Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

Minutes

Attendees

Melissa Gentle, Stephen Willis, Karen Sturgess, Simon Sturgess, Lucy Sturgess, Zach Sturgess, Peter Jeffrey, Hon Wai Lee

Tim Kellet (Thrapston BC), Lyndsey Blow (Kettering BC), Matt Asbrey (Kettering BC), Ian Mason (Pyghtle), Christina Simpson (Rushden All Stars BC), Jermaine Lovelace (Towcester BC), Peter Goodison (Mereway BC), Mike Anderson (Apollo BC), Geoffrey French (Bugbrooke BC), Rachael Maywood (Wellingborough BC), Ian Meridith (Pyghtle) , Emily Fisk (Towcester BC)

Jon Feakin (Parent), , Jonny Bouguard (Parent)

1. Apologies

Sachin Kumar Sharma
Paul Maylunn
Chantall
Katie Applin
Ciara Lineham
Sean Law
Sally Rimmer
Rob Cunliffe
Ian Wills

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM and Matters Arising

Minutes from last year – Melissa to sign off the minutes of the meeting
Proposed: Matt Asbrey
Seconded: Tim Kellet

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

3. Chairperson's report - Melissa Gentle

Chair's Report – Melissa Gentle

10th July 2025

This past year has been one of continued progress, collaboration, and growth for Northamptonshire Badminton. I'm pleased to highlight some of our key activities and achievements:

School Engagement & Participation

We successfully delivered our second Northamptonshire Secondary Schools Badminton Festival, with participation from nine schools, entering 36 teams across various age categories. A total of 86 students took part, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We're delighted that this initiative is already producing results — last year's event led to a player joining the County squad, and this year we've seen several participants attend trials.

A special thank you to Rob Cunniffe and Oundle School for supporting the event and providing free use of the sports hall. We aim to make this an annual fixture in our calendar.

Communication & Outreach

We have developed and now maintain comprehensive databases for:

- School contacts across both primary and secondary institutions in the region
- Junior clubs and their contact details

These resources are proving valuable for outreach, especially in supporting trial enquiries and new participant engagement. If you're aware of any new or growing clubs, please let me know so we can keep this database up to date.

Tournaments

We were pleased to restart the county restricted tournaments in 2024. Events held included:

- 15th September 2024 – U11, U13, U17
- 22nd September 2024 – Seniors
- 13th October 2024 – U15, U19
- 27th October 2024 – Masters

Proposed Dates for 2025/26:
- Senior – 27th & 28th September 2025
- U19 – 21st September 2025
- U15 – 12th October 2025
- U17 – 16th November 2025

- U13 – 18th January 2026
- U11 – 22nd March 2026

Shires League & Player Development

We participated in the Shires League at U15, U17, and U19 levels. Unfortunately, we were unable to field an U13 team this year due to limited numbers, but we anticipate reintroducing one for the coming season.

Coaching & Talent Pathway

We continue to invest in coaching excellence. A key development has been the appointment of Peter Jeffrey, an experienced international coach, who joins our junior coaching team. Together we are working on a refreshed structure for the 2025/26 season and beyond, with a view to better integrating junior and senior squads.

Four individuals accessed our coaching bursary scheme this year, helping strengthen the coaching workforce within local clubs. We remain committed to supporting aspiring coaches financially through our bursary fund, available for Level 1 and Level 2 courses. Please contact me if interested.

Inter-County Tournament (ICT)

Northamptonshire competed at ICT 2025 — please refer to the Head Coach's report for full details. I'm proud that the County was once again in a position to financially subsidise the team, helping ensure accessibility for all players.

Governance & Committee

We welcomed Peter Jeffrey to the committee this year. However, we currently have a vacancy for a Safeguarding & Welfare Officer, which I am temporarily overseeing. We always welcome new volunteers — if you're interested in joining the committee or supporting in another capacity, please speak to either myself or Karen.

Facilities Development

Progress continues on the long-term goal of establishing a dedicated badminton facility for the County. I've held several meetings with council officials, landowners, and our governing body to explore viable options. We are forming a working group to drive this forward, and although progress has been slower than hoped, we are moving in the right direction.

Fundraising efforts will begin shortly, and I would greatly appreciate everyone's support — whether by participating, donating, or sharing ideas. Let's work together to make this vision a reality.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

Junior Trials

Our junior trials on 8th June 2025 saw a record attendance of 112 players, nearly half of whom were new to the programme. This is an encouraging sign of badminton's growing popularity in the County.

Northants Invited to RIO 2026!

We are delighted to share some fantastic news — Northants County has been officially invited to participate in RIO 2026!

For those unfamiliar, "RIO" refers to the Railway Institute Open, an invitational tournament hosted annually in York each January. It brings together under-18 players from across the country and plays a vital role in the Inter-Counties Tournament (ICT) selection process. Organised by Yorkshire Badminton, the event is recognised as one of the key development opportunities for emerging county talent.

Being invited to RIO is a tremendous honour and a clear sign that Northants is gaining national recognition for its steady progress and growing strength in junior badminton.

A heartfelt congratulations goes to our Head Coach, whose vision and dedication over the past three years have been instrumental in reaching this milestone. This achievement is a testament to the commitment and hard work of the entire coaching team and players alike.

Final Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to another successful year — especially the committee, whose commitment and support is invaluable.

A special thank you goes to Karen, our Secretary, who has gone above and beyond in her role. Her dedication and behind-the-scenes work have been instrumental to our smooth operations, and I want to express my sincere appreciation. Thank you, Karen.

Here's to a fantastic 2025/26 season!

Warm regards,
Melissa Gentle
Chair, Northamptonshire County Badminton Association
info@nscba.co.uk | 07703 582674

Proposed: Melissa Gentle
Seconded: Matt Asbrey

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

4. Treasurer's Report - Hon Wai Lee / Melissa Gentle

Junior Accounts

Northamptonshire Junior Badminton

Income & Expenditure Report for the Year Ending 31 May 2025

Executive Summary

The 2024/2025 financial year reflects a year of expanded activity, investment in player development, and continued operational commitment. Income rose significantly, driven by increased tournament activity and squad participation, while expenditure reflected the growing scale and professionalism of the programme. Despite a planned deficit, the organisation retains healthy reserves to support future development.

Income Overview

Total income for the year was £39,972.71, up from £29,563.45 in 2023/2024 — a rise of over £10,400. This was driven by:

- Squad Fees: Increased to £26,898.33 (2023/24: £24,196.52), reflecting growth in player numbers or session frequency.
- ICT Players Fees: Up to £3,125.00, suggesting expanded competition participation.
- Local Tournaments: Jumped to £5,153.86 from £241.00, showing a notable rise in activity and hosting.
- Shirts Income: A new source of income, raising £1,336.67.
- Savings Account Interest: More than doubled to £799.91, indicating improved cash management or higher interest rates.

There was a marked decrease in Senior County Income, which dropped to £28.75 from £2,321.00, due to payments being made to the correct accounts.

Expenditure Overview

Total expenditure stood at £45,157.03, compared to £29,539.33 in the previous year. Key items include:

- Coaches Expenses: Increased significantly to £13,807.50 (2023/24: £6,102.50), supporting professional development.
- Hire of Hall: Recorded as £10,533.90 down from previous year of £12,743.70 due to fewer venues and negotiated rates
- ICT Expenses: Substantial at £10,526.43, up from £2,560.00, includes dedicated coaching and competition costs. Also includes previous years coaching costs for the event.

• Shuttlecocks: Usage increased, with costs at £3,193.36 (2023/24: £1,370.00).

• Subscriptions, Trophies & Engraving, and Tournament Support also rose as activity levels increased.

• Shirts: Net cost of £1,329.53, partially offset by shirt income.

Several categories had no spend this year (e.g., ICT Accommodation, Entry Fees, Refunds, and Parents Evening), possibly indicating better planning or centralisation of costs.

Reserves and Financial Position

• The net movement from reserves was -£5,184.32, reflecting planned overspend to support growth.
• An additional accounting adjustment of -£2,044.84 was applied.
• Closing reserves stand at £38,476.56, down from £45,705.72 but still a robust balance.
• Cash is held:
- At Bank: £37,424.06
- In Hand: £1,052.50
- PayPal: £0.00

Conclusion

The financials demonstrate a period of strategic investment in coaching and competition infrastructure. The increase in income reflects wider participation and improved operations. Although the year concluded with a deficit, this was planned and sustainable, backed by strong reserves.

Looking ahead, careful cost control and diversified income (especially via tournaments and merchandise) will help maintain financial stability while continuing to support player development.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

NSCBA - Junior Accounts

02/12/2024

INCOME EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31/05/2025

		2024/2025		2023/2024	
		£		£	
INCOME					
	Squad fees	£ 26 338 33		£ 24 196 52	
	Match fees	£ 1 536 25			
	Bank/Card Fees			£ (207 60)	
	ICT Players fees	£ 3 125 00		£ 1 750 00	
	Local Tournaments	£ 5 153 86		£ 241 00	
	NSSF Affiliations	£ 1 010 00		£ 930 00	
	Savings account interest	£ 799 91		£ 332 53	
	Other - shuttle sale				
	Shirts Income	£ 1 336 67			
	Printing Income				
	Senior County Income less refunds	£ 28 75		£ 2 321 00	
		£ 39 328 77		£ 29 563 45	
EXPENDITURE					
	Hire of Hall	£ (9 293 50)		£ 12 743 70	
	Coaches expenses	£ (13 807 50)		£ 6 102 50	
	Additional coaching resources				
	Affiliation/Entry Fees	£ (198 51)		£ 1 143 00	
	ICT accomodation	£ -		£ 3 130 40	
	ICT Expenses	£ (5 546 42)		£ 2 560 00	
	Shires League	£ (120 00)			
	Trophies & Engraving	£ (1 179 59)		£ 1 380 47	
	U15/U17 BE Tournament Expenses				
	Entry Fees			£ 439 35	
	Shuttlecocks	£ (3 193 36)		£ 1 370 00	
	Coaching course contribution	£ (195 00)			
	Summer Fairs & festivals	£ (781 90)		£ 787 53	
	Subscriptions	£ (1 068 86)		£ 374 79	
	Admin, Post and Insurance	£ (221 55)			
	Parents evening				
	Website	£ -		£ 194 07	
	Tournament support	£ (80 00)			
	Refunds	£ -		£ 56 66	
	Misc	£ (443 98)		£ 297 96	
	Shirts	£ (1 329 53)		£ 2 212 50	
	ICT Bill	£ (4 500 00)		£ (3 253 60)	
		£ (41 959 70)		£ 29 539 33	
NET TO/(FROM) RESERVES			£ (2 630 93)		£ 24 12
RESERVES					
Opening		£ 4570572		45681 61	
Movement		£ (2 630 93)		£ 24 12	
Closing		£ 43 074 79		45705 72	
Represented by:	At bank	£ 41 704 07		£ 44 572 72	
	Paypal??	£ -		£ -	
	Cash in Hnad	£ 812 50		£ 2 300 00	
		£ 42 516 57		£ 46 872 72	

Notes

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

Senior Accounts

Northants County Badminton – Senior Accounts Report 2024/2025

Date: 24 June 2025

Financial Overview: 2024/2025

This document presents a narrative summary and analysis of the financial position of Northants County Badminton for the year ending 31st May 2025. It includes comparisons to the 2023/2024 financial year and highlights key income streams, expenditures, and reserve changes.

Income Summary

The club generated £7,044.54 in income for the year, a significant increase from £3,477.69 in 2023/2024. This growth was primarily due to:

- Tournaments: £2,363.70 (vs £459.65 last year)
- Match Fees: £1,345.00 – a new income stream
- Other Income: £747.06 (vs £29.50)
- Bank Interest: £209.94 (vs £78.57)

Membership income decreased slightly to £2,378.84 from £2,879.97, and senior squad contributions were limited to £30.00.

Expenditure Summary

Total expenditure rose to £8,935.54 from £8,715.44 the previous year. Major expenditure categories included:

- Court Hire: £1,782.00
- Entry Fees: £2,475.00 – carried over from 2022/23
- Shuttles: £960.00 (down from £1,266.00)
- Shirts: £600.00 (down from £1,890.00)
- Trophies: £723.70 (down from £2,793.95)
- NSCBA Activities: £1,000.00

Minimal or no spend was recorded for training/coaching and administrative categories.

Net Position & Reserves

The year ended with a deficit of £1,891.00, reducing the closing reserves to £15,081.60 from an opening balance of £16,972.60. This is a significant improvement over the prior year's £5,237.75 deficit. Bank holdings stand at £15,784.49 as of 31st May 2025.

Key Insights

- The club is diversifying income, particularly through tournaments and match activities.
- Cost control is evident, especially in areas like equipment and promotional materials.
- Reserve reliance has reduced but continues; a long-term goal should be a break-even or surplus budget.
- Investment in coaching and infrastructure should be monitored to align with performance goals.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

Northants County Badminton - Senior accounts

INCOME EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31/05/25

		2024//2025 £		2023/2024 £		
INCOME						
	Memberships	£ 2,378.84		£ 2,879.97		
	Senior Squad			£ 30.00		
	Masters Squad					
	Tournaments	£ 2,363.70		£ 459.65		
	Match Fees	£ 1,345.00				
	Other	£ 747.06		£ 29.50		
	Bank Interest	£ 209.94		£ 78.57		
		£ 7,044.54		**£ 3,477.69**		
EXPENDITURE						
Senior	Court Hire		£ 1,782.00			
	Shuttles		£ 960.00		£ 1,266.00	
	Entry Fees		£ 2,475.00		£ 2,475.00	* from 2022/23 - BE invoice
	Training/Coaching Expenses		£ 613.37		£ 60.49	
	Shirts		£ 600.00		£ 1,890.00	
	Printing & Postage		£ 7.54		£ 210.00	
	BE Tournament Fees		£ 150.00			
	Trophies		£ 723.70		£ 2,793.95	
NBA Activities	NSCBA		£ 1,000.00			
	Handbook & Website Admin				£ 20.00	
	Others		£ 623.93			
			£ 8,935.54		**£ 8,715.44**	
NET TO/(FROM) RESERVES			**£ (1,891.00)**			**£ (5,237.75)**
RESERVES						
Opening			**£ 16,972.60**			£ 22,210.35
Movement			£ (1,891.00)			£ (5,237.75)
Closing			£ 15,081.60			£ 16,972.60
Represented by At bank		31/05/2025	£ 15,784.49			£ 19,348.56
	Paypal		£ -			£ -
			£ 15,784.49			**£ 19,348.56**

Proposed: Hon Wai Lee
Seconded: Lucy Sturgess

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

League Accounts

NORTHANTS BADMINTON LEAGUE AGM ACCOUNTS
Year 1st June 2024 - 31st May 2025

	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Opening balance of accounts (1st June)	9,578.31	9,816.49	9,791.93
Income			
Team affiliation fees - 2022-23 (back paid)		65.00	30.00
Team affiliation fees - 2023-24		90.00	
Team affiliation fees - 2024-25	40.00 *	5.00	
Bank interest received (SH Fund)	160.30	156.82	54.56
Total Income	200.30	316.82	84.56
Expenditure			
Website			
Replacement trophies and engraving		495.00	
Bank charges	60.40	60.00	60.00
Total Expenditure	60.40	555.00	60.00
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	**139.90**	**-238.18**	**24.56**
Closing Balance at end of year (31st May)	**9,718.21**	**9,578.31**	**9,816.49**
Sports Hall Fund (Not for league expenses)	8,702.29	8,541.99	8,385.17
Current account	1,015.92	1,036.32	1,431.32
Cash			
Balances per bank & cash at end of year	9,718.21	9,578.31	9,816.49
Less Creditors			
Website costs owing to IW (£90/yr)	-270.00		
Engraving owing to JL	-72.00		
Total	-342.00	0.00	0.00
Plus Debtors			
Team affiliation fees - 2023-24 (owing)			
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adjusted balance per accounts at end of year	**9,376.21**	**9,578.31**	**9,816.49**
Adjusted current account after creditors are accounted for	673.92		

Information

* There were 32 team entries last season equating to £160. Only £45 was received.
The eight clubs who have NOT paid their team entries for last season:
Bugbrooke (£10), Central (£5), DKWAY (£10), Mereway (£20)
Pyghtle (£15), Rushden AS (£15), Soaring Shuttles (£5), Towcester (£35)

Payment details (for these and next years fees)
Northants Badminton League
Sort code: **40-35-04**
Acc num: **01069225**

Please email me when payments are made: **ianwilkes.coach@gmail.com**

This year I will email clubs with any outstanding team fees in the middle of September.

Proposed: Jermaine Lovelace
Seconded: Matt Asbrey

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

5. Match Report - Lucy Sturgess

Seniors

1st Team came first in division 3 and have been promoted to division 2. They won 6 games out of 7 this season

Division 3 - Division 3 - Central

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	**Northamptonshire 1**	**59**	**7**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**59 - 18**	**124 - 46**	**3341 - 2781**
2	Bedfordshire 1	55	7	6	0	1	55 - 22	118 - 55	3310 - 2869
3	Cambridgeshire 3	43	7	5	0	2	43 - 34	95 - 81	3204 - 3146
4	Worcestershire 2	40	7	3	0	4	40 - 37	87 - 91	3240 - 3159
5	Warwickshire 4	32	7	4	0	3	32 - 45	75 - 96	3078 - 3176
6	Shropshire	29	7	2	0	5	29 - 48	73 - 103	3049 - 3302
7	Norfolk 2	29	7	1	0	6	29 - 48	73 - 103	3086 - 3333
8	Bedfordshire 2	21	7	1	0	6	21 - 56	48 - 118	2713 - 3255

The teams marked in gray will promote or relegate

2nd team came 5th out of 8 teams winning 2 games.

Division 4 - Division 4 - Central

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	Derbyshire 2	67	7	7	0	0	67 - 10	137 - 31	3367 - 2305
2	Worcestershire 3	49	7	6	0	1	49 - 28	104 - 71	3346 - 2897
3	Staffordshire 3	41	7	5	0	2	41 - 36	94 - 81	3129 - 3085
4	Norfolk 3	40	7	3	0	4	40 - 37	89 - 86	3110 - 2790
5	**Northamptonshire 2**	**37**	**7**	**2**	**0**	**5**	**37 - 40**	**86 - 86**	**3117 - 3093**
6	Cambridgeshire 4	33	7	2	0	5	33 - 44	77 - 93	2924 - 3117
7	Lincolnshire 3	30	7	3	0	4	30 - 47	75 - 102	3058 - 3045
8	Northamptonshire 3	11	7	0	0	7	11 - 66	24 - 136	1498 - 3217

The teams marked in gray will promote or relegate

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

3rd team came bottom of the league losing all matches but the only way is up 😊

Division 4 - Division 4 - Central

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	Derbyshire 2	67	7	7	0	0	67 - 10	137 - 31	3367 - 2305
2	Worcestershire 3	49	7	6	0	1	49 - 28	104 - 71	3346 - 2897
3	Staffordshire 3	41	7	5	0	2	41 - 36	94 - 81	3129 - 3085
4	Norfolk 3	40	7	3	0	4	40 - 37	89 - 86	3110 - 2790
5	**Northamptonshire 2**	**37**	**7**	**2**	**0**	**5**	**37 - 40**	**86 - 86**	**3117 - 3093**
6	Cambridgeshire 4	33	7	2	0	5	33 - 44	77 - 93	2924 - 3117
7	Lincolnshire 3	30	7	3	0	4	30 - 47	75 - 102	3058 - 3045
8	Northamptonshire 3	11	7	0	0	7	11 - 66	24 - 136	1498 - 3217

The teams marked in gray will promote or relegate

Following our AGM last season, which summarised a lack of commitment from players for both county weekends and training, at the start of this season we were able to organise a few county training sessions, with the first one being a huge success, however sadly numbers began to drop in the following two sessions.

We found a similar trend in the availability for county weekend matches, whereby the last weekend we had a total of 18 players unavailable across all three county teams, which resulted in us having to withdraw the third team from the final weekend. A big thank you to some of the third team players who agreed to play up in the second team for the final weekend as per Badminton England's request.

At the first county training session that was organised at the start of this season, around 28 players attended, all of which filled out a questionnaire looking into their desire to attend regular training sessions, whether they wanted this to consist of just match play, or coaching as well, how often they wanted it to be run, and was Weavers an ideal location for them. A general consensus of the response included players wanting sessions to be ran once or twice a month, with a mix of training / coaching and match play, however Weavers seemed to be a disfavoured location for most of the players. I feel the difficulty is, that despite the answers indicating seniors do want regular training, when we try to implement this, we tend to find a lack of commitment again. This can include low numbers signing up from the start, or more often than not, a big drop out rate in the upcoming 24-48 hours of the training session. However, the main issue with this, is that this influences the price per player that attends in order for us to cover the outgoings of the courts and shuttles.

At times this season, communication with all three teams has been quite difficulty, sometimes resulting in a lack of replies or uncertainty whether players are actually wanting to play or are just "available if needed". I feel that if we were able to improve the communication with players, it might help with organisation and structuring of the teams and therefore, as suggested by some current senior players, Team Captains for this season would be a good idea. There have been a few senior players who have volunteered to be a part of a small sub group in relation to senior county organisation next season.

However, I sent out some communication to them over 2 weeks ago and have no feedback or responses from any, which again highlights the lack of engagement and difficulties we are experiencing with the seniors.

I know it has been decided that we shall enter three county teams again this season, however I feel it is important that we send communication out to all our senior county players soon regarding the need to increase match fees this upcoming season due to the increased cost of entering a team. My concern is that once this has been communicated, we may find a reduced number of senior players willing to play and may need us to reconsider the number of teams we are entering. I am happy to get this communication out to players regarding increased cost as soon as possible.

Proposed: Lucy Sturgess
Seconded: Simon Sturgess

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

6. Head Coach's Report - Stephen Willis

Head Coach Report – 2024–25 Season

Head Coach Report – 2024–25 Season

The 2024–25 season marked the conclusion of a pivotal three-year coaching cycle under the leadership of the Northamptonshire Junior County Badminton Head Coach. This period has witnessed the successful progression of several junior players into the senior county squad, reflecting the strength and effectiveness of our development pathway.

A significant highlight this season was the appointment of Pete Jeffrey, former England and French national coach, to lead the elite junior squad. Pete has established a dedicated training base at Elizabeth Woodville School (EWS) in Roade, delivering high-calibre coaching and focused court time for the county's most promising athletes.

Although the U13 and U15 squads remain modest in size, they continue to demonstrate consistent improvement. While not yet ready to compete in the Shires League, these squads are developing steadily under targeted training initiatives.

ICT 2025

The ICT 2025 event represented a major milestone, with Northamptonshire achieving a 15th place finish — the county's highest ranking in over two decades. Despite being assigned the challenging "group of unfairness," the players responded with commendable resilience and composure. Special recognition is due to Pete Jeffrey for fostering a level of preparation and competitive culture that was instrumental to this success.

Junior Squads

Many older junior players are now integrated within the senior county teams, completing the developmental trajectory envisioned at the outset of this coaching cycle.

Notable achievements during the season include junior players securing a high number of medals at Badminton England tournaments, demonstrating the rising standard of talent within the county. Ethan Feakin, currently part of the England programme, continues to excel in Gold Star Badminton England events.

At the U19 level, Northamptonshire enjoyed a successful Shires League campaign, advancing to the playoffs — a rare and commendable achievement.

External Camps

The Head Coach also continues to oversee the long-established TheDKWay Denmark training camp, now in its 15th year. Participation has grown steadily, with eight

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

Northamptonshire players attending in 2023, seven in 2024, and a record 16 scheduled for August 2025, providing invaluable international competitive experience.

Furthermore, two players from Northamptonshire were selected for Supercamp 25, Europe's largest elite badminton camp, underscoring the high calibre of talent emerging from the county system.

In Conclusion

Over this three-year period, Northamptonshire badminton has flourished and begun to challenge traditionally dominant counties. While the journey has presented its share of challenges, frustrations, and conflicts, the results are evident in increased player numbers and enhanced performance levels. The current U19 cohort is poised to make a strong contribution to senior teams and restricted tournaments moving forward.

All of these achievements have been realised without support from our National Governing Body (NGB), and no such support is anticipated in the near future. Despite this, Northamptonshire continues to maintain a strong partnership with Oundle School, whose players contribute across multiple age groups to county events and training.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our exceptional coaching team — Zach Sturgess, Pete Jeffrey, Lucy Sturgess, and Simon Sturgess — whose dedication and expertise have been integral to our progress. Thanks are also due to the parents for their unwavering support, as well as to the numerous volunteers whose invaluable, often unseen contributions sustain the programme.

Finally, appreciation is extended to the Li-Ning shop for their generous sponsorship of team shirts, which has enhanced the professional image and unity of our squads, fostering a strong sense of identity and pride among players.

Proposed: Steve Willis
Seconded: Pete Jeffrey

7. Social Media Report - Sachin Kumar Sharma

- We are doing really great with 354 Instagram followers in total and 346 Facebook members
- We have 73.3% non-followers who are viewing our profile which is really great sign as we were able to reach 200+ more accounts. They will start following us if we will be more active with our postings etc.
- I am doing this from last two years with 130 posts but I am trying to post stuff per month so this will give more viewers.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

- I wanted to do it as I like to promote our county but because of work and other commitments, I am not able to post content and achievements on time. This is right time for anyone who would like to take this responsibility and I am happy to step down as a Northants Badminton social media officer.
- User details and password has been shared with our chairman and if anyone would like to login then I can share OTP to set them.
- As soon as we have more than one person then I would recommend to add initials after the post so that we can identify who posted it. I am saying because sometimes posts could be sensitive and we need to know who posted it if any queries are coming.

Proposed: Karen Sturgess
Seconded: Hon Wai Lee

8. Election of Officers

- Chairperson – Melissa Gentle happy to re-stand
- Treasurer – Hon Wai Lee happy to re-stand
- Match/Fixture Secretary – Hon Lai Lee and Lucy & Zach Sturgess
- Secretary – Karen Sturgess happy to re-stand
- Honorary League Secretary – Jermaine Lovelace happy to re-stand
- Social Media – Lucy Sturgess
- Development Officer / Head Coach – Stephen Willis happy to re-stand

Proposed: Zach Sturgess
Seconded: Pete Jeffrey
Carried unanimously

9. Election of Committee Members

- Assistant Coach – Simon Sturgess happy to re-stand
- Schools Representative – Rob Cunliffe happy to re-stand
- Club Representative –
- Parent Representatives – Ben Crabb – tbc?
- Safeguarding –
- Committee Member - Pete Jeffrey

Proposed: Simon Sturgess
Seconded: Zach Sturgess
Carried unanimously

10. Presentation of League Trophies

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

LEAGUE SECRETARY

Thank you to all captains and match secretaries for your assistance in keeping the League tables updated with the results. It was a very challenging season with many fixture changes due to venue availability. The addition of Div 3 was a welcomed growth to the league, and proved to be very competitive. So a thank you to all clubs that entered a team. We continue to explore avenues for the growth of the league, whilst ensuring that current teams are able to enjoy their fixtures. Hence the opportunity for requesting rule changes, which will be covered later.
There were several divisions that had very close results. Rob was able to put the results into the new database enabling us to track points scored in each game. We will continue test in parallel with the current site and should hopefully deploy before the end of the season.

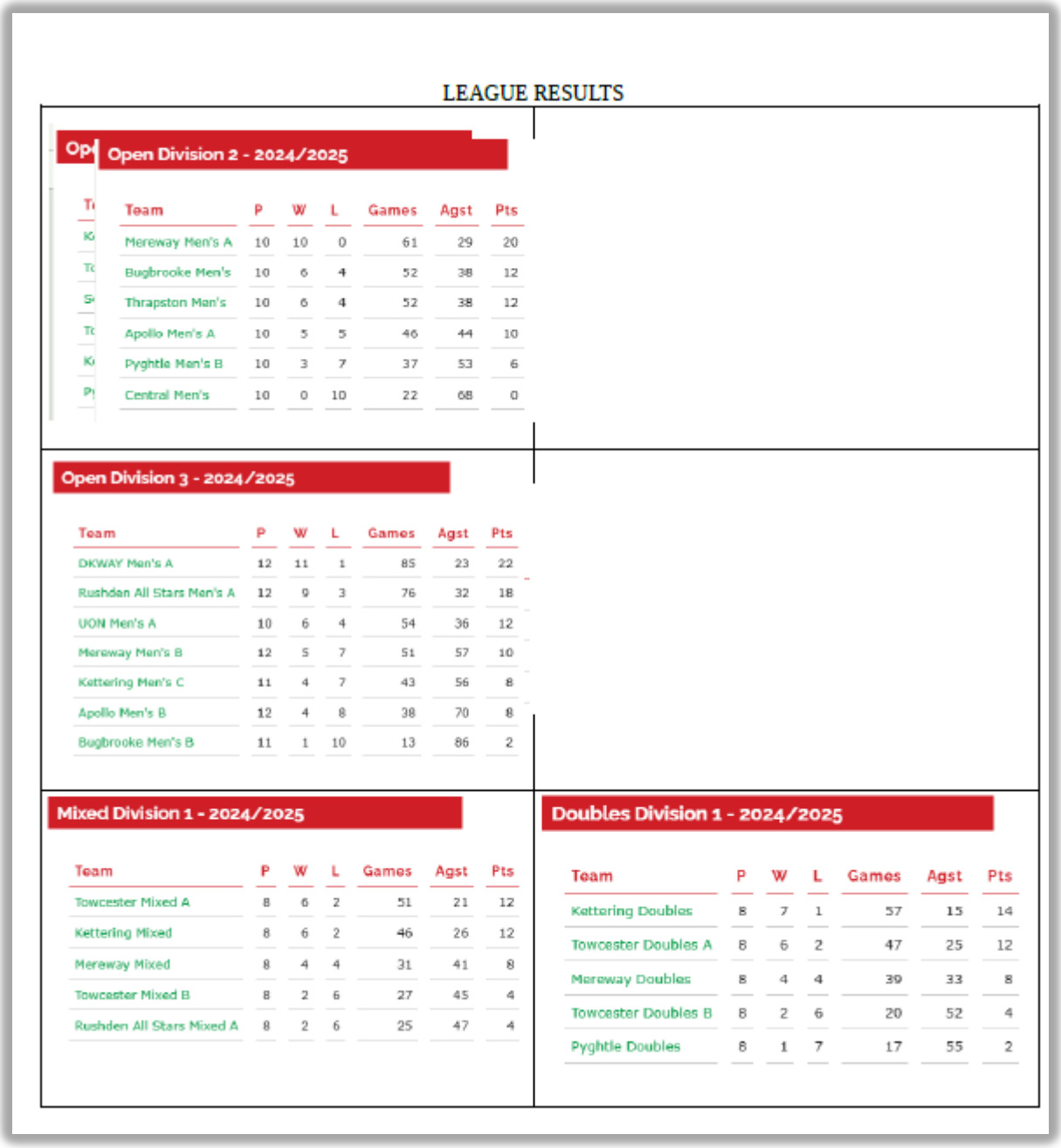
Before getting into the results, I would like to apologies to all the winners last season. I was not able to visit you all to hand over the trophies. I've corrected that this season so the trophies have already been engraved. So Fingers crossed that they are correct.

The results:
The trophies have already been engraved, so please make sure that we can take a picture of the person responsible for returning them next season. The Division winners are as follows;
Ladies : Kettering Badminton Club
Mixed : Towcester Badminton Club
Doubles: Kettering Badminton Club
Open Div3: The DKWAY (promoted with RAS)
Open Div 2: Mereway Badminton Club (promoted with Bugbrooke)
Open Div 1: Kettering Badminton Club

Rule Changes:
Two received see letter.
Discuss and vote.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025



LEAGUE RESULTS

Open Division 2 - 2024/2025

Team	P	W	L	Games	Agst	Pts
Mereway Men's A	10	10	0	61	29	20
Bugbrooke Men's	10	6	4	52	38	12
Thrapston Man's	10	6	4	52	38	12
Apollo Men's A	10	5	5	46	44	10
Pyghtle Man's B	10	3	7	37	53	6
Central Men's	10	0	10	22	68	0

Open Division 3 - 2024/2025

Team	P	W	L	Games	Agst	Pts
DKWAY Men's A	12	11	1	85	23	22
Rushden All Stars Men's A	12	9	3	76	32	18
UON Men's A	10	6	4	54	36	12
Mereway Men's B	12	5	7	51	57	10
Kettering Men's C	11	4	7	43	56	8
Apollo Men's B	12	4	8	38	70	8
Bugbrooke Men's B	11	1	10	13	86	2

Mixed Division 1 - 2024/2025

Team	P	W	L	Games	Agst	Pts
Towcester Mixed A	8	6	2	51	21	12
Kettering Mixed	8	6	2	46	26	12
Mereway Mixed	8	4	4	31	41	8
Towcester Mixed B	8	2	6	27	45	4
Rushden All Stars Mixed A	8	2	6	25	47	4

Doubles Division 1 - 2024/2025

Team	P	W	L	Games	Agst	Pts
Kettering Doubles	8	7	1	57	15	14
Towcester Doubles A	8	6	2	47	25	12
Mereway Doubles	8	4	4	39	33	8
Towcester Doubles B	8	2	6	20	52	4
Pyghtle Doubles	8	1	7	17	55	2

11. Rule Changes

Requests already received for rule changes are as follows:

2.0 The league shall consist of players and clubs affiliated to the Northamptonshire Badminton Association, and shall conform to the Rules of that said association.

After a lengthy discussion with regards to the interpretation of the rule, and how we could lay the groundwork for future, it was agreed that the wording should change:

FROM:
2.0 The league shall consist of **players** affiliated to the Northamptonshire Badminton Association, and shall conform to the Rules of that said association.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

TO:

2.0 The league shall consist of **players and clubs** affiliated to the Northamptonshire Badminton Association, and shall conform to the Rules of that said association.

25.c) Home club must reaffirm the fixture 7 days in advance.

At present there is no need to add this as a rule change, we should investigate the possibility of reminders being sent a week prior to the match. The situation will need to be monitored as it was an exceptional year of match fixture changes.

Next year – Hold a separate fixtures night for next season

12. Arrangements for 2025 – 2026

Div_25_26

Northamptonshire League 2025 / 2026

	Open	Ladies	Doubles	Mixed
Div 1	Kettering A	Kettering	Kettering	Towcester A
	Towcester A	DKWAY	Towcester A	Kettering
	Soaring Shuttles	Towcester	Mereway	Mereway
	Towcester B	Rushden All Stars	Pyghtle	Rushden All Stars
	Mereway A			
	Bugbrooke A			
	6	4	4	4
Div 2	Kettering B			
	Pyghtle A			
	Thrapston			
	Apollo			
	DKWAY			
	Rushden All Stars			
	6			
Div 3	~~Pyghtle B~~			
	~~Central~~			
	UON			
	Mereway B			
	Kettering C			
	Apollo B			
	Bugbrooke B			
	Wellingborough			
	6			

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th July 2025

13. AOB
Rule 21 – Start Times Kettering Badminton Club would like clarification on Rule 21 – Start Times. They are getting into trouble with their venue about over running on matches and incurring costs with some teams arriving late (UoN arrived over half an hour late). It used to be the away team would be awarded any remaining rubbers but reading the rule that seems to have changed now. Just wanting to clarify as likely they will need to be more strict going forwards. It was agreed that whichever club is late forfeits the games not played

Meeting closed at 8.48pm