

## Regional Development Officers (RDOs)

Promoting, organising and growing badminton in Scotland.



## Highlands, Islands and Moray: November 2023

### Badminton Scotland CEO Keith Russell meets with Caithness and Orkney Badminton Associations.

As part of a series of meetings arranged in Kirkwall by **sportscotland** and the Orkney Island Games to discuss the planning arrangements of the International Island Games being held on Orkney in 2025, we arranged to meet up with members of the Caithness and Orkney Badminton Communities.



Over two days Keith met with Office Bearers, Committee Members of the Caithness Badminton Association and Orkney Badminton Association. We also met with coaches, players and parents from the Badminton Communities of Caithness and Orkney. During these meetings we discussed the positive and negative issues which these groups encounter within their geographical areas, as they work to create strong, vibrant, clubs offering opportunities to participate in a dynamic sport,

#### Issues discussed included;

Access to facilities: financial costs to clubs and players playing sport; accessing competitions; creating positive links with local authority/charitable trust Partners; coach education and CPD; Player Development, accessing squads

The end of the second day included observing the Eddie Fraser League in full flow in the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall. Quality badminton to finish these two days.

Days three and four involved meeting the Orkney Island Games Staff and Orcadians working on the Badminton Programme for the Island Games in 2025. We discussed the Island Games as an Event and how Badminton Scotland can support the delivery of the Badminton specific Event.



## Group and Association Meetings.

Attended Meetings with Highland Badminton Group (virtually) and Badminton Moray (face to face).

Attending such meetings are used as a method to share ideas, listen to the issues affecting Groups and Associations, creating an understanding of the partnership working taking place and how Badminton Scotland can support the workplans of the volunteer communities developing Badminton within the HIM Area.

## RPS

Attending the RPS Session always gives an opportunity to work with Coach Smith, meet Players in the Squad and where possible their coaches and Parents. Listen to the ideas and reflect.

## Competitions;

### i. Moray Schools Secondary Schools Championship 2023.

Working in partnership with Moray Council Active Schools the Championships provided competition opportunity for approximately 70 pupils to compete in a Team Championships for Junior and Senior Pupils. The competition format allows for all levels of player to compete.

For 2023, Elgin Academy were crowned Champions in the Senior and Junior Competitions.



It was a pleasure that Coach Bell, Badminton Moray was at the Event for the duration and we were delighted she was able to make the presentations to the winning School Teams.

### ii. Elgin BC v WIBA

The month finished with Western Isles Badminton Association travelling to Elgin for a match with Elgin BC. Fabulous to see this sort of commitment from everyone. Discussion at the match seems to indicate there may be an interest in similar formats of competition for the HIM Area.



## Looking Forward.

### Meetings

Skye and Lochalsh Association. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Sportscotland** Regional Meetings

Local Authority Development Teams

Smash In2 Community Provision at Moray Sports Centre

### School Competitions

Ross-shire Secondary Schools Badminton Championships.

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023;

Dingwall Leisure Centre;

9am;

More details will be sent to Schools mid-October.

What more can we ask for Badminton Champs and mince pies.

### Coach Education Courses

**Rescheduled** - Badminton Basics; 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024; Dounby Community Sports Centre, Orkney. Tutor – J. Grant.

**Planning** – Badminton Basics/ Level One and Level One Plus

**AND.**

**The first Candy Cane Festive Badminton Competition:**



**JOIN IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT  
AT THE  
CANDY CANE FESTIVE,  
BADMINTON COMPETITION.**

**TWO DAYS OF FESTIVE FUN FOR  
EVERYONE AGED 14 YEARS AND  
OLDER.**

- VENUE: MORAY SPORTS CENTRE, ELGIN
- DATES: 23RD AND 28TH DECEMBER 2023
- TIME: 10AM - 1PM
- COST PER DAY:  
BADMINTON SCOTLAND MEMBERS - £6.00  
BAD. SCOT. NON-MEMBERS - £10.00
- MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS - 12  
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS - 24.
- SPOT PRIZES



**COME AND PLAY WITH  
US THIS HOLIDAY  
SEASON, AND ENJOY  
SOME, SWEET TREATS.**

Register at <https://badmintonscotland.org.uk/event-browser/?summary=all>

- ❖ If you want to know of upcoming activity in the Highlands Islands and Moray, or advice/help organising an upcoming event? Please get in touch [brian@badmintonscotland.org.uk](mailto:brian@badmintonscotland.org.uk)
- ❖ Further images and information can be found on Facebook (@Highland Badminton) and Instagram (@himbadminton).