

## **SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION AGM**

### **COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

This report is made on behalf of the Competitive Play Committee which consists of Stephen Smith, Sue Driver, Sue McKinley, and myself as Tournament Secretary.

The County managed to provide competitive play for all ages returning to its pre COVID programme of tournaments. This proved very challenging particularly in finding suitable venues and with cost increases to manage whilst retaining affordability of the events. COVID protocols were introduced throughout this years programme which proved effective in maintaining a safe environment for all who played or administered the tournaments.

The new tournament calendar year started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 following changes made by the governing body to change to a tournament programme over a calendar year. Whilst this slightly complicated the sanction process, all relevant tournaments have been approved for the 2022 programme including those still to be played later in the year. 5 tournaments were initially run in 2021. Additionally, the County Championships took place in Sept/Oct 2021, with tournaments for Seniors, U12, U14, U16, U18 taking place.

Tournaments recommenced in Sept 2021 and attendance has been varied. 5 tournaments were run in 2021 and initially the entry numbers were high as not all Counties had restarted their competition programmes. Additionally, the County Championships took place in Sept/Oct 2021, with tournaments for Seniors, U12, U14, U16, U18 taking place. So far in 2022, 6 more tournaments have taken place but with significantly less entrants overall. There are 5 more tournaments to complete the 2022 programme.

It is important to note that the number of entries from Suffolk players into their local tournaments remains a challenge. The Competitive Play Committee is proposing the introduction of a new lower-level tournament schedule 'Suffolk Futures' aimed at players new to competitive play and below the current national bronze circuit. Hopefully this will encourage more entries by introducing more local players to competition which in turn will hopefully help the players develop their badminton skills and their clubs in league play.

In summary tournament schedules take a great deal of preparation and running which is very time consuming. This is only possible by the volunteers giving a great deal of time and effort to provide opportunities to as many players as possible to play. My thanks to all who have helped it is greatly appreciated and I welcome anyone who would volunteer to help

Mike Tee  
**Tournament Secretary**