

## U14 Celtic Challenge Report Feb 2024

Leinster Badminton hosted the U14 Celtic Challenge in Terenure Badminton Centre 24-25<sup>th</sup> February with teams travelling from Lothian, Ulster and Wales. The Youth Activities Committee ran the event and committee members and volunteers were on duty from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

The teams arrived early to Terenure Badminton Centre on Saturday morning to compete in the much-loved format of 3 BD, 3GD, 3 BS, 3 GS & 3 XD.

First up was Leinster vs Wales and Lothian vs Ulster. We are very privileged in Leinster Badminton and were able to stream all matches which can be watched here <u>Leinster Badminton - YouTube</u>. Thanks go to Philip McKeown for organising the streaming.



Leinster: Kirsty Kelly (Manager), Anusri Erukattil, Madhu Smrithi Nelakaduti, Arshia Khungar, Carol Joy, Aoife O'Sullivan, Meja Undraiyte, Sumesh Tharian (Coach), Eoin Evans, Advik Manchukonda, Alston Rodgers, Niall Keane, Lochlann O'Rourke, Rohan Joseph







Ulster



Wales







## Lothian

The results at the end of the morning session were Leinster 15 Wales 0; Ulster 8 Lothian 7. Our team of catering volunteers then proceeded to provide lunch to all involved.

The afternoon session kicked off with Leinster playing against Lothian, and Wales playing against Ulster. Leinster won 12-3 and Ulster won 10-5. Once again our catering volunteers were extremely busy and fed the management teams of the four teams and the volunteers who had put in a long shift over the course of the day. The players were delighted to sit down to pizzas – a firm favourite with all of the kids.

















The four teams arrived on Sunday morning for the final match with Leinster meeting Ulster and Wales meeting Lothian. Everyone was in great spirits and the noise and energy in the hall needed to be seen to be believed. Leinster came away with a 13-2 win and Lothian won 12-3.

The teams finished as follows:

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE – LEINSTER









3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE – LOTHIAN

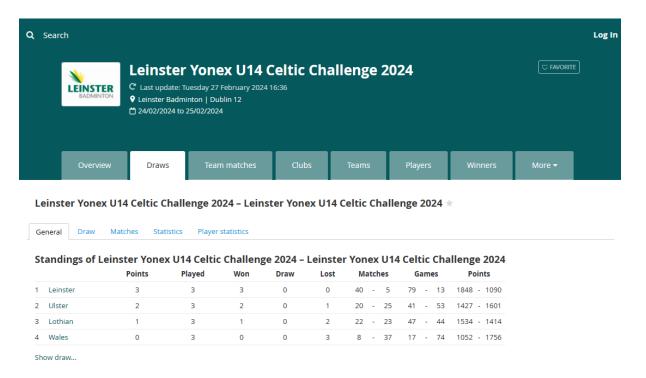








The final standings are shown below:



All match results are available here: <u>Badminton Ireland - Leinster Yonex U14 Celtic Challenge 2024 - Organization (tournamentsoftware.com)</u>





An event of this nature requires a huge amount of planning and work behind the scenes and the Youth Activities Committee must be commended for its ongoing work in the development of juvenile badminton in the province.

Thanks go to Jean and Brian for doing the airport and Dublin port runs on Friday; to Venkat, Tom, Siobhan & Liza for transporting the Welsh team on Saturday and Sunday; to Binoy for transporting Ulster team on Saturday; and to Simon & Suzanne for transporting Welsh players to the airport on Sunday.

Thanks go to the catering team Ita, Siobhan & Mary on Saturday and Jitha, Siobhan & Suzanne on Sunday. And thanks go to the bar staff who were busy catering for the spectators over the weekend.

Thanks go to our YACs volunteers: Jean who ran the show, Brian who had too many jobs to list here, David for helping Brian with his many tasks, Muriel for acting as tournament referee, Liza who was match control and arranged team wear for the Leinster team and Simon who organised transport for the visiting teams. And thanks go to Leinster Branch President, David Murphy who was in attendance on Sunday to present the trophy and medals to the four teams.

Thanks go to Leinster Badminton for the ongoing support of all YACs activity and to our sponsor Yonex. Finally, thanks are extended to all the Managers and Coaches of all four teams and to the parents who continuously support their children as they train and compete and play our wonderful game.

Well done to all players who gave it their all over the busy weekend!

