



Badminton Wales

Participation to Performance

Head of Operations Update

We have had a busy start to the year with both Senior and Junior Welsh Nationals Tournaments being held within the first few months. It was great to see our Juniors taking on some of our more experienced Senior players at the Senior Nationals in February and continuing to highlight their skills and abilities at the Junior Nationals in March. Well done to all who competed, the future is certainly looking very bright. Thanks to the dedicated and passionate parents, the hardworking and often unrecognised officials, coaches and the Badminton Wales Team for making our National events a success.

Our annual AGM was held in late February on a glorious Sunday afternoon in Llandrindod Wells. Angela Stevens (Development Officer) and Matthew Hughes (Performance Manager & National Coach) presented BW's Development and Performance Pathway Vision with discussions around the launch of Satellite Centres throughout Wales. At the meeting Dave Davies was voted in as the new President of BW by the members. Many may already know Dave through his previous involvement as a Welsh and International umpire and he is looking forward to bringing his knowledge and experience to help support BW on its journey.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have some exciting projects in the pipeline as over the next few months we will be launching a new website and a new user-friendly membership system which will create greater engagement with our members. Exciting times ahead.

Performance Update

It's a been a busy start to the 2018 year with the Senior National Championships followed by the recent Junior Nationals. Both events proved to be a success with some excellent performances from our players; both tournaments attracted bigger entries than recent years which is very encouraging and we will look to build on these entries over the next year to deliver a bigger and better National Championships in 2019. The U13 Celtic Challenge team travelled to Dublin to compete in the annual event. Junior National Coach Donal O'Halloran was up-beat and positive with the players' performances within what was a challenging environment for the young team.

Our Regional Academy coaches have been working incredibly hard with our players, ensuring they are working on the required skills and techniques to enable them to compete and perform to the maximum of their ability. The hard work from the players is beginning to show with two recent Badminton England Gold event wins and one Badminton England Gold Star win. We look forward to tracking their progress for the remainder of this season. The overall standard of our Regional Academies is moving in the right direction and will continue to develop towards European based tournaments over the coming years. This will be a vital step towards the transition from junior international Badminton towards senior international.

The recent AGM was positive; Angela Stevens and I presented an update on the focus areas and the vision for the future. The conversation was incredibly positive with numerous County Associations in attendance. Much of the conversation was based around the focus on establishing the Satellite Centre network nationally. The Satellite Centres are crucial to the Badminton Wales player pathway providing the stepping stone between Clubs and Regional Academies and an environment in which players can develop within their communities.

The remainder of the year does not let up with the upcoming U15 Quadrangular which Wales is hosting at Sport Wales National Centre at the beginning of May. Selection for this event has now been completed along with the Glasgow International Event due to take place at the end of May. Additionally, a new event has been added to the calendar for our U17 players. The Paris World Games is a multisport event into which Badminton has now gained inclusion. We are extremely excited to include an U17 event and will look to continue these opportunities into U19 and senior over the coming months. More information will follow soon.

Badminton Wales President Dave Davies



In my capacity as the newly appointed President of Badminton Wales I was invited to attend the All England Championships and was looking forward to seeing how the event had changed since my time there as an umpire. What was very impressive was the variety of opportunities available for young players to test their skills. It was very pleasing to see young Welsh Umpire David Evans officiating a men's singles match. By the age of 23 he has achieved his Badminton Europe accreditation which is a remarkable achievement and will hopefully inspire other youngsters to do the same. Changes to the service judge rules and the use of technology allowing players to challenge line judge calls was interesting to watch. It is great to see the performance balance of power has evened out with new countries making rapid progress into the top flight of World Badminton. We cannot exist in isolation, we need to be part of the World Badminton Brotherhood, utilising all the many benefits this brings so it was great to hear BWF's Director of Development Ian Wright making reference to the direction Badminton Wales is going and the good work that is being done.





BadmintonWales

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Events Update

Yonex Junior Nationals 2018

BW saw an extremely successful Junior Nationals take place despite the snowy conditions that hit Sport Wales National Centre on the weekend of March 17th & 18th 2018. Over the weekend 166 matches were played, across 25 events by 58 young badminton players. All players showed an exceptional skill level and sportsmanship, making the weekend a huge success.

A full set of results and the event report can be found on the Badminton Wales website along with a gallery of photos.

<http://www.badminton.wales/yonex-junior-nationals>

U15 Quadrangular

Badminton Wales is hosting the 2018 U15 Quadrangular on May 4th-6th. This event is a team event between all 4 Home Nations. (Wales, England, Scotland & Ireland)



We look forward to welcoming the 3 other Home Nations to Wales for an exciting weekend of badminton.

Development Update

We are currently engaging with 13 of the 22 local authorities across Wales to roll out our Shuttle Time initiative and develop our junior leagues structure. In addition we are engaging with leisure centres to offer shuttle time sessions within their facilities. The uptake to date has been incredible with 69 schools engaged, 255 teachers trained, 1593 children involved with the initiative, and 1888 children playing in shuttle time competitions and festivals. To cope with the increasing demand we recently sent two tutors to Moldova to undertake the Shuttle Time tutor training. We now have a total of seven tutors spread across Wales; 2 in North Wales, 2 in South Wales, 1 in West Wales, 1 in Mid Wales and 1 based in Cardiff Met University. The Shuttle Time University Initiative will be delivered in Cardiff Met this October as part of the PGCE teacher course.

We have also been working collaboratively with Welsh Squash and Racketball, Tennis Wales and Table Tennis Wales to develop a 4Rackets initiative. There will be a 1 day camp on 4 April 2018, 10-3pm in the Easter holiday for 7 to 11 year olds at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff and will include the opportunity for the children to try all 4 racket sports. The badminton element will be Shuttle Time.

NGB Insport Ribbon Award

In February 2018 Badminton Wales were successful in achieving the NGB Insport Ribbon Award. The award is recognition for the inclusive work we deliver as an NGB across Wales. The Ribbon award is the first level and we are now working towards achieving the Bronze award.



SHUTTLE TIME

WALES

Shuttle Time

The next 10 week Shuttle Time sessions

Location: Sport Wales National Centre, Cardiff

Starts: 18 April 2018

Time: 6.30pm-8pm

The sessions are now tiered to allow for the development of the players.

For further information please go to

www.badminton.wales/course-schedule

For more information on the Shuttle Time program or the 4Rackets Camp please contact

angela.stevens@badminton.wales

BW said goodbye to our Events and Marketing Officer - Carissa Turner. Carissa has been instrumental in launching a modern junior competition calendar and has given BW a greater presence on the Social Media platforms. BW would like to say thank you to Carissa for her hard work and support over the years both on and off the court.

We wish her the very best of luck in her new venture.

Follow us on [Twitter](#)



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