

## Junior League kicks off new season in Lanarkshire

By Lanarkshire Badminton



*\*Photos from previous events*

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, we held our Lanarkshire Junior Singles League which kickstarted our competition calendar for the 2024/25 season. There was a total of 46 entries with players a mix of players from across Scotland including Highlands, Glasgow & North Strathclyde, Lothian, West of Scotland, Borders and Lanarkshire.

The tournament followed its usual format with players placed in pools based entirely on playing ability independent of age and gender. Starting order was based on performance in the previous League Events and for newcomers based on their playing history with Badminton Scotland sanctioned events and relevant results. The event took place at the Ally McCoist Sports Complex in East Kilbride which has had a major refurbishment around 2 years ago with a new sports floor being installed in the main hall – which has been welcomed by the badminton community.

With this number of entries, it allowed our organisers to arrange the draw by forming four round robin pools with approximately ten players in each group based on ability. The aim was to maximise the amount of game time for each player and overall providing an enjoyable & fun day of competition. Due to having less time, games were played to 15 points.

It was a clean sweep for Justin Wong in Group 1 who won all 7 of his matches with a fantastic match between Peter Young and himself with Justin edging the win 15-14. Over in Group 2, Atharv Sharma produced a consistent set of performances to top the group with 6 wins out of 6. Again it was another tight match between the winner and runner-up of the group with Atharv winning 15-13 against Ross Loudon. Matthew Copland secured the Group 3 title with 100% of wins which was a same story for Group 4's Logan Graham taking first place. Harshavardhan Chandrasekar and Isaac Voang were the winners if Group's 5 and 6 respectively.

Group Convenor, Jill Smith who was unable to make event as she was competing in Belgium at the 2024 European Senior Championships, winning Bronze in the Women's Doubles 60+ stated:

*"I am delighted to see so many kids playing in the league early in the season. With my BASE hat on, I am looking forward to welcoming the BASE kids back to our clubs and hope to increase the participation levels for all with opportunities like this . Thanks also to the organisers who kept everything moving and making it a smooth slick event and of course thanks to all the competitors and their parent/guardians who came to event"*

Well done to all the players for their efforts and for creating an exciting and entertaining atmosphere of competition for all. Also thanks for our team of Frank and Hugh our volunteers on the day for ensuring the event ran smoothly and on the desk fulfilling match control duties.