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# BADMINTON WALES

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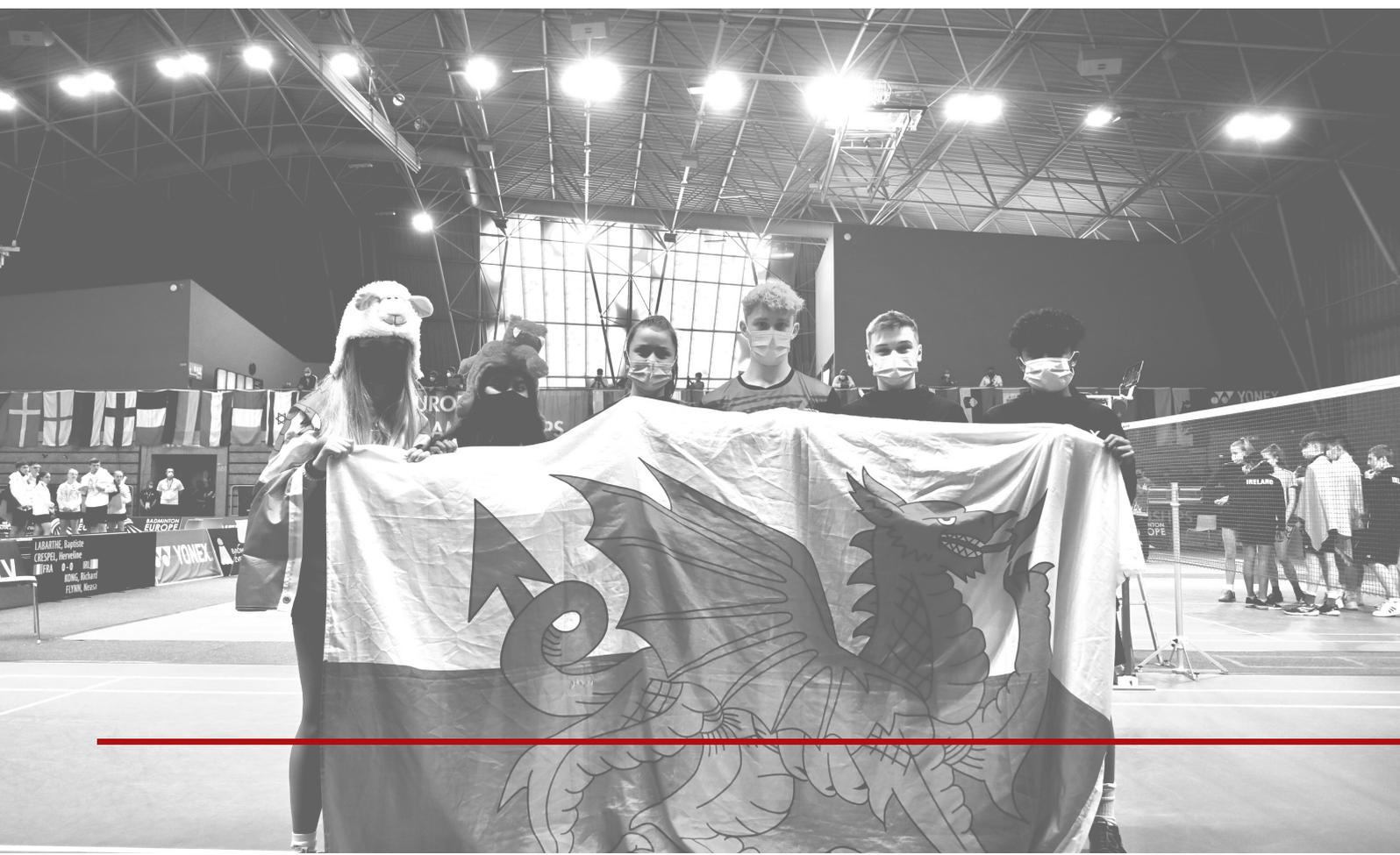


**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2021/22

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# BADMINTON WALES BOARD | 01

## **DAVID SHORE**

President

## **PETER HYBART**

Chair

Performance Director [Appointed]

## **ANN BEVAN**

Governance Director [Appointed]

## **DR BARRY GARNHAM**

Events Director [Elected]

## **CATH MCCLUSKEY**

Coaching and Development Director [Elected]

## **DAVID EVANS**

Technical Officials Director [Appointed]

## **DEWI JAMES**

Finance Director [Appointed]

## **HEFIN ARCHER-WILLIAMS**

Legal Director [Elected]

## **KERRY ANN SHEPPARD**

Business Director [Elected]

## **ROBYN FISHER**

HR Director [Elected]



DAVID SHORE



PETER HYBART  
CHAIR (2022-)

Welcome to the 2021/22 Badminton Wales (BW) Annual Report. I hope you find it interesting and informative.

It has been a busy twelve months at BW Board level. My sincere thanks go to Catherine McCluskey who started the year as Chair and stood down in July due to increasing work commitments. I am pleased to say that Catherine is remaining on the Board as Director for Coaching and Development, such a vital area of work for us.

In April our CEO Kelly Aston MBE presented post Covid data to the Board so as to establish an accurate picture of the health of the game against a number of key metrics. These are currently being bench-marked against other Welsh sports and European Badminton Associations, before targets are agreed by the staffing team and the Board. I look forward to these being presented to the membership in due course.

There is no doubt that Covid has hit badminton hard so the Board and staff have already agreed a strong future focus will be the health of the community game particularly at junior level. We must safeguard the game for future generations.

The 2022 AGM will receive proposals for governance modernisation particularly in terms of how Directors are recruited. Consultation has been supportive so I hope the membership is mindful to support the AGM proposal and move our governance further forward.

My thanks go to former Chair Kerry Ann Sheppard and Finance Director Dewi James who are standing down from the Board having both played extremely important roles. The contribution of all Board Directors, our CEO and her small staffing team, is also much appreciated. We have much work to do and a committed team in place to drive progress.

Enjoy your new badminton season and please support the future of the game in Wales wherever and whenever you are able.

*Peter Hybart -*  
Chair

# HIGHLIGHTS | 3



**World Team Ranking**

**72% Senior players**



**28% Junior players**



**65 Competitive Clubs**

**24 Social Clubs**



**100% UKAD Compliant**



**Protecting Sport**

**BWPP**  
BADMINTON WALES  
PERFORMANCE  
PATHWAY



**7 NEW LAUNCHES**



# CEO REPORT

*Kelly Aston, MBE OLY*

2021/22 season continued to be a challenge for the Governing Body and for our members. However, looking back over the past year we can be very pleased that more events and activities could be organised compared to the 2020/21 season. Our flagship event the VICTOR Welsh International 2021 was able to take place albeit with very few spectators and signaled the start of the return of our competition calendar. Wales also played host to the 2nd 4Nations Graded International which saw grades E, F, G & H from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales battle it out over the course of a day. Both events were a huge success and a fantastic boost for BW to be once again hosting Major Events in Wales. Congratulations to the BW TEAM.

As we rang in the new year, 2022 was one of hope but also a year where we realised exactly what we have lost. It's no surprise that the pandemic has been very challenging for indoor sports due to the severe restrictions that had been placed upon us during 2020 and 2021. It has therefore been important for BW to understand exactly what our baseline figures were emerging from the pandemic in order to know where our focus and priorities should lie and setting realistic targets over the coming years. Make no mistake our sport has taken a big hit, as Badminton Europe have evidenced in its Annual Report - a 75K decrease in people playing Badminton throughout Europe - figures captured through its member associations survey. Badminton Wales have felt this impact on our participation figures and have seen a significant decrease in membership, in particular Junior participation which has decreased by 45% compared to pre pandemic figures. We are not unique in these finding as our Badminton colleagues across the UK and other Welsh sports show similar findings. We therefore have a lot of ground to cover to bring badminton back, to bring players back to court and to the sport we love. The future generation are key to ensuring that our sport continues to develop, prosper, and thrive with Juniors being critical to the future of our sport in all areas.

Our strategic priority is heavily focused on Junior participation and development, therefore we have realigned the operational team to allow a greater proportion of delivery across Development and Pathway.

The Development Team focus on grassroots badminton and the introduction to the game through Shuttletime, linking with the pathway team to maintain the Junior pipeline of players/officials/coaches/volunteers coming through.

Development Areas include:

Volunteer Workforce	Roadshows   Junior Club Signpost
AirBadminton	Racket Collaboration
Shuttle Time   Teachers	Para Pathway - Grassroots
Youth Leaders Award	Primary   Secondary Enrichment
Dragon Series Competitions	Activators Programme
Schools Competitions   Primary Festivals	Club Coach Engagement

The Pathway Team cross over with Development with their priority focused on the backbone of our sport - Clubs (in particular Junior Clubs) to ensure there are exit routes for children that are introduced to the game in a safe and inclusive environment. The clubs are where most people will begin their badminton journey in a safe environment that allows those with ambition to progress to the higher levels. The Team are engaging with clubs to ensure there is support where needed through the Be Active Wales Funds available with Sport Wales.

Pathway Areas include:

Roadshows   Talent ID   Camps	Coach Education   Mentor	INSPORT
Club Engagement	BEC   BWF Engagement	UKAD
Junior   Senior League	Aspire	Safeguarding
National Squads	University Partnership Liaison	EDI
Graded Series	Para Pathway	Volunteer Workforce

At the top of the BW pyramid sits the Badminton Wales Performance Programme (BWPP) which was launched in January 2022 and focuses on a handful of invited players who have shown the performance principles required to be selected onto the programme. The programme provides players the opportunity to be part of a performance training environment with the wrap around support provided for the selected players striving to succeed on the international stage. The BWPP is in its infancy and BW are committed to developing a structure that enables Wales to continually produce players that can compete at the highest level.

With Public funds more precious than ever, Sport Wales new investment approach consists of 3 components which determine overall funding for partners.

**Capability** - ensures confidence in the organisations funded, through the Capability Framework which is aligned to the Governance and Leadership Framework for Wales (GLFW) 2019 and is built around key governance areas and focuses on the importance of behaviours, ethics and integrity within an organization. and enables SW to support partners with their continuous governance improvement.

**Insight & Data** - Badminton Wales maximum funding will be determined by official statistics and national data available on Badminton in Wales. The School Sport Survey plays a vital part of the data and insight collected to know where Badminton sits in the participation and demands of the Welsh population.

**Accountability** - statements are used to help clarify what success looks like and what may hinder outcomes and will become a way of learning and improving the sector. through the 'What Matters' conversations with SW Relationship Managers. Over the coming years BW aim is to be less reliant on Sport Wales investment and to become a sustainable organization.

With limited resources, and a small operational team we rely heavily on our team of volunteers, we simply could not implement our plans without the energy and commitment of our volunteers and the wider badminton community. We are committed to building strong foundations in order for future generations to enjoy and have opportunities within our sport whether as a player, coach, technical official, volunteer. Now, more than ever, is the time for the Badminton community and all badminton enthusiasts in Wales to come together to rebuild the sport we love. There are still challenges to be faced but I look forward to the year ahead as Badminton Wales commits to rebuilding our Sport.

In closing, I would like to say a huge thank you to our members for your support throughout the year as we have emerged from the Pandemic and begin to rebuild. To our volunteers, your support has been hugely appreciated and vital to keep our sport functioning. Thank you to Sport Wales, the Welsh Sports Association, Welsh Government and all of our Commercial Partners who have been by our side throughout the year. To the Board of Directors thank you for your unwavering support throughout the challenges faced and last but not least, to the BW TEAM who continue to innovate, develop and drive our sport forward. I am privileged to be leading a committed and passionate TEAM, thank you and best wishes for the year ahead.

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# 5 | GOVERNANCE

## Board meetings 2021/22

Month	Attendance	Attendance %
Sept 2021	5 out of 9	56%
Jan 2022	5 out of 9	56%
April 2022	6 out of 9	67%
July 2022	7 out of 9	78%

## Audit & risk sub committee 2021/22

Month	Attendance	Attendance %
Dec 2021	4 out of 5	80%
Jan 2022	3 out of 5	60%
March 2022	4 out of 5	80%
July 2022	5 out of 5	100%

## Governance & Policy sub committee 2021/22

Month	Attendance	Attendance %
June 2022	4 out of 4	100%

### Sub Committee

BW continue to make positive changes to our governance structure with the introduction of an additional Sub-Committee to the Board.

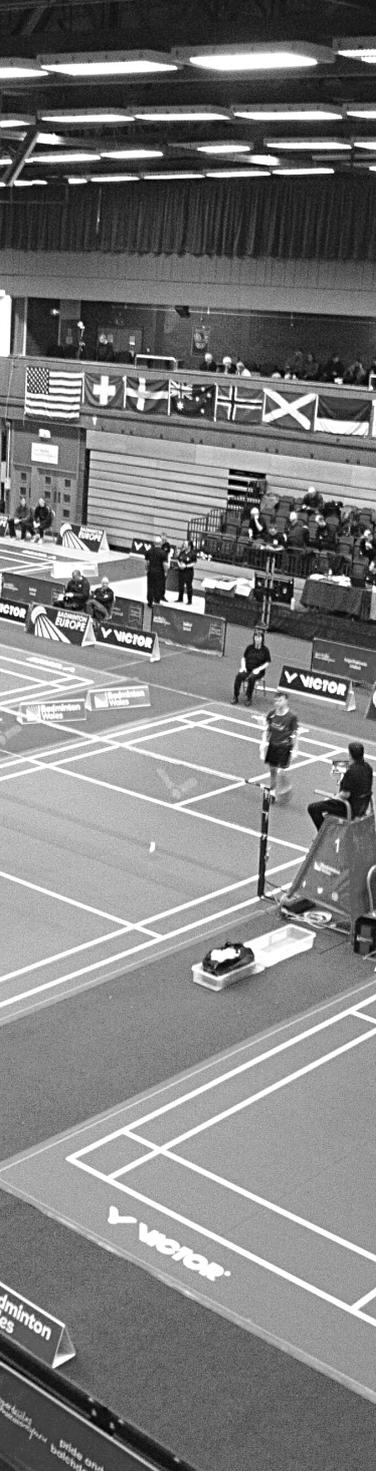
The Sub Committee have been established by the Board of Directors of Badminton Wales to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight and development responsibilities.

- Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) is specifically mandated to monitor the financial reporting process and system of internal controls regarding financial reporting and accounting compliance, and the audit of its financial statements.
- Governance & Policy Committee (GAP) is specifically mandated to monitor and develop the Company governance processes and systems, and to discuss and develop new policies to be agreed by the Board.



# 5 | GOVERNANCE

## (CONT.)

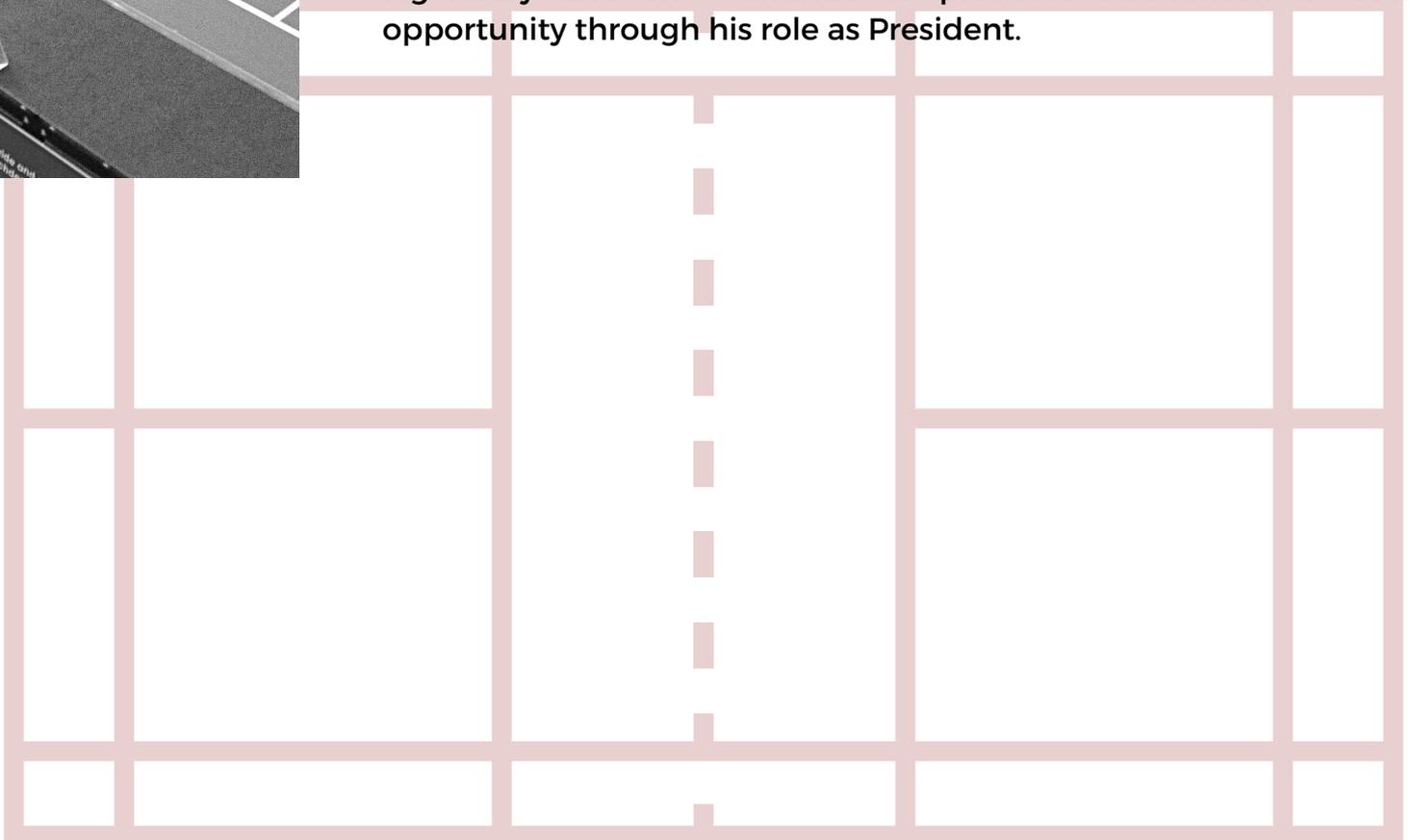


### AGM

At last years AGM the Board wanted to improve connection with the Clubs and through the Membership Regulations document moved the voting rights from the County Associations to the Competitive Clubs. A number of changes to the Articles were approved by the new voting members:

1. Gender Neutral approach reflected in the Articles
2. Makeup of the Board to reflect a player bias by having up to 13 Board members, up to 8 from clubs and up to 6 independent members.

David Davies came to the end of his Presidency and with his successor David Shore nominated as our new President. David, also a fully qualified umpire, has been involved in the Conwy County (formerly Colwyn Bay and district) badminton league for well over 50 years. His playing days in the 1960's saw him play to a very good standard. When David retired from active play, he became an integral part of, not only his own club, but also several local badminton committees. His commitment to badminton in Wales is legendary and will continue to promote badminton at every opportunity through his role as President.



# COMMUNICATIONS



As the 2021/22 season draws to a close, the BW comms team would like to extend a warm thanks to all of our incredible players, coaches, volunteers and technical officials - everyone who has interacted with our comms, shared their sporting moments and helped to spread the message of badminton in Wales! We had another unprecedented year with the eventual end to lockdowns and the return of international play. Our Zoom calls continued until they were redundant, and we have swapped these out for our regular newsletters and bulletins. The downside of this is that we don't get to see everyone's pets, the upside is that they're far more accessible and keep more people in the loop!

We then put our comms team to work on a bunch of new projects, to stop them getting bored. We'll be launching our new membership system from the beginning of next season, and they're working hard in the background to rebuild our website!

We've continued to work closely with BEC and BWF to bring badminton to as many people as possible, not just in Wales but internationally. We've been championing our elite athletes alongside our grassroots development project to put our corner of the world on the map!

The comms team love to hear from you, so make sure you tag us on Instagram and facebook - @badmintonwales!

## THE STATS:

Platform	July 2021	July 2022	Growth %
Badminton Wales Facebook	<b>2, 874</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>4.87%</b>
Badminton Wales Instagram	<b>848</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>18.8%</b>

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## Income statement for the year ended 31st March 2022

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
<b>Turnover</b>	359,783	194,835
Administrative expenses	307,282	188,923
.....	.....	.....
Operating surplus)	52,501	5,912
Interest receivable and similar	5	13
.....	.....	.....
Operating surplus/(deficit) before taxation	52,506	5,925
Tax on surplus	-	-
.....	.....	.....
Surplus/(deficit) for financial year	52,506	5,925

## Other comprehensive income for the year ended 31st March 2022

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	52,506	5,925
Other comprehensive income	-	-
.....	.....	.....
Total comprehensive income for the year	52,506	5,925

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

<b>Balance sheet</b>	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>	-	-
Tangible assets	-	-
.....	.....	.....
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	5,131	5,038
Cash at bank	227,731	233,061
.....	.....	.....
	232,862	238,099
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	75,360	133,103
.....	.....	.....
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	157,502	104,996
.....	.....	.....
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	157,502	104,996
.....	.....	.....
<b>Reserves</b>	157,502	104,996
.....	.....	.....
<b>Income and expenditure account</b>	157,502	104,996

FY21/22 Financial Accounts have been produced in conjunction with Arthur Gait & Company Chartered Accountants.

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## **SAFEGUARDING**

As we return from the pandemic, Badminton Wales has prioritised the safeguarding challenges associated with returning to sport. We have been in communication with our clubs, members and the appropriate organisations to address these issues.

The pandemic, restrictions and social distancing measures have placed a number of additional pressures on young people's mental health and wellbeing. They may be experiencing increased feelings of anxiety, low mood or loneliness and some will need additional support at this time. UKCoaching continues to offer CPD courses in this area so that coaches and members feel confident in identifying and supporting these individuals.

From 28 June 2022, sports coaches and faith leaders will be recognised in law as being in "positions of trust" and so banned from engaging in sexual activity with under 18s in their care. Badminton Wales have updated their Safeguarding Policy to reflect these changes.

The Final Report of the Whyte Review into mistreatment within gymnastics has been published leading to increased reporting within the Sports Safeguarding Community. Following an incident that was brought to the attention of BW via text, the Badminton Wales safeguarding sub-committee have published details of how all safeguarding matters will be reported and dealt with on an ongoing basis. All matters relating to safeguarding will be formally submitted on an incident form, a timeline will be opened and the case will be reviewed by the Badminton Wales safeguarding sub-committee with action taken.

Badminton Wales has also launched a Club Welfare Officer's pack that has been distributed to all nominated Welfare Officers. The pack contains an Introduction to Safeguarding together with useful forms and contact details.

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## **EQUALITY**

Over 2021/2022, Badminton Wales has been building on making our sport as accessible as possible. We have continued to tackle the impact of technological poverty, which reached new highs over Lockdown, by issuing resources that do not need to be accessed online. This has been done in conjunction with our Development Team. We have also increased our use of the Welsh language - all of our development materials are now available bilingually, including our entry forms, how-to-play posters and development packs.

We have continued to work with Sport Wales, ensuring that our clubs have access to the grants available to fund their clubs. We have also been promoting our Clwbmark toolkit, which includes our template equality policies.

We have continued to prioritise our outreach work, teaming up with organisations such as EYST (Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team) to provide playing opportunities for those who would not otherwise enjoy them.

## **InSport**

One area that will have significant focus ongoing, is the development of a more inclusive and diverse strategy to try and attract more players to our wonderful sport. Badminton has always been a game for anyone and everyone. We will be looking to provide opportunities and support to anyone who would like to get involved in whatever capacity they choose. Badminton Wales has committed to continue to develop their InSport strategy and are keen to support all DSW initiatives.

2022 saw BW receive their InSport Bronze Award and all new initiatives provided will have InSport development as an underlying principle. While heading towards our longer-term goal of InSport Silver, Badminton Wales will ensure an InSport philosophy is ingrained in all clubs, to support every club/member/person and playing opportunity in Wales. This is the next step in making our sport more accessible to all.

Aspects for development include providing equal opportunities to all involved. New Disability Inclusion Training will be provided to all new Board members so that its philosophy is understood at every level of our organisation.

Badminton Wales has supported DSW programmes with on court delivery of sessions in Para Badminton Hubs and the Para Badminton Festival 2022 in Swansea. We will look to enhance this in future festivals.

# DEVELOPMENT

2021/22 kicked off with blended delivery across the country. Despite heavy Covid-19 restrictions coming and going, we were busy! We began July 2021 with the development of our Primary School Posters. These were developed in conjunction with the Shuttle Time programme, and aimed to make badminton as inclusive and accessible as possible. Free for schools, these posters take students (and teachers!) through the fundamentals of the sport. Available in both Welsh and English, they teach pupils the grips, serves, court lines, etc, of the game. They also provide numerous challenges (Team Development love keepie-uppies!) and can be used in conjunction with the Shuttle Time resources to provide children across the country with the skills needed to get on court.

We followed this up with our school newsletters (also bilingual.) We find that these newsletters are a great way of reconnecting with our schools and engaging with new ones!



GWANWYN  
2022



Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, we staged as many development tournaments as possible. Starting in October, we managed to introduce our Dragon Series events and the Top Schools (North & South) events. The Dragon Series is new this year, and encourages children from the very

grassroots of the sport to get involved and pick up a racket. It aims to offer a safe and enjoyable introduction to tournaments. We have been thrilled with the response and are excited to keep these going into 2023 – Keep an eye on the website for the upcoming dates! Over the past six months, despite various lockdowns, we were able to run events in Ebbw Vale, Cardiff, Brecon and Swansea. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we had to cancel our events in Angelsey and Connah's Quay. These will be back!

## CYLCHLYTHYR YR YSGOL

Our Swansea event was combined with a taster session in conjunction with EYST. This was a phenomenal success, with over 30 kids from at-risk ethnic communities joining us on court from 10am-2pm. This was when the Dragon Series was scheduled to start, and many of these kids (who had never picked up a racket before 10am that morning!) stayed to take part, playing until 5pm! We were absolutely delighted and the atmosphere was incredible.



2022 kicked off in much the same way as 2021 did – with the country in complete Lockdown and sport at a standstill. We were undeterred! By March we became one of the first school sports to get back on court – We were back with our Top Schools finals in Newtown, and our Shuttle Time Competition finals in Cardiff later that month! We have continued to get more and more of our events back on court ever since, and are looking forward to an action packed Summer.

We've continued to work closely with BWF's Shuttle Time – We have trained our Development Officers as Shuttle Time Tutors, so that they can introduce the programme to teachers across the country. At the beginning of the year, we were able to get our first in-person BWF Youth Leaders Award delivered in Powys as Covid-19 restrictions began to ease.



The Award takes place over three hours, and trains students up in the fundamentals of badminton along with the basics of group management and leadership. The BW Development Team were delighted with the students response to the course, and have had equally enthusiastic responses since! This course has been created so that either we or the school can deliver it. We were also able to deliver the course to over 70 students in Aberdare, at the same time as training the teachers up in how to deliver the course themselves. We felt that this was a brilliant way to do it, as the teachers got to see the course in action before taking it on. The course is now being implemented as a standard part of the PE syllabus within this school.

Hot on the heels of these indoor successes, Badminton Wales teamed up with the Urdd to raise awareness of badminton within Welsh schools. Armed with pompoms, our development officers delivered seven multi-racket sessions to primary schools, with the exit route of a new Welsh speaking racket club run by the Urdd. 1260 children enjoyed these sessions and the new club started just after the Easter holidays. This was made possible thanks to the Sport Wales Wellbeing initiative – diolch yn fawr!



### **Shuttle Time Teachers Award**

Following the success of the Shuttle Time Teachers Award delivery, we were excited to trial a new format in partnership with Neath's local authority. We paired the course with a badminton camp for juniors, so that the trainees could use the Shuttle Time resources in real time to see how effective they are for themselves. We had a great time, the trainees had a great time, and (we think!) the juniors had a great time – win, win, win! This six hour course is free as long as a hall is provided – contact our Development Team for more info!

### **What's next, we hear you ask?**

Our Development Team is working hard to create new relationships with Sport Wales' partners. The aim of these relationships is to train up a new set of Shuttle Time Teachers to keep delivering the sport nationwide – we firmly believe in the BWF's goal to make badminton one of the world's most popular and accessible school sports, and that Shuttle Time is the way to do it.

# PATHWAY

With the effects of the COVID pandemic still evident, we are set to return to normality with the full opening up of sport throughout Wales. There are, still, significant challenges to be faced by Badminton Wales, the Members and all stakeholders involved. The cost-of-living crisis had added to the difficulty with the opportunity to play, seemingly reducing on a monthly basis. However, some significant achievements have been reached and the growth of badminton will be a priority focus for Badminton Wales for the remainder of 2022, on in to 2023 and beyond. Of course, a return to the Performance level for a World Elite player will remain an ambition, the primary focus will be on development and creating a sport that can be enjoyed by all, wherever they are located and whatever personal goal they would like to achieve.

## **Development Hubs**

2022 is a transition year for the Hubs. The new BWPP Programme was launched to provide further opportunity for these young players. Indeed, 8 had initially been able to access the Performance Pathway. We also need to provide an opportunity for a greater number of players and the National Squads were developed to help provide a greater opportunity for players to train together as a Team.

## **National Squads**

2022 National Squad continued in MOD St Athans. All national sessions are well attended with the numbers now double pre-pandemic figures - 45 - 50 squad members. This increase enables the Coaches to follow a selection process to field teams of players from within the National Squads, something that we have struggled with in the past. National Trials will be re-run on the first weekend of November 2022.

These squad weekends are growing and are now always very competitive. We have around 45 players involved with our senior squad with more set to trial in November. Our focus for 2023 will be to build the junior squads, with the increased numbers for our U13 squad being a priority. We have started increasing our numbers already. When looking at this age group in particular there are a lot of components that come into play, such as Dragon series events, Talent ID, Junior clubs and individual coach recommendations, that need to be in place to enable us to keep a constant supply of players moving through our squads.

Ongoing, we will look to develop the National Squads further with additional support from newly appointed, volunteer coaches and managers to support the bigger groups and to provide further support to our players after the difficult pandemic period. Badminton Wales will look to develop further a group of "Managers" and Coaches" to support each team and squad with a primary focus on fundraising, to ease the financial burden on the players. Advertisements will go out linking to the National Trials in November.

We need to send a huge thank you to the MoD for our support of our National Squads into which Armed Forces personnel have been able to add their skill and perspective on training.

# PATHWAY

## **Team Matches**

Wales vs British Police Team was held in March 2022, the young Welsh team performed very well and won the match 7 -4. A great result with huge experience gained by all the Welsh team players. Our next match is scheduled for the 1st of October; Wales against the British Armed Forces where we will have a bigger team with many of our Welsh Squad members taking part.

The U15 Quadrangular saw 10 Welsh Junior Players head to Dublin for the annual May Bank Holiday event. While overall team results didn't go Wales' way, individual effort and enthusiasm was very much to the fore. While overall team results didn't go Wales' way, individual effort and enthusiasm was very much to the fore with an outstanding individual performance from Isha Mekela.

A special thank you to Coach Alex Dalton and Manager Terrie Kelliher who looked after the children so well while away. Congratulations to them both and may they have a successful future.

Unfortunately, the Celtic Challenge still suffered at the hands of COVID and Lothian were unable to host the event in 2022 however they are firmly in preparation mode for the 2023 event.

## **4Nations Graded International**

After a hugely successful inaugural 4Nations Graded International in 2019 hosted by Ireland, Badminton Wales hosted the 2nd event in July 2022. With over 100 players participating and 128 matches to be played, it took a huge team effort to plan and run the event that was enjoyed by all. A great day and a huge success for Badminton Wales with 3 silvers and a bronze medal for our Graded Teams E, F, G and H respectively.

Scotland will host the 2023 edition and selection will be based primarily on results at the Graded series of events, the first of which ran in Bryn Estyn on 16th July. Please check the Badminton Wales website for details of the next events.

## **Masters Series**

For the end of 2022 and throughout 2023 we have added regional masters events to the calendar, one in the north and one in the south to add to the Masters Nationals that already takes place. In total All together we are looking to have 7 tournaments on the calendar 4 Graded and 3 Masters events to support a greater number of players at all levels. The advertisement of these events will become a key focus, to encourage greater participation, greater engagement with Badminton Wales which we hope will lead to further involvement as our volunteer workforce.

A longer-term goal would be to support splitting events into specific Gradings so as to provide a greater opportunity to win events.

## **Final Word**

Club Development will be a priority for the Pathway Team with immediate effect, with the initial focus on Junior Clubs. Pathway coaches are contacting local clubs and volunteers to discuss how best to support them. New club formation is being encouraged, and assistance will be provided both in terms of issues such as Safeguarding and Funding access or any required support. Community Coaching awards are being developed to ease pressure on volunteers and provide appropriate information for starting and running a club. The first Community Course will be held in Caerphilly in September.

Existing Badminton Wales coaches will visit all Welsh Junior clubs throughout 2023 to support them in their running or delivery and to help during individual sessions should the club require. Only through a strong Junior club network will we be able to help develop the next generation of badminton enthusiasts.



January saw the launch of the new Badminton Wales Performance Programme (BWPP). The performance programme sits at the top of the BW Pathway and is by invitation only and for selected players who meet the criteria set out by Badminton Wales. 8 players were invited into the programme in January 2022. The programme is in its infancy and Badminton Wales are committed to setting the programme performance principles to help the players understand that the BWPP is set apart from the pathway and for the selected individuals who show the areas identified within the programme only. Players will be reviewed biannually (June & December) at Performance Review meetings which will enable the coaches, support team and players to feed into the review and discuss the 4 areas that the players are reviewed against.

1. Results
2. Performance Trajectory
3. Performance Behaviour & Programme Engagement
4. Commitment to BWPP

The programme provides the selected players an opportunity to progress their Badminton and help support to maximise their potential to excel and perform on the biggest stage. There is a long way to go and this is only the start of the journey. Notable results of Badminton Wales Performance Players included in the programme

**Jack Wilson (SU5)** - At the start of the programme Jack was ranked 28 in the world. He is currently sitting at 11 and is closing in on the top 10. He is ranked 3rd in Europe which will benefit him greatly when it comes to medalling at European Championships when the date has been announced! Our BWPP is designed to support and help players progress onto the GB World Class Performance Programmes and if successful in his quest it shows that the programme is working.

**Harper Leigh** - Qualified for the European Youth Olympic Festival by being ranked number one in the UK on the European U17 ranking. He just missed out on a medal losing to the number 2 seed 21-19 in the 3rd. He has been ranked number one on the badminton Europe U17 circuit. Harper has been consistently competing through to the latter rounds of tournaments and has been in 3 U17 finals on the European circuit including a semi final. It will not be long till he turns these finals into wins.



Isha Mekala - Made the final of the singles at the Quadrangular a year early. Continues to put in good performance at domestic gold \* level at all ages with some very notable wins. Isha has now got to the point where she believes she can beat the very best and will be looking for her to continue this form into the rest of this year.

As a new programme both players and programme have been under constant review and even though there has been challenges in regards to training commitments due to school or work commitments from parents. Overall it has been highly beneficial for the players and results are finally starting to show in tournaments. Having a team of S&C, physio and psychology in place for all the players has given them the best opportunity to progress within this professional programme.

After the recent 6-month review which was put in place to see how players and the programme was working, there has been a few changes to the programme for the better. Looking into the following 6 months tournament programmes have been agreed and we are now looking to improve results and keep pushing forward to strive towards goals that were set. The next few years are really exciting with some very good opportunities to medal at the upcoming European junior events and domestic events.

The senior team will still be a bit off from where we want them to be currently but with the likes of the older players on the programme who are either in their last year U19 or 1st year in senior there is a real good opportunity to develop and strengthen them into a strong team for the future events for many years to come.

# COMPETITIONS

Badminton Wales' tournaments resumed in June 2021 after months of strict regulations and restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Most of the tournaments that had been planned to take place over the twelve months of 2021 were re arranged to take place in the second half of the year.

## **JUNIOR REGIONAL SERIES**

The Junior Regional Series have become established on the BW competitions calendar. Tournaments were held in South, West and East Wales. The North Wales tournament has been rearranged for the autumn. The tournaments were successful and now they have been established in the calendar it is hoped the numbers will grow each year. A special mention and thank you should be made to Huw John, John Walsh and Louise and Paul Crump for organising the Junior Regional Tournaments.

## **JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

The Junior Nationals for 2021 were played in September. The U13 and U17 were played in Deganwy and the U15 and U19 were played in Cardiff. The numbers attending the tournaments in Deganwy were lower than expected. The championship was divided into age groups from under 13 to under 19. Fifty three players entered with fifteen events taking place. The 2022 Junior Nationals for U13s and U19s were held in Cardiff and the U15s were held in Ebbw Vale. The U17s Junior Nationals is due to take place in October in Cardiff. For the three age groups already played thirty seven players entered with nine events taking place. Thank you to Stephen Temple and the Umpires who officiated at the national tournaments.

## **SENIOR NATIONALS**

The Senior Nationals were held at SWNC Saturday and Sunday 5th & 6th February. Sixty seven players entered the tournament.

Number of entries: MS: 27 WS: 7 XD: 13 MD: 17 WD: 8

## **MASTERS NATIONALS**

The National Masters (formally known as Vets Masters) was played in SWNC Sunday 8th May. The age of the players ranged from 35 - 72 years.

Thirty six players entered with thirty five events taking place.

The tournament referee was Stephen Temple with two Welsh umpires officiating.

## **VICTOR WELSH INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Welsh International Championships were part of the BWF International Challenge Series. In previous years the tournament was played as part of the International Series. This brought the level of tournament in line with Scotland and Ireland. The number of entries were at capacity for each of the events. Total number of entries were three hundred and four from thirty eight countries.

Officiating the tournament were two Referees, seventeen Umpires, twenty five Line Judges and three volunteers.

# COMPETITIONS

## FOUR NATIONS OFFICIALS' PATHWAY

Badminton Wales is the lead on the 4 Nations Pathway working group. The aim of the group is to facilitate the sharing of information and resources between the 4Nations to aid the training, recruitment, and support of all technical officials at all levels. It is hoped this will improve the standard of officiating across the 4Nations as well as setting specific targets and goals in all aspects of officiating. Furthermore, the cooperation between the 4Nations will improve consistency and standardisation of officials' pathways throughout the National Governing Bodies.

## TEAM WALES, 4NATIONS INTERNATIONAL GRADED



## TECHNICAL OFFICIALS, WINT 21

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PARTNERS

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MOD St Athan

VICTOR

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BEC

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YC Sports

MIND

Thank you for your continued support and we look  
forward to another year of badminton in Wales.