

Regional Development Officers (RDOs)

Promoting, organising and growing badminton in Scotland.



Argyl & Bute: December 2023

This month had the Grade C tournament brought back to Oban, Yonex & Scottish Sea Farms Oban Doubles. With support from multiple local business that helped sponsor and offer prizes for the event. The event welcomed 42 athletes to the court. Welcomed to the court was also the local news paper and photographer who were able to capture the day. A huge well done to the team in Oban for running the event, a big shout out to Ryan McCuaig, without him the event wouldn't have ran at all.



More detail regarding the event can be found here, [Doubles descend on Oban for badminton showdown - The Oban Times](#).

Also in the Argyll and Bute region, I have sat with the management team and all active school coordinators with the conversation on how we can create more pathways and opportunities for badminton in the area. After great planning with the team we have now actioned training for high school and college students to get coaching qualifications along with CPD training for those teachers in the area. With the positive actions taking place I am very excited to see the grow in the area and clubs pathways that will be created.

Badminton Courses

There has been multiple Badminton Basics and Young Leader courses delivered in December, over 70 new coaches all taking on a new badminton coaching role within their school and colleges.

First saw was the 2 classes at Glasgow Clyde College. With the 35 students all taking part in the badminton basic course, these individuals are now going to their local primary and secondary high schools to offer blocks of badminton sessions. The aim is for the college to work with us and offer a festival / big hit event for the students to run and organise. If clubs are keen to have these new coaches join their club please reach out to myself as I have a record of all the individuals who are keen to get involved in a club. There will be many opportunities now available for these students to get involved with a strong partnership now created with Badminton Scotland and the college.



Alongside different badminton basic courses, there were also multiple Young Leader Award courses ran. First was at the Cathkin young leaders, this group saw 15 individuals take part in the 2 day course to prepare them for their tri school event and their badminton coaching block.

After the 2 days of training they were ready to host the badminton inter school event. This event saw 4 different schools coming up to the primary school to compete in the first of 3 competitions. Allowing the young athletes to visit the school and the newly qualified individuals experience in running a badminton event. It was a privilege to be invited along to the event where I was able to watch all of the great coaching and refereeing done by the students alongside the great games of badminton. Pictures below are of the students event and their training day.



Also joining the Young leader award was St Andrews coaching academy. This group of 17 individuals were put through their paces in time to kick off the new year with the new skills they have learned to go into the local community to coach the badminton blocks to the local primary schools. This effort from the students are to enable them, with their new skills to be able to run their very own and first badminton event. It is a very exciting time and we will offer our support when it comes to the big day!



Club Visits

When it comes to club visits I am always keen to get out and see more!

City of Glasgow badminton Club invited me to their sessions and after meeting the coaches, staff watching the session, all I will say is that it is very exciting time for the club working very hard and GOLD shuttles will be with them shortly!! I hope to be there to celebrate such an exciting achievement!

Glasgow Badminton Academy also invited me down during their Sunday session to meet the team. Again the club are super busy, offering from grassroots to competitive sessions. It is great to hear about the work individuals are putting into the clubs and I am always keen to support any clubs willing to work with me!



Base Club invited me to their Demo night. The superstar Kirsty Gilmore put on a picture perfect demonstration for the club members. Working with Jill they demonstrated and highlighted key skills and qualities of the game, Kirsty also shared stories and memories with the group. The group also got the chance to ask some questions. A huge factor was to inspire the clubs young participants which was a huge success. The night had a great turn out, with the kids and parents sticking around to watch the show.



Community Events

In East Renfrew, it was an honour to be invited to the East Ren primary and secondary Gibb Memorial Quairch. The multi-day event saw their coaching academy and university students hosting and running the event for all 8 surrounding schools. The huge success saw boys and girls singles, doubles and mixed doubles all being played. With one school taking the overall win and moving on to the next stage.



I want to take the time to thank everyone I have worked with in the short time coming into the role. I also want to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jumping into the new year will bring badminton basic and level 1 courses along with brand new events soon to come!! I look forward to working with many more clubs and communities to grow our sport!

If you want to know of upcoming activity in your area, or advice/help organising an upcoming event, or wanting to work with me? Please get in touch rdowest@badmintonscotland.org.uk.