

SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION AGM

COMPETITIVE PLAY COMMITTEE REPORT

16th July 2025

This report is made on behalf of the Competitive Play Committee which consists of Sue Driver, David Driver, Sue McKinley, Aaron Heard, Ben Williams and myself as Tournament Secretary.

The County managed to fulfil the programme of tournaments for 2024-25 providing competitive play for all ages over the year. The new tournament calendar year started on 1st January 2025 following the governing body adopting tournament programmes to an annual calendar. Whilst this slightly complicated the sanction process, all relevant tournaments were approved for the 2024 and 2025 programme. Additionally, the County Championships took place in Sept/Oct 2024, with tournaments for Seniors, U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20 taking place.

Late additions to the Satellite calendar administered by BE, resulted in conflicts for Suffolk U19 Silver and Senior Tier 4 with other tournaments being sanctioned at the same time for Counties within our catchment of players. This reduced the number of entrants significantly and in the case of the Tier 4 its cancellation. Sustaining a small profit from the satellite tournaments to help fund the county championships and county team entry fees has therefore been much more problematic. A review of all costings is being undertaken in preparation for the tournaments in 2025-26

One of the aims of running Tournaments on the Satellite circuit is to provide a local tournament for Suffolk Players to enter and challenge themselves against other county players. Whilst there is a significant % of Suffolk players entering the junior tournaments, the Senior take up remains much lower and remains a challenge. A total of 677 players entered the 10 satellite tournaments in the year with an average of 17.3% (13.4% in 2023-24) from Suffolk in the 6 junior Tournaments and 8.6% (9.8% 2023-24) in the 4 Senior events. The number of players entering the Senior Restricted was 30 (30 in 2023-24) and the junior restricted was 91 (72 in 2023/24)

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 2025/26 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 for 2025-26 to concentrate on other duties for SBA.

Mike Tee
Tournament Secretary