

## **Lothian Group Successes**

Season 15/16 once again proved to be a successful one for Lothian as players from junior through to senior (now called 'masters') level continued to perform very successfully at the highest level.

During the season, the following players all won National titles at different levels.

### **Junior National Champions:**

U11 Boys' Doubles – Harry Bent and Ben Riddle  
U13 Boys' Singles – Euan Campbell  
U13 Boys' Doubles – Euan Campbell and Andrew Evans  
U13 Girls' Doubles – Catherine Holland and Amanda Martin  
U13 Mixed Doubles – Mary Kong and Ian Campbell (Inverness)  
U15 Girls' Singles – Rachel Cameron  
U15 Girls' Doubles – Rachel Cameron and Rachel Andrew  
U15 Mixed Doubles – Rachel Andrew and Adam Pringle (Giffnock)



Euan Campbell &  
Andrew Evans



Julie MacPherson

U19 Girls' Singles – Julie MacPherson  
U19 Girls' Doubles – Julie MacPherson and Eleanor O'Donnell (Beith)  
U21 Women's Singles – Julie MacPherson  
U21 Women's Doubles – Julie MacPherson and Toni Woods (Falkirk)

### **Scottish National Champions:**

Men's singles – Matthew Carder  
Mixed doubles – Robert Blair and Imogen Bankier (Glasgow)

### **Scottish Schools Champions:**

Primary Girls' Singles – Lois Turnbull  
U14 Girls' Doubles – Aafreen Khan & Rachel Maclean  
U16 Boys' Singles – Alastair Campbell

### **Scottish Seniors National Champions:**

Over 35 Men's Singles – Craig Lamb

Over 50 Men's Doubles – Ross Gladwin & Steve Thomson (Stonehaven)  
Over 55 Mixed Doubles – Christine Black & Dan Travers (Perth)  
Over 60 Mixed Doubles – Margaret Robertson & Andy Muirhead (Stranraer)

### **Scottish Seniors International Champions:**

Over 60 Women's Doubles – Christine Black & Margo Witty (England)

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

### **Internationals:**

European Men's Team Championships - Robert Blair, Martin Campbell, Matthew Carder

### **Junior Internationals:**

Under 15 Home Countries Quadrangular –Alastair Campbell, Rachel Andrew and Rachel Cameron

Under 15 European Junior – Rachel Cameron

Under 17 European Junior – Glen Lewington and Lily Farnood

### **Seniors Internationals:**

Robert McCoig Veterans International – Colin Campbell, Ross Gladwin, Craig Lamb, Christine Black, Jill Gladwin Grieg and Margaret Robertson.

### **Round up**

Our under 15 girls have enjoyed some fantastic successes this year. Rachel Cameron was selected as one of two girls to represent Scotland in the inaugural European under 15 championships and went on to win a bronze medal in the girls' doubles with Rachel Sugden (Alexandria). Rachel along with Rachel Cameron and Alastair Campbell were also part of the impressive Scottish team which was victorious in the annual under 15 quadrangular international. The Lothian players also enjoyed tremendous success in the individual events with the two Rachels winning a silver medal in the girls' doubles, Rachel Cameron winning a silver medal in the girls' singles, Rachel Andrew winning a gold medal in the mixed doubles with Adam Pringle (Giffnock) and Alastair Campbell winning the Edna Gibb trophy in recognition of the most meritorious performance from a member of the Scotland team.



Rachel Andrew &  
Rachel Cameron

Rachel Andrew and Adam Pringle also continued their impressive form by reaching the final of the Under 17 mixed doubles at the Olve Jot Junior Tournament in Antwerp



Matthew Carder

At senior level, Lothian players again enjoyed a lot of success on the Scottish circuit. Matthew Carder topped the men's singles National ranking list at the end of the season once more, retaining his title at the West Championships and then winning the Scottish National title for the first time. Julie MacPherson won the ladies' singles at the West, Dunfermline and East Championships. She also won the ladies' doubles titles at the same tournaments, winning the West and Dunfermline with Eleanor O'Donnell (Beith) and the East with fellow Lothian player, Sarah Bok. Martin Campbell won the men's doubles West Championships with his regular partner Patrick MacHugh (Kinross).

In the Scottish National Championships, in addition to Matthew Carder's singles success, Robert Blair partnering Adam Hall (Mauchline) regained the men's doubles title at the expense of defending champions Martin Campbell and Patrick MacHugh. Robert also retained his mixed doubles title with Imogen Bankier (Glasgow) beating the new Lothian partnership of Martin Campbell and Julie MacPherson in the final. This match brought to an end Robert and Imogen's hugely successful mixed doubles partnership.



Robert Blair & Imogen Bankier

On the international scene, Martin Campbell had another successful season with Patrick MacHugh (Kinross), the highlights being winning the Hungarian International and reaching the final of the Estonian International. Although Robert Blair reduced his competitive schedule, he nonetheless produced a remarkable performance in the Swiss Open, winning the mixed doubles with Pia Zebadiah Bernadeth from Indonesia. He also reached the quarter finals of the men's doubles at the European Championships with Adam Hall (Mauchline).



Martin Campbell & Patrick MacHugh

In the Scottish 4 Nations Para Badminton Championships, Fiona Christie won two titles, winning the Wheelchair Women's singles and the mixed doubles with Owen Kilburn (England). Peter Sabine (Edinburgh) teamed up with Ben Hayward (Ireland)

to win the LD class 3 men's doubles. Fiona and Peter also enjoyed success at the English 4 Nations ParaBadminton Championships with Fiona winning the wheelchair women's singles and the mixed doubles with England's Owen Kilburn and Peter, winning the men's singles in the LD class 4



At the World Seniors Championships, there was yet more success for Christine Black. Christine won a silver medal in the over 60 women's singles and then went one step further in the women's doubles by winning the gold medal with her Dutch partner Marjan Ridder. Christine also received a richly deserved off court success at the start of the year when she was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list in recognition of her services to sport. What a wonderful ambassador she has been and continues to be for Lothian and Scottish badminton.

In the Inter County Championship, the new format proved challenging for the Lothian teams as we struggled to field our strongest teams due to matches clashing with other commitments for many of our top players. Lothian's 1<sup>st</sup> team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 2 and our 2<sup>nd</sup> team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 3. In the Scottish Inter Group, Lothian finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

While last season saw Jillie Cooper bringing her international career to an end, sadly this season it was the turn of both Robert Blair and Paul van Rietvelde to do so. Both have enjoyed huge levels of success from their early junior careers through to the highest level on the international stage and have been a credit to Lothian badminton. Robert will continue to be heavily involved with badminton through his coaching role with BADMINTONscotland while Paul is embarking on a change of career. We wish both of them well for the future.

As always, we wish all our players the best of luck for the forthcoming season and look forward to their continued success in the 16/17 season. Even at this early stage of the season, there have been some notable successes with Matthew Carder winning his first senior international title at the Yonex Slovak Open, Colin Hepburn winning the 70+ men's singles at the Americas Masters and Christine Black winning two gold medals and a silver medal at the European Masters