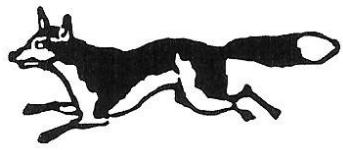


# LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN 2013/2014

Date: May 2014

## TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE

It's been the first year of the newly formed "Team Leicestershire" which is a collaboration of The Schools Association, the Coaches association, the LBA and the Performance Centre (PC). The LSBA shares the responsibility for the delivery of the Performance Centre programme and has been an integral part to the development of the Team Leicestershire concept. Team Leicestershire has essentially ensured greater cooperation between the different sections of Leicestershire Badminton to improve the experience for players. An independent Chair has been recruited and a representative committee formed. During the last few months a constitution has been agreed, a draft development plan has been produced, stronger links between junior and senior county representative squads has been achieved, a new head coach has been appointed and a new business plan has been

produced and rationalisation of the development squads has taken place. There are nine Level 2 qualified coaches supporting a four-tier coaching programme – delivering 24 hours of high quality coaching per week, catering for over 100 players a week. It's important that these talented players are members of senior clubs and go on to represent Leicestershire in their adult lives, Mark King, the county captain, is encouraging this to happen, starting by integrating the young players into the senior county training night. We are also really lucky to have Anthony Clark coaching the young players, his experience as a player goes without saying, and to have such a player working with our youngsters is brilliant. His coaching techniques are well received and appreciated. The coaches are also benefiting from working with Anthony, by attending annual workshops/seminars.

## Over 40s National County Challenge Champions

Leicestershire Over 40s have had another hugely successful season. Unbeaten in the East Midlands league, a repeat of last season's play off ensued against West Midlands' winners Worcestershire. A pretty comfortable 8-4 win secured the team a place at the National Finals in Lilleshall on 26/27 April.

Leicestershire were drawn against Cheshire in their semi-final on Day 1 of the finals weekend. The score was tied at 4-4 entering into the Mixed Doubles, which were then shared two matches all. The result would be decided on countback of games won and Leicestershire narrowly won by just 13 games to 12. Sunday's

final was going to be a tough one against a strong Essex side. Again, the match was tied 4-4 after the Mens and Ladies Doubles but unfortunately the Essex mixed pairs were too strong and Leicestershire picked up only one of the Mixed matches. Final result was 7-5 to Essex, meaning Leicestershire finished the season as runners-up.

January saw the Masters County Challenge weekend in Worcester and, having been newly promoted to the Premier division last year, the team faced a potentially difficult weekend ahead. Day One started with a 3-1 victory over Essex, followed by a 2-2 draw with Surrey (one of the strongest teams in the competition) and ended with another 3-1 win against Gloucestershire.



*continued over ...*

## **Team Leicestershire New Head Coach - Tom Armstrong**

This year sees Team Leicestershire's coaches under the supervision of a new head coach Tom Armstrong. Many of you will know Tom, not just as (Dave Armstrong's son) but as a brilliant player who started training as a youngster with the LSBA representing Leicestershire up to the age of 17yrs. He then progressed into a very experienced adult player who has been a 1<sup>st</sup> team County player for many years. Tom has just returned from New Zealand where he has spent three years in full time positions.

Coach Force Development Officer for Badminton in the Bay of Plenty Region followed by Coaching Manager for Auckland Badminton Association involved running and overseeing a team of coaches (10+)

Head Coach for the New Zealand U19s National team including the Australian Youth Olympics in 2013 and the Oceania Championships, Tahiti National Coach in preparation for the Pacific Games Multi Sport Championships in 2011.

A member of New Zealand Coaching Advisory Panel which involved being part of working groups to shape the future of badminton strategy in the country.

While taking up full time roles he also combined various other roles including Badminton New Zealand High Performance Coach and being preparation training and planning, culminating in the team taking part in the Games.

**Welcome back to Leicestershire Tom!**



### **Over 40s National County Champions *continued ...***

Day 2 began with a convincing 4-0 win over Bedfordshire. A subsequent 3-1 win over Kent put the team top of the table and just needing a final victory over favourites Cheshire to win the title. The team battled hard and it all came down the final Mixed game, a nail-biting three ender which ended victorious and making Leicestershire the Over 40s National Masters County Challenge Champions. A fantastic and proud achievement for all involved.

Players: Carl Jennings, Mark King, Tom Kuhn, John Cooper, Phil Hector, Maurice Roberts, Steve Heath, Jane Cleaver (C), Jenny Gallacher, Heather Hadley, Alison Welch, Neera Bakrania, Sheryl Williams, Sarah Gamble, Lorraine Marlow, Jane Rayner, Katie Hayes, Cathy Buckler.

*Jane Cleaver*

## **“There is no “I” in Teamwork”**

What makes a truly great badminton club? Success in the leagues? Fun social events? A commitment to investing in its junior players? Financial security?

I would say yes to all the above but more importantly I think a club's greatest strengths is its members and we must never forget that. Some brainy chap called Aristotle once said that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" and I think that applies to any club or team where the final product far exceeds the sum of individual contributions. Loughborough Leys Badminton club has 40 senior (some more senior than others!) members and a thriving junior club. We are Club Mark accredited and have teams in all the top divisions but these things don't just happen by chance; we are very fortunate in that we have members who are passionate about our sport and who are willing to go that extra mile; I am grateful to all of them.

Attracting new members is something that all clubs are committed to and Loughborough Leys is no exception. We probably however hold the world record this season for the shortest time a visitor has joined us before finishing up in Casualty: one game and three points of another before completely rupturing her Achilles tendon. Do you think we should have asked her for her visitors' fee before she left?

*Jane Rayner (Loughborough Leys)*

# A YEAR IN LEICESTERSHIRE

## Head Coach Report

This year has seen many positive changes to the Leicestershire Performance Centre and along with this many challenges. The formation of the Team Leicestershire collective has given us all a great sense of togetherness and shared vision of a successful county badminton set up. Steve Higgins leaving his role as Head Coach and moving on to a new career has left a big hole for me and the other coaches to fill. Steve has been an ever positive presence in Leicestershire for many years and has been the main driving forces behind our Performance Centre since its inception all those years ago, I for one wish him all the best in his future endeavours and hope to see him back in the county at some point in the future. As many of you know I am now juggling the Head Coach role with a full time Sports Development role based in Lincoln, and while the A46 has become my 2<sup>nd</sup> home, I feel that the many miles of travel are worth it to continue the good work that has gone before me in the last four years.

As the newly appointed head coach I was thrust straight into the role right at the start of the season along with some new faces on the Team Leicestershire committee. A

big thank you to Mark King for bringing me up to speed with the last three years and Noel Haines and the rest of the committee for their hard work! As some of you know I have been away overseas plying my trade as a badminton coach. I was originally part of the PC when it first started, working alongside Steve and can honestly say I was impressed by how much the players I worked with all those years ago had come on as players, and how fast they had grown up (also how much some of them can now talk when they used to be mutes!). This again is testament to the PC structure and the commitment from the players.

Like I said at the beginning of this report, this year has seen many changes, moving all sessions to our fantastic facility at Babington, session timings changing and players moving on, but we mustn't lose track of the goals of our PC and what a PC is there for - to ensure everything is in place for players to meet and exceed their potential. Whether that's a world champion or school champion, the goal is the same - High Quality Performance badminton training. This can only be achieved through dedication- from players, coaches and parents, hard work - on and off the court and

most important, to enjoy what you are doing. As a county and as a collective I feel we are still working towards these goals and look forward to bringing the whole Team Leicestershire into shared vision of badminton excellence.

Myself and the committee are looking forward to reviewing the year and making sure we hit the ground running over the summer and for next season. It has been a steep learning curve for us, with some successes and also some areas of improvement but seeing our players improving and playing with a smile on their face really reassures us that we on the right path. Badminton England still see the Performance Centre structures as key to their performance strategy, however with a national review currently underway, we need to make sure we are always striving to improve. Finally, thank you to the coaches and all the hours they put in, special mention to Sam Ward who has left the PC this year to start a new career, I know for a fact that all the players, but girls especially, loved having such a talented player and coach involved. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the PC this year and I look forward to working with you in the future.

*Tom*

## NICK TWELLS

Award Winner of the NWL Young Athlete of the Year



## NEW THIS SEASON Under 11yrs

Counties are encouraging younger players into the game, there are now many National under 11yrs tournaments included in the calendar. Having been to a few this season, I was surprised at the good standard of play. Players as young as 9 years old are competing in these events and showing good potential. Leicestershire has got to keep up with other counties and identify talent in the primary schools. Greg and I go into many primaries and the children are interested in badminton, we just need to get them into the junior clubs where they can learn and improve their skills. At the moment we do have quite a few young players coming through, some are entering the national tournaments, which is really bringing on their game on. It was felt this year was the year to launch a Leicestershire under 11 years County Championships. I am pleased to say that Cups have been donated by parents and friends of the Association and we look forward to the event on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

## The Primary Midway League

Last season our under 11yrs team travelled to Sheffield to compete in the Primary Midway league to represent Leicestershire. Most of the players had never been in a tournament before, they were up against tough opponents, but they didn't let that put them off, they were there to enjoy the day and gain tournament experience and they definitely did that. This year we sent a team of five boys and five girls which included some new faces.

The team: Tilly Dale, Jess Rogers, Eve Durance, Jess Allan Tamsin Betts, Owen King, Luke Hoult, Rowan Clark, Tom Patterson-Watts and Sameer Chenia - and didn't they do themselves and the County proud! Their fighting team spirit got them a Silver medal, coming second to Warwickshire. All the team played their part in a successful day's badminton. Their faces were a picture to see when collecting their medals. Everyone was delighted with the result, a fantastic achievement. A team to watch out for I am sure.

What difference a year makes!!!

Amie Hoult Under 11 Team Manager



# 25 YEARS OF WHITWICK JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB

I cannot believe it's been 25 years that I have been getting up every Saturday morning to run the club. Over the years I have seen many youngsters enjoying the game, watched them progress and grow into adult players, many have made good league and county players which has been fantastic to see. At the moment our current membership is 48 players of all ages some as young as 4 years old, give them a racket as soon as they can hold one I say!

Of course I don't run the club on my own I have lots of youngsters who are always keen to help, many parents who support the children, adult volunteers helping with the administration, Pete and Chris Hall help me with the coaching and of course my reliable daughter. The success of any club is in the commitment given by the members, parents and volunteers, thanks to you all.

After 25 years I still love working with the children, so will continue to do so until I can't, but there is one thing for sure it won't be for another 25 years!!!



## New Junior Club

Members of Hoton BC approached me for help to set up a junior section, music to my ears!

The club wanted to start a junior section but had no qualified coaches in the club so help was needed from an external coach until some of the members could take the courses needed to run the session. We started by accessing a small grant from Badminton England to help to pay for courts, and a coach. It took a while to get started, they had an average of 10 players attending. To help to improve on this we decided to link Shepshed High School, Hindley's College and two primary schools to the club by offering coaching in the schools, funded by a Sportivate application and the Charnwood Community Badminton Network budget. The schools' accessed six weeks coaching from a Level 2 coach and a competition was held for the primary schools, which was well attended. The difference the coaching in the schools made took everyone by surprise, the club has

been inundated with new players, and now has an average of 28 attending weekly.

Members of the club are already beginning to show great promise. Sophie Watson (under 10yrs) has won two non-county tournaments this season and is now training with the County. Likewise, Louie Stevenson has been successful in getting first place in two tournaments and other young players are showing good promise and entering the tournaments. Well done to all of them.

Eddie and Alan have now taken their Level 1 courses and Eddie booked onto a Level 2 course. The drive and commitment from Bal, Eddie and Alan has been at the forefront of this being a success. These guys really do want this to work and are committed to Junior Development which I am sure will show in the membership in a few years. It's not a quick fix!

**Carole**

## Leicestershire's Success in the Under 12s National Tournament

Leicestershire players shone in the 2014 National U12s doubles tournament which was held at Babington College this season.

The semi-finals were dominated by Leicestershire's boys pairs, all four pairs battling it out for place in the final.

The eventual winners of this event were Joe Goodenough and Sameer Chenia who, throughout the day, didn't lose a game. Harry Clare and Ollie Brown got the runners up position.



## Community Games 2013

The badminton community Games first started in the year of the Olympics, since that memorable year we have hosted the 2013 Badminton Games and intend to do it again this year. Teams are invited from around the county to compete in a community event that includes all levels of players. Funding for this event has been achieved again this year. Venue: The Hermitage Leisure Centre on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2014.



## **Community Badminton Networks (CBN)**

We have two CBNs in Leicestershire, one in the City and one in Charnwood. CBNs are made up of people that work in sport locally, the Local Authorities, Schools, Colleges, Clubs and coaches. The groups work together to plan and develop badminton at all levels.

Badminton England support the groups by staff to advise and invest funding on a yearly basis to help deliver badminton activities and to promote their new initiatives.

Play Badminton is being rolled out at Leisure Centres all over the country and incorporates programmes Smash Up, Battle Badminton, No Strings and Essentials coaching courses. The City CBN is under the experienced eye of Greg who chairs the meeting. I oversee the Charnwood CBN.

*Carole*

## **THE SCHOOLS LEAGUES RESULTS**

### **Under 14yrs Boys**

Loughborough Grammar

### **Under 14yrs Girls**

Market Bosworth

### **Under 16yrs Boys**

Loughborough Grammar

### **Under 16yrs Girls**

Beauchamp College

### **Under 18 Boys**

Loughborough Grammar

### **Under 18yrs Girls**

Guthlaxton College

## **"NO STRINGS" sessions at Babington College**

Every Saturday night at Babington College many players are enjoying their badminton under the supervision of Ajay Pitrola at the No Strings session. The sessions are very popular, and have an average attendance of 20 players weekly. This session is open to abilities, 16 years. No booking required, just turn up at 6pm -7-30pm, Ajay will make you very welcome.



## **Greg Howes**

### **Leicester City Development Officer & Coach**

Greg is doing a fantastic job of recruiting the young players, he works in many schools in the city including primary, secondary and Colleges, he is always enthusiastic and encouraging and continually promoting badminton. He also runs schools tournaments including the LSBA Leagues. He is the Chairman of the City Community Badminton network group and the treasurer of the Coaches Association, and as most of you know he is also the League Secretary!!

As if this isn't enough he also writes applications for the funding to work in the schools and colleges. A very busy man!

Thanks Greg, you are doing a great job.



## **Report from 'The Badminton Man'**

I have now completed four years as Leicester City Coaching and Development Officer, working both for the Leicestershire Badminton Association and as a self-employed coach. These are the highlights of my involvement during the current year, so far.

### **Primary Schools**

The year 2013/14 started with a big question mark – will the primary schools invest a significant amount of their Government windfall in badminton. In the last four years a considerable sum of money had been directed by me to primary schools, in conjunction with the local Sports Partnerships. In other words they'd had coaching free of charge. I'm pleased to report that a fair number of primary schools have now reciprocated and invested in badminton and, as I'm often referred to, 'the Badminton Man'.

First to sign up this year to badminton were Overdale, Knighton Fields and Montrose. After the standard 6 weeks of coaching a tournament was held at Aylestone Leisure Centre last

October, supported by Liz Kendall MP. The winners were Anzar Rahat and Sahil Baghela from Overdale. Next in line were Forest Lodge, Mowmacre and Woodstock. Their tournament in January at Leicester Leys Leisure Centre was won by Piotr Ciosek and Amal Biju from Forest Lodge.



On to February and March and Rushey Mead, Sandfield Close and yet again Knighton Fields contested a tournament at Soar Valley Community College. Harman Purewal and Akash Thaker from Rushey Mead won the event, Harman saying that 'he felt like he'd won the FA Cup!'

At the time of writing, next term will see Foxton, Fleckney and Lubbenham involved in projects culminating in a tournament at Kibworth High School; Thurnby Lodge, Linden and Medway competing in a tournament at Judgemeadow Community College; and, the finale of the year, the Top Schools Tournament being held at Aylestone Leisure Centre on 4th July.

## Sportivate

### Secondary Schools & FE Colleges

Participants: WQE College, Gateway College, Leicester College, Regent College, Judgemeanow CC, Moat CC, Crown Hills CC & Rushey Mead School.

I'm delighted to report that through significant funding by Sport England (via Leicestershire & Rutland Sport) and our local Community Badminton Network, coaching projects were carried out by myself and my colleague, Maurice Roberts, from September last year through to Easter. The culmination of these events is The Colleges Doubles Tournament which was hosted by Moat CC. In 2013, a record 48 students took part. This year the record was smashed with 74 taking part. The winners were Namrata Gajoram and Kajal Bagan (girls) from Moat and Abdulaziz Ibrahim and Kierandeep Dhami (boys) from Gateway.



#### Babington's Singles Ladder

Every Wednesday morning from 7.30am around 15-20 students from Babington Community College take to the courts for a singles competition. Each term a final is held for the top players on the ladder.

Dominating this event for some time has been one young man, Navik Arvin, one of the best young players outside of the county squads.

#### Central Leicester's Junior Club

##### Gartree High School

Set up in 2007 with a grant from Voluntary Action Leicester, my own club's junior section has continued to be fully subscribed with 24 members. A number of players have either joined our adult club or moved to county coaching. One significant feature has been the equal number of girls to boys – a rare thing in the past, but encouraging for the future.

#### Central Leicester's Junior Club

##### Babington CC

Set up in 2011, with funding from Change4Life, the club has grown to the extent of now being fully subscribed with 25 members and a waiting list. Enquiries are received every week from local parents wishing to place their sons and daughters with a badminton club. Head Coach is my colleague, Ajay Pitrola.

## Huncote Junior Club

In 2009 Carole and I approached the Pavilion in Huncote offering to start a junior club. Since its subsequent inception back then, nine of the current county under 13 A and B squads have attended the Huncote club. Currently we have a new intake of seven girls and three boys.

## SSC Junior Club

Commenced last year with funding from the Badminton Association and in conjunction with the Soar Valley College. Around a dozen local juniors are involved in weekly coaching sessions.

## Olympic's Junior Club

Commenced at Beaumont Leys School in February, this has seven members and is looking to grow. Enquiries to Central are now being directed to this new club.

As Match Secretary for the Leicestershire Adult League, a league player and a Leicestershire Masters player, my week is filled with badminton – or so my wife says. Good job we both love the sport.

**Greg**

## Coaches Seminar

Another successful Coaches seminar was held in December 2013 with Guest coach Anthony Clark, 20 coaches enjoyed the experience of working with Anthony and are keen to do it again, and a second seminar is booked for June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 at Babington College.

## The Secondary Schools Badminton League

I have just completed my fourth year as Match Secretary for the Leicestershire Schools Badminton League, which, as far as we know, is the largest schools league in the country. Around 300 matches involving over 50 secondary schools are played during the academic year. Regional winners meet at Babington prior to Easter for Finals Day.

For details of this year's results see [www.leaguerepublic.com](http://www.leaguerepublic.com).

## Judgemeadow's Junior Club

In conjunction with Oadby Badminton Club I have coached up to a dozen students from Judgemeadow over the last 18 months, some of which are now capable of competing alongside the adult members.

## MELTON OG'S JUNIOR'S CLUB

This year the junior Club has again been consistently attended throughout the season, having between 12 & 14 junior's each week in attendance from a Club list of 18 players. This is an improvement on last years eight from about 12 members. This year we ran a set number of sessions for the junior's pre & post-Christmas, totalling 15 sessions.

We had a full programme of techniques and court play, mixing it up for the different age groups. We also ran the BISI bag a couple of times as this proved very popular for all ages. We also had two junior's invited to Senior Club this year, Tristan Aley and Sam Harris, who have both done well and will be invited as intermediates next season. Sam Harris was also invited to County coaching through schools badminton.

I would like to thank Trevor, Christine, Neil and Jackie and all those who have supported the club throughout the year.

**Alison**



# **U13 National Champion - Hope Warner**

A fantastic achievement for Leicestershire's Hope Warner at the English National Badminton Championships in Milton Keynes in April this year. The top seed was crowned U13 singles and level doubles champion also winning a well deserved Silver medal in mixed doubles.



Hope, aged 12, first picked up a badminton racket at around the age of three. While Dad (Steve) was playing on a Friday night, Hope would stand at the back of the court and 'hit' with Mum (Becky) with a small racket! She enjoyed it so much they started booking courts when they could and, on one of these occasions, was spotted by Graham Forryan at Enderby Leisure Centre who suggested she come along to Babington on a Saturday morning.

Hope started training at Babington from around the age of six, managed to get into the county team a couple of years later and made lots of badminton friends along the way. At age nine she started competing on the national U11 Junior Circuit. The following season, she became U11 English National girl's singles champion and runner up in the doubles.

A few months later, she travelled to Belgium and won the Girls Doubles title at the Junior Olve tournament. Six months later she was selected to represent the England U13's at the Danish Cup in Denmark, winning a bronze medal in the team tournament, and has since been selected to represent the England U13's at the Aros Cup 2013 in Denmark, the Refrath Cup 2013 in Germany (silver medal in the singles) the Danish Cup 2013 again in Denmark (bronze medals in the mixed and level doubles and a bronze medal in the team tournament) and for the England v Denmark friendly in February 2014. She travelled to Hoensbroek in the Netherlands in December 2013 and won a bronze medal in the singles and doubles and gold in the team tournament. She's also just been selected to represent the England U14's in the Home Countries tournament in Wales in May.

Hope attended the English National Age Group Championships in April 2014 and became the U13 English National Champion at both girl's singles and girl's doubles and runner up in the mixed.

Hope trains three times a week, usually in Derby, where the current U13 England coach runs a group and the England Performance Training takes place with Donna Kellogg. Over the past five years Hope's received some top quality individual coaching from Neil Cooper, Anthony Clark and Andy Wood. On the days when she's not on court, Hope usually does some strength and conditioning work to make sure she's fit for playing.



The LSBA / Team Leicestershire also run trials days, this year's trials are scheduled to take place at Babington College on June 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

## **SHIRES LEAGUE RESULTS**

Under 13yrs - 9th  
Under 15yrs - 8th  
Under 17yrs - 20th

## **NORTH MIDWAY LEAGUES**

Under 11yrs Primary - 2nd  
Under 12yrs - 5th  
Under 14yrs - 4th  
Under 16yrs - 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Under 15s Squad**

Rachel Wen, Joe Hill, Chloe Wilkins,  
Nick Twells, Zoe King, Hope Warner, Wembley Prince,  
Sam Wood, Jai Chanderana.

## LEICESTER OVER 60s MASTERS TEAM



Leicester Over 60s Masters team completed a successful season by coming third for the third successive season in the English Masters County Championships held at Lilleshall on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Having qualified for the semi-finals as undefeated Midlands champions they were drawn against Lancashire on the Saturday and suffered an 11-1 defeat to a team with four English internationals. The score, however, did not reflect the game with seven of the rubbers going to three sets and often decided by only the final two points. Undaunted the team came out fighting on the Sunday and in a closely fought match beat Devon 7-5 to take third place. Greg Howes and Edward Hayes who had picked up the only rubber on

the Saturday returned a maximum on the Sunday as the men won three out of four rubbers. The ladies struggled however and only managed one win through Cathy Buckler and Jan Thomson. At four rubbers each the mixed performance proved to be the key factor with Cathy Buckler & Dave Watts, Jan Thomson & Greg Howes and Audrey Preston and Richard Dayman all winning and only Carole Spencer and Edward Hayes suffering defeat to the Devon first pair.

**Edward Hayes**  
Captain

## LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR COUNTY 2013-14

It is great to report that the senior county 1<sup>st</sup> team have bounced straight back from last year's relegation, the team led by Tom Armstrong convincingly won their division and then beat both Surrey and Hampshire teams to get promoted in the playoffs. Well done to everyone involved. The team should now aim to re-establish themselves as a solid division 1 team challenging for promotion to the premier division.

The county 2<sup>nd</sup> team led by Holly Mee came so close to promotion, but in the end it was just beyond them this year. Again well done to all that played and I'm sure they will be pushing for promotion next year. It would also be good to see players in the 2<sup>nd</sup>'s challenging for places in the 1<sup>st</sup> team next year.

The county 3<sup>rd</sup> team have had the hardest year, not only the most matches but also the most injuries to key players in the team. Led by Louise Lester the team has battled all year, but unfortunately ended up being relegated. I hope the 3<sup>rd</sup>'s will bounce back next year and dominate their division.

The county 4<sup>th</sup> team led by Ashley Bolstridge also had a tough year and are in need of new players for next year (especially girls). A number of players have already come forward but it would be great to get more involved. So if you would like to get involved with the county please come along to training and enter the county restricted.

Overall 'Team Leicestershire' is doing well and it is great to see county players be it juniors, seniors or masters players in the same hoodies playing for Leicestershire with pride this year. I look forward to next season where I hope we can develop 'Team Leicestershire', get more people involved in the county and of course win!

I hope to see you at county 'club night' next season (starts 3<sup>rd</sup> September - every Wednesday 7-10 pm) and the restricted (singles Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, doubles and mixed Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Mark King - County Captain**

# HARBOROUGH LC JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB



(Affiliated to Badminton England for the 2013/14 season as JNR/1403)



Brief Resume of Club (24 April 2014)

In July 2013 Ray Phipkin (Head Coach) formed the only Junior Badminton club in the Market Harborough area available for players aged 8 to under 16. The continuing development of "Harborough LC Junior Badminton Club" in January 2014 lead to the forming of a club committee which includes both male and female Welfare Officers with a Paramedic as the First Aid Leader. With a Constitution, Code of Conducts & Welcome Leaflets the club received from Badminton England accreditation on 24 April 2014 as a Premier (Clubmark) Club. Joint ventures between Harborough District Council and the club on "Sportivate", a "Satellite Club" and "Try a Sport" projects have introduced badminton into the community. These projects also continue to help to have new members join the weekly Wednesday night one hour session to which we now have 23 Junior Badminton England members of which 16 regularly attend. With Level 1 and 2 coaches in attendance the four courts are now used by players of beginner and intermediate ability levels. A competition by members to design a club badge and select a shirt colour means they will soon have their own distinctive club shirt. Over the next year, the club's strategy will be to work with local Junior Schools to give younger children a taste and fun of the sport that hopefully means more weekly sessions are required to meet the demand and age groups of all members.



## Zoe King

Zoe King has had a successful busy season for both county and in national tournaments. For county Zoe has played for all four senior county teams, U15, U17 and U17 ICT, including winning all her games on debut for the county 1<sup>st</sup> team. In tournaments Zoe has played a mixture of U15 and U17 events picking up five gold medals with Wembley Prince in doubles and another seven medals across singles and doubles. At the U15 nationals Zoe reached the last 16 in the singles and, in the doubles with Wembley, lost a close fought quarter final match.



## **U13 REPORT**

A total of eleven players have represented the county in the Shires League matches, Martin Beynon, Ella Haines, Tom Cowperthwaite, Jasmin Bullock, Jack Durrance, Eve Dale, Tom Lund, Jolie Haywood, Marcus Kilby, Mia Clark and Daniel Youngs. The first five matches were against Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire and the team were unbeaten at this point. Their very last match was against the mighty Buckinghamshire! The team rose to the occasion and I'm very proud to report although the team were beaten on the day, 15-5, they were not 'defeated' and the Bucks manager was heard to say, 'this was the toughest match they had had all season and that she had had some heart stopping moments throughout the day!'. The team came a very creditable eighth place in the Shires League and are due to play in the semi-finals against Essex on Sunday 4th May for a place in the finals!! Nine out of the eleven team members have also been very active and successful on the Badminton England Junior Circuit playing in U13 and U15 Bronze tournaments winning many medals between them. Martin and Ella competed in one U13 Gold tournament and Martin and Tom C competed in the U13 National tournament at Milton Keynes. Eight players competed this weekend in the U14 Rising Stars competition with Tom Lund coming away with a silver medal in the boys singles B competition. Altogether a very successful season!

**Laura Cowperthwaite & Mark Beynon**

U13 Team Managers



### **Leicestershire U12s win 19-1 against Warwickshire**



## **TOUGH SEASON FOR U17 COUNTY SQUAD (we draw with the top two County teams in the UK)**

When the draw came out for the shire league games 2013-14 we knew we it was going to be a tough year for the U17 drawing with the top two county teams, Yorkshire 1 and Buckinghamshire 1.

The season's first match was with Northants where we had an easy win 19 to 1, next was Buckinghamshire, we knew this was going to be a hard match, we lost 12-4, but then due to a dispute as one of the players was ranked wrong we gained four games, but still lost 12-8. The next match was away against Yorkshire, again we knew this was going to be difficult match, we lost 19-1. The team bounced back with a win against our next match against Lincolnshire, we won on games, as the match finished 10 all, but as they say a win is a win!

Our 5th match was against Shropshire where we won 16-4. Our last match was with Nottinghamshire which I could not make, Chris Hall ran this match for me. We lost 13-7. Thanks Chris for helping me out.

The under 17 squad came in 20th place out of 39 in the Shires league. The team really did well as we only had two true U17 players, one U16 player the rest were players from the U15 squad.

I would like to thank all players for the great behaviour throughout all the matches and the parents who helped me out with transport and tea making at home matches throughout the year. I will miss managing the junior teams as this was my last season with the U17 team ☺!

**Mahendra Mistry**

## LOUGHBOROUGH LEYS JUNIOR BADMINTON

Loughborough Leys Junior Badminton Club continues to attract young beginners into the world of Badminton, currently with 44 members divided over 3 age group sessions.

Our under 12 year old session thriving with 18 members, but with only 5 girls to this group we would like to encourage more girls to join. Our under 12 twin boys James and Finn O'Brien regularly attending county training.

In contrast the over 12 year old session is predominantly girls, outnumbering the boys 2 to 1. With 15 members to this session brother and sister team Tom and Isabel Patterson-Watts along with county player Jasmine Bullock are keen to improve further, with all 3 going to county training having progressed from our under 12's session.

The over 14 year old session will unfortunately lose members in the summer term to exams, we will encourage our talented under 14's to attend this session to give them a good summer challenge. With 12 members currently and possible 2 new members starting it will create a good challenge for our talented under 14's.

For more information about Loughborough Leys Junior Badminton Club please contact Dave at:  
[juniors@loughborougleys.co.uk](mailto:juniors@loughborougleys.co.uk)  
or visit our website at:  
<http://www.loughborougleys.co.uk/>

## NON-COUNTY JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS



Every year we host three doubles and one singles tournament for non-county players, under 10 to under 16 years.

These tournaments are a brilliant way to identify our talented players, especially at the younger age group. We are always on the lookout for new players of all ages to invite to Team Leicestershire training sessions which run every night of the week at Babington College.



## SCHOOL SUCCESSES

### Loughborough Grammar School

Frank Timson (Coach) led Loughborough Grammar school badminton players into a successful season.

The college have some very strong players who showed their skills and experience by winning all three age group titles in the Leicestershire Schools leagues. Their Key Stage 3 boys were also successful in winning the County round of the Center Parcs championships going on to represent Leicestershire in the Regional round.

### Beauchamp College

Beauchamp College girls team did a great job of winning the under 16yrs Schools Leagues title and the KS4 girls Center Parcs County round. This win took them through to represent Leicestershire in the regional round in March where they won all their matches only dropping two games out of 20. This took the girls through to the National Finals at Center Parcs where they came a creditable 4th place out of the nine school teams qualifying.

# **U17s Inter County Championships (ICC) 2014**

Leicestershire selected a young team of five boys and five girls to compete in the four day ICC event at Easter in Nottingham. Day 1 - the first match was against Oxford which was a very tight match but Leicestershire showed their fighting spirit winning the match 7-3. The second match was against the Leinster which they knew would be a tough match, some very close games were played but unfortunately we were defeated 6-4. Now Match 3 - against Yorkshire the reigning champions, despite some impressive performances across the whole team Yorkshire proved to be too strong the match ending in a defeat for Leicestershire of 10-0. (Yorkshire finished 2nd this year)

Day 2 - the team won all their remaining matches in the group. 9-1 v Dorset, 9-1 v Bedford. Next we were put into a group of three. Winning 7-3 v Northants to end the second day.

Day 3 - The second match in this group was against Middlesex this match proved to be a really tight match many games going to three ends, the end result was 7-3 to Middlesex. After this we were placed into our final group, a group of four. The next two match's v Devon and Worcester were won by Leicestershire 8-2 and 6-4.

Day 4 - The final match of the competition was against Lincolnshire, this match was expected to be close, how wrong you can be, the players showed that fighting spirit that they had been consistently doing throughout the four days and a 9-1 victory was achieved.

Leicestershire finished a very creditable 17<sup>th</sup> place out of 38 counties that entered.

Many thanks to all the players who represented Leicestershire proudly and many thanks to all the coaches and supporters who gave up their time to make the ICC the experience it is!

A special thanks to Hayley Deas who assisted me over the four days.

ICC see you next year!!!  
Onwards and upwards

***Chris Hall***  
Manager and coach

## **Players:**

Wembley Prince, Zoe King, Hope Warner, Chloe Wilkins and Michelle Lou, Nick Twells, Jonathan Li, Nathan Mistry, Jai Chandarana and James Yang



## LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON COACHES ASSOCIATION

### Chairman's Report – 2014

A big thank you to all coaches for your hard work, time, enthusiasm and encouragement in providing all ages irrespective of colour, creed or sex an opportunity to play this wonderful game of badminton. Congratulations to all who have taken part in competitions and tournaments whether they be County or non-County events and to those who organise them. I get a great kick out of young people, playing their hearts out and achieving results that they deserve for their efforts. Also to follow their progress from primary school, secondary school, colleges and universities. But most of all to see them ENJOYING the game. However, one must not forget the parents and friends who provide transport and give up a lot of their time to enable these young people to take part in the sport.

I liken badminton to that of a vehicle. The Leicestershire Badminton Association providing the 'body work', the coaches the 'engine' and the pupils/participants the 'fuel' that the engine runs on, and is of a 'high octane' content, with the Coaches Association keeping the engine 'well oiled'. However, no matter how good the bodywork is, nor the capacity of the engine, nor the fuel, the vehicle will go nowhere unless you have a 'driver'. We in Leicestershire have a fantastic, experienced driver in that of Carole Spencer. She keeps the vehicle on the right road and finds the right gear to enable the badminton vehicle to proceed to whatever destination is chose. Finally, whilst singing the praises of all the young people we coach, we must not forget the adults. Those maybe who have played badminton in their youth and after a break for many reasons, are now able to return to play also those who wish to take up a new sport and those who wish to keep fit. Are we able to provide coaching for them? Do we have suitable facilities? Should we not now be looking at more coaching opportunities for this huge section of the public.

**Rowland F. Tatton - Chairman**  
Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association

### ANTHONY CLARK JOINS TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE COACHING TEAM



## TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE COACHES



Thanks go to our dedicated Team Leicestershire's nine coaches who are doing a brilliant job of working together to ensure that our Leicestershire youngsters are receiving good quality coaching throughout the season.

**Well done Guys!**

*Photo:*

*Terry Talbot, Grahame Forryan, Neil Cooper, Chris Hall, Anthony Clark and Dave Watts.*

*Not in the photo:  
Tom Armstrong, Martin Drabble  
and Mark King*

## Summary

I think you can see from this newsletter that there is definitely lots going on with developing badminton in Leicestershire. The current committees and coaches are doing a great job, but to ensure that Leicestershire continue to improve and grow we need to have a continual flow of new people with fresh ideas, I know volunteers are like gold dust! And everyone is busy, but if you feel you could spare a little time to help please get in touch. Since retiring!!!! I decided that I would not sit down and read books, do my garden and even maybe watch daytime TV, I would continue as a badminton volunteer which I soon found out can be a full time job! But I wouldn't have it any other way, I am enjoying doing more coaching in the junior and senior schools. I still write applications for funding to help to pay for the badminton delivery, I am Chairman of the Charnwood CBN and Secretary of the Coaches Association, so keeping busy.

Finally, I must say what a great asset we have in Greg Howes (and his team of coaches) who are doing a wonderful job of developing badminton in the City Schools and encouraging more clubs to set up junior sections which is so important. I believe that if we want to improve and be successful in the county the work needs to start in the schools, where we need to continue to offer expert advice and coaching and encourage the players to join our junior clubs where the enthusiasm for badminton at club level will be born.

Well that's it for another year. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's newsletter and thank you Angie for putting it all together.

Have a great summer.  
Carole



Retirement?  
What Retirement?

## UNDER 16s

### North Midway Badminton League

The U16's have only played in the NMBL this year where they finished in third position. Several players who had not previously represented Leicestershire were given the opportunity to compete.

Adrian

## LSBA - AGM

June 9th at 7pm  
Lecture Theatre

Babington  
College

## LSBA Presentation evening

July 3rd at 7.30pm  
Beaumont Leys School  
Leicester

## LBA SUMMER CLUB

every Monday night  
at BABINGTON College  
for more details PLEASE  
CONTACT  
Richard on 07541133683

### Useful Websites:

[www.lbabadminton.org](http://www.lbabadminton.org) (Senior)  
[www.leicestershirepc.webs.com/news](http://www.leicestershirepc.webs.com/news) (PC)  
[www.leicestershireba.co.uk](http://www.leicestershireba.co.uk) (Schools)