbledon U19 Gold - mixed winner - doubles runner up.
October 25 - Austrian U17 International - doubles winner - mixed bronze medal. Invited on to the Badminton England transition programme to train with the England senior squad.
November 25- U17 English Nationals - doubles winner - mixed runner up. Selected for first senior international tournament in Turkey.
December 25 - U17 European championships - doubles bronze medal, team bronze and mixed quarter finalist. U19 English Nationals - mixed winner (2 years under age).
January 26 - Senior English Nationals - doubles quarter finalist.
February 26 - Derby U19 Gold - mixed winner - doubles bronze (partner had to pull out)
March 26 - Spanish U19 international - doubles bronze medalist. Nottingham Senior Gold doubles - bronze medalist.
April 26 - Alpes U19 international - doubles runner up.

Even though George has had a very busy season he still finds time to represent Leicestershire in the Shires leagues, and in the recent ICT where he was an integral part of the County Team that won the Tournament.

Onwards and upwards George.

Carole



National Honours

MUTIARA MANDALA

Mutiara started the season by playing in the U17 International Mirna Slovenia 2025 for the first time and won the girls' singles title. She then continued her journey to play at U17 Gloucestershire, winning a gold medal in singles and a silver medal in mixed doubles. At the end of the year, she won both singles and doubles in her last U13 National competition. In the following weeks she played at the U15 National level and won gold medals in singles and mixed doubles, and a bronze medal in doubles. Early in January 2026 she competed in the U15 French International Border tournament and won the gold medal in the singles title. She then also represented the country at Yonex Legend Vision Legacy with Peter Gade and experienced playing on the centre court at the 2026 All England final. Looking for her seeding quest for the U15 European championships in October 2026, she also competed at the U15 Hungary Open and won gold medals in singles and mixed events. She was selected for the 6 Nations tournament to represent the country, playing one age group above against some of the best players in Europe, including Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium. Mutiara is currently ranked number one in the country for U15 singles, doubles, and mixed events. Currently with some wins on the U15 European circuits, she ranks No. 1 in singles.

What a fantastic player Mutiara is and what a year she has had. The commitment and dedication to badminton is commendable. She is a young lady that is determined to reach the top in the sport she loves.
I am pleased to say that she still finds time to represent Leicestershire when she can. She was an integral part of the great team that recently won the ICT for Leicestershire, and didn't lose a singles game throughout the 4 days. Her style and movement around the court and determination to win is a pleasure to watch. What a player!

We wish her good luck for the future, but I am pretty sure luck won't come into it.





Carole



U12/13 Shires League A Team



We had a challenging season this year against tough opposition. The players tried their very best & we had some close results but unfortunately didn't make it the Shires Finals. This doesn't reflect on your hard work & dedication, I'm proud of you all! Our A Team consisted of 5 boys & 4 girls & we had a few players from our B Team on occasions who played amazingly so thank you to you all! Last but not least , thank you again to the parents as we wouldn't have a team without you!

Results:

- Leicestershire A vs Yorkshire B - 18-2 win
- Leicestershire A vs Yorkshire A - 6-14 loss
- Leicestershire A vs Cambridgeshire 5-15 loss
- Leicestershire A vs Northumberland 18-2 win
- Leicestershire A vs Lancashire 8-12 loss
- Leicestershire A vs Warwickshire 9-11 lo





U12/13 Shires League B Team



We played four matches throughout the season giving 9 boys and 7 girls an opportunity to play a county match. For many this was their first time representing the county, and the matches have provided all players with a valuable playing experience that will support their development as they progress through the age groups. All the players showed great determination and resilience during the matches, against some strong A teams from other counties. We didn't quite manage to win any of our matches, but won games within them and took some to deciding third games.



We ended the season with a great B team v B team friendly match, giving the players a chance to show how much they have improved since the start of the season. There were some very closely fought matches and great team spirit within the group. I'll be sad to see the older ones move up next year, and I wish them well in the under 15's.
Thank you to all the parents who have supported the team this year, and to the players themselves, for trying their best and never giving up.

Annette



U14/15 Shires League A Team

This season has been an excellent and highly successful experience for the Leicestershire County Badminton U15 A Team. Over the course of the season, the team produced a series of outstanding performances, achieving strong victories against Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Yorkshire 1, Yorkshire 2 and Lincolnshire, while also competing closely in a narrow defeat against Nottinghamshire. The results reflect the strength, depth and determination of the squad throughout the season.

The team started the season positively with a convincing 15–5 win against Cheshire, followed by an excellent 18–2 victory over Lancashire. Although the team narrowly lost 9–11 to Nottinghamshire, the players responded with great resilience, securing a dominant 19–1 win against Northumberland. The team then continued its impressive form with strong away victories against Yorkshire 1 and Yorkshire 2, winning 15–5 and 20–0 respectively, before finishing the regular fixtures with an outstanding 20–0 win against Lincolnshire.

The season ended on a particularly positive note with a superb 17–3 play-off victory against Buckinghamshire. This was a fitting conclusion to a strong season and demonstrated the players' confidence, teamwork and ability to perform under pressure. Following this victory, the team will now progress to the Shires League Finals on 9 May. We are very proud of the players for reaching this stage and wish them the very best of luck in the finals.

Throughout the season, our players have shown excellent commitment, discipline and team spirit. They supported one another well, competed with a positive attitude, and represented Leicestershire with pride. It has been especially pleasing to see their development not only in their technical performance, but also in their confidence and match awareness. A special mention should also go to our girls, all of whom are one year younger in this age group. They have performed extremely well throughout the season and have shown great potential for the future.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the parents for their continued support throughout the season. Your encouragement, travel support and commitment have been greatly appreciated and have played an important role in helping the players perform and enjoy their county badminton experience.

Looking ahead, we are extremely proud of what the U15 A Team has achieved this season. The players have gained valuable experience, produced excellent results, and shown great potential for the future. We look forward to seeing them continue to develop and build on this success, and we wish the team every success at the Shires League Finals on 9 May.

Dalu





U14/15 B Team

The main focus of the B team this season was not about winning matches but to give the fringe players at under 15 level the opportunity to gain some experience and develop their skills.
The team worked very hard and put in some great performances throughout this season, winning 2 of our 6 fixtures.
Every match was hard fought and with a bit of luck we could have easily won another couple.
Every player that represented the B team gave their full effort and commitment.
I am very proud of each and every one of them.

Seasons results:

Leicestershire 8-12 Warwickshire
Derbyshire 9-11 Leicestershire
Cambridgeshire 6-14 Leicestershire
Oxfordshire 15-5 Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire 17-3 Leicestershire
Leicestershire 7-13 Buckinghamshire

County colours are awarded to players that have played for their county on three or more occasions. This season colours for the under 14/15B squad were awarded to the following players:
Archie, Rishaan, Jaden, Umair, Harry A, Khia, Poppy, Olivia, Chloe and Ambar.





Neil



U16/17 Shires League A Team

The u17's team enjoyed a fantastic season and a great result at this year's Shires Finals, finishing with a well-earned bronze medal after an impressive campaign. The team progressed to the finals as winners of their group, delivering strong performances throughout the group stage and showing great consistency and determination.

The squad was fortunate to have strong players stepping up from the lower age groups, who contributed brilliantly and gained valuable experience competing at an age group above. Their inclusion reflects the strength and depth developing within the team, and bodes well for the future.

The finals themselves were extremely closely contested, with the top four counties all highly competitive. The bronze medal position was secured after a tense 10–10 draw with Cheshire. With Leicestershire taking the win by just three points—showing that in badminton, every single point really does matter.

Across the season, the players demonstrated clear improvement in their skills, teamwork, and match play. Their commitment in training translated into confident performances on court, with a real sense of unity and resilience shown in every match.

The squad this season consisted of Josh, Jack, Ross, Leon, Alex, Ibthiha, Zara, Sabreen, Alicia, Bella, Isabella, and Gloria, all of whom played an important role in the team's success.

I am incredibly proud of such a great team of young, talented athletes. Securing bronze at the Shires Finals is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and progress made by the entire team. With such a positive outcome, there is plenty to look forward to next season!



Well done team!

Anna Edwards
U17/18 Manager



U16/17 Shires League B Team

The U17B team have had a really positive season. We have played away from home 5 matches out of 7. We have fought very hard in defeat against some very strong counties, including Yorkshire A, Nottinghamshire and Cheshire, often with a depleted side. This year we won 3 matches convincingly beating Yorkshire B 14-6, Northumberland 14-6 and finally Lincolnshire 15-5. The core players who have represented the team every single time, regardless of distance, niggles and busy schedules include Pippa Ault, Ruby Davenport, Isabelle Wright and Sophia Hilmi. Well done to them for such a dedicated response to a tough run of away matches. Niam Radia and Krish Somani also demonstrated a great level of commitment playing in 6 out of our 7 matches. Edward Malpass made 5 appearances and it was great to have Alex Ashmore and Jay Majithia for 3 out of our 7 matches. They really did make a difference. In times of need, where I have been short of players, we welcomed Ibthi Oli, Alex Davies, Daniel Lunn and Harry Ashmore. I really appreciated them coming to play for us and they put in some great performances. I have to give a special shout out to Harry Ashmore who stepped up at very short notice for our final county match and did brilliantly to win his mixed in a hard fought three end battle! It is very clear, when you watch this team, just how much they have all improved, which is so nice to see. They get on with each other so well and enjoy playing together and representing Team Leicestershire. It has been a privilege to work with such lovely kids. I must mention the parents in this team also, who have been so supportive and nothing but positive towards all of the players and me. They really are a great bunch. Finally, I just want to acknowledge and thank my brother, Danny, who has attended every match, home and away, helping me to coach the players between matches. His insight and experience of the game is so valuable and the players have responded really well to this. I have enjoyed managing this team and would be happy to continue in this role next season.

Emma





U 18/19 Shires League Team

With the change of the Shires league this year we were put in to a box of 7 counties, where we had to play all 6 within our own little league. In our box we had - Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex, Lincolnshire, Suffolk and Hertfordshire. Thank fully we had 5 matches at home and just the 1 away at Hertfordshire. I am pleased to report that we came clear winners of the box with the results as follows -



Cambridgeshire ~ 15-5 win
Norfolk ~ 20-0 win
Essex ~ 18-2 win
Lincolnshire ~ 20-0 win
Suffolk ~ 20-0 win
Hertfordshire ~ 17-3 win

As we came top of the league we qualified straight to the Shires finals.

On finals day our first fixture was against Oxfordshire, we had a nice big squad so managed to share it around during the day. We came away with a 14-6 win and in to the top 4.

The next fixture was then drawn against Kent, the team were delighted as it was probably the nicest draw we could've had. Again we came away victorious with a 12-8 win.

Into the final we went against the very tough county of Nottingham. Having played them at ICT we knew they had a lot of depth. Unfortunately we came away with a 12-8 loss but winning an incredible Silver medal is something they should all be very proud .

I would just like to thank all the parents and everyone that has been part of the team this year. We couldn't have done this without your continued support. I really do appreciate it and has made my last year as an LSBA manager one to remember.

Nat

Report from the 2025 Rio Competition

For those that don't know what RIO is, this is an Under 18 two day team event, played at York Railway Institute The competition consists of 12 players (6 boys and 6 girls) played at the beginning of January and involves 8 different counties. It is a great preparation weekend for ICT where we get to see players' performances and try different pairings.

On day one we played 3 other teams:



Lothian - winning 13-2
Lancashire - winning 13-2
Hertfordshire - winning 14-1

All the teams get to stay in a local hotel, where they provide an evening meal and a disco.

Day 2 is the day we play for the top 4 places (with the top 2 teams from day 1 going into this top box)

On day 2 we played:

Surrey - winning 11-4
Yorks - losing 9-6

This gave the team a very well deserved silver medal, an incredible achievement considering we have a lot of players who are only U17.

Well done team, a fantastic effort and great teamwork. All cheering for each other and very supportive and respectful to everyone.

A huge thank you to all the parents for turning out in the snow to bring them all that far. We really do appreciate it.

Natalie

Inter Counties Tournament

On 9th April, we made our way to the University of Nottingham for the annual ICT Tournament. Entering as the 2nd seeds with a strong squad, expectations were high.
Day one followed the traditional format: photos, team meetings, and the long wait to get our campaign underway at 6:30pm. Our journey began in an initial group of three, facing Middlesex on Day 1 followed by Norfolk on Day 2. Comfortable **9-1** and **10-0** results respectively pushed us into the top half of the draw. We then moved into a group of four with Sussex, Cheshire, and Essex, where the team showed incredible focus to record scores of **10-0**, **10-0**, and **8-2**. These results secured our place in the final "Top 4" alongside Nottinghamshire, Leinster, and Yorkshire.
First up: the local derby against **Nottinghamshire**. After initially slipping 2-1 down, we secured crucial wins at second boys' singles and second girls' singles. This put the momentum back in our hands, and we eventually ran out **7-3** winners.
Next was **Leinster**. Playing the Irish is never easy, and their strong line-up provided our closest match of the week. We split the mixed doubles, agonisingly losing the second mixed 15-14, 15-14. We then lost both boys' singles in incredibly close three-set battles.
After splitting the girls' singles, we found ourselves **4-2 down** heading into the doubles. Once again, the team stepped up. We took both boys' doubles comfortably and split the girls' doubles—losing the first in three sets but taking the second in straight sets. The final score was **5-5**, but thanks to the fight shown in those three-set battles, **Leicestershire won by 3 ends.**



The final match was essentially a "straight final." Both ourselves and **Yorkshire** were undefeated—Winner Takes All. We flew out of the blocks, winning both mixed doubles in straight sets. Then came the turning point: the boys' singles. Both games were fiercely contested and went to a third-set decider. Incredibly, both games finished **15-14 in the third** in Leicester's favour. At 4-0 up, the title was within reach. First girls' singles clinical performance made it 5-0. We were one win away. Second girls' singles pushed through a tight third end to make it 6-0 and seal the title. The match finished **7-3 to Leicestershire**. After 46 years of trying, **Leicestershire were ICT Champions!**
A huge thank you to everyone who came to support; the atmosphere was incredible. A special thanks to my amazing coaching team: Nat Clare, Anthony Clark, Sarita Patel, and Pete (via FaceTime).
Finally, the biggest thank you goes to our 10 ICT Champions: **Sabreen Chenia, Zara Edwards, Katie Hoult, Mutiara Mandala, Polina Shandybina, George Clare, Ollie Sewell, Lucas Staves, Josh Tang, and Jack Williamson.**

Chris

Action From Inter Counties Tournament























Action From Inter Counties Tournament















Inter Counties Tournament Road to the Title

















Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

LSBA Presentation Evening











Cooper Cup Winner - Isabella Joseph

Ray Liggins Cup Winner - Ibthi Oliullah







Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association Awards

Hutchinson –Trophy (most contribution to Badminton)



Bill Hutchinson passed away over 30 years ago.
He was a very good badminton player and coach who spent many hours working with the young players in the county.
The Hutchinson Cup was donated by his wife Esther, to be awarded annually to a player that has:
"Contributed commitment to the sport"

2025 WINNER - Lexie Edwards

Appleton Trophy (best player)



Garrick Appleton 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 to be awarded to:
"The most outstanding player of the season"

2025 WINNER - George Clare

Colin Kent Award



Colin Kent, if you don't know him, was an outstanding Coach as well as a hard working member of many committees within our Badminton family. He donated this award to be presented to someone who the committee had decided given:
"Outstanding Services to Leicestershire Schools Badminton"

2025 WINNER - Chris Hall

Leicestershire Restricted Competition Winners

Winners were:
Mens singles: Sameer Chenia
Ladies singles – no event
Mens doubles Samuel Ricketts & Tom Armstrong
Ladies Doubles: Katie Hoult & Aimie Whitman
Mixed doubles: Aimie Whiteman & Tom Armstrong







The Yorkshire 17yrs - 21yrs Tournament



Leicestershire players had a great weekend at the 17 to 21 ECC competition in York. Representing Leicestershire were Sophie, Carly , Grace , Lexie , Luke, Eddie, William and Dean.
Saturday started off really strong with a dominant 6-0 win over Worcestershire followed by another solid 5-1 win against Lancashire.
The final group match against Avon first team was a lot tougher. They had a strong squad and there were lots of close games that could have gone either way, but we ended up with a 5-1 loss.
This placed the team in the 4-6th place group on Sunday. The team bounced back from the loss on Saturday really well, beating Avon 2nd team 6-0 and Nottingham 5-1 with the only rubber lost coming from a concession. The whole team played some great badminton across both days coming away in 4th place finish.

Sophie Watson

Senior County Report

Some very hard-fought matches for our senior county teams this year, with the 3rds achieving an excellent 2nd place in division 2 central (one place better than last year)), 2nds achieving a very respectable 7th place (out of 10) in their first year in the championship division, and unfortunately 1sts came 9th and are relegated from the top premier division.

Tom Armstrong and Sarita Patel organised the 1st team this year, and it was a very tough season with a few players struggling with injuries. As a consequence, this resulted in us struggling and we won 2 matches and lost 7, and this left us in 9th place and relegated to the championship next year and in the same division as our 2nd team. Aimie was the standout player again winning 14 out of 22 played.
https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/team.aspx?id=689C9514-F06F-4AB6-A907-1ED3A0AF599F&team=51



Ryan and Owen King organised the 2nd team this year, and they managed to win 3 out of 9 matches. Everyone played well but special mention for Owen King who won 11 of his matches and Juliette Le Corre who was undefeated. Llwyd Crump, Charlotte Freer and Siyao Yang secure 2nd team county colours this year.
https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league/draw?id=80BD4C88-B363-4E35-B4B7-467C91FE7958&draw=29

Eddie Patchett organised the 3rd team this year and they did very well coming 2nd in the division this year (5 wins and 2 losses). Standout player was Dan Martyres for the 2nd year running – undefeated with 14 wins out of 14 and Eddie with 11 wins (out of 14)! Zara Edwards secure 3rd team county colours this year.
https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league/team?id=80BD4C88-B363-4E35-B4B7-467C91FE7958&team=62



Mark
Senior County Captain (Leicestershire Badminton Association)

WHITWICK JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

The club has once again had a very good season and thriving. We now have over 55 junior members ranging from 5 to 17 yrs old.
As the membership is growing we decided to hire more courts at the Leisure Centre. The Centre have been really supportive and allowed us a block booking of 8 courts from 9.30am to 12.15pm on a Saturday morning.
We continue to be very lucky in having some fantastic volunteers who come along every week to work with the younger players; so a big thanks to them. Luke and Katie are also there to share their knowledge and experience of the game, which is great for all the players.
At the end of every season, we have a club presentation which gives us the opportunity to thank all the parents and members for supporting the club. It's also a chance to recognise players that have shown commitment and improvement throughout the season. This year the players were Alex Davies and Archie Southerd.
We also award a club cup annually. This is always a difficult one to agree on as we have many young players helping on a weekly basis. This year's winners were two young ladies that go beyond just helping. Every week they organise and coach our very young players aged 5 to 7 years old, helping them to have fun while learning the basic techniques. A big thanks therefore go to Ruby and Isabelle.
Many players have entered the non county tournaments and the Junior club league this season, which is encouraging. We have a lovely group of teenagers in our second session , who enjoy each other's company on and off the courts. Hopefully these players will eventually join adult clubs.
At Christmas we had our usual fun tournament. We even had a special guest who came with pressies (photo below).
This year saw our last weekend trip to Milton Keynes. Over many years we have taken players for a weekend of badminton at the National Badminton Centre and the Aqua Parc, which has always been enjoyed by all. But things like this do get more difficult to organise. You have to jump through a lot of hoops to ensure the safety of the players and yourselves, which becomes very time consuming and a big responsibility. So unfortunately no trip this season, but we will think of something to end the season with a bang.






Carole & Amie

LBA Junior Badminton Club

Another excellent year on Saturday mornings with 61 players. The ages range from 7 to 18 years and are split into two groups according to ability (beginners and intermediate/ advanced) for one and a half hours each session. Overall, we have 43 boys and18 girls. All players are registered with Badminton England. Unfortunately, we have had to turn quite a few players away but suggested other clubs they could try or are on our waiting list for the summer term or the beginning of September. During the year both singles and doubles are played with trophies being awarded at the end of the season. Players are always encouraged to enter the Leicestershire tournaments for new experience and enjoyment which many do, and have done very well winning their age groups. Some of our better younger players have now been given the chance of going for extra tuition run by the LSBA on Saturday afternoons and some are in the Performance Centre. The club have helped members to attain their D of E Awards whether it be for volunteering, or playing aspects, as well as videoing for their badminton GCSE. Quite a few of our advanced players are now playing senior play at various clubs and at No Strings giving them different experiences. I would like to thank our 4 main coaches, Grahame, Ken, Greg and myself plus Riyana and Rishaan Parekh who are not only senior club players but are ex PC players and all the volunteers and parents for all their hard work throughout the year. **Julie & Grahame**

Melton O G's Badminton Junior Club

Melton O G's have had another successful year with our juniors and intermediate players. Although numbers dipped slightly at the start of the season after several intermediate players left for university, numbers quickly built up again and our sessions have been well attended and very enjoyable. As in previous years, some juniors moved up to the intermediate sessions and the more able intermediates were invited to club night with many of them gaining valuable experience playing against our senior members. We didn't manage to play competitive matches against other junior clubs this year but several of our junior and intermediate players took part in LBA competitions with successful outcomes. It remains very pleasing to see the progression from juniors to intermediates to our senior club and demonstrates a positive outcome to the coaching practices we follow. Going forward, we now have a club member qualified as a level 1 coach who is ready to embark on the level 2 course later this year.





Linda Hallam and Trevor Sanders

Central Leicester Junior Badminton Club









Our junior section continues to be a vibrant and essential part of Central Leicester Badminton Club, showing incredible momentum this year.
The demand for junior badminton in Leicester is higher than ever. We have seen significant growth across all our sessions, with every session reaching full capacity. Due to this popularity, we are operating a waiting list once again. Whilst we wish we could accommodate everyone immediately, this high demand is a fantastic indicator of the talent and interest brewing in our local community.
We are committed to nurturing talent, and those efforts are clearly paying off. This season, we've seen a strong number of our junior players successfully put forward to train with the Performance Centre. This bridge between club play and elite training remains a key priority for us, and we are immensely proud of those stepping up to the next level.

Ajay

Ashby Hood Park Leisure Centre



The after school badminton club held on a Tuesday continues to be popular and regularly fills all the court spaces.
A new addition on the coaching team of Ollie Sewell joining Mitchell, has enabled the club to continue to move forward.
There is a variety of abilities from beginners to more experienced players wanting to develop their skills, techniques and movement, all whilst having fun. It is fantastic to see these players enjoying playing a sport we also love to play and making progress.
Although there is currently only one session running at the present time, Ollie is looking to add a second in the near future and we look forward to welcoming new players as well as continuing to work with the current ones.

Harborough Junior Badminton Club

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 59 “Junior Community Club Member (12-18)” & 15 “Junior Community Club Member (5-11)” Badminton England membership for 2025/26. Currently attending are 27 girls & 47 boys aged from school years 3 to 13. We have a waiting list to join the club of 5 players.

For season 2025/26 all members have been given both Free club hoodie & club shirt and the opportunity to attend the Free Meal Christmas Party on 17/12/25. The club has for the younger members introduced the Badminton England Shuttle Stars Stage 1 programme.

At the Club trophy presentation night & meal on 01/07/26 John Bunten will receive the “Outstanding Club Member” trophy for 2025/26. Harry Colebrook (4-5pm); James Colebrook (5-6pm) & Ngai Ching Leung (Evelyn) (6-7pm) will receive the “Most Improved Session Member” trophy 2025/26.

The ninth 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 U12’s; U14’s; U16’s, U18’s . Also, U10’s Girls and Boys Singles event. A total of 52 trophies for all winners and runner-ups will be presented.

During season 2025/26 Penny Fannon and Hattie Hine obtained the Badminton England Foundation award and John Fannon Badminton England Level 2 coach award. John Bunton and Samuel Haakonsen-Sharp attended the Badminton England East Midlands Young Leaders Academy. Charles Bunten, Zara Shapiro, Sullivan Blair and Lucas Azzouzi represented the club to finish third in the LSBA U11’s Primary Club League.

Club players have entered none county badminton tournament events with special mention to Daniel Bourne who has won a U17’s Boys Doubles and Runner-up in Singles.

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 have received a grant which has enabled the purchase of a drone and tablet to be used as additional coaching equipment. Only players who parents have consented to filming will be involved with this equipment. 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.

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach

South Leicestershire Junior Badminton Club

The venue at Broughton Astley Leisure Centre enables the club to have sessions for all the 38 weeks of the School Terms. A Badminton England grant was obtained to help introduce a new 4:00pm to 5:00pm session in addition to the weekly Friday club night sessions from 5:00pm – 6:30pm and 6:30pm – 8:00pm. We now have registered a total of 40 "Junior Community Club Member (12-18)", 24 "Junior Community Club Member (5-11)" & 1 "Junior Compete Member (5-11)"Badminton England membership for 2025/26. Currently attending are 18 girls & 47 boys aged from school years 3 to 13.

For season 2025/26 all members / volunteers when they join are presented with a free Club T-shirt and Hoodie. At the Club trophy presentation night & meal on 03/07/26 William Lunn will receive the "Outstanding Club Member" trophy for 2025/26. Samuel Haywood (4:00pm – 5:00pm); Jack Kane (5:00pm-6:30pm) & Darcey Gee (6:30pm -7:00pm) will receive the "Most Improved Session Member" trophy 2025/26.

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 U12's; U14's; U16's, U18's . Also, U10's Girls Singles and Boys Singles & Level Doubles event. A total of 56 trophies for all winners and runner-ups will be presented.

During season 2025/26 Darcey Gee, Ruth Burton, Zack Johnson, Harvin Chana, Hitesh Godhaniya and Kiranam Singumahanti obtained the Badminton England Foundation award and Kiranam Singumahanti Badminton England Level 2 coach award. Eliza Douglas and Walter Mather attended the Badminton England East Midlands Young Leaders Academy. Darren Kibrik, Isabella Chan, Finn Burchett and Micah Du represented the club in the LSBA U11's Primary Club League. Club players have entered non-county badminton tournament events with special mention to Zack Johnson who has won both U17's Boys Doubles and Singles. The club have helped members in respect of their D of E awards in respect of (i) physical (ii) volunteer elements for all levels. Also, any video recordings required for their Badminton PE GCSE. The club now has 5 Foundation and 5 Level 2 Badminton England coaches available to be able to adapt the structured programme for each week of the term session to suit the players technical & tactical badminton skills on the respective courts.

To develop the Junior Members of a suitable playing standard, the Adult Club entered a Men's III team in Division 7 of the LBA League and Adult players partnered Junior players.

Parents, Volunteers, Coaches and especially players dedication, commitment, help and support enables the club to continue to grow. Please see the video featured by Badminton England at their Club & Coach Conference - Safeguarding & Welcoming Environments Workshop (see -Latest News website) **:** **http://www.southleicestershirebadminton.org.uk**

Ray Phipkin – Head Coach

Loughborough Leys Junior Badminton Club

We currently have 44 paid members, using 6 courts every Saturday morning 10am-1pm at Loughborough Leisure Centre.
The members are divided into 2 groups, 24 over 12-year-olds/intermediates and 20 under 12-year-olds/beginners, with a few 5 & 6 year olds. We almost have an equal ratio of girls to boys.
To help with the high number of members many of our older members volunteer to help with the younger group, using this time towards their Duke of Edinburgh award.
The club is lucky to be able to employ two young qualified coaches training at Loughborough University, a big thank you to Charlie Castle and Carly Stevenson who attend regularly, their help within the club has significantly helped the progress of all our members.
We encourage all members to enter local non-county tournaments and several members have moved on to county training.



Dave Whitcroft.
loughboroughleysjuniors@hotmail.com

Loughborough Town and Grammar School Junior clubs

An excellent year for both junior clubs (Town: Monday 6.30-8 pm, Grammar school Saturday 9-1 pm), with a number of players doing well at the non-county tournaments. We have an excellent mix of players from the youngest being around 5, where the parents come on court as well, through to 6th formers. Primary team came a brilliant 2nd in the primary junior league.



Mark

Central Leicester Badminton Club – Senior Club Report

It has been an incredible 2026 season for Central Leicester Badminton Club! From new beginnings to hard-fought victories, our members continue to demonstrate why we are one of the most resilient and passionate clubs in Leicester. The biggest change this year was our move to our new venue. Transitioning to a fresh space is never easy, but the move has provided the foundation to grow our membership and improve our game. On the competitive front, we have much to celebrate. We are thrilled to announce that we've had another successful season, punctuated by our victory in the Hall 2 League! Our players showed immense skill and sportsmanship throughout the campaign, and bringing home the silverware is a testament to the hard work put in during every club session.



Our club continues to organise social events with skittles becoming one of our favourite nights out.

While the sport faces broader economic pressures—specifically the rising costs of court hire and shuttles—Central Leicester has continued to thrive. Thanks to careful management and the loyalty of our members, we have managed to maintain our high standards of play without losing the inclusive, community-focused spirit that defines us. None of this would be possible without the "team behind the team." We want to extend a massive thank you to all our volunteers and helpers. Whether you were setting up nets, managing finances, or organising the fixtures, your efforts this season have been the backbone of our success. I can't finish without a word on our treasurer, Greg. He first took over the job in 1975/6 season on behalf of our predecessor, St Lukes Badminton Club. This year has seen him complete 50 years in the same role. Thanks you Greg. **Ajay**



<u>A word from Carole</u>

Keeping the finances on track as treasurer to Central BC for over 50 years, is before a lot of our league players were even born! Hard to imagine isn't it. I bet there isn't many other people that can match that length of commitment to their club. I am sure a lot of the club members don't even realise this. What a fantastic club volunteer.

He has been an integral part of the LBA committee for many years, sharing his knowledge and experience of badminton, as well as doing a great job keeping the Leagues in order. Greg works tirelessly on many aspects of badminton (too many to mention) to ensure Leicestershire is successful. His dedication to badminton is commendable.

Loughborough Leys Badminton Club

Loughborough Leys Badminton Club's 2025/26 season has been one of consistency, with the club continuing to tick along steadily both on and off the court.
Across all teams, performances were competitive and resilient, resulting in no promotions but strong league stability throughout. The Men's 1st and 2nd teams both remained comfortably in their leagues, while the Men's 3rd team remained in Division 4 and continues to develop. The Mixed 1st team also retained their place, delivering steady performances across the season. Mixed 2nd team were unfortunately relegated to Division 2, but with a solid group of players, there is confidence they can bounce back next year. Mixed 3rd team performed well to remain in Division 2. Elsewhere in the league, Newhall achieved a notable 2nd place finish, underlining the competitive standard across divisions.
Off court, the club has continued to build on its strong social culture. Highlights included a well-attended Christmas pub crawl, a post-Christmas club session that brought members back together after the festive break, and a lively trip to Bongo Bingo. The season will round off with the club's annual awards night on 15th May, where players, family, and friends will come together to celebrate achievements from across the year.
The club has also played an active role in supporting the wider badminton community, particularly through its involvement in the Women's Badminton Festival events. Members volunteered their time to help with delivery and setup, contributing to the continued growth of female participation in the sport.
Membership has remained strong throughout the season. There has also been a positive influx of new members, including juniors, strengthening the club's pathway and long-term sustainability.
Overall, while the season has not brought major changes in league position, it reflects a stable and well-run club with a strong sense of community, a growing membership base, and solid foundations to build on in the future.







Sophie

TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE

Adult League Doubles Tournament

Leicestershire Badminton Association ran its second adult league tournament, with all profits going towards the 2025 Celebration Evening.

18 Mens pairs, 7 Ladies pairs and 14 Mixed pairs took part, resulting in the following:

Mens Winners: Steve Heath & James Hurst; Runners Up Steve Adams & Jack Williamson



Ladies Winners: Kate Fleming & Lin Lau; Runners Up Jaskirat Kanwal & Raj Dulkoan



Mixed Winners: Paul Sanders & Jaz Gilbert: Runners Up: Tom Pawley & Tilly Dale



Carole and Greg

TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE

Carole Spencer



Carole Spencer was awarded the top prize at the North West Leicestershire awards evening for her contribution to badminton and the work she has achieved in this area .
Whitwick Juniors BC, founded by Carole over 35 years ago, is still thriving today. She now coaches the children of players she introduced to badminton that were themselves members of the club.
Carole continues to go into the local primary schools in the North West spreading the badminton word and still loves the work she does.

Greg Howes



Greg Howes was runner up in this year's Badminton England Technical Volunteer of the Year Awards. Greg spent most of the last pre-season developing Leicestershire's new online badminton league in conjunction with Baddersweb. Clubs can now record their match results direct to the website, thus keeping the league tables live and up to date. See https://www.lbabadminton.org/League/Tables.asp

Atu Sagita



At the 2025 June Presentation Evening we said a sad farewell to Atu who has been an incredible head coach at the Performance Centre (PC).
A big thanks was given from the players and parents for all the fantastic work done at the PC. The enthusiasm in her coaching inspired so many players who have benefited enormously from her knowledge of the game. Her commitment, attitude, and dedication to the game of badminton is commendable.
A good coach like Atu is always going to be in demand. She couldn't miss the opportunity to enhance her coaching career when offered a position with Badminton England, so with heavy heart we said farewell. We were very lucky to have Atu as the PC coach sharing her vast knowledge and experiences. We wish her good luck in her new position.

LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2025/26

Masters Badminton in England was started 26 years ago, and is still going strong.
The year is made up of 3 elements, and Leicestershire has players and teams that compete in all 3:

The Masters County Championship
The Masters Inter County Challenge
Masters Tournaments

Masters County Championship

Played in Divisions on Sundays from October to April

O40 Team (which can field 2 players aged 38+)
The team played in the Midlands West division and came up against some tough opponents; they came 4th in the division of 6.

O60 Team
The O60s team won the Midlands Division of the County Championships for a **third** time running. Well done to the squad of Lorraine Macneill , Jane Rayner , Sue Cripwell , Debbie Merry , Jackie Ellis, Maurice Roberts , Andy Langton , Barry Pick , Nigel Lewis , David Cairns

The team will now play in the Championship Finals at the end of April.

O65 Team
The team played in the Midlands Division against some very tough opposition
O70 Team
Once again the team was placed in the North Division They came 3rd in the division of 7.

Masters County Challenge
Held over the 2nd weekend of January. This year we entered just 1 team :

O70 Team
This was their third year in the Premier Group, and they managed to retain their place in the top flight for yet another year. A great result.

Masters Tournaments

BWF World Senior Championships

This year was a special year as the BWF World Senior Championships were held in Thailand, which led to a bigger entry from Asian players, making the opposition that bit stronger.
That said a Leicestershire player came home with a medal.
Edward Hayes won a **Silver Medal** in the MD O75, beating a Japanese pair 21-18, 21-14 in the semis and losing to a South African pair 21-17, 21-16 in the final.

LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2025/26

All England Masters Championships

Edward Hayes won another medal; Gold this time in the MD O75.

Leicestershire Masters Tournament

This was the competition's inaugural year, held in September2025.
Local winners were :
Emma Butterworth Silver WD O35 / Silver WS O35
Cat Collins Silver WD O35
Michael Shaw and Kiran Mistry Bronze MDO35
Lorraine MacNeill Gold XD O60 / Silver WDO60
Maurice Roberts Gold XD O60
Well done to everyone, and please put the date in your diary for this year's tournament - 5th and 6th September 2026

County Colours

Congratulations to O45 players Natalie Reed , Ross Halliwell and Ravi Haji who will receive their Masters **County colours**. And to David Cairns 060 , showing it`s never too late to join the Masters

Throughout the season there are MASTERS COMPETITIONS as detailed on https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league?id=135717D7-2206-470A-9CF2-7E44FF19B226
Are you aged 38 to 70 +. If you are please come along and join the Masters Teams.
Teams for next season have to be entered by mid May so if you want to express an interest please contact me. We hope to enter teams in the 40/60/65/70 and 75 age groups
Sue Mahmood Masters co coordinator 078790 23281 suemahmood@hotmail.co.uk
Please get in touch in you have any questions regarding Masters Teams or Masters Tournaments.
Practice / get to know the sessions will be held on Friday evenings 7.30 to 10pm at the LBA Hall Babington on the 4th , 11th ,18th and 25th **September 2026**, please come along if you at 38 +.





LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2025/26



Edward Hayes

2025/26 has been a monumental year for our over 75 Master's player, Edward Hayes. His list of achievements in this age group is quite astonishing. Here's his impressive record:

September 2025 - World Senior Championships in Thailand Over 75 Open Doubles - runner -up (with Bob Bell, Cornwall).
October 2025 - Cumbria Master Silver Tournament: O75 Singles winner, Over 75 Open Doubles winner.
November 2025 - Kent Masters Gold: Over 75 Mixed winner.
November 2025 - Northumberland Silver: Over 75 Mixed winner, Over 75 Open Doubles runner-up (partner injured in final).
December 2025 - English Masters Restricted: Over 75 Open Doubles winner. (with BB)
February 2026 - selected for Over 75 English representation in Open Doubles for the international match against Scotland (McCoig Trophy - England won). (with BB)
April 2026 - All England Senior International: Open Doubles O75 winner (beating pair from South Africa/Finland who beat us in September 2025).(with BB).

As a youngster, Edward had osteomyelitis and was told he would never play any contact sports. Well, after 12 years of playing Masters tournaments, 4 European tournaments, 3 World tournaments and earning a National title, how wrong can you be?

Keep going Edward. We're sure there's more to come!












Combined Para Winners



Eddie Patchett and Jack Shephard have won the University 2026 para-badminton tournament. The event combined para and able-bodied players so that more could take part in the competition, therefore allowing a bigger entry and highlighting para badminton.
Eddie was approached by the Birmingham University coach and jumped at the chance to play with such a great para badminton player as Jack Shephard. It definitely paid off, with the pair winning the gold medal.

Luke Starts a New Career in Coaching



Luke Hoult has represented Leicestershire since the age of 9 years old, playing in the junior and senior county teams as well as having a successful tournament career. For those of you that know Luke know how passionate he is about badminton and has always been proud to represent his county.
This season he decided to take his level 2 badminton course and give coaching a bash! This now gives him the opportunity to share his knowledge gained over many years on the courts as a county and tournament player with the next generation of young players.
He is currently doing 1 to 1 coaching, running half term camps and has set up his own weekly session.
If anyone would like any individual or group coaching, please contact Luke on 07305759972 or by email lhcoachingservices@yahoo.com
Luke and his sister Katie have been lucky to receive a sponsorship deal with DK Sports to promote their new brand Flypower in the UK. A code will be provided to purchase the goods.

Good luck Luke, hope it goes well.

ADULT LEAGUE REPORT 2025/26

This season saw the start of our online results league, hosted by Baddersweb. By taking Baddersweb's standard recording system and adapting it to cater for our league rules, we now have a website that is more up to date and informative. See www.lbabadminton.org

The list of this season's winning teams are shown opposite. As this shows, the Loughborough Students stole the show with four divisional winners. However, it is notable that success in the other divisions came from a wide range of clubs this time. Our Celebration Evening this year is being held at a new venue, 2 Funky, on Friday 19 June 2026. We hope to see a good turn out again.

Player numbers have risen by 11 percent this season, which in many ways bodes well for the future. We do have concern, however, in relation to the Ladies league which continues to gradually shrink in numbers. One positive sign is that there are an increasing number of young females in our junior ranks. Hopefully, the trend of falling Ladies teams will eventually be reversed.

I know this is a badminton newsletter but I can't fail to record the disappointment regarding my other passion -football. How sad it is to witness the downfall of our once great club. Let's hope they find the fighting spirit of our ICT winners and restore their status soon.

My thanks, as usual, to all those club members that have devoted their time to the smooth running of our badminton leagues, not just during this season, but over my 18 years as LBA League Secretary. This will be my last season, in this role as I hand the reins over to the somewhat younger, James Evans. However, I will still be around to help him in the early days.

Greg, LBA League Secretary

WINNERS
Hall 2
Central Leicester 2
Hall 1
Whitwick 1
Ladies 2
Loughborough Students 2
Ladies 1
Loughborough Students 1
Mens 7
Huncote
Mens 6
LBSC 2
Mens 5
Quorn
Mens 4
Millenium
Mens 3
Loughborough Students 3
Mens 2
Loughborough Students 2
Mens 1
Loughborough 1
Mixed 5
Panthers
Mixed 4
Melton OG 1
Mixed 3
Regal Arts
Mixed 2
Meltonshire 1
Mixed 1
Loughborough 1





Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association

As Chairperson, my priority has always been succession planning. With many veteran coaches approaching retirement, we must proactively develop the next generation of talent to secure the future of badminton in our county. There is great opportunity for coaches to work in schools. Collaboration at the grassroots level is vital. By working together, we create a supportive environment that attracts new coaches and, in turn, brings fresh, enthusiastic players into the sport. Thank you to everyone contributing to this vision. Together, we are ensuring the long-term growth of the game we love.

Ajay (Chair)

Coaches Seminar 2025



A very successful seminar was held at Babington last May, the guest coach was Anthony Clarke .

Not just the coaches benefited from working with Anthony, this time we invited a group of Junior players to attend to allow the coaches the chance to practise the skills and training techniques that Anthony had brilliantly demonstrated. The session was enjoyed by all the coaches and the players, and we will be organising another seminar next season.

Badminton Coaching

Having something in place to provide players with a good level of skills to play badminton in the county, is crucial. We must ensure that we have enough coaches to run sessions and to pass their knowledge of the game onto others.

Coaching can be very rewarding. Seeing the development of a player/s that you have helped is a great feeling. New friendships are made, which will last for years.

This year we ran a level 1 and 2 course at Babington, which was full of very enthusiastic players.

Level 1 coach (over 18yrs years) (fully insured by BE) allows you to run a No Strings session for Adults (no coaching) and assist a level 2 coach.

A level 2 coach can work on their own under Badminton England's insurance. We definitely need more Level 2 coaches as we are all getting older by the minute, and need to address this so that the coaching sessions that already exist can continue. One area which requires more attention, is offering coaching to adults, BUT we don't have enough coaches to do that. So PLEASE have a good think to see if you could play your part in the continual success of Leicestershire Badminton and try the coaching route. The Leicestershire Coaches Association has funds available to help with the costs of the course/s. The applicants must follow the LBCA criteria and intend to use their qualification within the county. Anyone interested please contact me.

Carole (Secretary)



LBA Women's Network

Following a successful grant application with Badminton England, we were delighted to secure funding in partnership with Loughborough Leys Badminton Club to deliver a series of women's badminton events across the county. The project aims to increase engagement and create more opportunities for female players of all abilities.

Our first Women's Badminton Festival event, held in September at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, saw an incredible turnout, with over 30 women and some incredible helpers from the Loughborough Leys Ladies Team coming together to enjoy a morning of badminton, socialising, music and a great buffet! Building on this success, we established a dedicated WhatsApp group and social media channels to highlight upcoming events, celebrate participants, and share opportunities for women to play and connect across the county.

We have since delivered two further events at Babington Academy and Broughton Astley Leisure Centre, welcoming an additional 12 women to the sport, supported by some fantastic volunteers from South Leicester and Loughborough Leys.

Looking ahead, we are planning more events over the summer months and continuing to grow our network, creating more opportunities for women to meet, socialise, and stay active both on and off the court. This is very much a work in progress, but we are incredibly proud of how the project has started, thanks to the support of Badminton England. We are excited to build on this momentum into next season!

If you, your members, or your friends and family would be interested in getting involved and joining our growing women's network, please get in touch with Sophie Connors (07532 495 448) for more information on how to get involved.

You can also find out more via our Linktree: https://linktr.ee/LBAwomen





Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

It has been an honour and privilege to take over as the LSBA chairperson from David Armstrong after he served many years in this role. The LSBA are most fortunate to have a dedicated team of officials and committee members that almost on a daily basis ensure that the Junior players have the resources and opportunities to play badminton.
Details of teams and individual players achievements are fully covered separately in this Newsletter by the reports from team managers & other committee members.
I would give a special mention to Dave Watts our BE Tournament Organiser and his team of helpers for the amount of income his events generated.
Also, for Natalie Claire especially in respect of her last year in the role as Welfare Officer and for Carole Spencer in many roles but as Secretary ensuring the committee are always on the same page.
I have not mentioned the names of all the other officials and committee members, but I know that they are only interested in ensuring that they carry out their role in a professional manner to ensure that the LSBA continues to support Junior Players in Leicestershire. **Ray Phipkin, LSBA Chairperson.**

Saturday Social Badminton and Adult Coaching – Babington Academy
(Social Play 6-8pm, Adult coaching 8-9pm)
Our Saturday evening slots continue to be a cornerstone of the club's community outreach, bridging the gap between casual play and competitive league action. The social sessions remain incredibly popular and well-attended, boasting a fantastic mixture of players across all ages and skill levels. It's the perfect environment for those looking for a friendly game in a relaxed atmosphere. Immediately following social play, our coaching hour has seen consistent turnout. This session focuses on sharpening technique and tactical awareness, helping players gain the confidence needed to transition into more competitive environments. The true success of these sessions lies in our signposting. We take pride in guiding our regular attendees toward local clubs, ensuring a steady stream of new talent joining the local leagues. It's a winning formula that keeps the Leicester badminton scene vibrant and growing. For additional details regarding the sessions, kindly visit www.lbabadminton.org. **Ajay**

Community Badminton sessions - Avanti Field School,LE5 1FY (Tue 6-7pm, Sat 10-11am)

Our sessions at Avanti School have been a highlight of the season, marked by an incredible influx of new players and a vibrant energy on court, further diversifying our club and strengthening our ties within the local community. Despite facing some persistent challenges with the venue, the enthusiasm of our players hasn't wavered. Their commitment has allowed the sessions to thrive regardless of logistical hurdles, proving that the passion for the game far outweighs the limitations of the space. We are fully committed to the continued growth of the Avanti School sessions. We look forward to building on this momentum and ensuring these sessions remain a key entry point for new players in the seasons to come. **Ajay**

Performance Centre (PC)



Chairperson's Report - Leicestershire Performance Centre

It has been another positive and enjoyable year for the performance centre. I'm pleased to report that the centre continues to thrive, both on and off the court, with a strong sense of community and commitment from our players and parents.
Over the past year, we have maintained a healthy membership, welcoming several new players while retaining many of our long-standing members. It's great to see a mix of abilities and ages coming together each week, which is a real strength of the centre.
On the playing side, our training nights have remained well attended, and the standard of play continues to improve. It has been so lovely to hear of how many of our PC players have been selected to represent England and being selected to attend the EJPP camps.

Socially, the centre has continued to be more than just badminton. Events such as our Christmas social, glow badminton event and the presentation evening have helped strengthen friendships and keep the pc spirit alive.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the committee members and coaches for their time and effort behind the scenes. Their work in organising sessions, managing finances, and keeping everything running smoothly is invaluable. Thanks also to all members who contribute in any way—whether by helping set up courts, organising games, or simply bringing a positive attitude each week.
Looking ahead, we aim to continue building on this success by encouraging new members, supporting player development, and ensuring the centre remains a welcoming and enjoyable place for all.
Finally, thank you to everyone involved for making our performance centre such a great place to be part of.

Natalie
Chairperson



A big thanks and a pat on the back to a great bunch of badminton volunteers that give hours and hours of their time to ensure the smooth running of local badminton, from grassroots, to clubs and to County. I believe why we are so successful in Leicestershire is that we work well together with the same aim. We don't stand still and admire what we have, we put plans in place collectively as Team Leicestershire, to ensure the future is bright.

Huge congratulations to the Junior County team that won the Inter Counties Tournament. What an achievement after 46 years of trying - WINNERS at last.
More congratulations go to the three young international players who are showing such promise, watch out for their names in the future.

My coaching work allows me to work with a lot of youngsters and I'm seeing another great group of players coming through the ranks. The work the Performance Centre is doing brings some very talented players through the system and into the senior clubs.

I hear that our adult player numbers are up slightly this season. Hopefully, that's a trend that continues going forward. Although I am a little disappointed to hear that we are still struggling for ladies, and we may have to consider reducing the number of players in a team, which is up for discussion. This is worrying as it will also have an impact on the mixed games. Sophie Connors is trying to address this with the introduction of taster sessions for Ladies only, at various Leisure Centres. Keep up the good work Sophie.

My thanks to those that have sent me their reports and photos, and to Greg for arranging the many pages in this newsletter.

I could not end without congratulating Edward Hayes. What a player! It just shows that you can enjoy this game and be successful no matter what your age. Well done Edward, long may it last.

And finally, on a personal note, I will be continuing to coach in the primaries for now. However, it would be great if we had an enthusiastic young person to take over the reins; then I could actually retire! Have a great summer.

Carole

Notes
This year's LBA Tournament is on 31 May 2026. For details contact James Evans (james240599@hotmail.co.uk) .
The LBA Celebration Evening is on FRIDAY 19 June. To get tickets see your club Secretary.

Other contacts:
Carole Spencer: carolespencer5525@gmail.com
Greg Howes: greghowes71@gmail.com