

DAVID CUNNINGHAM WINS DONELLA CRAWFORD MEMORIAL AWARD

We are delighted to report that one of Lothian Badminton Group's stalwart coaches, David Cunningham who hails from Dalkeith, was awarded the Donella Crawford Memorial Award at the Scottish National Junior Championships, held in Meadowbank on 3rd April. This award is presented in memory of Donella Crawford to a volunteer coach, who has made an outstanding contribution to coaching young people in badminton.

David has dedicated a huge amount of his personal time to badminton in the Lothian region over a period of over 20 years. He has been coaching junior badminton squads in the area since 1990, accompanying and leading teams at various age groups to tournaments throughout the UK and further afield in Europe.

He is also a pivotal figure in SSBU coaching and has been involved for over 20 years coaching squads of all age groups and leading the annual SSBU Summer Courses at Inverclyde.

He regularly attends tournaments throughout the country to offer encouragement and words of advice to junior players and over the years has played a lead role in the SSBU Coaching Conferences across the country.

He also runs weekly fitness sessions from May to September every year aimed at both adults and juniors and also runs mid-week skill development sessions. In announcing the award, the Tournament Director Colin Campbell commented that he could vouch from personal experience for David's enthusiasm and commitment which extended to people across the age spectrum from the young to those of a more mature age!

In winning this award, David follows in the footsteps of another legendary Lothian coach, Irene Blair, who won the award in 2009.



David receives the Donella Crawford trophy from Lothian veteran player, Peter Tait and Lothian's *BADMINTONscotland* president, Christine Black.

Congratulations, David, on a richly deserved award.