

June 2023 RDO Update: Highlands, Islands and Moray/Aberdeen and Aberdeen-shire

As the end of the Badminton Season approached, it was obvious that the badminton communities in the Highlands, Islands and Moray/Aberdeen and Aberdeen-shire had much to celebrate.

As everyone is aware the COVID Pandemic has impacted sport and local communities greatly. So much that we are only beginning to see the impact the illness has had on our sport now, however, as Clubs, Associations and Groups in the Area begin the slow process of recovery and to re-engage with key partners within our local communities, there are many highlights we can all share in and enjoy. Some of which are outlined below.

Formal Coach Education – The bedrock of the development in our sport in our badminton communities has made a return to the Area.

- Badminton Basics - The last four weeks saw the delivery of three Badminton Basics Courses in Forres, Wick and Aberdeen delivered by established Tutors, Angela Bell and Jane Grant. Great learning opportunities for the potential courses as well as being great fun.

The course saw Angela B. being shadowed throughout the day with a potential new tutor – Simon Green.

We are fortunate, in the area, that we have several experienced coaches wanting to begin the process of becoming a Tutor and we all look forward to working with them.

Participants attended, from different backgrounds and sources – Club members local to the venue; players with several years' experience; players on some of our player development pathways; senior school pupils and parents. A great depth of knowledge and experiences being shared in friendly, fun environments.

As part of the development of coaching in the North of Scotland: Badminton Scotland and Area Groups are working together on a year-long calendar of Coach Education for new and existing coaches. The Calendar will offer the delivery of Badminton Basics, Level 1, Level 1+ and Level 2 formal coach education courses as well as comprehensive CPD Courses local to the needs of our badminton communities, thereby reducing the need to travel huge distances to venues in the Central Belt.

- The next Badminton Basics Courses are planned for;
Banchory Sports Village – 23rd July – a closed course created with Live Life Aberdeenshire
Moray Sports Centre – 13th August – Booking is now open on JustGo.
- The first Level One and Level One Plus Courses in the Area for over two years are booked into Moray Sports Centre on the following dates and booking will open soon;
Level One – 8th/9th and 30th September 2023

Level One Plus – 8th October 2023

- Orkney Badminton Association and Badminton Scotland delivered a coaching development weekend in Kirkwall Grammar School.
Lead Coach Bruce Flockhart worked with players and coaches over the weekend of 23rd – 25th June, as part of the preparation for the Island Games taking place in Guernsey in July, with input from Orkney coaches and players.

School Holiday Activity in Moray

- Moray Badminton are delivering Summer Badminton Camps in Forres and Elgin.
- Led by Angela Bell.
Forres – 17th – 21st July 2023; Cost £30 per child.
For more details or to book - Contact : moraybmintonforum1@gmail.com
Elgin – Moray Sports Centre: For more details or to book - Contact :
moraybmintonforum1@gmail.com

Primary School Competition success. – The beginning of the pathway to all aspects of our sport.

- SSBU Primary Championships – The future of our sport in the Area is looking good, with a host of pupils from primary schools entered into the SSBU Primary Championships in Perth. 25% of the total entry came from primary pupils representing schools in the Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands, Lochcarron in the West and Elgin/Aberdeen in the East.
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- This follows the fantastic performance of pupils and coaches at West End primary School, Elgin on winning the SSBU Primary Quaich in February for the Fourth Year in a row.

Representative Selections – Where the culmination of local coach and player development comes to fruition.

After what may appear to have been a long and arduous Scottish Badminton Season it is always good to recognise the work of players and coaches fulfilling their aspirations and being selected to represent their communities and their countries in international competition. Without doubt these selections are the highlight of the year for many and it would be remiss not to mention the hard work, the planning, the travel and the impact on family life which is undertaken by players, coaches and families that live within the Badminton Communities of the area.

- Island Games.
Team management, coaches and players are in the final stages of preparation for the Island Games 2023 in Guernsey. WE wish all teams from Western Isles, Orkney and

Shetland our best wishes for a successful competition despite a tough draw which sees our teams all playing each other in the Team Event – Drawn in Group C.

<https://guernsey2023.gg/news-information/badminton-draw/>

➤ 4 Nations International Match

Great to see five players selected for this Match later in the year. Hard work, planning and lots of travel from players and coaches has resulted in selection.

<http://badmintonscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/final-selections-graded-international-2023-for-website.pdf>

➤ European Under 17 Championships 2023.

Following a successful Scottish, badminton season it is great to see two player in the Area being selected to represent Scotland at the highest level available to them.

Congratulations, Gemma, Shannon their coaches and families.

Local Authorities – Key partners for any RDO.

Work continues to engage with key personnel in Local Authorities to discuss the opportunities that badminton brings to residents within each Local Authority. Discussions with Live Life Aberdeen-shire have resulted in a closed Badminton Basics Course being delivered for volunteers and clubs members within the Aberdeen-shire area, on 23rd July 2023. Further discussion and tutor availability hopes to see the delivery of another two Badminton Basics Course in the other towns in Aberdeen-shire. One of the focus areas will be the North of Aberdeen-shire for this.

In finishing.

Conversations about how best to progress our sport within the North of Scotland will continue at local and national levels with possible new ideas emerging on how our sport develops in the coming years. It's obvious that the badminton communities in the North of Scotland are ready to work with people in organisations that share our vision and deliver.