

2024 ICT (U18 - Nottingham University)

Players in attendance:

Boys - Andrew, Ani, Omi, Jack

Girls - Sarah, Dinadi, Senadi, Rebecca, Maisie

The timing of this tournament was not particularly good for being able to take a strong team. Not only was it held before GCSE exams, but it was also Ramadan and some of the players selected were away for this religious event. In addition, one of the boys had to pull out of the tournament the night before due to illness and it was too late to find a replacement.

Day 1 - was a really good start for the team as they beat Staffordshire in the first game. Although finishing 5-5, they won more games so recorded a victory. Although the only game to win on the first day it was sufficient to secure a top half of the table for day 2

Days 2-4 - that first win against Staffordshire was unfortunately the only game they won over the 4 days. On the final day, all their games were incredibly close with all of them being 6-4 defeats. There was some great badminton played and some great individual wins over the 4 days. Dinadi and Senadi certainly ended up being a secret weapon as they won nearly all of their doubles matches! We also unfortunately lost Sarah, our most experienced player, on the last day as she was unable to continue having shin splints in both legs and hence retiring early from the competition.

The team finished 16th out of 29 teams which was a great result from a young team.

Alongside the high level of badminton and competition, the social side of the tournament is fantastic and for the older players in the team it was a great opportunity to catch up with other players from other counties where friendships have been forged over the years. The parents who took the team (Mike, Sally, Joanne) were again very proud of the players and their conduct, representing Lancashire extremely well both on and off court and all the players bonded as a unit. Hopefully, it will have inspired the younger ones to want to go again in future years.

[Mike Hardaker]