

SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION AGM

COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE REPORT

17th July 2024

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.

Once again the County provided a varied opportunity for competitive play for all ages, with tournaments for juniors (U13, U15, U17) and seniors (U19, Senior Silver, senior bronze, senior Copper). The change in the new tournament calendar to run on calendar years (Jan - Dec) has made the sanctioning process a little more challenging, as was the venues being more difficult to book and pricing of events as a consequence, but we successfully delivered 11 national circuit tournaments as well as the Senior and Junior closed events.

Significantly perhaps the number of Suffolk Players entering the junior tournaments increased this year which is encouraging. However, that is not replicated in the senior events unfortunately. It is difficult to find ways of encouraging greater local participation in tournaments. The County runs these events primarily to provide local players the opportunity to play competitively against players from other counties but with limited need for travel. Junior events saw an increase in the percentage to 15% whilst the Senior tournament fell to under 9%.

The Closed Championships for Seniors and Juniors is heavily subsidised in the hope that it will encourage more players to give it a go. We would encourage as many people as possible to attend, Suffolk needs players who wish to try and represent the County both at junior and senior levels.

The Competitive Play Committee would like to introduce a new lower-level tournament schedule for junior players 'Suffolk Futures' aimed at those who may play at school or are just starting off on their journey. Based on school years rather than specific ages. This is also seen as a first step for volunteers to get involved with tournament play. We are keen to introduce this in 2024/25 and is seen as a local series of tournaments with limited entries from other countries except our immediate neighbours.

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