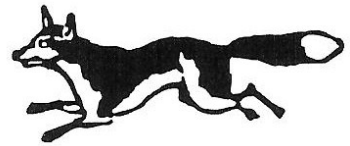


LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN 2012/2013

Date: May 2013



The Home of Leicestershire Badminton

“TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE” A New Era for Badminton in Leicestershire

TEAM LEICESTERSHIRE:

Leicestershire Badminton Association
Leicestershire Schools Badminton Association
Leicestershire Performance Centre
Leicestershire Badminton Coaches Association

The LBA, LSBA, PC and the Coaches Association are working together to form “Team Leicestershire” many hours have been put into meetings to ensure everyone has an input into the new and exciting plans which will see the start of “Team Leicestershire” in August 2013. We have a fantastic group of volunteers who work tirelessly for badminton

in the County, it is hoped that by bringing them together better communications and working partnerships will be achieved. The plans will incorporate a talent id programme in the schools and the clubs and to offer appropriate training sessions for the current and new players. Having a clear talent pathway the integration of junior’s players into Senior County will be improved.

LEICESTERSHIRE Performance Centre

A performance centre is a National structure. There are four levels of playing standards in the coaching structure: Emerging, Developing, Futures and Raw, giving players of all abilities the opportunity to access the appropriate level training sessions offering them a performance and club pathway. At the moment there are 35 on the performance programme, these players are accessing twice weekly sessions under the guidance of Level 3 Head Coach Steve Higgins. **New Futures players this season are:** Claire Zhang, Susannah Wang, Rose Leather, Annabelle Panteney, Deon Chung, Sameer



Chenia and Jacob Sohanpal. **Futures to Developing this year are:** Zoe King, Ryan King, Wembley Prince, Rachel Wen, Joe Hill, Greg Jones, Robbie Jones, Cameron Collins and Stephen Eastman. **Developing to Emerging is:** Craig Freeman, Jia Chandarana and Nick Twells. Congratulations to all the players for progressing this year.

PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Team Leicestershire Badminton Performance Centre was launched in 2009 with the aim of identifying talented young badminton players in Leicestershire and providing the structure and expert coaching to develop them into successful club, county and national badminton players.

Led by Steve Higgins (England National U17 coach), our team of dedicated coaches and support staff provide the opportunity for young badminton players up to the age of 19 to achieve their full potential through structured training within the Badminton England framework. Team Leicestershire Performance Centre runs three squads in addition to three Talent Cells.

Emerging Squad - Top 10 county junior badminton players (Badminton England Gold and Silver standard players)

Developing Squad - 20 junior badminton players (Badminton England Silver and Bronze standard players).

Futures Squad - 30 junior badminton players (Badminton England Bronze Standard) or players new to competition in local and national badminton tournaments.

Talent Cells - for badminton players with some experience who wish to train regularly and improve through top quality badminton coaching. The aim is to have young badminton players from these Talent Cells feeding through to the Squads.

Performance Centre website: www.leicestershirepc.webs.com/

Primary Schools

A pleasing announcement from the government, up to £9,000 per primary school will be earmarked for sport. Head teachers will be the holders of this fund so we will be working hard to ensure that badminton is considered in their plans.

Top Schools Tournament

17th June 2013

at Babington College

None-County Singles Tournament

Under 10,12,14,16 years

9th June 2013

at Babington College



weekly. We have sessions at nine leisure centres three universities and two colleges. How we engage with these players to encourage them into our clubs is the next challenge.

The Pavilion LC (Huncote) won top Leisure Centre of the month award, plus one of their members won a national prize draw (a super car experience day out for two).

NO STRINGS BADMINTON

Badminton England's No Strings franchise is well represented in Leicestershire, these sessions are aimed at social/casual players and have good numbers attending

LEICESTER CITY College Tournament

A record six colleges entered this year's college's tournament funded by Sportivate and hosted at Moat Community College. A further record was set by the number of ladies entries that meant for the first time two divisions were entirely devoted to the ladies. The winners were Shema Begum & Yashvi Soma of Moat and Joe Collison & Vijay Solanki of Wyggestone Queen Elizabeth.



England Caps!!!!

Congratulations to two young Leicestershire players Jai Chandarana and Hope Warner who have both had a fantastic season, the highlight being selected to represent England in their respective age groups.

Another player to get a cap for England this year is Carl Jennings. Carl has been playing badminton in Leicestershire for many years playing through the junior system and then onto representing the senior county over 200 times. He has been a long standing member of Longslade Stoneygate Badminton Club and held the position of Senior County Captain.

A big congratulations to Carl.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE TEAMS FINAL POSITIONS IN THE SHIRES LEAGUES

Under 13 yrs. - 17th out of 29

Under 15yrs - 19th out of 38

Under 17yrs - 8th out of 36

Singles Ladder For students at Babington Community College

Greg Howes is now running a year round session once a week for the students at Babington College. It's an early start for Greg 7.30-8.30am. The students are enjoying playing in a singles ladder which comes to its conclusion at the end of each term. Babington College are really getting the students interested in the sport, they now run Bronze, Silver and Gold sessions which offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to take part.

The 2012 BADMINTON GAMES

A great day was had by all as BADMINTON was celebrated in Olympic style in an event at the Hermitage Leisure Centre last June.

Teams of children and adults from all around the county entered a team event that was a great success, music, fun and a competition was enjoyed in the Olympic spirit, an event to remember!!!!

2013 COMMUNITY BADMINTON EVENT is being organised at the moment proposed date – June 30th.



LADY AND GIRL PLAYERS

To address the need for more ladies playing badminton we must start early. We cannot just magic! Ladies that are of League standard we need to encourage more young girls to take up the sport early. At the start of most seasons the LSBA and clubs flag up the usual problem, shortage of girls, this season has been no different. We have a number of good boys at under 11 years but a lack of girls. The mixed doubles game is really going to suffer unless we do something about this. We have made a start by Graham Forryan and Steve Higgins (PC Head Coach) going into Leicester High school (primary and high school) to coach the girls. This has already started to help, some of the young ladies have started to take part in coaching sessions at Babington College. More work of this type is being planned.

Leicestershire Schools Badminton Leagues

Another great year of schools badminton with 50 secondary schools taking part in the largest schools league in the country.

The schools battled against each other throughout the eight months season ending in the finals hosted at Babington College.

The winning schools this year were –

Under 14 Girls – South Charnwood

Under 14 Boys – Ibstock

Under 16 Girls – Beauchamp College

Under 16 Boys – Robert Smyth

Under 18 Girls – Guthlaxton

Under 18 Boys – Loughborough Grammar

Fosse Primary Do Well



Leicester City Community Badminton Network has staged the first of three primary schools badminton challenges. Following a series of badminton coaching sessions at Belgrave St Peter, Fosse and Forest Lodge, thirty eight students were invited to a doubles tournament, hosted by Beaumont Leys School. Although all three schools were evenly represented in the quarter finals, in the semi finals Fosse showed signs of why they are one of the city's top primary schools in badminton.

Top pair Peter Tedege and Korie Walker beat Amal Biju and Peter Coisek from Forest Lodge, 15-12, whilst their number two pair, Khaya Bhebe and Kuba Mazurek, beat fellow student Bonita Fernandes and her partner from Forest Lodge, Lucy Gibson, and 15-10. In the final Tedege and Walker dominated from start to finish, running out winners 21-9.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE YOUNG PLAYERS

The under 11s first taste of competitive play was travelling to Sheffield to represent Leicestershire in the North Midway League. It was a very daunting task for this young group of players, some as young as eight years old, but they played every match with great spirit and never gave up or lost their heads when playing against more experienced players. Well done to Eve, Sophie, Abigail, Jess, Joe, Harry, Samir and Luke. The T-shirts were donated by Doreen & Jack Nelson.



JUNIOR CLUBS

All the junior clubs in Leicestershire have reported good memberships this season. These clubs continue to do a great job of developing the young players. The clubs are: Whitwick, Loughborough Leys, Loughborough, South Leicester, Market Bosworth High School club, The Hinckley Academy, LBA, Ashby and Central Leicester.

New junior Clubs

Hoton gained a small grant from Badminton England to start up a junior section. The club is working closely with the local school to encourage the young people to attend the club. It's made a good start with an average of ten players attending weekly.

Harborough LC Club

For years we have been trying to get junior sessions at Harborough LC, but could not find a coach to do the work. A level 2 coach named Ray Phipkin has recently retired and

wanted to "put something back into badminton" and he lives in the area. Thanks to Ray we now have two one hour weekly sessions at the centre, and they are well attended. There were so many players attended on the first session Ray wondered what he had let himself in for, but it's settled down nicely and now running smoothly in Rays safe hands.

Melton OGs

New Junior Section started, 26 players attended the first week, which is a brilliant start for the club.

Junior Coaching sessions at Leisure Centres

Weekly junior coaching sessions are held at 12 of 17 Leisure Centres throughout the county. These sessions are run by qualified coaches that are dedicated to the development of our young players. We will be trying our best to ensure the five remaining centres are encouraged to provide playing opportunities.

TOUGH SEASON FOR SENIOR COUNTY

I write this end of season summary with very much mixed emotions. There are a lot of exciting developments with Badminton in Leicestershire including the refurbished badminton hall at Babington, the formation of 'Team Leicestershire' and the integration of schools, senior and masters badminton, the reintroduction of competitive singles to club badminton next season, and an increased focus on talent id in primary schools etc.

However, I'm also very sad to report that our county 1st team has been relegated from what was the premier division set-up for the first time in about 15 years. In that time the 1st team had a roller coaster ride, including numerous relegation battles, and twice getting promoted to Premier A. The county should be very proud of what the 1st team has achieved and I hope we can get promoted back to where we belong next year.

It has also been very tough for our 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams this year, at Christmas we hardly had any wins and looked like we were struggling to keep any team up. But everyone battled to the end of the season and in the end all three teams have done very well staying in their respective divisions.

Overall it has been a pleasure to be county captain over the last 12 months, see county training well attended and see some great battles on court. I look forward to next season where we can build on the developments and changes that are taking place, welcome a number of young players to our senior teams and I hope all four teams can challenge for promotion. I hope to see you at county training next season (starts 4th September - every Wednesday 7-10pm) and the restricted (singles on Friday evening 27th, doubles & mixed Sunday 29th September).

Mark King, County Captain

COACHES

To provide more quality learning opportunities we need more coaches, so if you have ever thought that you might like to spare a few hours to help the next generation of badminton players in Leicestershire, please contact Carole Spencer who will give you the relevant information on the courses.

BUSY END TO SEASON FOR UNDER 17 SQUAD

March and April have proved to be a very busy time for the under 17 squad.

This started on Sunday **10th MARCH**, with a crucial match away at Derbyshire in a Shires League fixture. This match turned out to be as tense and tight as expected, with the scores going to and fro between the teams. Eventually the Leicestershire team came out with a well earned and well deserved victory 11 to 9.

Next up was Norfolk on the **17th MARCH** in a rearranged fixture due to snow. The match was played at Loughborough University ending in a more comfortable victory for the under 17 squad, winning by a margin of 17 to 3. The following weekend **24th MARCH** should have been another local derby against our neighbours Nottinghamshire, but late on the Saturday night snow forced a cancellation of this match. As there was no time to rearrange the fixture and it was deemed a 'No blame cancellation' the result was given to Leicestershire 12 to 8. This result qualified the Under 17 squad a place in the Shires Play Offs.

31st MARCH, Easter, time to eat chocolate and rest but not for long!! As the following week was the week of the County Challenge (formerly ICT) at Nottingham University. The Under 17s started the week by getting together to go bowling, followed by a meal. After the meal the squad were presented with their kit sponsored by **Specsavers**.

THE COUNTY CHALLENGE

started on Thursday 4th April for four days



*Back Row: Chris Hall, Jonathan Li, Nathan Mistry, Tyler Haywood, Mantej Singh, Stephan Roy, Pete Hall.
Front Row: Kirsty Seal, Sarita Patel, Rebecca Southwell, Megan Sell, Sophie Connors, Angela Connors*

Day 1

The team assembled at Nottingham University and after the team photographs had been taken, the team travelled to Chilwell for their first match. On arrival the team were sent on what is now the traditional warm up, a run around the car park, over the bridge and back to the Leisure Centre. First opponents of the day were Kent, this match did not turn into the start the team desired, losing 6 matches to 4. This meant that to qualify for the top half of the draw we now had to win all our remaining 3 matches in the group. The next match was against Avon, which the team won 10 matches to 0. Later on that night the team faced Cumbria in our final match of the day, although it was a late finish the team again won this match 7 matches to 3.

Day 2

An early start to the day with a 9.15am match against Hertfordshire, the seeded County in the group. This was a match that we had to win to stand any chance of progressing into the top half of the draw. The match ended in a 5 all draw, but on count back we won by 18 points. This result and Avon taking a match off Kent meant that we had achieved our aim of playing in the top half of the draw. Our second round matches would now be against Buckinghamshire, the eventual winners of the Challenge, who beat us by 9 matches to 1. This match was followed by our second match against Surrey, this ended as another 5 all draw, but this time unfortunately the team lost the match on count back. Later that night our final match of the day was against Lancashire, a match that unfortunately we lost by 7 matches to 3. As a result of the last 3 matches on Day 2 we now knew that we would be playing three more matches to determine who finished in positions 13th to 16th in the Challenge.

Day 3

Our first match was against Nottinghamshire, our local rivals, this proved to be a close affair for Leicestershire eventually winning by 6 matches to 4. After a short break we played our second match against Berkshire, this match was our longest and closest of the whole 4 days. The match ended 5 matches all, 11 games all, 304 points to Berkshire and 307 points to Leicestershire. This match demonstrated just how far the team had come since day 1. They not only showed good badminton skills but mixed this with a gritty determination and passion to win this match as a team.

Saturday night was a time for relaxation for all the teams as they all attended the Disco. An event enjoyed by all the competitors.

Day 4

Once again the team had an early start for our final match of the Challenge. A victory in this match would guarantee us 13th position. The highest position achieved by a Leicestershire team for 5 years. The match was against Oxfordshire who themselves had won their previous 2 matches on Saturday. The team again demonstrated their character as a team, winning by 7 matches to 3, giving us the 13th position.

Thanks at this stage should be given not only to the players, for their commitment, but also to the parents and supporters who turned up over the four days to cheer us on.

**ONE WEEK
LATER!!!!!!**

14th APRIL

Shires Play Off match scheduled against Derbyshire. As in the last match against Derbyshire four weeks earlier, this was again a very close fought encounter from start to finish, with Leicestershire again coming out as victors 11 matches to 9.

This result now means that the team have qualified for the Shires League Finals day which will be held at Herts Sports Village on Sunday 5th May.

Well done and good luck to the team.

Pete Hall
Under 17 Manager

Spot The Talent ...



answers on a postcard

Adult League Badminton News

Please see the LBA web site

www.lbadminton.org

LBA SUMMER CLUB
every Monday night
at BABINGTON
College

for more details
PLEASE CONTACT

Richard on
07541133683

LSBA - AGM
10th June at 7 pm
Lecture Theatre
Babington College

LSBA
Presentation evening
28th June at 7.30pm
Lecture Theatre
Babington College

LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON COACHES ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Twenty coaches attended a super day at Babington on Sunday 14th April, when Anthony Clark came to show them how to coach a variety of shots and movement to under 12's and under 15's. In the morning he concentrated on three basic overhead shots to the under 12's and in the afternoon put the under 15's through their paces on some energetic footwork and some backhand shots. All had a great day and were in awe at some of his demonstration abilities. I noticed however that out of the twenty attending only 50% were paid-up members of the Association. Why? Why? Why?

The young players proved very enthusiastic and gave their all and it was very encouraging to see the coaches providing them with their expertise. Anthony commented afterwards that Leicestershire were "on the up" as far as other Counties were concerned and with the young players coming along and the quality of the coaches he could see no reason why it should not continue.



I have been a member of the LBCA since its inception and have seen the progress it has made, especially with the driving force of Carole Spencer. It is a shame that she has been 'relieved of her post' in the East Midlands Region, but at least Leicestershire can now have more of her time (I hope!). Also, I do not believe in looking back (except to make sure that we learn from our previous mistakes, so that we do not repeat them), but I do believe that we have a great badminton future in Leicestershire and that with the up and coming talent of young players we can only progress. However, we must give these younger players every opportunity to progress and that all the coaches in Leicestershire must strive to achieve this.

Team Leicestershire has been formed by joining together the LSBA, LBA, LBCA and PC so that we are all looking out for 'talent' for the future. There are many ways that have been discussed in order to spot this talent and at a recent coaches meeting different areas were targeted. It was highlighted that there is still a lack of girls coming through. I hope therefore that before the end of the year Leicestershire can boast as being the only county with a waiting list of girls able to play.

This is my first "Chairman's Comment". Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, ideas and criticisms.

Rowland F. Tatton

YEAR OF SUCCESS

2013

Judgemeadow College nears the end of another academic year having introduced badminton to virtually every student within its establishment; thus being one of the major contributors to Leicestershire badminton. This contribution has been recognised nationally and the College has recently been awarded Badminton England Premier Status. The Premier Schools and Colleges criteria is designed to recognise the important role that schools and colleges play, and as such it guides them through a set of criteria that will ensure pupils have a positive experience within, and exposure to, the sport of badminton.

For the first time Judgemeadow entered both boys and girls teams in the under 14 and 16 leagues and fared well.

The College has run three badminton clubs during the season and rounded off its badminton program with a junior tournament, employing its own young officials. Primary school students from Medway, Linden and Humberstone schools competed in a doubles tournament, with Medway emerging the victors. The College also ran a series of officiating courses as part of its GCSE program.

City Development Officer, Greg Howes, said that he was delighted with the progress made within the College. "Two years ago no-one associated Judgemeadow with badminton. Today the two words are synonymous. My thanks go to the dedicated PE staff that have helped to make this possible".

Greg Howes

Leicester City Badminton Coaching & Development Officer

The Centre Parcs National Schools Competition/Leicestershire School Games



Badminton England and Leicester-shire and Rutland Sport worked together to host the Leicestershire Schools Games / Centre Parcs National Schools competition. Many schools supported this popular competition. The first round is played by schools competing against each other to find an area winner who then goes through to the County Round which is held at Babington College. The County winners were Bushloe High Boys and Girls teams at KS3 and Loughborough Grammar Boys and Leicester High Girls at KS4. All competitors received certificates and 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions were awarded with medals by Leicester-shire and Rutland sport as the "Schools Games Winners" the teams also received medals for being the winners of the Centre Parcs National Schools competition as well as going through to represent Leicestershire in the regional round held in Derbyshire.

THE DEREK MEAKIN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT 2013 Under 10's Boys Winners & Runners up



LEICESTERSHIRE BADMINTON VETERANS REPORTS



Over 60s

For the second year running Leicestershire over 60s qualified for the finals of the National Championships held at Worcestershire University. The Championships are played between the best counties in the North, the Midlands, the South, and the South West and Leicestershire had come through a difficult group to win the Midlands section. Their chances were not helped by injuries to two key players in the weeks before the finals.

Nevertheless, having drawn Surrey, last year's winners, in the semi-final their hopes were high for a win but Surrey proved too strong and ran out 9-3 winners. That sounds like a convincing win but the games were really close and Surrey knew they had been in a battle. Surrey eventually went on to win the competition beating Lancashire in the final. Leicestershire played Avon for the third and fourth places and beat them 7-5. This game was very tight with the score at 4-4 following the Mens and Ladies matches. Fortunately, Leicestershire's strength in the Mixed pulled them through as it has done in the past. Congratulations must go to Ray Harding and Edward Hayes who emerged unbeaten on the final day.

*Edward Hayes
Captain Leicestershire Over 60s.*

Over 40s Masters County Championships Finals

Leicestershire over 40s have had a tremendously successful season, finishing top of the East Midlands region league. This paved the way for a play-off match against Worcestershire, winners of the West Midlands region, which resulted in a 7-5 victory for Leicestershire and qualification for the National Finals event at the new Worcester University Arena. The first day's semi-final saw them drawn against Gloucestershire and after a hard-fought game, the Gloucestershire Ladies and Mixed pairs proved too strong and the Leicestershire squad suffered a close 7-5 defeat. On the second day Leicestershire played the losers of the other semi-final, Hampshire, for the third and fourth place decider. The match was tied 4-4 after the Mens and Ladies Doubles but in contrast to the previous day, Leicestershire managed to win three of the four Mixed games resulting in a 7-5 win and securing third place. Special thanks must go to Mark King and Tom Kuhn, who each lost only one game throughout the whole season.



*Jane Cleaver
Leicestershire Over 40s Captain*

START THEM YOUNG!

North West Leicestershire are piloting FUN Skills sessions for 3 to 5 year olds.

The new sessions are due to start on 5th June, 3.30 to 4.30pm at the Hermitage Leisure Centre under the safe eye of myself!

Some children seem to have a more natural ability to throw, catch and hit a ball but many do struggle with hand eye coordination and movement skills. As sporty people ourselves we possibly help our children with the skills from an early age without thinking about it, I do believe if the skills are taught early they are more likely to stick. So the test will be me working with 3 to 5 year olds offering FUN activities that can teach good movement and hand eye coordination skills (with a Badminton angle of course). I have practiced on my granddaughter Katie and her friend and it will be challenging, the concentration will be a difficult one to deal with, so lots of different activities will be needed. It will be interesting to see the results after the six weeks, I am really looking forward to working with this group, a bit crazy I can hear you say, but you can only try !



LEICESTERSHIRE UNDER 12'S



Jasmin Portia-Bullock, Sophie Irving, Abigail Wilkin, Eve Dale, Ella Haines and Jessica Rodgers. Marcus Kilby, Sam Rodgers, Tom Cowperthwaite, Martin Beynon, Jack Durrance and Tom Lund.

Leicestershire Under 12s enjoyed an action packed weekend of badminton recently with a number of players travelling to the iconic York Railway Institute to compete in the Yorkshire U12 Open and the Yorkshire Team Challenge. There were some notable performances during the Open competition on the Saturday, with Ella Haines advancing from the group stages and then losing in a tight quarter final singles match against a very strong Surrey player. Tom Cowperthwaite also came top in his group only to meet the eventual winner in his quarter final! Level doubles pairs Martin Beynon and Tom Cowperthwaite and Tom Lund and Jack Durrance played fantastically together in a very high standard competition, only just missing out on a place in the semi finals.

Sunday's Team Challenge saw Leicestershire take on Yorkshire A, Yorkshire B, Isle of Man, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Surrey. Leicestershire's 6 boys and 6 girls acquitted themselves really well with victories against both Yorkshire teams, the Isle of Man and Staffordshire. A loss against a quality Surrey team meant that the final match of the day against Cheshire would decide the runners up spot. The Leicestershire team fought hard, but it was not enough to prevent a 6-4 defeat. However the team picked up bronze medals and left York with a smile on their faces after a fantastic weekend of badminton.

FUNDING

Leicestershire were successful in gaining a sportivate Grant of approx £3,000 this season, the funding has been used in six colleges throughout Leicestershire. More good news is that two new applications have been successful which will provide coaching next season.

Badminton England

Badminton England has a new four year whole sport plan. There has been a restructure of the work force and a new regional team will be in place during the next two months. More information to follow.

Laura Cowperthwaite (Under 12yrs Manager)

THREE GENERATIONS OF BADMINTON PLAYERS!



BADMINTON England have a new management structure in place to deliver the next four years whole sport plans. The new officers will be responsible for the East Midlands and Yorkshire. I decided that the new structure was not for me and took voluntary redundancy ending my working relationship with BADMINTON England from April 19th.

It's been 15 years this September since I first started working for Leicestershire Badminton Association who were at the forefront of employing County Development officers, which many counties then followed, when the funding became more difficult to access fortunately BADMINTON England decided to employ officers, a job which I have held for the last 7 years. I have been really lucky to work in a sport that I love and most of it never felt like work!!! I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of the projects that I am most proud of and believe have made a real difference especially with young people. There was no formal competition between schools and colleges so the formulating of the Leicestershire Schools Leagues in 1998 gave the opportunity for the teachers to enter teams to compete in a structure that offered competitive play. 50 schools entered again this year in what

we think is the largest School League in the Country. I have worked closely with clubs to encourage junior provision and I think that is now beginning to show as I play against and with many players that have come through junior clubs and the junior county structure.

The resurrection of the Leicestershire Coaches Association has been a great success, we now have annual seminars and update sessions and the communication between coaches is excellent, basically we all work together to ensure the young players are catered for and receive the coaching that they require.

BADMINTON England's "No Strings" sessions, which we have many across the County, has been instrumental in getting people back into Badminton and has filled the gap between casual and club play. We now need to encourage some of those players into the clubs.

The Community Badminton Networks have provided a good communication network between professionals and volunteers and have received funding to deliver badminton activities. Greg Howe's is the chairman of the Leicester City CBN which is considered to be world leading, this status means that the CBN will continue to be invested by BADMINTON England.

The Performance Centre headed by Steve Higgins is offering quality coaching sessions to our young talented players, and exciting times are ahead as the PC, LSBA, LBCA & the LBA come together to create "Team Leicestershire".

I will continue to do my best to help badminton grow and improve in Leicestershire, with the help of the many dedicated badminton volunteers throughout the County who have helped me so much over the last 15 years, a BIG thanks, you know who you are. My last thank you is to Greg Howe's who is doing a great job as the City Development Officer. He has achieved so much in such a short time, doing many hours of administration, coaching in the colleges and schools and writing funding applications which have helped many young people to access coaching sessions that otherwise would not have done. Greg is very passionate about badminton, we are lucky to have him.

Well I could go on and on, but I won't!

What now - As some of you possibly know my lovely grandson Luke has taken up the sport which is fantastic, so I guess I will be travelling around the country supporting him as I did with Amie. I am continuing to run Whitwick Junior club and will still be encouraging more young people to take up the sport by running coaching sessions in the schools. I also intend to be a committee member of the new "Team Leicestershire" so lots to do - you haven't seen the last of me yet!

I hope you have enjoyed reading the 2012/3 newsletter as much as I have enjoyed putting it together, which I couldn't have done without the help of a good friend Angie Connors. Thanks to everyone that contributed to the Newsletter .

Lots going on in Leicestershire!!!!

Cheers. **Carole**