

Canterbury Kings Badminton Club (Canterbury, Kent) Disability Session



“I have found the group a great place to grow a Badminton game in the different format. Lesley Uphill is the very supportive coach at the helm of the group. Her sessions teach technique and tactics, and reinforce new points well through enjoyable and challenging exercises. After a relatively short period in the game I already feel I know a lot more, and this improves the playing experience. The group is very friendly and it feels like we are all on a journey together’

(Lawrence Blomfield, Para Badminton player)

HOW WE HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS

- The club **worked closely with local partners**, including the local newspaper, Kent Badminton, Kent Sport & the Canterbury Badminton Network to promote the group, as well as participating in numerous local exhibition events.
- The club run the Canterbury Para Badminton session on Tuesdays from 8pm until 9.30pm for **players with a physical disability**. They also run a Badminton for All session on Mondays from 6.15pm until 7.30pm **which is inclusive** and have a former Para Badminton England player who joins our Canterbury Kings Club Night on Wednesdays from 7.15pm until 9.30pm.
- One of the players who attends the sessions has been **supported in gaining their Level 1 Coaching Qualification**, growing the number of volunteers available to the club for coaching at the many sessions.
- They are also **looking to upskill more local coaches** in disability delivery by running a Disability CPD Workshop in the area.
- All Canterbury Para Badminton players are **registered Badminton England members** and many compete in the 4 Nations Para Badminton tournaments. In the last 4 Nations Para Badminton tournament Kent Badminton helped fund 3 players to compete in the event.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

- Supported a player to start their coaching journey by providing funding towards their Level 1 Coaching Qualification.
- The club were invited to showcase the work they have done on court at the Yonex All England Championships in 2017.
- Worked in partnership to effectively promote the club within the local community, leading to a growth in membership.
- Started the process of organising a Disability CPD workshop in Canterbury to upskill more local coaches, ensuring session sustainability, and providing the opportunity for further growth.

IMPACT



Canterbury Kings Badminton Club has 4 regular wheelchair players in attendance at the sessions every week and a further 2 Para Badminton players attend other inclusive sessions.



An attendee at the sessions was supported in becoming a qualified coach by gaining their Level 1 Coaching Qualification.



Improved venue accessibility through the success of the sessions; The club have worked with Kings School Recreation Centre to make the venue more accessible to disabled users.



Four Canterbury Para Badminton players recently competed in the 4 Nations Para Badminton tournaments.