

## Chairman's Report - May 2023

Firstly may I thank all those who have given up their time this year to volunteer and see the Plymouth Badminton League grow. Though the medley divisions was cut to just one, the entries at all the tournaments was up - the dates of the tournaments for next season is already on the website.

I have continued to represent the league on the Devon County Badminton Association committee. I am pleased to let clubs know that my appeal to Badminton England regarding the way that the Devon County Badminton Association carried out their investigations into the allegations against me has been upheld. The Appeals Panel found in my favour by finding that the Devon County Badminton Association had failed to follow the correct procedures and processes across the investigations.

*"The Panel unanimously allowed the appeal on the basis that you (Mr Berry) had not been afforded a fair hearing and that there were also disciplinary inadequacies with due process not being followed surrounding the allegations."*

Though most of you will be unaware of this but we lost a good friend at Badminton England, Lee Ward; he was someone a number of clubs had turned to for support during and following the pandemic. Badminton England are currently restructuring their workforce with respect to clubs (again) and clubs will be informed of the new structure in due course.

Within the league, most clubs / teams have embraced the electronic spreadsheets. By completing them the league secretaries have been able to keep the division tables up to date with the scores being updated within a day or two. Those "old stagers" who find the new system daunting . . . give a junior player access! Waine and Ryan are putting together a new guide for you all.

Two clubs who put in grant applications to the Devon County Badminton Association have had 50% of each grant agreed by the Devon County Badminton Association committee. The clubs concerned are yet to receive their funding.

So, at this time we should also look forward. Though the league has volunteers running it, we could always do with more. If you do not want to take on a "full" role volunteer to assist with something so you get the opportunity to earn the processes involved.

Alan Berry

(Chair, Plymouth Badminton League)