

## Cheshire County Round-Up January 2026

### **WILLIAM ROGER EWING**

It is with great sadness that we have lost our President and true friend, Roger, who passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

Roger was our President since 2011 and prior to that, our chairman for many years, following in the footsteps of his father Bill.

I had the great honour of joining with his lifelong friend, of over 70 years, our VP Roger Westmorland, in delivering a eulogy at his funeral which celebrated his lifetime passion for badminton.

He will be sorely missed by his loving family and dearest friends, and he well deserved the accolade of 'Cheshire Legend'

RIP Roger.

The following reports have been provided by the relevant Officers

### **CHAIRMAN**

We are in the process of producing a Cheshire Development Plan in conjunction with Abbey Barry of BE and Gavin Simpson, Chair of our Schools & Youth. I would hope to be able to advise more on this at our next meeting in April 2026.

I attended a recent BE General Meeting, held online on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 and I will report on this later within the BE Report.

Having lost our President Roger, I am delighted to be able to advise that David Sumner, VP, has kindly agreed to stand in as 'interim' President and we are very grateful to him for agreeing to do this. He will hold this position until the AGM in July 2026, when it is hoped that the role of President will be voted upon and confirmed at that time.

Masters Practices have been held over various weekends from September last year and there are two more remaining sessions planned for 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Attendances have been rather variable but despite rising costs of shuttles and court costs at EPSV since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, we are hopeful of covering our costs.

The Baxter Trophy will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at Hazel Grove Sports Centre (hosted by the Stockport League, last years winners) and details will be sent out to the Leagues very shortly.

We haven't been able to re-instate the Len Knight Trophy yet but this will be very high on the agenda for next season.

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### **TREASURER**

Bank Balances as of Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Current Account £504.07. Interest Bearing Deposit Account (0.5%) £8,000.00 and £25,000.00 in a Fixed Term deposit account (2.65%) maturing on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

- Affiliation/Memberships fees are presently £3,054.84, so may struggle to reach the budgeted figure of £3,400.
- Sadly, we had to cancel our Senior Silver tournament scheduled to take place this month due to an unpredicted drastic reduction in entries that made it unviable. We have actually lost money as player refunds via Paypal attract a fee and this is at our cost.
- Our three tournaments were budgeted to make a surplus of £2,200.00 but with the loss mentioned above, this will now be nearer to £1,200.00. This will move us into a loss making position for the year.
- Our O55's & O60's teams did not compete in the Masters County Challenge earlier this month, so as yet we do not know if BE will still charge us and if we have any liability for players abortive hotel costs. Derek will no doubt comment on this in his report.
- Court costs at EPSV have gone up from £9.00 to £10.00 per court hour (off-peak rate) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.
- All other costs are pretty much as predicted and included within the budget and cash flow remains positive.
- I am expecting us to show a loss at the year end but exactly how much will be determined over the next few weeks and reflected in the draft accounts to be presented at the April meeting.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The following report was provided by Janet Risk, our Membership Secretary

A brief summary of individuals who have renewed their membership this season (Oct 2025 - 22nd Jan 2026)

- 1,086 members as follows:
- 646 adult club / community members
- 148 adult compete
- 212 junior club / community. These numbers are significantly lower than previously reported as lot have not renewed. We should have a look into why this might be happening.
- 80 junior compete

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We currently have 14 club welfare officers

Canute BC  
Christleton BC  
Barnston BC  
Frodsham BC  
Christleton Junior BC  
St Andrews/Peninsula BC  
CCO BC  
Rock Ferry BC  
Tarpoley BC  
Warrington Smashers BC  
Millbrook PC  
Remnants BC  
Bowen BC  
Alsager BC

All Leagues are asked to actively encourage their clubs to identify and appoint a CWO as this will become more and more important in the coming months ahead

Abbey Barry contributed with the names of clubs with a CWO.

### **MATCH SECRETARY**

The following report was provided by our Match Secretary, Ben Woodward with contributions from the various team Captains.

#### Game week 1 - November 2025

##### 1st Team

Back to the court for the 2025/26 season and this time the setting was De Montfort University for our first set of matches – fun fact: Leicester hates cars or at least places for them to park...

But anyway, we had some exciting returns to the court, so our lineup was:

- Greg Mairs
- Mike Roe
- Jack Taylor
- Rich Morrissey

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- Owen Edwards
- Jenny Mairs
- Rach Vickers
- Claire Weaver
- Sophie Taylor

Yep, fresh from the professional circuit, Greg and Jen decided to finally step back into the big leagues and (figuratively) put on the Cheshire badge!

Our first match was against Nottingham who we have a history of flip flops results against. This year was unfortunately a flip. A tough start to proceedings saw us going 4-0 down from the singles despite valiant efforts from all our players – Claire taking a top junior to 3 sets and Owen settling in for a 4-hour game at second singles.

Doubles saw us picking up the first of our games, albeit not plural... Top mens went our way but sadly the rest fell to Notts. It was all looking a bit desperate heading into the mixed, which thankfully saw us hit our stride and take the final three rubbers. Final score 7-4 Nottingham.

Next, we were up against Leinster and this time we started a little stronger splitting the singles 2-2, including Jen's first competitive game of singles in 12 years (won btw).

In the doubles a little reshuffle paid dividends, and we took 3 of the 4. The good form continued into the mixed and we managed to take 3 from 3. A pretty successful afternoon saw us rise up the table banking an 8-3 win overall.

The evening was an enjoyable team bonding playing pool – we found that we were much better at badminton than pool... Especially Claire...

Fresh-faced and raring to jump back into action on day 2, we faced Glasgow who narrowly missed out on promotion last year and had a strong looking team. However, our surging form continued and a special shout out to Jack Taylor who played an unbelievable singles grinding out a great win against a top Scottish singles player.

A fantastic run of games and performances saw us take 8 of the 11 games. A really strong weekend from the team sees us sitting comfortably in 3rd place. And some excellent individual shows saw 4 of our players winning either all or all but one of their games!

Next weekend we're in Derby for the second clash – fingers crossed we can keep the form up and maintain our footing on the leaderboard.

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### 2nd team

No report but a strong start to the season with an 8-3 win over Lancashire 3 and tight 7-4 loss to Nottinghamshire 2.

### 3rd team

We had a tough fixture to start the season against Lancashire 4. But after the singles we were leading the fixture 3-1 with Danny coming through a tough three setter. The level doubles was a different challenge, and we only picked one game, that being second womens doubles which Serena and Katy won in three sets.

Then onto the mixed there were some really tight games, two games going the distance and another very tight one that went to setting. So, a 6-5 loss to Lancashire, but some very positive performances where games could have gone in our favour on another day. Congratulations to Gee, Serena and Kerry on their senior county debuts.

Next up we faced the familiar foe of Nottingham 3. Once again after the singles we were 3-1 up showing the strength that we have in that area. Notably Gee winning 24-22 24-22 in the second and third sets to take his victory. Into the level doubles and once again we had some tough games losing out 23-21 in the third set of second women's doubles but unfortunately, we weren't successful in any leaving us 5-3 down after the doubles. Heading into the mixed we needed to pick up as many games as we could, Jack and Liv won in three sets, Rachel and Gee lost out in 2 and unfortunately, Katy and Ben lost 21-17 in the third set meaning that the fixture with won by Nottinghamshire 7-4. Nine points from the first weekend is a decent start after playing two of the stronger opponents in the league lots to build on in the next weekend.

### **Game week 2 - January 2026**

#### 1st team

Middle weekend for the Championship on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Jan saw us head to 'Derbados' into the cavernous Derby Arena. In a pleasant set of circumstances, we shared the hall with our third team, which was nice to have some more support from the sidelines.

Our team (plagued by a high-octane injury in the men's team) was as followed:

Mike Roe

Owen Edwards (Sat)

Rich Morrissey

Jack Taylor

Jamie Noble (Sun – and first team debut!)

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Rach Vickers

Claire Weaver

Sophie Taylor

Charlotte Forbes

Ashleigh Mok

We started the weekend against Kent who are effectively playing their own league this season. Despite some excellent performances and some nail-biting 3<sup>rd</sup> ends, we came away with only 1 match from 11. MVP to Owen for securing that victory!

Next up was Leicester 2 and a chance to get some more points on the board. We started off strong with 3 wins from 4 from the singles, with Ashleigh managing to take her singles to the wire before being edged out. The doubles again was a split ticket with us taking 2 each, all very close games. In the mixed we had some tired legs but still managed to battle through to take 1 of the matches (well done to Jack and Charlotte) and just lost out 19 in the third at top mixed.

Sunday saw us swap out Jamie for Owen and face a slightly depleted looking Sussex. We capitalised where we could and ended up taking a very solid 9-2 victory, helped by a withdrawal of Sussex's top lady (well done to Ashleigh for battling and keeping her on court!) and massive congratulations to Jamie who has a 100% win record on his debut in the 1<sup>st</sup> team.

We're now sat in 4<sup>th</sup> place so should be comfortable for staying up, but there is a slither of hope of promotion as both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> have to play Kent, and we have the opportunity to take some games off Lancashire who sit just one point above us!

### 2nd team

17<sup>th</sup> January was the second county weekend of the season where Cheshire 2 travelled to Concord Sports Centre in Sheffield. With the team being relegated 2 seasons ago from this division, it was important for the team to remain focused and uncomplacent.

Cheshire 2 team (With 2 last minute pull outs of 2 important players) consisted of:

Jamie Noble

Jonathan Savory

Harry Liver

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Danny Chen

Katie Bennett

Serena Yang (Debut)

Stephanie Rowarth

Kirtti Sathyanathan

The first opponent at 10am was against a strong Yorkshire 3 team which we anticipated to be a tough match to win. Every single player gave a 'never give up' attitude until the end, with 6 out of 11 rubbers going to 3 sets. The team had an excellent start in the singles, with Cheshire being up 3-1 however doubles was Yorkshires greatest strength. The tie came down to the very last rubber clinching the victory 6-5. The highlight of this match was Harry Liver and Jonathon Savory winning their open doubles in 3 sets after being down 19-13 in the third set. They showed incredible nerve and determination with one of their opponents smashing his racket in anger on the net post at the end of the match.

The second opponents were against Durhams first team in the afternoon. The expectation for this match was to win by a huge margin however after an extraordinary turn of events, we were down 3-1 after the singles. This did not stop the team from giving in, winning 6 out of the 7 doubles to win the tie 7-4. The highlight of this match was our debutant Serena Yang beating a C graded singles player comfortably 21-11, 21-14 keeping us in the tie where results were looking bleak.

Cheshire now sit comfortably in 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the end of the second weekend of fixtures with both promotion and relegation extremely unlikely. We play both Lothian 1 (1<sup>st</sup>) and Derbyshire 1 (2<sup>nd</sup>) in the final county weekend, therefore Cheshire 2 being so high up the table is vital to avoid relegation.

### 3rd team

For this weekend's fixtures we headed to the excellent venue: Derby Arena, the first team were also playing at this location which was nice for us to see how it's done! The courts were encircled by the velodrome track which meant for interesting playing experience and conditions.

This weekend we were playing the two teams below us in the league, so it was important that we picked up as many games as possible. Unfortunately, due to a late injury, we had to find some late recruits to fill in for the team all of whom played brilliantly, so thank you to Tom Foster (who was making his senior debut) and Gee for stepping up last minute, it was much appreciated.

So, to our first fixture - Derbyshire 2, for whom this was essentially a home fixture and we're able to call upon some strong and experienced players. The scores were level after the singles, with John and Tasha winning theirs and Gee

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losing out in a tight 3 set match. After the level doubles the scores were once again level, with Gee and Tom and Liv and Judith picking up their games in 2 sets. Both OD 1 and WD1 were 3 set battles but unfortunately Derbyshire edged those two games. Into the mixed doubles with the fixture poised at 4-4, Jack and Rachel had a very tough game and lost out in 2, Ben and Jen faced an awkward pair but also lost out in 2 (22-20, 21-19), however, John and Liv battled through their game - another 3 setter - to emerge victorious! This meant that the fixture was won 6-5 by Derbyshire, but good points on the board for us.

Next up we faced Isle of Man 2. Our singles successes once again proved strong as we won 3/4 of the games thanks to Gee, Judith and Tasha. The Open doubles was another story unfortunately and both pairs lost out this time. Fortunately, our women's doubles pairs proved too strong for IOM and were both victorious. We lead 5-3 heading into the mixed. Jack and Rachel fought valiantly but lost out in the 3rd set, Ben and Jen took their game and Tasha and Tom lost out extremely tightly in 2 (22-20, 21-19). We won the fixture 6-5!

We currently sit in 6th place, one spot and 6 points above the relegation zone. The league is very tight, and we are only 4 points off 3rd place! We're in a fairly comfortable position going into the final weekend but need to pick up as many games as possible to guarantee safety.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

This report was provided by our Tournament Secretary, Jan Bergh

The Senior Bronze tournament was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. There were one hundred and eleven players (forty three of those from Lancashire). This was a one-day event.

WS 8 entries in 2 groups of 4.

There were no Cheshire representatives in this event. The final was contested by the number two seed Martha Jones and an ungraded Lancashire player Wenija Shi who convincingly beat the top seed Simone Ahite (Notts) at the group stage.

Winner        Wenija Shi (Lancs)

Runner up     Martha Jones (Yorks)

OS 25 entries (the majority Lancs players)

All seeds bar one progressed to the quarter final stage and all semi-finalists were from Lancashire. The two closest and most exciting matches were in the quarter finals with Dan Wolfenden losing 22-20 in the third set against Tom Gillett and Henrik Fan coming through a tough three setter against Percival Cheng. The final was a pretty straightforward affair with Henrik Fan winning 22-20 21-13.

Winner        Henrik Fan (Lancs)

Runner up     Tom Gillett (Lancs)

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### WD 14 entries

Rachel Green and Sophie Taylor (Cheshire) were the number one seeds in this event but, unfortunately, were beaten in their group.

Again, a strong Lancashire contingent having three of the four semi-finalists. There was no drama in these matches with Jasmine Kwong and Zoe Siu having a comfortable ride to victory without dropping a set.

Winners        Jasmine Kwong (Lancs) & Zoe Siu (Lancs)

Runners up    Rachel Dewhurst (Lancs) & Ellen Liddle (Lancs)

### OD 28 entries

Cameron Owen was the only Cheshire player involved in the final stages of this event playing with Daniel Myers of Lancashire. There was a very competitive match between the number three seeds Kevin HO (Lancs) and ka Wai Ng (Mids) and number five seeds Matt Hooper (Notts) and Eddie Pratchett (Leics) with Matt and Eddie winning and going on to contest the final against a strong unseeded (and ungraded) Lancashire pair Axel Ng and Kai Soo.

Winners        Axel Ng (Lancs) & Kai Soo (Lancs)

Runners up    Matthew Hooper (Notts) & Eddie Pratchett (Leics)

### XD 25 entries

There were three Cheshire players with their out of county partners in the quarter final matches. Owen Edwards (Ches) and Lydia Ip (Warks) beat Robert Sabovcik (Oxf) and Sophie Taylor (Ches) in the quarter final but lost out to the eventual event winners in the semi. Jamie Noble (Ches) and Ellen Liddle (Lancs) won a tough three set match in their semifinal but lost the final to a strong Lancashire pairing.

Winners        Yixuan Shen (Lancs) & Jasmine Kwong (Lancs)

Runners up    Jamie Noble (Ches) & Ellen Liddle (Lancs)

This was a busy tournament, and Lancashire was well represented in the winners list. Many of the players were not graded and it was impossible to judge standards when seedings were done. Alan Nottingham the tournament referee reported back to Badminton England and stated this fact in the hope that steps would be taken to rectify the situation to make the draw and seedings easier in the future and to help other players gauge the ability of their opposition.

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The Senior Silver which was due to be played this month (January) was cancelled due to a poor entry that was fifty per cent down on last year's event. We will be asking players for feedback to ascertain the reason(s) in the hope that this is not reflected in the entry for the 2026 Bronze due to be held in December.

### **MASTERS GROUP**

This report was provided by our Masters Secretary, Derek Neary

#### Championship

This season all of our teams are playing in the Northern region and hence we know it will be tough competing with the Roses counties and the Scots. The O40s are leading the way and are currently unbeaten and well placed to win that section again to qualify for the National finals in April. The O65s are the best placed age group after that. Having beaten Yorkshire 5-4 and losing to Lancashire 5-4 they are competitive in that group, but the likely winners will be Lancashire. The O45s and the O60s seasons are shaping up very similarly in that they only play against the Roses Counties and in those sections, Yorkshire have their best teams who regularly contest the National finals. Last season the O45s managed to beat Lancashire but that has eluded them so far this season. At O55s we remain winless though when entering the results I would note that many of the games are competitive. Finally, the O70s have only played 2 of their 6 matches to date and they have been against the top 2 teams. So, although they are currently winless, they do have slightly easier matches to come.

#### Challenge.

I think I can say with some confidence that this was the worse Challenge weekend we have had during my tenure. We started the weekend with 4 teams playing Premier division and 3 were relegated. We also had 2 teams due to play at Wolverhampton in Division 1. On the Friday before the weekend, just as I was departing for Milton Keynes, I received a phone call from the organiser who told me that the Sports Centre in Wolverhampton had been closed due to snow. My understanding was that the event was off. In fact, the event was subject to a late inspection and actually ran but started 3 hours late. This was a miscommunication. By the time we received the news that it was going ahead then we could not get teams there. So the O55s and the O60s did not play. I have since spoken to the organiser who assures me there is no 'comeback' to us on what was a very difficult situation. In fact, the 2 missing teams allowed the event to have more courts available to the teams that did play which helped to offset the delay. Some players have expressed concern that we will be relegated but this is not the case. Dependent on next year's entries the likelihood is that we will have 5 teams in division 1. I have actually learned that the heating at that venue had not been working for some time prior to the event and had the organisers known then they would have probably cancelled the event earlier. The remaining problem now is that our players have paid for hotels which they were unable to use through no fault of their own. As they were representing our county then I hope we can

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compensate them. This will be a financial hit for the county, but I think it is the right thing to do.

Of the 4 teams that did actually play our O40s team, playing in Worcester, got to the last match in a position to win the event. Unfortunately, they came up against the current National champions, Cambridgeshire, and lost 3-1. Thus, they ended up finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also playing at Worcester were our O70s. They managed a win over Kent but in finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to bottom are relegated. We also at 2 teams playing at Milton Keynes. The O45s managed 2 draws but that wasn't enough to keep them up. Finally, the O65s lost all of their matches, though they were all close. They are thus relegated. Hence the 2026 Challenge does not have a lot of fond memories though everyone who I have spoken to enjoyed their games and the weekend as a whole.

### **BADMINTON ENGLAND**

Karl Bergh attended the online BE General Meeting that was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.

46 people joined the meeting that saw George Wood (Director of Sport) stand in for Sue Storey (CEO) who could not attend due to a family bereavement.

George Wood, who attended Roger's funeral, gave a nice and fitting tribute to Roger as he opened the meeting and during the meeting, there were many memories added by the Chairman Peter Emptage, President Derek Batchelor and Vice President Eric Brown, who all conveyed their respects and condolences to his family.

From a performance viewpoint, our Para-Badminton team are soon to depart for the World Championships in Bahrain and work is continuing on strengthening integration between the para pathway at the National Badminton Centre and for players to work alongside able bodied athletes.

Ben Lane and Sean Vendy are continuing to produce good results for the England and Olympic programmes, and Nathan Robertson is playing a central role in delivering this work.

George Wood recapped on recent activities that included the Masters Challenge that took place this month; the Senior County Championships which are progressing well with the second weekend also taking place this month; Junior National and Masters Nations are complete and 322 circuit tournaments were delivered in 2025; English Nationals return to Manchester on 31<sup>st</sup> January & 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 and the National Badminton League continues to grow.

Preparation for the 2026 YONEX All England is on track.

It was recorded and discussed that we, Cheshire had to cancel our Senior Silver event, scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 due to a very poor entry. This will be brought up at the next Circuit Management Group meeting, and we will try to share any feedback that we get as to why there was such a dramatic drop off.

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GDPR procedures are being updated, and it was confirmed that JustGo is fully GDPR compliant and used by other NGB's. This is an ongoing process.

Discussion took place as to the format for the upcoming AGM on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and it is proposed again to hold workshops prior to the AGM and a National Awards ceremony in the evening.

BE to investigate reported issues with NBL ticketing and availability; how CBA's find out about barred members/coaches; potential for a Student Membership option.

### **LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES**

**Chester** – the following report provided by Derek Neary

- All Leagues are running OK with 3 Mixed, 3 Men's, 2 Ladies and 3 Junior Divisions.
- The premier club is EROS from Deeside who are dominating and are currently top in Mixed, Men's & Ladies Leagues.
- The search continues for a new Chairperson, as Louise is adamant that it is time for her to stand down.

**Crewe** – the following report provided by Brian Horrocks

- League continues to schedule. All matches roughly 50% complete.
- New clubs settled in well and competing at the level of ability expected
- Masters' tournament complete, Open and Handicap tournaments being planned. Tournament Secretary stranding down after this season.
- Junior tournament is planned for April - first time since COVID
- East Cheshire Junior League at the halfway stage. 5 Divisions (one of three teams). Mini League stage starts in February. New club settled in well.
- Singles ladder has two more sessions this season.
- CDBL standing ready for news of Baxter Trophy
- The future of badminton stems from accessibility for children. Our league have had increased enquiries for funding support for coaching courses this year. We look at these on case by case basis, up to full cost. This is further supported by the bursary available from CCBA. Our league's 'process' to try and keep things easy, is that applicants go to their respective clubs, who liaise with CDBA, who liaise with CCBA.

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**Wirral** – the following report provided by Andy Meredith

- The Wirral F&GP committee held meetings on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- League fixtures are progressing well in all divisions with a couple of enforced rearrangements reported. The number of ladies playing within the league continues to be a problem.
- The WBL committee have proposed the formation of a Starters/Beginners League to help satisfy a competitive element for players who prefer to play social badminton. The League will approach existing pockets of social players to see if there is an appetite for this. A complementary advertising campaign will be launched across social media platforms.
- A league representative has made an approach to secondary schools across the borough to see if there is appetite in organising an inter-school's league/competition. So far there have been 8 schools showing an interest.
- The annual League Club tournament was held at The Oval sports centre, Bebington on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. This competition grows both in stature and attendance and was greatly appreciated by those teams taking part. The winners of each league on the day were Barnston B team and Rock Ferry.
- Following last season's popular presentation night at the Onyx in Heswall, Wirral, our appointed committee member is organising this year's event. Tickets are now on sale.
- The City Region development plan being run by Abbey Barry that includes Wirral, appears to have faltered. We await details of forthcoming meetings to progress with this.
- Active Wirral Development - The next meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. This meeting will hopefully cement proposals for a launch event run by Gavin Simpson to precede setting up Shuttle Stars sessions for juniors up to the age of 11 at Bidston activity centre.
- Sadly, due to an injury sustained by Andy Meredith, the filming/photography of the Cheshire squad players with a view to using the images and film for promotion of the sport around Cheshire had to be put on hold. Hopefully we can arrange to do this over the forthcoming months.
- There was a good representation of both current and former Wirral league players at Roger Ewing's funeral on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Everybody commented on how beautifully the ceremony was presented and it was a fitting tribute to Roger who will be very much missed.

## **JUNIOR COUNTY**

The following report provided by Gavin Simpson, Chairman of Cheshire Schools & Youth

- East Cheshire are going strong with sessions on Friday nights in Altrincham. 2 sessions running at full capacity, with 50 members and 28 on a waiting list. We are just short of more court availability.
- West Cheshire have hit a snag along with the County junior training sessions at David Lloyd Leisure which was their home. They have removed external booking privileges for min of 6 months.
- So West Cheshire have only just started back training in Helsby High School on Wednesday nights.
- Both PCs are still entering teams into the Junior Leagues. Both Emma Hilton and I are still hoping to commence the new County Challenge tournament in May, venue to be decided nearer the time if David Lloyd isn't available.
- County have had to re organise with the David Lloyd issue, we have had to move our 3 training sessions into 2 and move from a Sunday to a Saturday in Altrincham just down to again court availability.
- We now are training 1-5 pm on a Saturday afternoon and have lost some numbers due to other commitments, we currently have 24 and 18 training for 2 hours each.
- We entered a team in the Rio U18 Event in York just after Christmas. After losing 5 of our team from last year due to mocks, we went with a very young U15 team and bravely came 6th out of 8 which was a great performance.
- We lost 8-7 to Warwickshire (429 to 416 points) so very close. Lost 11-4 to Surrey and 13-2 to Yorkshire.
- On the Sunday our Warwickshire score carried over. So just had to play Hertfordshire and we won 8-7 and lost 8-7 to Lancs but with count backs we eventually came 6th overall a great performance from some players who have only really played bronze events before.
- We have entered a team in the U18 ICT again this year and hope we can finish in the top half.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Gavin Simpson has asked if the county would be prepared to offer some financial sponsorship to James Skinner? He is a 13 year old Para Badminton player and has just been awarded tier 1 on the England Senior pathway, with the view that they will take him to the next senior Europeans if his performances continue to improve as he has this last 12 months.  
He needs to increase his training and get some strength and stability support.
- Can this be discussed at the next meeting please and if needed I can provide and information needed.
- Succession planning is high on the agenda, and we are having some positive discussions with potential new officers to come onto the Committee.
- We would expect to be able to report more on this at the next meeting.
- Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Proposed date for the AGM – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – to be confirmed.