

CHAIRMANS REMARKS 2022-23

The management and administration of the sport in the County has continued despite a number of challenges and in conjunction with Badminton England every effort has been made to facilitate a return to normal play in its various forms. However, with vacancies in the Committee this has unfortunately fallen on an increasing small number of volunteers due to vacancies in the Committee. This is not sustainable, and it is a major consideration that further volunteers are found to fill vacant roles.

The return to normality after the problems caused by the pandemic has not been without its issues. Maintaining the core activities has been difficult at times, but with the dedication and hard work of the voluntary Committee members, the County fulfilled County representative teams at all ages, organising and running competitions, helping coaching support, promoting, and running community play opportunities, School Games, the sports development programme and community engagement work.

The County remains aware that facilities remain an area of concern, particularly within School sports halls. Exam periods take the facilities away and this can cause major fixture congestion for clubs using such facilities. The County has been working with BE to find ways to address this issue and a new initiative will be launched to try and aid clubs and facilities.

The SBA remains committed to try and find ways to broaden the appeal of the sport and will continue with a variety of initiatives to achieve that aim, such as supporting the County School Games programme. There has been some encouragement with an increasing number of juniors taking up the sport in some areas of the County, but the adult membership appears to have fallen. It is difficult to quantify numbers of players in the sport, with unknown such as players in unaffiliated clubs, pay and play casual sessions and community centre programmes. However, it was concluded that there was a need to review and relaunch a strategic plan for the sport in the County and this will be reported separately during this AGM.

I would like to thank all the Council Officers for all their voluntary activity and time provided. This has been a very difficult period, but we remain committed to doing the best for all badminton players in the County. As highlighted earlier, The County has had to operate without a Minutes Secretary and Secretary placing additional work on officers. so, if there is a volunteer who could assist in a role within the Association we would be grateful to hear from you. Our thanks also go to the host of volunteers, club officials, coaches and other volunteers who have done their best to promote the sport and maintain and promote activities across the County.

We look forward with anticipation and 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
19 June 2023