



Lanarkshire Badminton Group – Group Convener's Report - May 2024

By Jill Smith

Badminton Scotland are committed to achieving its vision of Badminton being the biggest participation sport in Scotland bringing people and communities together through Badminton and Lanarkshire Badminton Group are in support of that vision.

Lanarkshire Badminton Group committee meet in person on a regular basis (4/5 times per year) in The Lighthouse in Larkhall. The objectives of raising the profile of Badminton and developing club opportunities, particularly for juniors is still high on our agenda. This is not an easy objective as

Facilities are still a challenge however clubs operating under the BASE banner are still growing with currently 4 kids clubs and a very popular adult club in Uddingston.

The ongoing work in relation to BASE is fully supported by the Group aiming to provide more playing opportunities for those who want to participate competitively or socially. The Junior Clubs in Rutherglen, Lanark and Hamilton are thriving. A club for secondary kids has also been established in East Kilbride and it is hoped that this let will be extended to accommodate primary children. Base also hope to extend into North Lanarkshire. In respect of a facility the Base team have pursued the asset transfer process in respect of Stewartfield Community Centre, EK however this is still under consideration.

This season we have also seen the formation of Strathclyde Badminton Club. They have setup a successful Coaching Club session on Tuesday evening, 19:00-21:00 at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility which has provided adult players with the opportunity to gain more practice, coaching and experience some friendly competition, catering for all levels. The club have also had a successful campaign in the Glasgow District & Churches Badminton Association (GDCBA) Leagues, in the Doubles Division 2 and Mixed Doubles 1 divisions. Uddingston Badminton Club continues to operate with consistent number of members and a second place finish in the GDCBA Doubles League Division 2 this season.

The tournament calendar has been busy and Lanarkshire have delivered tournaments at all age groups, a bonanza and Junior Singles League. Frank will give more detail as Tournament Convener.

We started the season with a Quiz Night in Cambuslang Golf Club setting us up with some much needed funds for the season. This was a great success and thank you to everyone that attended. Again, well done to the quiz winners Lord of the Strings – love the name!

Due to facility challenges the 2024 Lanarkshire Open Junior Event (U15/19) in May took place in the Sir Craig Reddie BC, Glasgow which was an excellent alternative albeit not in Lanarkshire. The tournament was augmented with a cafe which increased our funds making it a highly successful event. The U13/17 event in March also saw an excellent entry with some good quality badminton.

The Senior County Team have had an excellent season in their promoted position. At time of writing they narrowly missed out on another promotion, a topic which is still under scrutiny. This is quite an achievement and the Group wish them well for the forthcoming season in whatever Division they find themselves in.

The development plan which was formulated last season is still in place giving the Group a focus which they regularly check for progress and suitability.

The past season has been productive and the want to increase both activity and performance is very much alive. Lanarkshire are proud to say that in addition to the successful County Team they have some excellent performers coming through the ranks and although I certainly don't want to leave anyone out I do feel a special mention must go to Mathew Waring (2023 Badminton Scotland Junior Performance Athlete of the Year), Alfie Martin, Lanna Campbell, Ella Haime, Lewis Carson (2023 Badminton Scotland Disability Athlete of the Year who netted gold at the 2023 Dwarf Games) and Elona Kennedy who have all achieved highly. To balance things we have some Masters players who are also competing and being relatively successful. I think we have successfully achieved in terms of performance, event management and junior recruitment. A strong committee with a wide skill base is vital, particularly when people are leading busy challenging lives and our doors remain open to new members. Of course need to mention the power of work going on from the volunteer community which was also recognised at the 2023 Badminton Scotland Awards where Hugh Ainsley won the Lifetime Achievement: Derek Roarty Trophy and David Gillespie winning Volunteer of the Year.

A big welcome to new members and I hope that those currently involved continue to support so that we can strengthen what we already have.

Thank you for all your contributions and I look forward to a successful forthcoming season.