



# Cheshire County Badminton Association

Cheshire Chat – AGM Edition 2026

## AGM 2026 Edition

### In This AGM 2026 Edition

Agenda  
Minutes of 2025 AGM  
Secretary's report  
Treasurer's report  
Match Secretary's report  
Tournament Secretary's report  
Masters Secretary's report

Notice is hereby given that the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire County Badminton Association will be held in the Willaston Memorial Hall, Willaston, Neston, Wirral CH64 2XR on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026** commencing at 7.15 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

- 1. President's Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Record of the Annual General Meeting – June 2025**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. To receive and adopt the Secretary's Report for the 2025/2026 season.**
- 6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and to agree the affiliation fee for 2026/2027**
- 7. To receive and adopt the Match Secretary's Report for the 2025/2026 season.**
- 8. To receive and adopt the Tournament Secretary Report for the 2025/2026 season.**
- 9. To receive and adopt the Masters' Secretary's Report for the 2025/2026 season.**
- 10. Affiliation Fees**

#### **CCBA County Fees 2026/27**

At the April 2026 CCBA meeting, County fees were discussed and it was proposed and recommended that an increase would be applied for the first time since 2019.

The proposed increase would be;

Adult Member £0.25 to £4.50

Junior Member £0.20 to £1.50

**Badminton England Membership Fees 2026/27**

Category	Membership	Price	Autorenewal Price	Increase
<b>Community</b>	Community Member (19 years +)	£18.00	£16.20	£1.00
	Community Member (12-18 years)	£5.90	£5.31	£0.40
	Community Member (5-11 years)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Compete</b>	Compete Member (19 years +)	£35.00	£31.50	£2.00
	Compete Member (Non-Resident)	£17.00	£15.30	£1.00
	Compete Member (12-18 years)	£18.80	£16.62	£0.70
	Compete Member (5-11 years)	£12.90	£11.61	£0.90
<b>Coaching</b>	Paid Coach Compete Member (earning £5,000 to £50,000 from coaching annually)	£99.00	£89.10	£5.50
	Volunteer Coach Compete Member (Earning under £5,000 from coaching annually)	£74.00	£66.60	£3.00
	Paid Coach Member (Earning £5,000 to £50,000 from coaching annually)	£82.50	£74.25	£5.00
	Volunteer Coach Member (Earning under £5,000 from coaching annually)	£57.00	£51.30	£2.00

**BE Club Affiliation Costs 2026/27**

No of Club Members	Club Affiliation Cost
0-20	£92.50
21-49	£128.75
50+	£154.50

Following a number of price freezes over the last few years, there will be a modest increase to most memberships this season, in line with UK inflation (around 3%). We're pleased to confirm that children aged 11 and under will continue to receive free Community Membership.

For coaches, there will be a small increase above 3%. However, we'll now cover all administration costs for DBS checks, and we have introduced the option of digital ID checks, making the process much quicker and easier.

**Auto-renewal**

We will continue to offer a 10% discount for members who choose to auto-renew.

- This must set up by the player within their own JustGo account during renewal (clubs can't apply this on their behalf)
- Over 25% of members have already opted in, helping to reduce admin and improve the player journey
- Players will still appear in your club/county list as normal
- Memberships will automatically renew on 1 November (as long as payment details are valid)

**Seasonal Memberships**

As a reminder:

- All memberships (excluding coaches) expire on 31st October, aligning with club affiliations
- New members and clubs joining later in the season (those not registered in the previous year) receive a 25% discount
- Renewing members/clubs will pay full price whenever they renew, helping to encourage timely renewals and avoid gaps in cover and benefits

**11. To confirm appointment of Cheshire Delegates on Badminton England Council**

Representative

Mrs Brenda Andrew

**12. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Independent Examine

Mrs Jill Jackson

**13. Election of Officers and Members of Council**

The following have been proposed and seconded:

Chairman	Mr Karl Bergh
Secretary	Mr Alex Bergh
Treasurer	Mr David Hudd
Membership Secretary	Mrs Janet Risk
Match Secretary	Mr Ben Woodward
Tournament Co-ordinator	Mr Alan Nottingham (to end December 2026) Mrs Kay Vickers (from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2027)
Masters' Secretary	Mrs Ruth Flatman
Website Manager	Mrs Kay Vickers
County Welfare Officer	Miss Emma Hilton
Chair of Selectors	Mr Richard Morrissey
Elected Members	Mrs Doreen Francey Mrs Emily Stapley Vacancy

#### 14. Election of President and Vice Presidents

The following have been proposed and seconded:

President	Mr Derek Neary
Vice Presidents	Mrs B Andrew, Mr J Berry, Mr C W Evans, Mr P Mascarenhas, Mr D Potter, Mr R Westmorland, Mrs B Hickson, Mr D Sumner and Mr N Cooper

#### 15. Presentation of Awards

Marjorie Bryce-Smith Trophy

Arthur Evans Memorial Trophy

Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting of Cheshire County Badminton Association held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in the Willaston Memorial Hall, Willaston, Neston, Wirral CH64 2XR commencing at 7.15 p.m.

There were 11 people present.

### **1. President's Welcome**

Mr Ewing welcomed everyone to the 67th Annual General Meeting of Cheshire County Badminton Association and mentioned that he was at the first one.

Mr Ewing commented that from the paperwork received in advance of the meeting it was quite clear to him that we had Council and Officers who had worked very hard and we had had a pretty good season.

### **2. Tribute to A D Jordan (Tony)**

Mr Ewing referred to the recent passing of A D (Tony) Jordan. Tony had been an outstanding badminton player for Cheshire and had also received 100 caps for representing England. A short silence was observed in memory of Tony.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Jill Jackson, Derek Neary, Deborah Salter, Ivor Thomas, Linda Smith, Ben Kyffin and Ben Woodward

### **4. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The minutes of the AGM held on 10th July 2025 had been circulated and it was proposed, seconded and agreed, that they be signed as a true record.

### **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **6. To receive and adopt the Secretary's Report for the 2024/2025 season**

It was proposed by Mrs Janet Risk, seconded by Mr Bergh and agreed that the Secretary's report be adopted.

### **7. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and to agree the affiliation fee for 2025/2026**

The Treasurer had circulated copies of the Accounts and asked if there were any questions.

The Accounts at present had not been audited.

It was proposed by David Sumner, seconded by Janet Risk and agreed that the Accounts be adopted.

**8. To receive and adopt the Match Secretary's Report for the 2024/25 season**

It was proposed by Andy Meredith, seconded by Neil Cooper and agreed, that the report be adopted.

**9. To receive and adopt the Tournament Secretary's Report for the 2024/2025 season**

As Tournament Secretary Jan Bergh had prepared the report which had been circulated. Badminton England had been in touch with Alan Nottingham and Jan Bergh asking if they would run a U17 Gold Tournament on behalf of BE. The two worked well together and they had agreed to this request.

It was proposed by Janet Risk and seconded by Neil Cooper and agreed that the report be adopted.

**10. To receive and adopt the Master's Secretary's Report for the 2024/2025 season**

Unfortunately, Mr Neary was unable to attend the meeting, but the point was made that he had, as always, done a very good job.

It was proposed by Janet Risk, seconded by Neil Cooper and agreed that the report be adopted.

**11. County Affiliation Fees**

**CCBA** - Mr Bergh advised that CCBA was not proposing any change in the affiliation fee for the following year and the fees would remain at:-

£4.25 Adults

£1.30 Juniors

**Badminton England: 2025/26**

Category	Membership	Price (FY25)	Price (FY26)	Difference
<b>Community</b>	Community Club Member	£17.00	£17.50	£0.50
	Junior Community Club Member (12-18 years)	£5.50	£5.75	£0.25
	Junior Community Club Member (5-11 years)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Community Member	£17.00	£17.50	£0.50
	Junior Community Member (12-18 years)	£5.50	£5.75	£0.25
	Junior Community Member (5-11 years)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Compete</b>	Compete Member	£33.00	£34.00	£1.00
	Compete Member (Non-Resident)	£16.00	£16.50	£0.50
	Junior Compete Member (12-18 years)	£17.50	£18.25	£0.75
	Junior Compete Member (5-11 years)	£12.00	£12.50	£0.50
<b>Coaching</b>	Paid Coach Compete Member	£93.50	£95.00	£1.50
	Volunteer Coach Compete Member	£71.00	£72.00	£1.00
	Paid Coach Member	£77.50	£78.50	£1.00
	Volunteer Coach Member	£55.00	£55.00	£0.00

We are delighted to confirm that we have frozen prices for:

- Community Membership for children aged 11 and under – this will remain free to allow as many children as possible to enjoy our sport
- Club Affiliation fees – we are supporting new clubs and encouraging growth across all club sizes by not increasing prices next season
- Volunteer Coach Members – We are helping to get more coaches registered, enabling them to provide additional opportunities for clubs and players

## 2024/25 Change Updates

### Compete

Following your positive feedback, administrators will continue to have the ability to purchase or upgrade their players' memberships to Compete if they wish.

### Auto-renewal

We will continue to offer a 10% discount for members who choose auto-renewal.

- This is managed directly within each player's JustGo account during the renewal process by ticking the box (clubs are not able to do this on behalf of players).
- To date, 20% of members have opted in, which has helped ease admin workload for clubs and improved the player experience when entering tournaments. It's also allowed us to connect with more members meaning a greater uptake in players accessing some of our great benefits.
- Players, and their membership status, show in the club list in the same way they would if the club purchases the membership.
- Unless there is an issue with the payment card, memberships will auto renew on 1st November.
- Club administrators can check all their players membership status at a glance on (or after) 1st Nov' and know they hold a valid membership for the season.

### Seasonal Memberships

As part of our efforts to further support administrators, all player memberships and club affiliations (excluding coaches) have now moved to a seasonal model. This means:

- All memberships (excluding coaches) will expire on 31st October, aligning with Club Affiliations.
- If you have any players that have not yet joined BE, new members (those who have not held a membership or affiliation within the last year) will receive a 40% discount for joining partway through the season.

## **12. To confirm appointment of Cheshire Delegates on Badminton England Council**

The appointment of Mrs Brenda Andrew was confirmed.

Mr Bergh said that we needed to look at this again for the future as plans were being made for future meetings to be online.

### **13. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was understood that Mrs Jill Jackson was willing to continue in the role of Independent Examiner, and it was agreed that she should continue to act as our Independent Examiner. Mr Bergh undertook to contact her to confirm the appointment. As mentioned, the accounts had still to be audited, and Mrs Jackson will be expecting them.

### **14. Election of Officers and Council Members**

The following individuals had been nominated by Council and were willing to stand.

Chairman	Mr Karl Bergh
Secretary	Mrs Doreen Francey
Treasurer	Mr Karl Bergh
Membership Secretary	Mrs Janet Risk
Match Secretary	Mr Ben Woodward
Tournament Co-ordinator	Mr Alan Nottingham
Masters' Secretary	Mr Derek Neary
Website Manager	Mrs Kay Vickers
County Welfare Officer	Miss Emma Hilton
Chair of Selectors	Mr Richard Morrissey

The above individuals were re-elected en bloc. It was noted that Emma Hilton's title was now County Welfare Officer.

### **15. Election of President and Vice Presidents**

Mr Bergh proposed, seconded by Neil Cooper, that Mr Roger Ewing should continue as our President, and this was agreed.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that all the other Vice-Presidents should be re-elected en bloc as follows:- Mrs B Andrew, J Berry, C W Evans, P Mascarenhas, D Potter, R Westmorland, D Sumner and Mrs B Hickson

A new Vice President had been nominated, namely Mr Neil Cooper, and this was seconded by Mr Sumner and agreed.

## **16. Presentation of Awards**

Marjorie Bryce Smith Trophy – There were no nominations from the Leagues for this award.

Arthur Evans Memorial Trophy – A nomination had been put forward for this award by the Crewe League, but the winner was not present at the meeting. Mr Bergh announced who the winner was, and it was agreed that Mr Bergh would present this to Meriel Currie at the upcoming Crewe & District Junior League meeting and asked those present to keep the name confidential until the trophy had been presented.

---

At the conclusion of the AGM Miss Abbey Barry, the new Badminton England Regional Manager for the North West, was introduced and outlined some of the key plans going forward.

- Each Club and County should have a Welfare Officer by the end of 2026;
- It was noted that CCBA have already appointed Emma Hilton as the County's Welfare Officer to assist clubs.
- A Development Fund has been established and each Club or community group will be able to apply for up to £2,000. The first one closed in May and the second one will reopen in October.
- Level 1 course happened in Manchester and a Level 2 was planned but information not yet available.
- A National Badminton League was being considered with possibly three venues, i.e. Liverpool Cathedral, Newcastle and Sheffield. Abbey said that she would try and include Cheshire.

The point was made that Sport England wished for every County to have a Sport Welfare Officer to assist clubs. Mr Bergh confirmed that CCBA endorsed the plan and it should cascade down to the clubs. An enquiry was made as to promotional material which could be circulated. Abbey said that she would circulate some.

Mr Meredith reported that himself and another league player were aiming to produce a video of the Cheshire Squad in action and their pathway to becoming a Cheshire player. This was to be available for all leagues and would hopefully inspire children to play badminton. The group were working with Ben Woodward to identify a date.

Thanks were expressed to Abbey.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2025/26 SEASON

Another year has passed and sadly it has not been a good one for CCBA with the passing of Roger Ewing, our President. We have paid our tributes to Roger at meetings following his death so I don't think I can say anything more than has already been stated. He is sorely missed!

From a personal point of view, I am really missing him. I took on the role of Minute Secretary for the County working with Roger's Dad, Bill Ewing, when I was pregnant with my son, Andrew, and someone suggested I needed something to do with my time! My son is now 52 years of age so I have been in the role a long time – that is until tonight when I pass on the baton!

At last year's AGM we welcomed back onto Council as a Vice-President, Mr Neil Cooper, who I know will be a great asset going forward.

With the loss of Roger, the decision was taken mid-season for Derek Neary to stand for election as President of the County and Karl Bergh to remain Chairman. Vice President, Mr David Sumner kindly agreed to take on the President role temporarily. Karl has also undertaken the Treasurer's role over a number of years and mid-season we managed to get a volunteer to take on this role and with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 Mr David Hudd took over the County Treasurer role from Karl at the start of the new Financial Year. Welcome David!

As is normally the case, most of the County's activities are covered comprehensively by other officers on Council so there is not a lot left for me to report.

This season we again reduced the number of meetings. The meetings we have held this season have been mainly face to face. Again, the attendance this season has been disappointing. However, the last meeting was a face to face meeting and with a slightly better attendance there were some useful debates! Ben Woodward joined the meeting via video link so this was a good and more personal way for Ben to communicate to the meeting on the progress or otherwise of the County teams.

It is with some sadness that I acknowledge the upcoming retirement of our Referee Alan Nottingham who has spearheaded our Tournament team for many many years and this has not gone unnoticed by Badminton England. We wish Alan well in his retirement. Also, we are very sorry that Jan Bergh, who has acted as Alan's assistant for many years, has decided to retire as Tournament Secretary and we wish her well in her newfound freedom.

As is always the case, Derek Neary has been working hard co-ordinating the Masters group. We thank Derek most sincerely for all his efforts on behalf of the County.

Ben Woodward has been doing an excellent job as Match Secretary and his report will follow later.

As stated at the last AGM, the County's intention going forward is to focus more attention on Junior badminton and I would like to convey our sincere thanks to Gavin Simpson, Richard Morrissey and the team for all their efforts in this direction. We must always look to the future and Gavin and his team are doing just that!

The League Representatives play an important part in the County's affairs and again thanks must go to that group of people for their contribution to the meetings which is very much appreciated.

We must express our appreciation to Kay Vickers who, despite a very hectic personal working schedule, still manages to maintain the website. We are also grateful to Ben Woodward who manages to upload fresh material onto the website. I know Ben would be delighted to receive fresh badminton related articles for the website. The website is an important tool and vitally important in sharing badminton news.

We should like to express our thanks to Abbey Barry, our BE representative for her involvement and interest in CCBA over the last twelve months.

The wonderful game of badminton is key to why we meet and plan badminton for the future and long may this enthusiasm continue.

As I have previously stated, and cannot emphasise more strongly, the County owes a great deal of gratitude to Karl Bergh for all the work he does as Chairman and Treasurer and in other areas. Thank you again Karl for your continued dedication and enthusiasm and we wish you well in your continued role as Chairman.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer and we look forward to the resumption of badminton next season!

**Doreen Francey**  
**Secretary**

## TREASURERS REPORT FOR SEASON 2025/26

In many ways, the activities of the Senior County have now settled down post covid and this season has seen a return to normal activities for our three senior teams and the masters group.

Our Leagues are still finding things challenging but are adapting to these new challenges very well. So, we thank them for their innovative thinking in adapting to the changing playing conditions and providing varying competitions for their clubs and members.

We entered this season with a planned and considered deficit of £1,012.00 which saw us continue to underpin and financially support our two growing and developing County Junior Leagues and to continue to encourage coach development with a programme of financial support from Foundation Level through to Level 2.

We are however reporting a loss of £1,452.40 which was mainly due to a reduction in tournament income as a result of having to cancel the BE Senior Silver tournament that was due to be held in January, sadly due to a lack of entries which made it financially unviable.

Cash flow remains positive and we have accrued healthy reserves over many years of careful financial management that serves to insulate us from these dips whilst allowing us to continue to support our developing junior leagues and in doing so, hopefully provides a pathway for younger players into our clubs and the league structures.

### **Income**

Affiliation/Membership Fees (County Fees) continue to grow slowly but are not yet back at the pre-covid levels

Tournament income, as has always been the case, is once again a major and crucial contributor to our finances but the volatility and unpredictability was magnified significantly this year. This season we planned to run three tournaments, our County Championships and two BE circuit tournaments, with a combined budgeted surplus of £2,200.00. However, we had to cancel the Senior Silver tournament which actually gave rise to a loss of £156.64.

The combined effect meant that tournament income from our tournaments fell to an all-time low of £1,297.34 just slightly more than half of our budget for the year. This was however mitigated somewhat by the awarding of an U15 Gold tournament that we hosted for BE. These tournaments are not guaranteed and it is down to the respect that our tournament team have at BE that they choose us to hold these major prestigious tournaments in our region. So, our thanks must go to the professionalism of Alan Nottingham and Jan Bergh for their continued hard work and dedication.

Bank interest has shown a modicum of improvement but this shadows the economy and is difficult to predict.

Shuttle sales through the County Shuttle Scheme has been steady but slightly down against the budget.

So, income this year is down quite considerably at £6,212.97, in the main due to our reduced tournament income which does emphasise the importance of this income as we wouldn't be able to finance our activities from membership fees alone.

## **Expenditure**

Generally, expenditure in the period has been fairly predictable, with the usual fluctuations in the costs to run our seniors and master's groups. The costs of these groups can vary, year on year, and do depend on where our teams are allocated for the three senior county weekends and how well they have done in the previous year. BE determine these locations and the hotel costs can vary greatly as a result.

We managed to contain the cost of both groups within the budgeted figures but this is not down to any inner special scientific knowledge but more to do with where we pitched the budget last year. However, I am pleased to say that they have come within budget and allowed us to keep our overall costs down at £7,665.37, which is less than the budgeted expenditure level of £8,212.00

This reduction in cost came at a very welcome time when income was down, for reasons mentioned above, and consequently provided us with some level of mitigation to the disappointing levels of tournament income.

Coaching & Development expenditure has continued and we have been able to fund a significant number of coaches to continue their coach development and the good work that they are doing across the county. We are also carrying forward a healthy fund of just short of £3,000.00 so we are hoping to continue providing this much needed support.

Our ongoing commitment to develop and support our growing Junior County Leagues is continuing and has seen us underwrite the costs of the inaugural Junior County Finals that took place recently in May. There is a lot of excellent work being done by David Sumner, Brian Horrocks, Gavin Simpson and Emma Hilton and their combined enthusiasm is being repaid by more teams entering the respective Leagues and enjoying the competitive side of our game at a very young age.

## **Summary**

The overall result is a loss of £1,452.40 being carried forward and funded by our retained reserves.

The budget for next season is as difficult as ever to predict with any real certainty. However, with the usual sprinkling of guestimates based on past experience, we are anticipating another deficit in the region of £750.00, but as always we hope that with careful management of our finances we can find ways to mitigate and improve upon the predicted outcome.

## **Recommendation**

As you will know, we haven't raised the County Fee from the pre-pandemic levels of £4.25 for an Adult Play Member and £1.30 for a Junior Play Member since 2019 and this was debated, at length, at the last CCBA meeting in April 2026.

Consequently, it was agreed and therefore proposed that we would recommend to the AGM, an increase of £0.25 to the Adult Play Member fee and £0.20p to the Junior Play Member fee. It should be remembered that we do not receive the full County Fee as there are deductions applied by GoCardless for the handling of these monies that are initially collected by BE and subsequently transferred across our bank.

Last but not least, I have been Treasurer for the past 12 years and I am now delighted to be able to advise that David Hudd has kindly agreed to take this over from me, effective from the start of our financial year on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

David has been a good friend to many of us for over 40 years and is also an accomplished player, turning out regularly for our Masters teams but more importantly is a qualified accountant with a wealth of financial experience.

We are lucky to have David on board and I know he will prove an asset to us in the coming years ahead and I wish him every success as we look forward to working with him.

Signing out.....

**Karl Bergh**  
**County Treasurer**

**MATCH SECRETARY REPORT FOR SEASON 2025/26**

After another challenging year of near misses (survival and promotion hopes), all 3 senior teams will remain in their respective leagues next season. Huge thanks go to all the players who represented Cheshire this season, who filled in the last minute and who supported their teammates on court in every game. We had quite a few more players capped this season due to injuries, illness and clashes, which will definitely help to bolster our squads for next season. I can only speak for the 3rd team, but the atmosphere of friendship, support and togetherness this season felt stronger than ever and was a pleasure to be around.

**Cheshire 1st Team**

Championship (2nd division nationally)


Position: 3rd

Captain: Mike Roe

MVP: Rachel Vickers - winning 12/18 games.

16 different players represented the first team - including 1st team debuts for Ina Law and Jamie Noble.

**Standings of Senior County Championships – Char**

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers
1 Kent 1	82	9	9	0	0	82 - 17
2 Nottinghamshire 1	65	9	7	0	2	65 - 34
3 Cheshire 1	61	9	7	0	2	61 - 38
4 Lancashire 1	50	9	5	0	4	50 - 49
5  Glasgow & NS	49	9	5	0	4	49 - 50
6 Essex 1	47	9	5	0	4	47 - 52
7 Leicestershire 2	46	9	3	0	6	46 - 53
8 Surrey 2	35	9	3	0	6	35 - 64
9  ROI Leinster	33	9	0	0	9	33 - 66
10 Sussex 1	27	9	1	0	8	27 - 72

After a very strong and positive season from Cheshire 1, including turn outs from current and former international players, we will be looking towards promotion next season. The team were only 4 games away from promotion this season and well clear of 4th place but the league will be challenging once again with teams dropping down from the Premiership.

**Cheshire 2nd Team**

Division 2 - North (4th division nationally)

Position: 4th

Captain: Jamie Noble

MVP: Jamie Noble - winning 12/20 games.

13 different players represented Cheshire's second team.

**Standings of Senior County Championships – Division 1**

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers
1 Derbyshire 1	60	7	7	0	0	60 - 17
2  Lothian 1	58	7	6	0	1	58 - 19
3 Yorkshire 3	41	7	3	0	4	41 - 36
4 Cheshire 2	40	7	4	0	3	40 - 37
5 Lancashire 3	35	7	3	0	4	35 - 42
6 Nottinghamshire 2	34	7	3	0	4	34 - 43
7 Yorkshire 4	26	7	2	0	5	26 - 51
8 Durham	14	7	0	0	7	14 - 63

Cheshire 2 will look to build on a solid season this year and aim to push those teams towards the top for the promotion places. A consistent team this year has meant that partnerships have been formed and next year will be stronger for it.

**Cheshire 3rd Team**

Division 3 - North (5th division nationally)

Position: 6th

Captain: Ben Woodward

MVP: Liv Frankland - winning 9/14 games.

19 different players represented the 3rd team this season.

**Standings of Senior County Championships – Division 2**

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers
1 Lincolnshire 1	51	7	7	0	0	51 - 26
2 Northumberland 2	49	7	4	0	3	49 - 28
3 Cumbria 1	43	7	5	0	2	43 - 34
4 Nottinghamshire 3	43	7	3	0	4	43 - 34
5 Lancashire 4	40	7	4	0	3	40 - 37
6 Cheshire 3	32	7	2	0	5	32 - 45
7 Derbyshire 2	31	7	3	0	4	31 - 46
8  Isle of Man 2	19	7	0	0	7	19 - 58

Cheshire 3 suffered quite a turbulent season - a big thank you to the players who filled in for us at late notice. Spending much of the season in mid table and towards the relegation places - survival in the league came down to the final match - where enough games were won to guarantee a place in Division 3 for next season. Next season's aim will be to be secure within the league.

**Ben Woodward**  
Match Secretary

## TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2025/26

### County Championships: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Generally, a good turn out this year with the following results

Event	Winner	Finalist	Score
Ladies Singles	Risheka Sathyanathan	Serena Yang	
Open Singles	Owen Edwards	Jack Taylor	21-18, 21-16
Ladies Doubles	Charlotte Forbes & Sophie Taylor	Katie Bennett & Steph Rowarth	29-27, 21-14
Open Doubles	Richard Morrissey & Jack Taylor	Dave Edgar & Greg Mairs	21-12, 8-21, 21-16
Mixed Doubles	Jamie Noble & Jennifer Moss	Danny Chen & Rachel Green	21-10, 21-15

### U15 BE Gold: 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

This was a very well attended tournament that is organised by Badminton England but hosted and run over the 2 days by CCBA.

Our thanks go to Jan Bergh (Tournament Secretary) and Alan Nottingham (Tournament Referee) for all their hard work over the weekend and the weeks leading up to it.

Mention must also go to our S&Y who saw Brodie Simpson, ably assisted by his father Gavin. They spent the whole day on the Saturday and without their help it wouldn't have run as smoothly as it did.

The only downside was that Alan Nottingham advised that has decided not to continue after the end of season 26/27, so we have to find a tournament Referee and Tournament Secretary to replace our very successful tournament team and have 18 months to do it.

### Senior Bronze December 2025

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.

Ladies Singles 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 (Yorkshire) and an ungraded Lancashire player Wenija Shi who convincingly beat the top seed Simone Ahite (Nottinghamshire) at the group stage.

Open Singles 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.

Ladies Doubles 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.

Open Doubles 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 (Lancashire) and ka Wai Ng (Middlesex) and number five seeds Matt Hooper (Nottinghamshire) and Eddie Pratchett (Leicestershire) 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.

Mixed Doubles 25 entries

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

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Open Singles	Henrik Fan (Lancashire)	Tom Gillett (Lancashire)
Ladies Singles	Wenija Shi (Lancashire)	Martha Jones (Yorkshire)
Open Doubles	Alex Ng (Lancashire)	Matthew Hooper (Nottinghamshire)
	Kai Soo (Lancashire)	Eddie Pratchett (Leicestershire)
Ladies Doubles	Jasmine Kwong (Lancashire)	Rachel Dewhurst (Lancashire)
	Zoe Siu (Lancashire)	Ellen Liddle (Lancashire)
Mixed Doubles	Yixuan Shen (Lancashire)	Jamie Noble (Cheshire)
	Jasmine Kwong (Lancashire)	Ellen Liddle (Lancashire)

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.

**Senior Silver January 2026**

The Senior Silver which was due to be played in January but had to be 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.

**Jan Bergh  
Tournament Secretary**

## MASTERS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2025/26

The 2025/26 Masters County Championship regular season started on 5<sup>th</sup> October and concluded on the 29 March. During this period, as a County, we played 25 matches in 6 age groups. One match was conceded to us, and we conceded 2 matches to opponents. A further 2 matches were played post regular season in the championship finals weekend plus the Challenge weekend. A total of 67 players represented the county in the championship with an additional 3 players turning out in the Challenge event in January.

One of the things that we enjoy about sport is its unpredictability. However, this doesn't always apply to the North Region of the Masters County Championship where we have played all our Masters badminton this season. So, the finishing positions in each of the age groups bares a similarity to last season and in terms of winners is exactly the same. That is good news for our O40s team as they held off the challenge of a very strong Lancashire team to once again become regional champions. Having made it to finals weekend in Birmingham they were struck with injuries and absences but were still too strong for Devon in the semi-finals. Victory against a strong Cambridgeshire side remains elusive but runners up at National level is still an achievement to be recognised and I congratulate all the players involved. The not-so-good news for our O45 and O60 teams is that they compete in a division which contains Yorkshire who not only won our region, but both went on to win the National title. A similar state happens with the O65 and O70 team except it is the Red Rose County who prevail both in the North and at National level. It is only at the O55 age group where the Roses dominance was broken, and this was by Dougie's marauding West of Scotland team who won the division but were beaten by Hampshire in the national final. Congratulations to all the winners.

I have already reported on the events of the Masters County Challenge which took place in January. It was comfortably our worse weekend at this event for the 15 years which I have been Masters Secretary. Our O40s team performed admirably again winning all their matches up to the last match when they came up short against our nemesis team from down the A14. Our other 3 premierships teams were in the O45, O65 and O70 age groups and all found it hard going and finished bottom. Depending on next year's entries all 3 will be relegated. Our O55 and O60 teams were denied the chance of playing by the weather and by late miscommunications so they will remain in Division 1. The likelihood is that all of our teams will be at Aldersley next January except for the O40s who will be at Worcester Arena. All of this is subject to confirmation.

I think there are some extra challenges facing us next season. Firstly, we have re-entered an O50s team in the championship. I think it is easy to drop teams and difficult to reinstate them. I hope we can get enough commitment from players in that age group to fulfil a season. We haven't put a team into the Challenge at O50 but if we can field one then I am confident that a late entry would be welcome. The second challenge is costs. The county does not make a profit from Masters badminton. We try to break even but in fact end up subsidising it, particularly the Challenge weekend. These costs will need to be looked at but one thing we can all do is try and attend our practice sessions as much as possible.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to a few people. Firstly, to our captains: Katie, Pete, Ruth, Kay, Karl and Bryan. I know some age groups are a bit more collegiate with this so thanks to all of the helpers and stand-ins. Without you, we simply would not have County Masters badminton. Further thanks to Karl for booking the courts and sorting the shuttles both for matches and practice sessions. Some of you will know that, subject to ratification at the AGM, I will be standing down from the position of Masters Secretary and Ruth Flatman will be taking over. I am sure Ruth will do a great job. I wish her well and hope that you can all give her the support that she will need.

**Derek Neary**  
**Masters Secretary**