

2024 RIO (U18 - Railway Institute, York)

Players in attendance:

Boys: Andrew, Krish, Ibraheem, Burath, Yusuf, Hussein

Girls: Sarah, Dinadi, Senadi, Rebecca, Freya, Naomi

This was a mixture of experienced players, younger players and players who were new to the team. The Sri Lankan twins, Dinadi and Senadi, had not played competitively in the UK since moving to Lancashire and, this being their first tournament, they were a bit of an unknown to the other teams. For Yusuf and Hussein, being very young, it was their first taste of playing in an older group tournament.

Day 1 - was a difficult day and the team lost to Herts and Lothian. The game against Yorkshire 2 was incredibly close and if some of the very close games had gone our way could have had a different result. Losing 8-7, the Lancashire team went into the bottom half of the draw for day two.

Day 2 - the first game against Warwickshire was an epic battle and the team played fantastically well managing to beat them 8-7! The following game against Surrey was equally close but Surrey just managed to beat Lancashire 8-7. The previous days game against Yorkshire 2, who were also in the bottom half of the table, carried over so counted as a 8-7 defeat as well. It was a shame we didn't get a second chance to play them. All the teams in the bottom half of the table managed to win one and lose two games so the results went to games won. Lancashire finished 8th out of the 8 teams that went.

All the players behaved impeccably, and they all bonded as a team, especially enjoying the evening disco on the Saturday night that the hotel put on for the players. A real team spirit ran through the team, and many of the opposing team managers commented on how well behaved the players were and fair in all the matches with line calls etc. The adults that went with the team (Mike, Stuart and Sally) were very proud of the players, who represented Lancashire fantastically well, in what was a great experience for them all.

[Mike Hardaker]