

Lothian Group Successes

The 2007-08 season proved once again to be a very successful one for many Lothian players from Junior level up to the Veteran ranks.

At the end of the season, the group was proud to recognise the achievement of the following players who were all National Champions.

Junior National Champions:

U11 Girls' Singles – Julie McPherson

U11 Girls' Doubles - Julie McPherson & Abbie Moran

U13 Girls' Singles – Heather McPherson

U13 Mixed Doubles – Heather McPherson & Josh Neil (Ayrshire)

U15 Boys' Singles – Matthew Carder

U15 Boys' Doubles – Matthew Carder & Gregor McVean (Ayrshire)

U17 Boys' Doubles – Paul van Rietvelde & Craig Pollock

U17 Mixed Doubles – Paul van Rietvelde & Gillian Sloan (Glasgow)

U19 Boys' Doubles – Paul van Rietvelde & Kieran Merrilees (Glasgow)

U19 Mixed Doubles – Paul van Rietvelde & Gillian Sloan (Glasgow)

U23 Men's Doubles – Peter Hockey and Duncan Leith

U23 Mixed Doubles – Martin Campbell and Catriona Lawlor (Cumbernauld)



It is worth noting that Matthew Carder's victory in the U15 Boys' Singles was the 4th consecutive year that this title was won by a Lothian player, following in the footsteps of Martin & Michael Campbell and Paul van Rietvelde.

Senior National Champions:

Ladies Doubles – Emma Mason and Imogen Bankier (Glasgow)

Scottish Schools Champions:

Primary Boys' singles - Alistair Gordon

Secondary U14 Girls' Doubles – Hannah Laing and Megan Richardson

U16 Boys' Singles – Michael Campbell

Veteran National Champions:

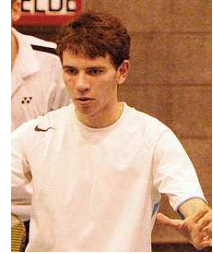
Over 45 men's singles – Colin Campbell

Over 45 men's doubles – Colin Campbell and Colin Ross (Aberdeen)

Over 50 mixed doubles – Ian Torrens and Libby Hamilton (Glasgow)

We also were delighted to see many of our players awarded international honours during the season:

Under 15 Home Countries Quadrangular – Matthew Carder
 Under 17 UK School Games – Michael Campbell & Caroline Collinson
 Under 17 European Team Championships – Michael Campbell
 Under 17 Home Countries Quadrangular – Michael Campbell & Caroline Collinson
 Scottish Select v British Police – Martin Campbell, Peter Hockey, Roya Arabshahi & Ruth Kerr
 Senior Internationals (various) – Thomas Bethell, Jillie Cooper & Emma Mason
 Robert McCoig Veterans International – Colin Campbell & Christine Black
 Veterans Triangular International vs Wales and Ireland – Colin Campbell, Ian Campbell, Christine Black, Ian Torrens & Alison Barclay



Many of our junior players recorded further successes in the Scottish junior tournament circuit. At senior level, Lindsay Campbell recorded her first senior victory in the Ladies Doubles, playing with Victoria Wan at the Glasgow Championship, while Peter Hockey also recorded his first senior tournament victory in the mixed doubles, with Alison Marr, at the East Championship, ironically at Lindsay's expense.

However, once again, the success of our players has been far from restricted to successes on the home circuit. The season got off to an excellent start at the Aalborg Youth Games. In the Under 17 age group, Michael Campbell won the singles and boys' doubles with Craig Pollock, with Craig also winning the mixed doubles with Caroline Collinson. Matthew Carder and Alex Dickenson won the mixed doubles in the Under 15 age group.



Martin Campbell had another excellent season which culminated in victories in the English Grand Circuit U18 singles and boy's doubles (with Angus Gilmour). Martin and Angus also won the U19 boys' doubles circuit. In the English circuit, there were also victories for Peter Hockey and Duncan Leith in the U19 Nottingham Open, Paul van Rietvelde in the U18 Wigan Open and Paul and Craig Pollock in the U18 Wycombe Open.

Jillie Cooper enjoyed a lot of success at senior level, making a strong contribution in Scotland's Uber Cup team that finished 4th in European championships. Jillie along with Watson Briggs (Glasgow) also reached the quarter finals of the mixed doubles in the European Championships. She also reached the finals of the ladies doubles and semi finals of the mixed doubles in the Spanish Open.



And of course, Lothian was delighted to see the fantastic successes of former Lothian boy, Robert Blair. Robert secured a notable double at the Scottish International Championships, winning the men's doubles with his English partner, David Lindley, and to the delight of the home crowd, the mixed doubles with his new Scottish partner, Imogen Bankier. Robert and Imogen went on to further successes at the All England and European Championships, reaching the quarter finals of both tournaments. We were also delighted that Robert, along with Emma Mason, found time their busy schedules, to present the prizes at the Meadowbank Xmas tournament.

Unfortunately, in the Inter County Championship, we had difficulty in selecting a consistent team and were unable to retain our place in Division 1A. However, on a happier note, Lothian won the Scottish Inter Group tournament. The event combines senior and veteran players and it was reassuring for our future to note that the success mainly due to the performances of the senior players rather than our 'oldies'. The event came down to the final mixed doubles in which Peter Hockey and Lindsay Campbell secured a notable win over Bill and Julie Hogg.

The outlook for the forthcoming season is already looking promising with Michael Campbell and Craig Pollock having been selected to represent Scotland at the UK School Games and Martin Campbell, Paul van Rietvelde and Craig Pollock making up 3 of the 4 players who have been selected to represent Scotland in the Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Pune in October.



We wish all our players the best of luck in Season 08/09.