

# Leicestershire Badminton Association



**Newsletter/Bulletin 2024/2025**

**Date May 2025**



On the playing front, numbers have again improved, but female participants have reduced slightly. Sophie Connor continues to champion female participation in our sport, but this was never going to be a quick fix. However, having worked with her on the committee over the last year, I'm confident her dedication will pay off.

For the second year, Sophie has organized the up-coming Presentation evening. Once again, it's taking place at The Soar Point Pub, The Newarke, Leicester, 7.30pm on Friday 16 May 2025. Tickets are available from Sophie.

After the success of the LBA doubles/mixed tournament last year, it's on again and is open to all members who haven't played for the county teams. We are expecting a large entry, with the competition being played at Babington Academy on 1 June 2025.

A word now on two Team Leicestershire members, one at the end of his playing career and the other, a teenager on the way to stardom; both highlighted in more detail within.

## Rowland Tatton

Well, who can believe that Rowland is now 90 years old. He was a Badminton England umpire for many years and president of the Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association and played badminton for 65 years.

His enthusiasm for the sport and his encouraging manner, has inspired many young players to pick up a racket in both Leisure Centres and in the primary schools. For many years, he even ran an early morning breakfast club in a local Primary school. Thank you Rowland.

## Mutiara Mandala

I reported last year on the amazing achievements of this young lady. This year our newsletter dedicates a whole page to her successes.

Have a great summer and come back ready to go again next season.

**Ian Bosworth**  
**President**

# Report from 'The Badminton Man'



## **Primary Schools Onsite visits and competitions**

Firstly, congratulations again to St Johns Whitwick on retaining their title of County Champions, matching Fosse's record of three consecutive wins.

Participating Primary Schools 2024/25: Sandfield Close, Lady Jane Grey, The Hall, Barleycroft, St Barnabas, Millfield, St Marys Fields, Caldecote, Hallam Fields, Avenue, Packington, Whitwick St John, Hugglescote, Willesley & Warren Hills.

Qualifiers for June 25 final: St Barnabas (City), St Josephs (City), Lady Jane Grey (Groby), Sandfield Close (City), The Hall (Glenfield) & St Johns (Whitwick).

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.

## **Greg Howes, Coach and Development Officer**

### **WHITWICK ST JOHNS THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Congratulations to St Johns the Baptist primary school from North West Leicestershire, who were really pleased to win the title of Top Primary School for Badminton in Leicestershire for the third year running.

The support for Badminton in St Johns is outstanding, and is definitely having an impact on badminton in NWL.



Primary school teams from various areas in the county compete in local rounds of this competition, all fighting to get to the county finals which are held at Babington Academy annually. All the players taking part enjoy a great afternoon of badminton. This is just one competition that is held annually that aims to encourage as many youngsters as possible to have a go at a sport that is not always taught in primaries.

Greg and I do everything we can to ensure this work continues.

## **Carole Spencer, Coach and Development Officer**



### 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





## Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

### Retirement of the Head of Sandfield Close



Over the last 15 years I've had the pleasure of working with some amazing teachers. I've come to realise that with all the pressures placed upon them by academic expectations, it's often difficult to devote enough time to sport; which of course I promote. Perhaps one teacher above all went out of her way to ensure that every child attending my sessions listened intently to what I had to say. That teacher was Amanda Dhillon the ex-Head of Sandfield Close Primary School. All the children knew that at any moment their Head could appear from behind a curtain and spot anyone not paying attention! One ex-Sandfield student, Riyana, obviously did pay attention. She appears later in our newsletter as part of the U/17 team that are national champions. Thank you Amanda, that's why I continue to do the job. Happy retirement from us all.

*The photo shows the presentation of an inscribed glass trophy to Amanda Dhillon on behalf of the Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association, on 4 July 2024 at Sandfield's sports awards assembly.*

*From Amanda: 'Thank you for the lovely surprise. It's not often I get surprised in school!'*

Greg



## Non County Competitions Participants and Winners



## U16/17 and U18/19 2025 Championship

### **U16/17**

Boys singles OLI SEWELL  
Girls singles MUTIARA MUNDALA  
Boys doubles JOSH TANG & OLI SEWELL  
Girls doubles KATIE HOULT & ZARA EDWARDS  
Mixed doubles KATIE HOULT & OLI SEWELL



### **U18/19**

Boys singles GEORGE CLARE  
Girls singles LEXIE EDWARDS  
Mens doubles GEORGE CLARE & OLI SEWELL  
Ladies doubles KATIE HOULT & LEXIE EDWARDS  
Mixed doubles GEORGE CLARE & LOLA DALE







## Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

### Key Stage 3 & 4 Finals



The final standings for the KS3 Girls:

- 1st - NEWBRIDGE
- 2nd - RUSHEY MEAD
- 3rd - GARTREE
- 4th - BROOK MEAD



The final standings for the KS3 Boys:

- 1ST - LOUGH GRAMMAR
- 2nd - BEAUCHAMP
- 3rd - BROOK MEAD
- 4th - KIBWORTH



The final standings for the KS4 Girls:

- 1st - GARTREE
- 2nd - SOAR VALLEY
- 3rd - WELLAND PARK
- 4th - LOUGH HIGH



The final standings for the KS4 Boys:

- 1st- LOUGH GRAMMAR
- 2nd - NEWBRIDGE
- 3rd - LUTTERWORTH
- 4th - CROWN HILLS

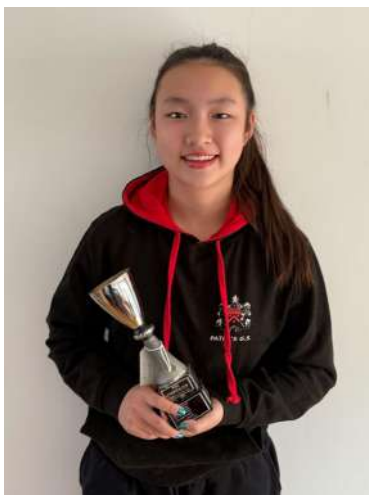
### Team Leicestershire U/18 Boys Finals



**The final standings for the U18 Boys were:**

1. Beauchamp College
2. Loughborough Grammar
3. Bosworth Academy
4. WQE

**Cooper Cup Winner - Alicia Wang**



**Ray Liggins Cup Winner - Leon Kiran**





## National Junior Competitions Participants and Winners



## National Junior Competitions Participants and Winners



## National Honours

### VEER RADIA

#### **Nationals 2024**

Bronze medal at the Nationals in Nottingham, playing in a year above his age category.

#### **Gold Tournaments**

Silver medal in the Yorkshire Gold, playing in a year above his age category.

#### **Bronze Tournaments**

Gold medals 19

Silver medals 8

Bronze medals 15

#### **Other Achievements**

Invited to be part of the England Junior Pathway Programme (EJPP) and attended his first England Camp.

Invited to train with the England Senior squad at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes.

#### **Badminton England Rankings**

- Singles: ranked number 4
- Doubles: ranked number 2

Mixed doubles: ranked number 1

#### **International**

Invited and selected to play in an international tournament in Antwerp, Belgium, the U11 Olve Europe Junior Open.

#### **County Matches**

Youngest player in the U13 County team, taking on the responsibility of playing at seed 1. He has risen to the challenge with outstanding performance and winning results. The team has had a remarkable season, reaching the County finals in Loughborough in June.

#### **Health and Positive Attitude**

Despite severe asthma and eczema, Veer has remained positive and trained extremely hard while maintaining excellent results at school. He has continuously motivated his fellow players at PC and County matches.



**Parag and Shweta**



## National Honours

### GEORGE CLARE

George has had the most incredible season this year, from being selected and coming home with team bronze in the Six Nations, to winning Gold in the U17 nationals in which he was a year younger. For anyone that knows George, you'll know all he has ever dreamed of is to play badminton, and in these last 12 months he has succeeded way beyond his expectations. In October he was selected to travel to Germany for the U17 Ruhr Open. Again a year younger and playing with a new partner, he wasn't expecting to do too well, but they came away as champions in the boys doubles. In November it was the beginning of the English National Championships and first up was the U19's : George won bronze in the boys doubles; an amazing achievement, on this occasion, being 3 years younger. December was time for the U17 nationals in which George became the National Champion in mixed doubles. What a fantastic achievement , yet again being that year younger.

In January George took and Badminton England coach-loves coaching and helping

This year George has group Gold tournaments in and has won both the boys doubles in both



passed his level 1 ing qualification and just the younger generation.

entered both of his age Milton Keynes and Kent , doubles and the mixed tournaments.

George trains 6 times a week at the Leicestershire Performance Centre, England Junior Performance Program hub in Milton Keynes, MKBA and at Loughborough University. He has been selected to represent England in the next few weeks in Cyprus and Austria, all whilst trying to revise for his GCSE's.

For the near future, George is hoping to be selected for the U17 European Championships later this summer.

Well done George - what a year.





## National Honours

### MUTIARA MUNDALA

#### Highlights of her season 2024-2025

- Won double Gold medals in Singles and doubles at U13 National Championship 2024
- Won all three events at U13 Badminton Planet in Hoensbroke Netherlands 2024
- Won U15 Singles at French Border where she was two years younger
- Semi-finalist girl singles at U15 8 Nations in Sweden 2025
- Selected to play at the Legacy Match Legends Vision versus U15 Chinese Taipei team at the centre court on finals day at the All England 2025
- Selected to represent England at U15 Quad in Glasgow
- Selected to play ICT U18 representing Leicestershire 2025
- Currently she is the no 1 U13 in England and the no 1 U13 in Europe



#### Loughborough High School win two National titles

Four girls from Loughborough high showed their talent in the recent National Schools competition held in Milton Keynes, the headquarters of Badminton England .

After progressing through the county and regional stages Loughborough High school girls emerged as the best team in the country.

The girls dominated the early rounds of the competition securing victories 5-0, 5-0 & 3-2, and then delivered a stellar performance against Nonsuch High School for girls in Surrey to claim the national title. Just a few days earlier the same girls team claimed victory in the National cup final The team was **Mutiara**, Khia, Bella & Sofia, who all train weekly at the Leicestershire Performance centre and represent the county. Congratulations girls. Great job !





### **U12/13 Shires League A Team**

The objective for the team this season was to secure a place in the County finals. Given the strength & depth of the players at my disposal, this felt achievable.

I am very proud to say this has been achieved with the team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the league, having had an outstanding season, winning 5 out of the 6 matches and the only loss coming against our local rivals Nottinghamshire.

The levels of performance throughout the team have been amazing and stand as tribute to their own personal determination & dedication, in addition to the fantastic coaching they have been receiving all season.

The team spirit within the group has been excellent, supporting and encouraging each other before, after and during matches. The bonds they have created will hopefully continue to flourish as they move through the age groups together.

Finally, I would like to express my immense gratitude to the parents of the players, who have been enormously supportive of myself the team and have rallied together when we struggled with players transport for away matches. None of this would be possible without them. County finals, here we come.

**Neil**



### **U12/13 Shires League B Team**

We had an unexpected and difficult start to our first season being a B Team and playing strong opposition. However, we have finished on a high with a 13-7 win, which was amazing & well deserved for the players! They've kept their heads high through all their previous matches, scoring more points with each one played. It's been wonderful to watch them develop & form friendships.

**Beth**





## U14/15 Shires League A Team

### Season Highlights

Match 1: Leicestershire v Derbyshire (20/10/2024)

The season kicked off with a thrilling encounter against Derbyshire. The Leicestershire team dominated the match, securing a decisive 14-6 victory. Their precision and agility on the court set a positive tone for the remainder of the season.

Match 2: Middlesex v Leicestershire (30/11/2024)

In a challenging away match at the Dome, Leicestershire faced Middlesex. Despite the tough competition, our team emerged victorious with a 13-7 win, showcasing their resilience and strategic gameplay.

Match 3: Leicestershire v Leicestershire 2 (22/12/2024)

The intra-county match saw Leicestershire compete against their second team. The primary team demonstrated their superiority, winning 19-1 and reinforcing their position in the league standings.

Match 4: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire (16/02/2025)

In a closely contested match at Babington, Leicestershire faced Nottinghamshire. Despite their best efforts, the team narrowly lost 7-13, but their performance remained commendable.

Match 5: Leicestershire v Warwickshire (09/03/2025)

Returning to Babington, Leicestershire took on Warwickshire in an early morning match. The team secured a hard-fought 11-9 victory, demonstrating their determination and skill.

Match 6: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire (15/03/2025)

The final match of the season saw Leicestershire dominate Northamptonshire with a 16-4 victory. This win solidified their strong position in the league and showcased their exceptional teamwork and strategy.



### Final Match, Looking Forward

Looking ahead, Leicestershire stands proudly in 5th place in the league table. The team is poised to compete in the playoff game, a crucial step toward reaching the final match.

With determination and skill, there is a strong chance for Leicestershire to advance as one of the top eight teams. The players are motivated to surpass their previous record, aiming to excel beyond their national 5th-place finish from two years ago. The team is confident in its abilities and ready to break new ground, striving for victory in the upcoming challenges.

**Andy**



### **U14/15 Shires League B Team**

This season has been a challenging yet rewarding experience for the Leicestershire County Badminton U15 B Team. Comprising 8 boys and 8 girls, our young players competed in six matches against tough opposition, securing one well-earned victory. While the results may not entirely reflect their efforts, the primary aim of the B Team is to nurture talent and provide invaluable match experience, an objective that has been successfully achieved. Throughout the season, our players have shown remarkable resilience and an unwavering determination, always giving their best and refusing to go down without a fight. Their dedication and fighting spirit, even in the face of strong opponents, have been truly commendable and a credit to the team.



We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the parents for their steadfast support and encouragement. Your contributions, both on and off the court, have played a vital role in the development and success of our young athletes.

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuing to support and nurture these players as they progress in their badminton journeys. This season has been a significant step in their development, and we are immensely proud of all they have achieved.

**Dalu**

### **U17 Shires League Team**



At the time of writing, our U17 team has successfully completed the group stage, finishing in an impressive 4th position. This achievement has secured our place in the Shires Finals, which will take place on Sunday, 6th April 2025, at Loughborough University. The finals will bring together the top eight county teams, competing for the prestigious title.

With our strongest team available on the day, I am confident in our squad's ability to perform at a high level and achieve great results in the finals.

#### **Group Stage Results:**

- Leicestershire vs. Staffordshire – 15-5 Win
- Leicestershire vs. Warwickshire – 6-14 Loss
- Leicestershire vs. Derbyshire – 17-3 Win
- Leicestershire vs. Lincolnshire – 19-1 Win
- Leicestershire vs. Bedfordshire – 20-0 Win

This season's success so far is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and team spirit of our players. We now look ahead to the Shires Finals with great excitement and optimism.

Best of luck to the team – let's go for the title!

**Anna Edwards**





## U17 Shires Final

On Sunday 6th April, the U17 Shires Final took place at Loughborough University with eight of the top counties battling it out.

The Leicestershire team included:

Boys: George, Ollie, Lucas, Josh, Jack, and Ross

Girls: Katie, Polina, Zara, Sabreen, Riyana, and Mutiara

### First Round 1 Against Surrey 1

Mixed Doubles: Won 3 out of 4 matches

Singles: Won 7 out of 8 matches

Level Doubles: Won every match

Score: 18-2 win

We kicked things off strongly with a great performance from the team and a positive attitude.



### Second Round Against Nottinghamshire

Mixed Doubles: Won all 4 matches

Singles: Won 7 out of 8 matches

Doubles: Split matches 4-4

Score: 15-5 win

Moving into the top four, the team kept the momentum going with a brilliant start; a dominant display in mixed doubles setting the tone for the match.

### Championship Final Against Yorkshire

Mixed Doubles: Won all 4 matches

Singles: Won all 8 matches

Doubles: Only one loss

Score: 19-1 win

In the final, our players were on fire, dropping just one doubles match and claiming the title with an impressive win!

The Leicestershire team was in a league of their own. Their strength, depth, and team spirit were evident in every match. A big shout-out goes to the LSBA, Leicestershire Performance Centre, top-notch coaching, and of course, the dedicated parents who support the team through every match and trip.

Overall, it was an amazing day and a huge achievement. Congratulations to our U17 team for being crowned **Shires Champions 2025!**

**Anna Edwards**  
**U17 Manager**



### **U 18/19 Shires League Team**

What an amazing year we have had again this year.

We started off our season with a couple of tough matches, with local county Staffordshire up first. It was a close match with us finally winning 11-9. Next up were the seeds this year, Avon, where we travelled down to Bristol (with a few of the team missing) coming away with a brilliant 10 all draw. Straight after Christmas we travelled up north to play Northumberland and came away with an 18-2 win. Our next match was Derbyshire which we won again 18-2 and then last up was Lincolnshire, where we came away with a 19-1 win .

We ended up finishing third in the league and a guaranteed place in the shires finals in May.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the players and parents for all their teamwork and efforts again this year. We've had a lot of away games this year and we wouldn't be where we are without all your support.

Roll on the finals!

**Nat**

### **2023/24 Junior County Championships**

**U12** Boys singles    IBITHIA OLI  
Girls singles    MUTIARA MANDALA  
Boys doubles    RISHAAN PAREKH & VEER RADIA  
Girls doubles    KIHA GOKANI & MUTIARA MANDALA  
Mixed doubles    MUTIARA MANDALA & YANYU ZHANG

**U14** Boys singles    JOSH TANG  
Girls singles    ALICIA WANG  
Boys doubles    JACK WILLIAMSON & JOSH TANG  
Girls doubles    SABREEN CHENIA & ALICIA WANG  
Mixed doubles    ALICIA WANG & JOSH TANG

## **Report from the 2025 Rio Competition**

The new year and freezing weather signals our annual trip to Yorkshire for the u18 team tournament - Rio! A highlight of the badminton calendar. Rio is a two day tournament played at the legendary York Railway Institute - a huge 9 court historic building. The players get to enjoy staying as a team at a local hotel over night with evening disco- the whole experience offers much more than the badminton. Rio does however give the players some much needed practice for the upcoming ICT in the spring. This year Rio consisted of 8 counties battling it out for the title. The team selected for this years Rio included some of our younger players, and together with our more experienced team tournament players we fielded a super talented team. The team was; Ollie, Lucas, Josh, Jack, Ross and Leon, Lexie, Matilda, Lola, Zara, Sabreen and Mutiara. Chris and Sarita were our amazing coaches and as always, the Leicestershire support was fantastic- Drums, airhorn, tambourines and positive vibes from the Leics camp created a great atmosphere for the players!

The team was unlucky in B with the first days 1, Lothian and Yorkshire against defending champions. We knew it was most likely to the tournament! York- 0-3 lead after the mixed.. Lucas, Lexie and Mutiara 3-6. Yorks continued to unfortunately came out just one of the boys doubles - Josh and Jack played an epic 3 games to defeat the Yorks no.1 pair. The final result was 4-11 to Yorkshire 1.



the draw being put in box matches against Yorkshire 2. Our first match was pions Yorkshire 1! We be the toughest match of shire started strong with a we split the singles with, all taking their games - test us in the doubles and on top with Leics taking

Next up was Lothian. The team showed great resilience following the Yorkshire loss to come back fighting and playing to their best abilities. Whilst in previous years Lothian has been incredibly strong, this year the Scot's were no match for us. It was a 15-0 clean sweep!

Yorkshire 2 was the final match of the 1st day. Leics started strong taking all 3 mixed; the pairings were Josh and Zara, Jack and Matilda, and Lola and Ross. We continued to steam ahead with Ollie, Lucas and Leon taking all 3 boys singles. Lexie and Mutiara also took their girls singles. Going into the doubles we were 8-1 up and had already won the match! We continued to focus, and took all but 1 of the doubles games. The final result was an impressive 13-2 win to us!

## **Report from the 2025 Rio Competition (cont'd)**

Going into day 2 we were playing for 2nd to 4th place as the Yorkshire 1 result was carried over. The next match was against Warwickshire (the winner of box A) and we knew it was going to be tough. I don't think anyone could have predicted what happened next! The mixed was extremely competitive, however they all went Warks way - 0-3 down. Next up was the boys singles and whilst we put in great performances, the Warks boys singles players were just too strong on the day resulting in us being 0-6 down at the start of the girls singles. At this stage and given the strength of the Warks team it seemed like an insurmountable task to come back from the position we were in. The girls, however weren't going to be put off, with all 3 girls singles going Leicestershire's way. 3-6 going into the doubles; it was a big ask but we were never going to stop fighting! Leics turned up the heat taking 2 boys doubles with Ollie and Lucas and Jack and Ross triumphing. Now it was all down the girls.. Lexie and Zara, Matilda and Lola fought hard and were victorious. 7-7 and Mutiara and Sabreen still to finish the decider! Both Mutiara and Sabreen dug deep and played amazingly to win in 3 ends (just to add to the tension!). Leics did the seemingly impossible and came back from 0-6 down to leave Warks weeping with a 8-7 defeat. What a match!

On a high we went in to the final match against Lancashire with renewed confidence. We had silver set in our sights. We started on fire with all 3 mixed going our way! 3-0 We split the singles with 3 a piece. 6-3 we were in a great position ahead of the doubles and the Leics players showed their dominance taking 5 out of the 6 games resulting in a fantastic 11-4 win over Lancashire!

Leicestershire showed true grit and determination during the roller coaster ride of the tournament and came away with the most well earned silver in 2nd place. All the players were a credit to Leics PC and the LSBA.

The team and coaches did amazing - It was an incredible weekend of team tournament badminton experience and making memories which will last forever. The silver medal was the icing on the cake.

**Anna**



## Inter Counties Tournament

This year's ICT again took place over easter at the University of Nottingham. 4 days of competition between 29 teams from around the UK. ICT is the biggest county competition of the year. Leicestershire, aiming for a top 4 finish, started the competition with high expectations. Drawn into a box of 4 with Derbyshire, Oxfordshire and Devon, we were expected to win. No mistakes were made as we progressed, top of the box, winning all matches 10-0.

With the top half secured, we were drawn into another box of 4, this time with Gloucestershire, Nottinghamshire and Middlesex. 1<sup>st</sup> place in the box would guarantee the Top 4 finish. Starting off against Gloucestershire we continued our impressive start recording another 10-0 win. However, with Nottinghamshire next up, ICT was about to start for real. Having lost to the old enemy in the previous year's tournament, it was important for the players to step up and perform. What could've been a tricky fixture proved to be another good victory for the team with good performances all around, winning 8-2.

The final match of the box was against Middlesex, a team with some very strong players. This proved to be an extremely close match with 7 games being decided by a scoreline of 15-14, 1-1 after the mixed, 1-3 after the boys' singles, 3-3 after the girls singles, 5-3 after the boys doubles, Middlesex just needed to win 1 girls doubles to win the match. Not the worry though as our girls stepped up, making the score 5-5 and bring us the victory by 3 ends, only 11 points separated the teams overall.

Top 4 now secured, we were drawn against Yorkshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. No easy matches. First up was Yorkshire, with crucial games dotted throughout the match it was important to get off to a quick start, taking a 2-0 lead after the mixed. However, the Yorkshire singles line up proved too strong, meaning that going into the doubles the match was tied 3-3. Unfortunately, both boys' pairs lost closely fought contests, meaning once again we went into the girls doubles 3-5 down. This time it wasn't to be, splitting the girls games, with the narrowest possible 15-14 15-14 loss. Meaning Yorkshire had taken victory 6-4.

Next was onto the tournament favorites, Hertfordshire. After the tough loss against Yorkshire, putting in a good performance was key to get back on track and secure as higher finish as possible. In pursuit of an unlikely victory, the players were quick to rebound. Unfortunately, Hertfordshire prove too strong running out 7-3 winners. This set up a final match shoot out with Buckinghamshire for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The final day after a long 4 days, the team again stepped up taking the match 6-4. Securing 3<sup>rd</sup> position for Leicestershire.

An amazing effort from the team and only the 4<sup>th</sup> time Leicestershire has finished in the Top 4 at ICT. My thanks to all the players, Lexie Edwards, Katie Hoult, Mutiara Mandala, Polina Shandybina, Matilda Sherwin, George Clare, Ollie Sewell, Lucas Staves, Josh Tang and Jack Williamson. A special shout out to Matilda and Lexie for whom this was their last ICT after years of competition. The biggest possible Thank You to the management team, Natalie Clare, Anthony Clark, Sarita Patel and of course Pete.

Lastly, huge shout out to everyone who came down and supported, loudly, you make this such a special tournament for all the players. **Chris**

## Action From Inter Counties Tournament



## **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”

**2024 WINNER - EDDIE PATCHETT (Bill’s grandson)**



### **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”

**2024 WINNER - MUTIARA MANDALA**



### **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”

**2024 WINNER - ADAM SEWELL**





## Leicestershire Restricted Competition Winners

**Mens Singles winner** - Luke Hoult , Runner up Owen King

**Men's Doubles winners** - Tom Armstrong and Jai Chandarana , Runners up Greg Dawson and Luke Hoult

**Ladies Doubles winners** - Sophie Watson and Jess Allen, Runners up Rachel Guo & Aimie Whiteman

**Ladies singles** - Mutiara Mandala, Runner up Atu Sagita

**Mixed Doubles winners** - Laura Mercer & Sam Ricketts , Runners up Jai Chandarana & Aimie Whiteman



## The Yorkshire 17yrs - 21yrs Tournament

Six players from Leicestershire travelled to Yorkshire for a weekend of badminton hosted at the Railway Institute. This annual event has always been well supported by Leicestershire. It's a great team event and is always enjoyed by the players.

Thirteen teams took part, playing over two days.

Leicestershire's team was in a group of 5 , including Hertfordshire, Avon, Devon and Northamptonshire.

**Day 1** was a brilliant day, Leicestershire winning all their matches and finishing top of the group. This meant on the second day they were playing for places 1 to 3.

**Day 2** - The first match was v Northumberland,. They got a fantastic 5 - 1 win, and hopes were high going into the last match of the day v Yorkshire. They split the singles , so 1 game each going into the doubles. The men's doubles went to 3 close ends but unfortunately it didn't go the Leicestershire pairs way. Similarly the ladies doubles went the same way, also losing in 3 ends. Onto the mixed doubles which were split ; not enough to give the team a win. The 4 -2 win gave Yorkshire the top place.

The Leicestershire team were disappointed not to get top place having worked so hard over the two days, but were pleased to receive the silver medals.

Thanks go to Yorkshire for running a brilliant weekend of badminton.

**The Team was : Jess Allen , Sophie Watson , Aimie Whiteman , Rowan Clark , Luke Hoult and Eddie Patchett**





## **Senior County Report**

Another excellent year for senior county, with the 3<sup>rd</sup>s achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> in division 2 central (got promoted last year), 2<sup>nds</sup> winning division 1N (now in playoffs) and 1<sup>sts</sup> staying in top premier division in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Tom Armstrong and Sarita Patel organised the 1<sup>st</sup> team this year with again a mix of experience, Loughborough students and younger players. Overall they played nine counties, winning three and lost six, Aimie was the standout player winning 20 out of 26 played. Aimie Whiteman secures 1<sup>st</sup> team colours this year.



Ryan King organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> team this year, and they managed to win their division with 6 out of 7 wins. Everyone played well but special mention for Lexie Edwards who was undefeated this year with 10 wins. Donglin Zhou, and George Clare secure 2<sup>nd</sup> team county colours this year.



Mark Cooper organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> team this year despite not playing himself, the goal was to get promoted two years running, this was always going to be a tough ask and, in the end, just came up short and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall with 4 wins and 3 losses. Standout player was Dan Martyres with 12 out of 15 wins. Tash Coyle secures 3<sup>rd</sup> team colours this year.



## **County 2nds secure promotion to Championship**



Well done to everyone involved. Thanks.

**Mark**

**Senior County Captain (Leicestershire Badminton Association)**



**National Senior Winners**



English National Champions O50 doubles



Kent masters O50 mixed winners



James McCoig Trophy winners (team event)



Oxford CSBC Senior Bronze runner-up



Whitwick Junior Badminton club is thriving with a full membership.

The club has a great working relationship with the local primary schools and the weekly Whitwick/Coalville Leisure centre junior badminton sessions, both are continuing to feed new players into the club, which now has

54 members. For the first time this season we have a group of very young players, some as young as 6, who have parents that were members of the Junior club themselves. How time flies!

Amie and I have always encouraged the players to work with each other and it really is paying off, we are so lucky that more and more of the older club members are coming along to help with the young players which we are grateful for, some are showing great potential as coaches. Two of our members Ruby and Isabelle are doing a wonderful job working and encouraging our youngest players to have fun while learning . The club has many players that have represented the county and attend the Performance centre, but it's not all about performance, we do encourage competition, but our main aim is to run sessions that are fun, enjoyable, and gives the players the skills and experience needed to eventually play senior badminton.

We also like to put on social activities, this year we ran an inter club Olympic themed competition and a Glow in the dark session, which was great fun. We are also organising the annual coaching trip to Milton Keynes and a dip in the water at the aqua parc.

Amie and I are very proud of all our players, they are a wonderful group of children, who have very supportive parents, a big thanks to you all for making the club a success.



**Carole & Amie**





### **LBA Junior Badminton Club**

Another excellent year on Saturday mornings with 59 players. The ages range from 7 to 18 years and are split into two groups according to ability (beginners and advanced) or one and a half hours each session. Overall we have 43 boys and 16 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.



During the year both singles and doubles are played and also a singles ladder board for both boys and girls is held. Trophies are 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 well. 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 has 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. Again, we had another player Krish Somani achieve his Leaders Award run by BE over two weekends at Milton Keynes. He was identified as one of the top 4 to stand out for really getting involved, contributed to the sessions and was really passionate about volunteering. He has already volunteered to help at two tournaments as well as continuing at our club. Well done, Krish.



Quite a few of our advanced players are now playing senior play at various clubs giving them different experiences.

I would like to thank our 4 main coaches, Grahame, Ken, Greg and myself and all volunteers and parents for all their hard work throughout the year.

**Julie & Grahame**





## Central Leicester Junior Badminton Club

This season has been a period of change and development for our junior club. We've had the bittersweet experience of seeing many of our young players progress to the Performance Centre; a testament to their hard work, talent, and dedication. While this naturally led to a dip in our player numbers early on, it also reflects the high calibre of training and opportunities provided by our club.

As the season progressed, we embraced the challenge of rebuilding our junior player base. Through dedicated outreach and the enthusiastic support of our community, we've successfully recruited new players who have brought fresh energy and enthusiasm to our sessions.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible efforts of our coaches and volunteers, special mention goes to Paul, Harrison, Kavi and Kalan. Their commitment and passion have been instrumental in nurturing the next generation of players and maintaining a positive, supportive environment for all. We look forward to seeing our junior club continue to thrive in the future.

**Ajay**



## PARKLANDS Leisure Centre - Badminton

I've been taking the sessions at Parklands LC for 17 years now, with numbers increasing year on year. The early beginners sessions are a hard sell, but I've managed to still get a regular 10 or so players to turn up, with perhaps 16 in the intermediates. The Saturday sessions are as follows:-

Children beginners 8-9am (Approx 10-13 yrs old)

Children intermediate 9-10am.(Approx 13-17 yrs old)

Over the years various students from Parklands sessions have participated in local tournaments as well as gone on to represent the county.

**Steve Heath**



### **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 13 [“Junior Community Club Member \(5-11\)”](#); 54 “Junior Community Club Member (12-18)”; 2 “Junior Community Member (5-11)” registered with Badminton England membership for the 2024/25 season. Currently attending are 25 girls & 44 boys aged from school years 3 to 13. For season 2024/25 all members have been given both a Free club hoodie & club shirt.

The weekly sessions of season 2024/25 have really been effected by the refurbishment of Harborough Leisure Centre. During the 8 weeks of Autumn Term 1 only 3 courts were available for 6 weeks and we lost a further two weeks on all courts. Also lost a further three weeks during Autumn Term 2 & Spring Term 3.

The Sports Hall now has new lighting, repainted walls and floor refurbished, but for season 2025/26 it seems the venue intends to use the Sports Hall for soft play and the Club needs to move to the Arena. The club with the help of Badminton England and the local council are involved in discussions with the venue in respect of the new Arena building, which the club consider is currently not suitable for badminton.

The eight internal club tournament events are being held during Spring Term 4 so as not to disrupt older players exams. This enables all events to take place in respect of the Girls & Boys Singles & Level Doubles events for U10's (no Girls & Boys doubles); U12's; U14's; U16's and U18's.

A total of 52 trophies will be presented to all winners and runner-ups at the Clubs trophy presentation night to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. In addition, the “Outstanding Club Member” trophy for 2025; and “Most Improved Session Member 2025” trophy (one for each of the three session times). A meal and the Clubs AGM will also be held on this date.

One Junior Club player attended the Badminton England Young Leaders Academy. 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's three Badminton England coaches, Parents, Volunteers and especially players dedication, commitment, help and support enables the club to continue to grow.

The club's own web site <http://www.harboroughlcjuniors.org.uk/> provides details of all club sessions, documents for all to be able to really appreciate what the club is about and what is available to young players. With a Constitution, Code of Conducts, updated Welcome Leaflets, additional younger volunteers the club continue to receive renewal accreditation as a Badminton England Premier Club and Sport England Clubmark.

**Ray Phipkin – Head Coach**



## South Leicestershire Junior Badminton Club

The venue at Broughton Astley Leisure Centre enables the club to have sessions for all the 38 weeks of Schools Autumn, Spring & Summer Terms. The weekly Friday club night sessions now run from 5:00pm – 6:30pm and 6:30pm – 8:00pm. We now have all players registered with Badminton England as 16 “Junior Community Club Member (5-11)” ; 36 “Junior Community Club Member (12-18)” ; [2 “Junior Compete Member \(5-11\)”](#) , 2 “Junior Compete Member (12-18)” , who regularly attend the weekly sessions.

The club have operated a waiting list for both sessions with currently 15 for the first session and 2 for the second session. For season 2025/26 on the earlier waiting list, 5 players have accepted the invite to join the club from 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The club is looking for season 2025/26 to run a 4:00pm to 5:00pm session and all on the waiting list will be given the opportunity to join as well as keeping on the later session waiting lists.

For season 2024/25 all members / volunteers when they join are presented with a free Club T-shirt and Hoodie. As part of the Badminton England trial project 12 younger members are taking part in “Shuttle Stars” programme.

The sixth internal club tournament events are being held during Spring Term 4 so as not to disrupt older players exams. This enables all events to take place in respect of the Girls & Boys Singles & Level Doubles events for U10's (no Girls singles or doubles); U12's (no Girls doubles); U14's; U16's and U18's.

A total of 52 trophies will be presented to all winners and runner-ups at the Clubs trophy presentation night to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025. In addition, the “Outstanding Club Member” trophy for 2025; and Outstanding Session Player 2025 (5:00pm -6:30pm session) & (6:30pm to 8:00pm session).

Three Junior Club players attended the Badminton England Young Leaders Academy.

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 three 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 6 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 at the new venue.

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

The Club was 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**

With 51 paid members the junior club is thriving, we have 6 courts every Saturday morning 10am-1pm at Loughborough Leisure Centre. The members are divided into 2 groups, 30 over 12-year-olds/intermediates and 21 under 12-year-olds/beginners. We still almost have an equal ratio of girls to boys, with 27 boys and 24 girls.

To help with the high number of members some of our older members volunteer to help with the youngest, using this time towards their Duke of Edinburgh award, we are lucky to be able to employ a number of young qualified coaches training at Loughborough University Elite squad, they attend on a rota basis when available. This has substantially helped with the progress of all our members as they are all amazing players and coaches. We are also still very happy to have Atu attend as a lead coach when she is free from other commitments.

We encourage all members to enter local non-county tournaments and several members have moved on to county training. Currently we are not accepting any over 12-year-old members.

**Dave Whitcroft.**

[loughboroughleysjuniors@hotmail.com](mailto:loughboroughleysjuniors@hotmail.com)

### **Loughborough Junior Badminton Club** **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. Furthermore, two Grammar school teams (KS3 boys and girls) qualified for national finals, with the girls WINNING and the boys came 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mark**







### **Melton O G's Badminton Junior Club**

Melton O G's have had another successful year with our juniors and intermediate players. The sessions have been well attended and enjoyable, with demand for places remaining high. Steve Heath supported Linda and Trevor for the first half of the season and, as in previous years, the more able intermediates were invited to club night with many of them playing for the club in league matches. It is very pleasing to see this progression from juniors to intermediates to representing the club in league matches and demonstrates a positive outcome to the coaching practices we follow. Some of our players have entered Leicestershire tournaments and enjoyed the experience.



**Linda Hallam and Trevor Sanders**

#### **New Level 2 Coaches**

As we are always saying in our reports we need more young coaches coming through to ensure we can service the needs of badminton in the county.

I am pleased to say that two of the Whitwick Juniors (now adults) Mitchell Allen and William Sewell have both completed their Level 2 coaching awards. Doing this while studying for their A levels was a lot to ask, but they did it and passed. The lads are fantastic role models at the club as players and now as coaches.

Even though they have busy lives outside of badminton, they are still finding the time to volunteer their help at the junior club where they first met and forged a friendship that has lasted. They now run their own sessions at Ashby LC and work with the Performance Centre players. Well done lads, keep up the good work. An Update on their sessions is below.



#### **Hood Park Leisure Centre Junior Club**

Over the past year, our Tuesday badminton sessions have continued to evolve, with the exciting addition of a new session from 4-5 PM. This session has quickly become a fantastic opportunity for beginner players to improve their shots and movement, all while ensuring that the atmosphere remains fun and enjoyable.

We've been thrilled to see that each week, the sessions have reached their full capacity of players and it has been wonderful to witness an increase in younger players joining both sessions. This is a positive sign for the future of our club, and Leicestershire badminton as a whole and we are excited to see more players coming through in the coming months!

**William Sewell Coach**



## Loughborough Leys Badminton Club

It has been fantastic to see an increase of members in our club this year, with over 50 members to date. We have also seen some old members return and some fantastic juniors stepping up to play for our teams.

On court we have had an outstanding performance from the mixed 2 teams who haven't lost a single game this season and our men's 1st team aiming to finish the season with one game to go, in the same way.



This year we have had a change of venue for our matches, moving to Babington due to facility space at Loughborough. This has been a real positive despite the initial inconvenience, meaning that we have a full club night for our members without reducing to two courts.

Looking ahead and into next season, we are looking to continue our successes from this year whilst developing and growing opportunities for our members. We are excited to see what we achieve!

**Sophie Connors**



## Leicester University

As the head coach for the university team for the fourth consecutive year, I am thrilled to share the highlights of our exceptional season. This year, our teams have reached new heights, showcasing skill, determination, and a true passion for badminton.

In the BUCS league, our performance has been nothing short of outstanding. Our players have consistently delivered strong results, reflecting their hard work and dedication. A major highlight of the season was once again securing victory against De Montfort University in the 2025 Varsity match—a thrilling achievement that underscores the strength and unity of our teams.

Additionally, I'm proud to announce that our mixed team has emerged as champions in Division 5 of the local league. Their teamwork and perseverance have been truly remarkable, and this victory is a well-deserved reward for their efforts.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on these successes, supporting our players' growth, and striving for further achievements. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the players, supporters, and the wider university community for their unwavering support throughout the season. Together, we continue to make our mark on the badminton world.

**Ajay, Head Coach**





## Central Leicester Badminton Club – Senior Club Report

As we reflect on the recent season, it's clear that resilience and teamwork have been the heart of our club's success. Despite facing the considerable challenge of a shortage of ladies in our teams, all our squads have demonstrated unwavering determination and remarkable performance throughout.

This shortage posed a unique test for our club, requiring creative solutions and an even greater sense of unity among players. Yet, against these pressures, our teams rose to the occasion, delivering commendable results that reflect their grit and skill. The steadfast commitment of every player ensured that, despite the obstacles, we managed to not only hold our ground but also avoid relegation—a testament to the dedication and passion that define Central Leicester Badminton Club.

As we move forward, we remain hopeful and proactive in addressing the issue of recruitment, particularly for our ladies' teams. Strengthening our player base remains a priority as we strive to build an even stronger future. We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this season's achievements—players and supporters. Together, we continue to grow and thrive.

**Ajay**

### **WHITWICK BADMINTON CLUB**

Its a HAT TRICK for Whitwick Ladies as they retain the top place in the Ladies Div 1 .

The season saw a couple of new faces in the team, Zara Edwards and Amie Hoult.

Thanks to the commitment of all the players involved in this team they have had another successful season, and were pleased to get the title for the 3rd year running.

It wasn't an easy run to gain this place, Loughborough Leys and Meltonshire Ladies were closer than ever this season which made it a competitive and enjoyable season.

The team consisted of : Eve Dale , Tilly Dale, Lola Dale , Katie Hoult, Amie Hoult ,Lexie Edwards, Zara Edwards & Matilda Sherwin  
Congratulations.

**Captain Caz (now captained by Eve Dale)**





### **Adult Non League Doubles Tournament**

On Sunday, July 7, 2024, the Community Social Tournament 2024 returned to unite Leicestershire's social players. The competition resulted in a record number of entries of 22 mens doubles, 7 ladies doubles and 18 mixed doubles. There would have been more, but a cap had to be made to ensure the tournament adhered to the court times allocated. The tournament's format allowed for competitive play, exciting matchups, and a memorable experience for all participants.

The competitors' ages ranged from 14 to 60+ years old. While many players had only started playing for a few months at the start of the season, their confidence has grown throughout the months. When the tournament got underway, many people were nervous because it was their first time playing a competitive tournament, but those feelings quickly vanished and everyone's extraordinary excitement and camaraderie were evident. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces throughout the day.

We sincerely thank each and every participant; it must have required tremendous bravery for some to enter and complete the day. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped on the day, especially Swetha, Yash, and Dheeru, who helped the tournament organiser direct their players onto the appropriate court at the appropriate time and ensured that games ran smoothly. Thanks to Daanish who was on spot photographer for the day! Special thanks to Arissa and Lucie for presenting the trophies. This was only their second time presenting, and despite only being 8 and 9, they looked perfectly at home.

#### **Ladies Doubles:**

**Winners:** Ayesha and Darcey

**Runners-Up:** Afshan and Monal

#### **Mens Doubles:**

**Winners:** Parag and Tofail

**Runners-Up:** James and Sudip



#### **Mixed Doubles:**

**Winners:** Sreelakshmi and Sidney Luke

**Runners-Up:** Britanie and Parag

**Ajay Pitrola**





### **Adult League Doubles Tournament**

For the first time in several years the Leicestershire Badminton Association ran an adult league tournament, with all profits going towards the 2024 Celebration Evening.

24 Mens pairs, 6 Ladies pairs and 15 Mixed pairs took part, resulting in the following:

**Mens Winners:** Vai Rawji and Punit Modi; Runners Up Kiran Mistry and Anugu Reddy



**Ladies Winners:** Chloe Wilkins and Ella Haines; Runners Up Alice Moffatt and Jenny Haynes



**Mixed Winners:** Chloe Wilkins and Tom Pawley; Runners Up: Jenny Decker and Steve Heath



**Carole and Greg**

## LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2024/25

### 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 had just one win against Warwickshire. Well done to Vikesh Mody and Stefan Ljutzkanov for being unbeaten in all their games.

#### **O60 Team**

Having won the Midlands Division last season, there were high expectations this season and the team did not disappoint winning the Division **again** with 1 match to spare. Proving to have strength of depth in the mixed doubles, with 3 pairs undefeated Maurice and Loz, Andy and Jane and Barry and Debbie. So, they are off to the Championship Finals held at Birmingham University on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April. There they will play the winners of the North, South and South East Divisions.

#### **O65 Team**

The team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Midlands division with just 1 win. A warm welcome for Bryan Williams to Leicestershire badminton, having moved from Hampshire.

#### **O70 Team**

Once again, the team was placed in the North Division with Lancashire and Yorkshire, 2 very strong counties. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6 with 3 wins.

### Masters County Challenge (Held over the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of January)

We entered just 1 team:

#### **O70 Team**

This was their second year in the Premier Group, and they managed to retain their place in the top flight for another year. A great result for the 'Magnificent Seven' below.



Congratulations to Andy Longton O60 and Bryan Williams O65 who will receive their Masters **County colours**., showing it's never too late to join the Masters. Congratulations also to Sue Mahmood for reaching **100+** appearances.

Throughout the season there are MASTERS COMPETITIONS as detailed on

<https://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league?id=135717D7-2206-470A-9CF2-7E44FF19B226>

## LEICESTERSHIRE MASTERS REPORT 2024/25

Successes at the 107<sup>th</sup> YONEX All England Seniors (Masters) Championships 2025 held at Hatfield 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April

James White OS45 Silver

James and Simon White OD45 Silver

Mark King OD50 Silver / XD50 Bronze

Edward Hayes OD75 Silver / XD75 Silver

Not a bad haul for Leicestershire players. Congratulations.



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.

Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding Masters Teams or Masters Tournaments.

**Practice** / get to know the squad sessions will be held on Friday evenings 7.30 to 10pm at the LBA Hall Babington in **September**, please come along.



**Sue Mahmood Masters Co-ordinator 07879 023281**

**suemahmood@hotmail.co.uk**

## ADULT LEAGUE REPORT 2024/25

Whitwick

faced a greater challenge in the topflight **Ladies** division this season, with both Loughborough Leys and Meltonshire pushing them hard. However, they managed to retain their title. Croakers make a return to the topflight after comfortably winning division 2. Last years **Mens** division 1 champions Regal Arts were pipped at the post by Loughborough Town, whilst Loughborough Leys return to the topflight; remaining unbeaten in division 2. Division 3 winners, Leicester Aces seconds, now move up a division join their first team. Newcomers LBSC take division 4 at the first time of asking, whilst Feathers edge promotion in Division 5. On their return to the league, Panthers win Division 6, and to complete a fine season for the club, LBSC seconds comfortably top Division 7. Loughborough Town continue to dominate the **Mixed** league, once again retaining their topflight title. Loughborough Leys seconds make a return to Division 1, whilst Croakers enter new territory after comfortably winning Division 3. Ashby top Division 4 and Leicester University return to the mixed league with an unbeaten performance in Division 5. In the **Hall** league, Whitwick retain their title, edging out their nearest challengers Loughborough Leys.

After a very successful evening last year, the **LBA Celebration Night** returns to the Soar Point on Friday 16 May 2025. Further details are available from Sophie Connors (sophiemayconnors@outlook.com 07532 495448) for those who wish to celebrate the above successes, whether as winners or otherwise.

**Greg, LBA League Secretary**



## **Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association**



As Chairman of the Coaches Association, I would like to address an important priority for the future of badminton in our county: succession planning. With many of our experienced coaches nearing retirement, it is vital that we proactively prepare for the next generation of coaching talent. Collaboration among coaches at all levels, particularly at the grassroots, is key to achieving this goal. By working together, we can foster a supportive environment that encourages new coaches to join and thrive. This approach is essential not only for developing coaching excellence but also for attracting fresh, enthusiastic players who will strengthen the future of badminton in our county.

I extend my thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to this shared vision, and I look forward to seeing our efforts bring lasting growth to the sport we all cherish.

### **Saturday No Strings Badminton and Adult Coaching – Babington Academy (Social Play 6-8pm, Adult coaching 8-9pm)**

Now in its 13th year, the Saturday No Strings session continues to flourish as a welcoming space for players of all levels. This year, we've seen an impressive number of new participants joining and enjoying the session. The adult coaching has been a fantastic complement, encouraging many attendees to take the next step and join local badminton clubs. We're proud of the positive impact this session has on our badminton community and look forward to its ongoing success. For additional details regarding the sessions, kindly visit [www.lbabadminton.org](http://www.lbabadminton.org).



### **Community Badminton Sessions, off Keyham Lane, Leicester, LE5 1FY (Tuesday 6-7pm, Saturday 10-11am)**

Now in their second year, the community badminton sessions have continued to grow and establish themselves as a sustainable part of our local sports calendar. These sessions have played a vital role in introducing new players to the sport, fostering a welcoming environment that encourages participation and enjoyment. With increasing numbers and a strong foundation, these sessions are not just about playing badminton—they're about building a community. We look forward to seeing this initiative thrive further and inspire even more people to pick up a racket.

**Ajay, Chair**





## Leicestershire Schools' Badminton Association

### **Chairman's Report for the - 2024/2025 Season.**

A few words for my final Chairmans report.

I will retiring from the Chairmans position at the end of this season. However, I will not be losing contact with the Association.

As from the start of next season I will be taking up the position of President. I see this as an honorary role enabling me to keep in touch with the Junior Badminton in the County.

I would like to thank members of the Association for their hard work and dedication for last season and in the future.

**Dave Armstrong.**  
**LSBA Chairman & President elect.**



### **LBA Women's Network**

This year our Women's Network has grown with members from 4 clubs across the county. It has been a slow and steady growth, and we are still encouraging female representatives from Leicestershire clubs to join our group to improve provisions for women's players across the county.

In recent weeks, the Women's Network has met to plan and organise a Women's Only event which will take place over the summer, to officially launch the network and encourage new and exciting existing players to come together and socialise across all levels of participation. Further details relating to this event will be communicated with clubs in the coming months.

If any female representatives would like to join our network please get in contact with Sophie Connors on 07532 495448.

**Sophie Connors**  
**LBA Committee Member**

Contact email: [sophiemayconnors@outlook.com](mailto:sophiemayconnors@outlook.com)



## Performance Centre (PC)



### Growing pool of players

This season we introduced a new programme at PC which allows us to keep a bigger pool of players at the bottom and we called it Foxes. We run the sessions three times a week to accommodate young and talented U12 Leicestershire players who train regularly with our qualified and experienced coaches. Hopefully they will be ready to compete soon. As a result of not having to wait a whole season, we already have players competing in National tournaments as well as some getting selected for the U13 Shire's team. We have about 80 players registered in the Leicestershire PC system. Over 70% are competing nationally, as well as members playing regularly in the various age groups of the Shires league.

### National Age Group Tournament Medallists

- Veer Radia won the bronze medal in boys double at U11 National Championship.
- Mutiara Mandala won two gold medals in singles and doubles and silver in mixed at the U13 National Championship.
- Joshua Tang won the bronze medal in doubles at the U15 National Championship.
- George Clare won the gold medal in mixed doubles at the U17 National Championship.
- George Clare won bronze in doubles at the U19 National Championship.
- Other players from our future, developing and emerging players, are regularly competing at age groups U11 bronze, U13 bronze, U15 bronze and U17 bronze; all winning medals on multiple occasions. As such, their gradings and rankings move up, enabling them to compete in silver and gold tournaments.

### Getting invited to England Junior Performance Program (EJPP) Camp

It's one of the biggest achievements as a PC, having players recognised and getting invited to the EJPP camp. This allows players to get selected for international competitions as well as other major international events. For the first time we have Veer Radia getting invited to the U11 EJPP camp, and other regular top players like George Clare, Katie Hoult and Mutiara Mandala are on the radar of Badminton England.

### Coaching Team

We have great team coaches and also younger coaches that are passionate about junior development, covering some 121 sessions. It is also such a privilege to have Anthony Clark helping with the emerging group offering high intensity training and improving the level of the players' games.

**Atu**



### Rowland Tatton

Rowland Tatton played badminton for over 65 years; unbelievable isn't it, and what a player he was in his youth. Not only did Rowland appear in our leagues for many years, he also shared his knowledge as a coach with hundreds of players.

His enthusiasm for the sport and his encouraging manner, inspired so many young players to pick up a racket in both Leisure centres and in the primary schools.

He loved working with the youngsters, enough to run an 8am breakfast club for many years in a local primary school.

He also got involved in many badminton related activities, and was a Badminton England umpire for many years and chair of the Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association.

The Leicestershire Badminton Association recognised Rowland's commitment and dedication to badminton in the county and showed this by presenting him with a very well-deserved award for his services to badminton, which he was really pleased to receive. Rowland is a true Badminton man, who gave so much to the sport.

I am sure he won't mind me telling you this, he has now celebrated his 90th year on this earth and looking good.

Happy 90th birthday Rowland, and thanks for all your hard work and dedication to Badminton over many years.



### **The LBA Committee and its Membership**

#### Websites:

**Leicestershire Badminton Association:**

**[www.lbabadminton.org](http://www.lbabadminton.org)**

**Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association:**

**[www.leicestershiresba.co.uk](http://www.leicestershiresba.co.uk)**

As another season comes to an end, I would like to congratulate all the clubs that have gained promotion and to thank all the Badminton volunteers who give their time to ensure everything runs smoothly within the clubs and County. I would also like to thank Sue Mahmood, who will be leaving us at the end of the season. Sue has been a member of the LBA committee as the Master Fixtures Secretary for many years and has done a brilliant job encouraging players to take part in the Masters leagues and ensuring all the fixtures are in place. I am sure all the teams will join me in thanking Sue for all her hard work and dedication to Leicestershire Badminton, and wish her well.



We feel Leicestershire has a good joined up approach to badminton. The County Badminton Association, the Schools Association, the Coaches Association and the Performance Centre, all work well together as 'Team Leicestershire'. Not all Counties are so lucky, but to hold everything together and move forward we will need "younger " people to take on roles within the committees. I know personally how difficult that can be, whilst juggling work commitments and family life. Hopefully as children get older their parents might take the reins and become the next generation of badminton volunteers.

Congratulations to the County Senior first team for holding their place in the top flight premier league of badminton. The county second team has had a brilliant season by securing promotion to the Championship league. Also, well done to the third team who were promoted last season and have retained their position in the Division. Congratulations to the 17 to 21yrs county players who travelled to York to represent Leicestershire at the Railway Institute. The team fought hard, but unfortunately just missed out on the top place and had to be satisfied with the silver medals. The County juniors have also had a great season. The U13, U15, U17 & U19 teams all secured places in the playoffs and finals of the Shires Leagues. The Under 17yrs team had a great end to their season by winning the Shires Leagues title. **Top team** in the country, what an achievement!

A BIG congratulations also to the U18 team who finished in 3rd place in the prestigious Inter Counties Tournament. All the players played their part in this fantastic result, and most will have another chance to do their best to improve on that position in the 2026 event.

Despite sitting on many committees, my real passion is coaching, working with the children and promoting the sport, especially in the primary schools. It's a great feeling seeing them enjoying the opportunity to try a sport that is not normally taught in a primary school. I will be continuing with this work again next season. Our junior clubs, performance centre and the county are doing a great job bringing through some very talented young players. We are already seeing many of these players playing in the league clubs. I think you will agree Leicestershire are doing pretty well. Let's keep it that way, and work together to ensure we continue to thrive.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our 2025 newsletter. Have a good Summer.

Cheers Carole

**The LBA Celebration Evening is on FRIDAY MAY 16<sup>th</sup>. To get tickets see your club Secretary.**