

CHAIRMANS REMARKS 2023/24

The management and administration of the sport in the County has continued despite the reduced number of volunteers available to make it happen. However, the remaining Committee members have banded together to ensure that the core activities of the SBA have been successfully delivered once again. This is not sustainable in the longer term, as the current situation is placing an ever-increasing workload and therefore pressure on those that remain and therefore in conjunction with the President a separate report has been produced for a call for further volunteers. If you have an expertise which would be helpful or a few hours to spare, please give this your consideration. The Council holds a maximum 6 meetings per year and continues to do so via Zoom to avoid the need for travel.

The County remains aware of the facilities issue for clubs, particularly with School sports halls, and is actively working with the sports governing body in order to try and open up more facilities of this nature. This is not easy of course but we are also working with new build sports hall providers where we are aware of the development to make the case for badminton within those new facilities once they open their doors.

The SBA has always been committed to try and find new ways to broaden the appeal of the sport and has developed a revised Strategic Plan for the sport in the County. A number of the strands are being worked on extensively to try and increase the numbers of both casual and competitive players at all ages. Currently, there is a much bigger demand for 6-11 year old age group than clubs to accommodate them, so increasing the number of junior clubs across the County whilst also working with schools is seen as one of the key initiatives.

I would like to thank all the Council Officers for all their voluntary activity and time provided. This has been a real challenge this last year, but all are very committed to doing the best for all badminton players in the County. As highlighted earlier. Without their dedication the County would not be able to deliver its core activities. I would also like to thank all those volunteers in clubs, community groups, schools, who keep the sport alive in Suffolk.

We look forward with the hope that the County can provide as much assistance as possible to help the sport develop in the future and that the implementation of the new Strategic Plan will go some way to achieving this aim.

Mike Tee
Chair Suffolk Badminton
25 June 2024