



Lothian Disability Badminton Club Year End Report

01.09.2010 - 31.08.2011

It has been a very exciting year at Lothian Disability Badminton Club (LDBC) with lots of new developments and progress made both at individual and club level. We are proud of all our members new and old, and proud also of the significant steps taken in ensuring that Badminton is a sport for all. We are, as always especially proud of our family atmosphere.

Membership

We have welcomed 9 new members in this past year, 7 players and 2 volunteers and our membership over both clubs now stands at 21.

So we now support a broad range of disability and ability including wheelchair players, standing disabled, dwarfs, amputees and people with learning difficulties. We have successfully been able to accommodate all ages, disabilities and all level of playing abilities.

Funding

We successfully attracted 'Awards for All' funding last year and this enabled us to extend our club into West Lothian; buy equipment; provide coaching, court hire, and badminton tops; support players at competitions; attend events in order to raise awareness and finance players to undertake coaching qualifications.

Coaching

Two members have successfully achieved UKCC level 1 coaching and 3 have undergone badminton basics training funded by the club. This coming year will see two more club members undergo UKCC level 1 in a joint initiative funded by the Club and Sport Scotland with two more members going on to complete either UKCC level 1A or 2. This has ensured that continuation of a high level of coaching is available to all as well as building on individual skills and confidence. It is an area of club and individual development we are particularly proud of to see how the players have developed into coaches and the enjoyment they get from sharing their skills with the others.

Purchases

We have only bought 1 wheelchair this year (Henrietta), but also managed to acquire 3 more (Duffy, Boris and the latest addition, Kevin). The naming of our wheelchairs is now something of a club tradition with everyone involved in voting for the most popular! They are owned by the club but fully available to those who need them.

We have purchased 6 additional club rackets as well as gloves, grips and shuttles. The gloves are for our wheelchair players and were sourced through a building company – made from lightweight material they are incredibly durable and protect hands from the constant friction – sadly they only come in grey!

Competition successes

So far this past year has seen Dave, Kirsty, Fiona and Morag (wheelchair players), Niall and Connor (standing disability) and Bobby (dwarf category) all selected for the National Physical Disability Scotland Squad, with Connor being selected to represent his Country in the World Championships in Guatemala.

Our medal tally for the club comes primarily from attending 4 Nations competitions in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales as well as a small number of European fixtures.

Successes: Standing - 3 Gold and 2 Silver; Wheelchair – 5 Gold and 2 Silver;

Dwarf (under 12 years) - 3 Silver.

Plans for the future

1. Physiotherapy and Health Living Advice

We would like to extend the funding we receive to incorporate a physiotherapy presence at the club. We envisage attracting either newly or recently qualified physiotherapists to provide advice and therapeutic treatment to those who require it. We would also hope the physiotherapy service would extend to providing an individual exercise/fitness report for each player - building on life skills. We would like to be able to provide further general healthy living advice, tailored to our members – perhaps in the form of a series of professional (podiatrists, nutritionists, sports psychologists etc.) attending the club infrequently and providing literature in support of this information.

2. Coaching

As well as continuing with our current coaching provision, we would like to attract one-off coaching sessions from 'visiting' coaches – improving on the skills and opportunities available to our members and increasing awareness.

3. Mini-bus

We are currently looking into hiring a multi-person vehicle for attending competitions with players contributing towards the cost. This is an area of development specifically targeted towards wheelchair players as they are consistently charged extra by airlines for taking wheelchairs on flight. To attend competitions they need 2 wheelchairs each – sports and every day – and the cost of this is prohibiting their attendance at events. An initial feasibility study suggests a better way would be to hire transport and we are in the process of contacting various sources (including local Community Hire) to progress this further.

4. Facilities

As our club grows so does our need for more space and we are currently looking to extend the number of courts in the East. This may necessitate a move from Musselburgh but we would envisage staying within the East Lothian area thereby maintaining a presence in both East and West Lothian giving members a choice for ease of travel. This also allows them to attend two training sessions a week if desired.

5. Club Promotion and Increasing Membership

We aim to take the club into various centres where we can highlight the benefits of being involved in a disabled sport and continue to raise awareness in this way including being actively involved in bringing the Paralympic experience into schools. We aim to promote the club further by developing a website.

Notice board

We welcome input from our club members at all times. We hold an annual general meeting and have an ongoing 'post-it' notice board, where members are encouraged to express their views. Here is a selection:

The Noticeboard

What we would like to see improved:

"More court space and more funds available to help players attend competitions."

"Work to increase membership, have visitors and additional coaches input, have matches against able-bodied clubs"

"More information from different experts on issues related to playing badminton with a disability"

"More funding would bring more coaching"

What we like about the club:

"Somewhere to come and be judged on how you play badminton and not how you look"

"Everyone is so friendly – I look forward to club nights"

"It has given me the opportunity to learn about disabilities and how to coach. I have realised everyone is the same"

"It gave me the opportunity to develop as a player, then do my coaching qualification so I could put something back"