



Lothian Disability Badminton Club – Season 2012

Once again it has been a very busy year for the Lothian Disability Badminton Club. The highlight and a reward for the effort put in by the volunteers, coaches and players was the title of Lothian Disability Club of the Year that was given to the club; the second time in three years.

The club has been successful in attracting a number of new volunteers and currently runs the two sections with 9 coaches and a number of key volunteers who have established a much more organised system in running the club. The Bathgate section has started to take off and we are hoping to add even more players by the beginning of the New Year. The Musselburgh section has now expanded to 4 courts and we are looking to expand even further to include an earlier 'beginner' section which would mean this section ran over 3 hours allowing us to accommodate all players in 'beginner', 'intermediate' and 'advanced' playing sections. This would allow us to classify and pair up appropriate level players on ability rather than disability.

The club now has 6 of its own wheelchairs and has built up a good level of equipment for each section.

As Lothian Club of the Year and with the increased awareness of Disability Sport from the Paralympics, the club has seen a large increase in profile and also membership and is continuing to grow.

The club has continued to search for grants for the club and has been successful in a number of cases as well as finding a sponsor, 'Knowepark' who have kindly supported the purchase of the Club's new shirts. However the quest for funding and support will continue.

With a lot of administration to deal with, the club continues to develop its policies and procedures, CRB checks, codes of conduct etc and ensure it is completely up to date in all areas as well as on a sound financial footing. Our representation at various courses is growing quickly with 6 of our members attending the latest Children 1st 'Child Protection Course'.

We have been pleased to receive some great media coverage from STV and through Scottish Disability Sport, which can only help increase the clubs profile as well as continuing to keep Disability Sport firmly in the media spotlight.

Club Coach and founder, Lyndon Williams has been awarded with the Scottish Disability Sport Coach of the year and also the Sports Scotland Disability Coach of the Year for his work with the Club and Scottish Disability Badminton. The coaches at the club are supported through their development and the club is currently putting 5 coaches through the UKCC level 1 award. Volunteer coaches and players undertaking their coaching qualification awards is the keystone to the ongoing success of the club.

Many of our members regularly attend the various Disability Badminton Competitions throughout the UK as part of the Four Nations Championships and abroad at the various European and World events. We are very pleased to report that our Club medal tally continues to grow and this last season the medal tally stood at 20 with a strong presence at the Europeans returning gold in the men's singles and two bronze in the doubles categories.

Strong links have been made with the local community through taster days with schools, a number of pupils support the Club who are currently working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award and we are now forging strong links with the local hospitals and other disability groups. We are particularly pleased that we have now been joined in Bathgate by a number of High School pupils keen to help. The club see this as an essential part of its development and commitment to increasing the opportunities for disabled people in the area. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness.

The main aims for the future are to consolidate both sections, find more coaches to assist at Bathgate and to ensure that the current coaches are supported appropriately. The expansion of Musselburgh will also be looked at to cater for the younger / beginner players, thus allowing us to develop the elite / advanced players more effectively.

All of the Committee have done exceptional work and the club moves forward due to the efforts of these people. It is a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic people.

But there is really no single aspect or single person responsible for the success of the Club, but rather its success lies in its ability to work as a community and within the community. Our ability to support our players of all ages, all abilities and disabilities raises many challenges but these challenges are being met.

For our members the benefits are multi-faceted and often we don't fully appreciate the impact the Club has and continues to make in peoples lives. We always provide our members with the opportunity of giving feedback and throughout this year, this has been no different. For some it is the sheer sense of fun and belonging, it can be quite simply enjoyment of the game of badminton and to others it is their only social point of contact from one week to the next and for at least one of our members it has quite literally been life - changing. This goes beyond sport and it is an absolute privilege to be involved.

Lyndon Williams, Chairperson

Carol McFarlane, Treasurer



CASH CLUBS

East Lothian Council



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Richard Overall Trust

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Comic Relief funds money raised by its fundraising campaigns. Badminton is not a sport for all.