

REPORT TO SBA AGM AUGUST 2020 from Junior Committee (JC) Chairman

In addition to the usual matters associated with the running of the Squads, the following were the main items addressed by the Committee or by liaison between Squad Managers:-

- Jeremy Harvey (Under 16 Squad Administrator) was co-opted onto JC
- Revisions to the JC's Terms of Reference (ToR), recommended to Council for endorsement, to reflect changes in its composition (including separate Treasurer replaced by SBA Treasurer) and matters of current practice
- Updates from the Treasurer on the financial situation
- Consideration of Food Allergies Document from the Shires League.
- Consultation about the age group arrangements for Shires League matches and ICT 2020 (by email). (largely now on hold because of on-going uncertainty around the Covid 19 situation)

As referred to in the conclusion to my Under 14 report, possible changes to the way in which the Squads operate across all the age ranges have been suggested, however, these have not as yet been formally addressed by the Committee. Some initial thought has been given by Mike and others to future arrangements, and more detailed consideration of the best way to proceed will follow once the new Committee is in place. Hopefully the range of abilities and ages covered by the youngest Squad, a wider range than that of the older Squads, will continue to be one of the issues taken into account when a new way of operating is agreed. For a number of years now, the loss of many routes into County badminton for the younger / less experienced players in particular (to which I have also referred in the U14 report) means that we have tried to be as inclusive as possible when recruiting to the U14 Squad, and have seen considerable improvement in players from a low base, many of whom are now playing at a good level both locally and further afield. The mix of activities referred to in my report is intended to develop a team spirit, to give as many players as possible League and Friendly match experience, to use the opportunity to put into practice what they have been taught, and to learn from the experience.

In the meantime I have liaised with Mike and others about various related matters, and indicated my willingness to help with possible transition arrangements in some capacity, in the short term. However, I shall not be standing for re-election to the Council.

Linda Sheppard
August 2020