



BADMINTON ENGLAND HISTORY FACTS and RECORDS

This document highlights the achievements of Badminton Players who have been proud to represent Lancashire Junior County Badminton Association both on National and International Badminton Courts within all Junior age group categories

The History of JUNIOR Badminton:

From 1900 until after World War II in 1945, a Junior was recognised as anyone under the age of 18 and playing opportunities in the sport of Badminton were very few and far between - Junior Badminton took a long time to mature.

In 1950, the first English National Junior Championships were staged - restricted to competitors under the age of 18 who were eligible to play for England

These would eventually become known as the All-England Junior Championships - held at the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club in Surrey

The 5 categories available were - Boys Singles, Girls Singles, Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles and Mixed Doubles

In 1962, a new U/15 category was introduced but only for Boys Singles and Girls Singles.

Players would have to wait until 1969 to be able to play boys and girls doubles and wait again until 1975 to be able to play mixed doubles.

Lancashire junior players began to emerge as successful in the U/15 category in 1970 :

Kathy Redhead won the Girls Singles

Kathy Redhead and Susan Parker won the Girls Doubles

Paul Wood and Gary Scott won the Boys Doubles



THE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND

1973-74

The Twenty-Fifth Annual

**ALL-ENGLAND
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

(Restricted to competitors under 18 (or 15) at midnight on the preceding 31st August/1st September and possessing birth or two years residential qualification for England)

held at the

WIMBLEDON SQUASH & BADMINTON CLUB
CRANBROOK ROAD, WIMBLEDON, S.W.19

UNDER 15 EVENTS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28th & 29th DECEMBER, 1973

UNDER 18 EVENTS

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3rd, 4th & 5th JANUARY, 1974

President: S. Wyatt, O.B.E., B.E.M.

Committee of Management:

Chairman: S. T. Golding

J. B. H. Bisseker, T. A. Bowker, H. F. Chilton, Miss D. B. Grace, Mrs. F. E. Hinchcliff,
R. Hughes Johnson, M. A. Hunt, F. W. Kirkby, C. J. Landrey, I. MacEwan,
N. R. J. MacFarlane, J. D. Robertson, A. L. Salway, S. C. Saunders, Mrs. H. A. E. Scheele,
H. A. E. Scheele, E. D. Sleath, E. Willmott, J. T. Woolhouse.

Referees: H. A. E. Scheele and J. B. H. Bisseker
(or such substitute as the committee shall appoint)

Tournament Secretary: J. B. H. Bisseker, 81A, High Street, Bromley, Kent.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES WILL BE MADE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAST FINAL AT ABOUT 6.30 P.M. ON SATURDAY, 29th DECEMBER FOR ALL UNDER 15 EVENTS AND ON SATURDAY, 5th JANUARY FOR ALL UNDER 18 EVENTS.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - FIVE PENCE



Lancashire Junior Badminton was now taking full advantage of the newly formed **ENGLISH SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**

After World War II, Schoolmasters in particular, recognised no game would flourish without a constant in-flow of young players - both able and enthusiastic.

Len Wright, a Cumbrian schoolmaster, aided by Alan Horrocks a Lancastrian schoolmaster and Harry Jarvis a Yorkshire schoolmaster were the driving forces from 1962 to provide youngsters of school age (mainly under the age of 16 - as it was possible to leave the school environment at 16 in the 1960s until 2000) with opportunities to learn the skills of competitive Badminton.

It gave youngsters either not welcome in or not able enough for Adult Clubs, the chance of being chosen/included in an organised Team competition and perhaps progress to Individual competitions.

The first team match was between a Cumberland Schools team and a Lancashire Schools team.

The interest grew and Schools teams from Cumberland, Lancashire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Birmingham, Sheffield, Wiltshire and Nottingham were playing regular matches and competitions.

By 1969, interest had become so great that, after squad Trials weekends, an English Schools U/16 Team played their first International match against Denmark.





In those early days the ESBA was very much a teacher-lead, schools-based organization however, since 1969, age categories have been continually added and at various stages, there have been competitions available for 'Juniors' Under 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Most County Badminton Associations and Lancashire is no exception, encourage and support these different age categories and continue to provide competitions for their Juniors in either Restricted tournaments for those eligible to play and represent their County or 'Open' tournaments where Juniors could travel nationally or internationally to compete within their age category in either a Team or Individual Tournament.

One of the highlights of Junior Badminton set up originally by the ESBA as an end of season fun packed week of competition and socialising - has been the **Inter County Junior Badminton Tournament**, usually held in the Easter School Holidays at Nottingham University from 1971

The Competition Rules were simple;

1. Each competing county is allowed a team of 4 boys and 4 girls, plus 2 reserves
2. Counties to play against each other in each event
3. The Tournament will be played under Badminton Association of England rules
4. The winning county shall be the one (a)winning the most matches, or in the event of a tie (b)winning the most games, or in the event of a tie (c)scoring the most points
5. The Tournament Referee (appointed by the host county), will be in charge of the Tournament, and his ruling on all matters will be final
6. Team Managers must notify the Tournament Referee of any changes before a match

The programme stipulated that the event was "... restricted to competitors 'Under 16' and remained at that age limit until 1999

Badminton England now run this competition and although its rules remain more or less the same - the competition is now known as the **U/18** Inter Counties Tournament
In 2024 - The Tournament was 4 Days, 20 Courts, 30 Teams and over 300 Players

There is a note in the History of the ICT on the Badminton England website listing players who played for their County in this competition at junior level and went on to represent England at Senior Level

Lancashire (inc. relevant areas of Greater Manchester and Merseyside) Peter Bullivant 1967; Kathy (Redhead) Cashmore 1970; Jill (Pringle) Wallwork 1977; Chris Hunt 1983; Andy Fairhurst 1984; Joanne (Wright) Nicholas 1989; Michael Edge 1991; Ian Palethorpe 1996



Badminton England also now run the **Shires League**

This is a season long league for Juniors to represent their county at under 13, 15, 17, and 19 age groups. The season starts in September/October, culminating in the finals for the best teams in April/May.

Lancashire encourage and support Junior players to represent Lancashire Junior County Badminton Association within the Shires League.

Badminton England are continuing the work of the English Schools Badminton Association by inspiring young people to play badminton by running a **National Schools Championships**.

2024/2025 event include KS3 girls, KS3 boys, KS4 girls and KS4 boys.

Badminton England still stage **Junior Individual National Championships** in the following age categories Under 11 Nationals, Under 13 Nationals, Under 15 Nationals, Under 17 Nationals. The most prestigious of these being the **Under 19 Nationals**.

From 1950 until 1998 the age category was Under 18

From 1998 the age category was restricted to competitors Under 19

Players must be eligible to play for England

These Championships were originally known as the All England Junior Badminton Championships and over the years Lancashire players have been successful in these National Championships

Paul Wood won the Boys Singles in 1972/73 and 1973/74

Gary Scott won the Boys Singles in 1974/75 and 1975/76

Chris Hunt won the Boys Singles in 1986/87

Ian Palethorpe won the Boys Singles in 1999/2000

Tom Wolfenden won the Boys Singles in 2011/12

Margaret Semple won the Girls Singles in 1952/53

Sarah Halsall won the Girls Singles in 1984/85



Brian Jones won the Boys Doubles in 1963/64 and 1964/65 with a partner from Surrey
Gary Scott won the Boys Doubles in 1975/76 with a partner from Essex
Chris Hunt & Andrew Fairhurst won the Boys Doubles in 1986/87
Tom Wolfenden won the Boys Doubles in 2011/12 with a partner from Hertfordshire and in 2012/13 with a partner from Surrey

Margaret Semple and K Parr won the Girls Doubles in 1952/53 and 1953/54
Kathy Redhead won the Girls Doubles in 1972/73 with a partner from Hampshire and in 1973/74 with a partner from Surrey
Rita Heywood won the Girls Doubles in 1975/76 with a partner from Surrey
Jo Wright won the Girls Doubles in 1994/95 and 1995/96 with a partner from Derbyshire
Sophie Sankey won the Girls Doubles in 2011/12 with a partner from Cheshire
Elizabeth Tolman won the Girls Doubles in 2016/17 (x 2) with a partner from Buckinghamshire

Peter Bullivant and C Barron won the Mixed Doubles in 1968/69
Gary Scott won the Mixed Doubles in 1975/76 with a partner from Sussex
Ian Palethorpe won the Mixed Doubles in 1999/2000 with a partner from Hertfordshire
Katie Litherland won the Mixed Doubles in 2000/01 with a partner from Derbyshire
Tom Wolfenden won the Mixed Doubles in 2011/12 and 2012/13 with a partner from Durham
Elizabeth Tolman won the Mixed Doubles in 2016/17 with a partner from Buckinghamshire

Badminton England together with Badminton Europe and Badminton World Federation have recently changed the conditions of the All-England U/19 Junior Badminton Championships from a National to an 'International' Competition

The tournament will be played in full accordance to the Laws of Badminton and Competition Regulations adopted by the BWF and Badminton Europe Junior Circuit Regulations.
Participation in the Yonex All England Junior Badminton Championships 2024 is open to players of any National Association recognised by the BWF and any currently registered members of the Badminton England under 19 years of age throughout the respective calendar year.