

## **SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION AGM**

### **COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

This report is made on behalf of the Competitive Play Committee which consists of Stephen Smith, Sue Driver, David 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. 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 were approved for the 2022 and 2023 programme. Additionally, the County Championships took place in Sept/Oct 2022, with tournaments for Seniors, U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20 taking place.

Tournaments recommenced in Sept 2022 and attendance has been varied. 5 tournaments were run in 2022 with a further 6 in 2023 up till May. Entry numbers have generally been acceptable resulting in some income generation to the County. Additionally, the County Championships took place in Sept/Oct 2022, with tournaments for Seniors, and all junior age groups. There are 5 more tournaments to complete the 2023 programme.

It is important to note that the number of entries from Suffolk players into their local tournaments remains a challenge. The number of Suffolk Players who entered this year varied immensely with the junior tournaments much better supported than the senior. A total of 745 Players entered the 11 tournaments in the year with an average 13.4% from Suffolk in 6 junior Tournaments and 9.8% in the 5 Senior events.

The Competitive Play Committee was unable to introduce a new lower-level tournament schedule 'Suffolk Futures' aimed at players new to competitive play and below the current national bronze circuit, due to a lack of volunteers. Hopefully this will form part of the 2023/24 programme and encourage more entries by introducing more local players to competition which in turn will hopefully help the players develop their badminton skills and help 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. It is to be noted however, that due to pressures of other Badminton Commitments, I am proposing to step down as Chair of the Competitive Play Committee to concentrate on other duties for SBA. I am therefore looking for a volunteer to take on this role if the County wishes to run tournament's next year.

Mike Tee  
**Tournament Secretary**