



AGM REPORT

19 June 2023

Chairman's Remarks

As the 2022/23 season draws to its close, it's given me time to reflect on some of the achievements within the Suffolk Juniors this year. We had a lot of our younger players making their Shires League debuts and put in some outstanding performances. And some of our more experienced juniors made their Senior County debuts both in the first and second teams.

The U19s reached the Shires League playoffs after finishing 10th in the league, and our U18 ICT Team finished a very respectable 10th position out of 28 counties.

But the last season was about results on and off court. As a county we restructured our squad sessions and undertook a recruitment drive to bring in more younger players to begin their development journey with the county earlier, providing them with the technical skills needed to progress through the pathway. As a result, next season we have been able to enter an U13 Team into the Shires League for the first time ever!

We have run a series of sessions throughout the summer that has enabled more players from around the county to come and participate in the group sessions. To date we have had over 20 players at every session, and it's been fantastic to see players as young as eight on court and enjoying playing our sport.

And of course, these changes don't happen without the support of a fantastic committee, coaching and support team who give up hours of their time to help create the best possible environment for our players to thrive. A personal thank you for all the support they provide and here's to another successful season in 2023/24!

Ben

Chair, SJBA

1.0: Squad format

Mid way through last season the SJBA committee took the decision to adopt a new county junior squad structure, moving away from the traditional squads grouped by age, moving towards a more ability-based model. The coaching team were finding that the groups were becoming quite polarised in terms of technical and tactical ability, and that this new set-up would ensure players were training with other players of a similar level, and that the coaching sessions could be planned to ensure each player gets the most from each session.

Group One

Coaching Team: Clive Palmer (Lead Coach), Pauline Tarbit, Kate Hooper, Adrian Cook

The purpose of group one is to focus on our younger players who have demonstrated some natural ability either in their clubs, academy or during competition play. We currently have 21 players in the squad with the youngest being 8 years old.

The main focus is on technical elements such as grip, foot work and hitting action to ensure when they transition through the groups, they have a solid foundation to build from.

Group Two

Coaching Team: Ben Williams (Lead Coach), Paul Adderson, David Driver

The purpose of group two is to further build upon the technical development made within group one, but to start putting more of an emphasis on the tactical side of the game as well. We currently have 24 players in the squad with ages ranging from 12 to 16.

Group Three

Coaching Team: David Driver (Lead Coach), Sue Scott, Abhay Samel

The purpose of group three is to focus on the tactical side of the game and putting it into match practice, working as pairs to implement tactics based on opposition strengths and weaknesses. In the forthcoming season the group three squad sessions will take more of a focus on match practice in preparation for the shires matches, ICT and senior county matches.

2.0: 2022/23 Season review

In the 2022/23 Suffolk entered teams into the U15, U17, U19 age categories.

Suffolk U15

Our U15 Team were placed in tough league alongside Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Kent, Leicestershire and Essex, and finished the season with two wins against Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and four losses. This meant we finished in 19th position out of 29 teams in the overall standings.

For a lot of our players this was their first experience of playing in the shires league and each player gave 100% in every match. There were some noticeable improvements in performance levels throughout the season which the players can build on throughout the summer in preparation for the 2023/24 season.

Suffolk U17

The U17 Team were placed in a league alongside Herts 1 & 2, Norfolk, Essex, Kent and Cambridgeshire. The team finished in 20th position out of 30 teams with a win against Herts 2 and a draw vs Cambridgeshire. There we also a very narrow defeat to Norfolk despite having three players missing on the day!

Suffolk U19

The U19 team found themselves in a league alongside Herts, Essex, Surrey 1, Norfolk, Kent and Cambridgeshire. The team finished in 10th position out of 28 teams with wins against Essex, Surrey 1, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. This meant that the team secured a position in the playoffs with an away match vs Nottingham. Sadly due to tournaments schedules and exams, we were unable to fulfil the fixture and handed the win to Notts.

2023 Inter Counties Tournament (ICT)

ICT was almost back to full strength this year with 28 counties entering the tournament played over four days at the University of Nottingham. Suffolk took a team of ten players to the event which ensured we could rotate the team as the schedule can be quite gruelling for these young players.

In round one Suffolk finished second in their box with wins over Lancashire and Norfolk and a defeat to Herts. This meant we went into the top half of the draw for round two.

In round two we found ourselves in an extremely tough box and finished with three defeats to Leicestershire, Avon and Middlesex. This would mean however that we would have slightly weaker opposition in round three.

In round three we were grouped with Northumberland and Staffordshire and finished with two wins from two which meant we would finish with a play-off for ninth and tenth position.

In the playoff we once again found ourselves up against a strong Avon team, and despite bettering our performance compared with the first time we played them, had to settle for a very credible 10th position out of 28 teams!

2023 Herts Team Challenge

The Bill Goode Memorial tournament once again took place at the Herts Sports Village in Hatfield. The event was for players born 2008 and later and takes the form of a mini ICT, with teams playing against each other in groups before a final play-off against the equivalent team in the other group.

Suffolk took a team of four boys and four girls and competed in a group with Herts 1, Essex, Kent and Warwickshire. Despite losing all four of the matches, there was some great individual performances against counties who have a lot of strength in depth, and these tournaments provide valuable experience for those players playing shires matches and BE tournaments.

We finished the day with a play-off win over Norfolk, so the team came away happy 😊

Senior Team participation

This season we saw a large number of our junior players take the step from junior county to represent the senior county teams. In total we had seven junior players represent the senior county teams.

Rylee, Max, Summer, Anastasiia and Connie all played for the senior county 2nd team while Kayleigh made her senior county first team debut to play alongside Chloe in the team at the final county weekend and division one play offs.

Full Shires league tables can be found in the appendix.

3.0: Summer Squad Sessions

We once again decided to run group one and group two squad sessions throughout the summer. These are being run at Ipswich School Sports Centre in Rushmere in blocks of five sessions starting in June and running through to July.

This has enabled those players who wish to continue training to do so, but has also given the coaching team the opportunity to invite some new players along for five weeks on a trial basis.

On Sunday 25th June we will be combining the squad sessions with friendly matches against Cambridgeshire. The purpose being to enable those players who haven't been part of the shires teams to gain some valuable match practice ahead of the 2023/24 season.

To date these sessions have been well attended with over 20 players attending every session.

4.0: 2023/24 Shires League Season.

We are very excited to be entering an U13 team into the 2023/24 shires league season alongside U15, U17 and U19 teams. Since the restructuring of the squads, and an active recruitment drive spearheaded by Adrian Cook, we have seen an influx of younger players, particularly girls, and feel entering a team at this young age will only help and aid the players' development as they transition up through the age groups.

5.0: Finances and Squad Fees

At the date of the last SJBA committee meeting (17 May), the SJBA accounts had a balance of approximately £4,400, once bills for ICT and other costs had been invoiced and paid. The biggest expense for the last season was the hall hire at a cost of £8,356.

Currently we haven't received any notification from ISSC or Holbrook that courts cost will go up, however, as a committee we are planning to see slight cost increase in both hall hire and shuttle costs.

To negate the potential increases we will be putting the price per squad session up from £14 for a three-hour session to £15 per session. And match fees will be increasing from £1.50 per rubber to £2.00 per rubber – so a maximum of £8 for a player playing in all four of the games per match. (1 x XD, 1 x singles, 2 x level doubles)

Appendix 1: Shires League Tables

U15 League

U15 League

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	U14>15 Yorkshire 1	12	6	6	0	0	115 - 5	116 - 5	2506 - 719
2	U14>15 Leicestershire	12	6	6	0	0	112 - 8	227 - 18	5036 - 2307
3	U14>15 Berkshire	12	6	6	0	0	110 - 10	222 - 25	5046 - 2303
4	U14>15 Hertfordshire	12	6	6	0	0	96 - 24	196 - 53	4773 - 2996
5	U14>15 Surrey1	10	6	5	0	1	97 - 23	196 - 55	4702 - 3184
6	U14>15 Essex	10	6	5	0	1	90 - 30	188 - 65	4825 - 3147
7	U14>15 Yorkshire 2	10	6	5	0	1	90 - 30	145 - 26	3454 - 1375
8	U14>15 Warwickshire	10	6	5	0	1	82 - 38	145 - 69	3998 - 2846
9	U14>15 Lancashire	8	6	4	0	2	82 - 38	134 - 80	3833 - 2436
10	U14>15 Nottinghamshire	8	6	4	0	2	74 - 46	130 - 79	3719 - 2982
11	U14>15 Gloucestershire	8	6	4	0	2	59 - 61	125 - 126	3898 - 3618
12	U14>15 Kent	7	6	3	1	2	69 - 51	148 - 112	4673 - 3899
13	U14>15 Middlesex	6	6	3	0	3	71 - 49	147 - 105	4390 - 3417
14	U14>15 Avon	6	6	3	0	3	70 - 50	149 - 106	4453 - 3794
15	U14>15 Staffordshire	6	6	3	0	3	63 - 57	112 - 90	2808 - 2133
16	U14>15 Surrey2	5	6	2	1	3	46 - 71	99 - 147	3332 - 4239
17	U14>15 Wiltshire	4	5	2	0	3	29 - 71	65 - 143	2344 - 3815
18	U14>15 Hampshire	4	6	2	0	4	50 - 70	108 - 145	4042 - 4253
19	U14>15 Suffolk	4	6	2	0	4	44 - 76	93 - 160	3474 - 4440
20	U14>15 Cambridgeshire	4	6	2	0	4	35 - 85	80 - 175	3208 - 4666
21	U14>15 Oxfordshire	2	5	1	0	4	37 - 63	80 - 135	3210 - 4009
22	U14>15 Northumberland	2	5	1	0	4	24 - 76	44 - 39	1306 - 878
23	U14>15 Norfolk	2	6	1	0	5	38 - 82	65 - 150	2850 - 4012
24	U14>15 Cheshire 1	2	6	1	0	5	33 - 87	65 - 138	1914 - 3164
25	U14>15 Sussex	2	6	1	0	5	18 - 99	41 - 201	2473 - 4798
26	U14>15 Derbyshire	0	4	0	0	4	0 - 80	0 - 160	771 - 3362
27	U14>15 Lincolnshire	0	5	0	0	5	16 - 84	38 - 173	2454 - 4194
28	U14>15 Devon	0	6	0	0	6	27 - 93	56 - 194	3002 - 4468
29	U14>15 Cheshire 2	0	6	0	0	6	0 - 120	0 - 240	0 - 5040

U17 League

U17 League

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	U16>17 Yorkshire1	12	6	6	0	0	102 - 18	213 - 41	5083 - 2854
2	U16>17 Berkshire	12	6	6	0	0	100 - 20	204 - 57	5100 - 3275
3	U16>17 Hertfordshire1	12	6	6	0	0	97 - 23	203 - 60	5158 - 3503
4	U16>17 Avon	12	6	6	0	0	96 - 24	197 - 58	4916 - 3067
5	U16>17 Surrey1	11	6	5	1	0	95 - 25	199 - 62	5000 - 3269
6	U16>17 Staffordshire	11	6	5	1	0	91 - 29	166 - 45	4097 - 2873
7	U16>17 Nottinghamshire	10	6	5	0	1	97 - 23	202 - 63	5228 - 3748
8	U16>17 Norfolk	10	6	5	0	1	64 - 56	137 - 129	4646 - 4531
9	U16>17 Hampshire	8	6	4	0	2	83 - 37	159 - 82	4486 - 3381
10	U16>17 Middlesex	8	6	4	0	2	73 - 47	155 - 103	4468 - 3862
11	U16>17 Buckinghamshire	8	6	4	0	2	69 - 51	151 - 113	4743 - 4130
12	U16>17 Lancashire	8	6	4	0	2	65 - 55	137 - 116	4459 - 4229
13	U16>17 Kent	7	6	3	1	2	72 - 48	162 - 112	5066 - 4181
14	U16>17 Leicestershire	7	6	3	1	2	70 - 50	124 - 88	3213 - 3201
15	U16>17 Warwickshire	6	6	3	0	3	75 - 45	121 - 96	3793 - 3526
16	U16>17 Essex	6	6	3	0	3	67 - 53	147 - 116	4737 - 4164
17	U16>17 Yorkshire2	6	6	3	0	3	59 - 61	130 - 135	4526 - 4082
18	U16>17 Surrey2	6	6	3	0	3	54 - 66	81 - 128	3192 - 3260
19	U16>17 Wiltshire	4	6	2	0	4	44 - 75	97 - 153	3522 - 3504
20	U16>17 Suffolk	3	6	1	1	4	49 - 71	113 - 151	4118 - 4659
21	U16>17 Northumberland	2	5	1	0	4	33 - 67	75 - 138	3302 - 3948
22	U16>17 Lincolnshire	2	6	1	0	5	29 - 91	66 - 191	3442 - 5029
23	U16>17 Hertfordshire2	2	6	1	0	5	27 - 93	63 - 195	3467 - 5044
24	U16>17 Cheshire	2	6	1	0	5	24 - 96	53 - 154	2233 - 3825
25	U16>17 Devon	2	6	1	0	5	22 - 97	52 - 199	2312 - 4626
26	U16>17 Cambridgeshire	1	6	0	1	5	37 - 83	90 - 176	4212 - 5038
27	U16>17 Derbyshire	0	5	0	0	5	20 - 80	49 - 169	2893 - 4380
28	U16>17 Sussex	0	6	0	0	6	32 - 88	74 - 178	3346 - 4731
29	U16>17 Cumbria	0	6	0	0	6	21 - 99	45 - 206	2835 - 4848
30	U16>17 Oxfordshire	0	6	0	0	6	12 - 108	21 - 172	1139 - 3964

U19 League

U19 League

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	U18>19 Hertfordshire	12	6	6	0	0	105 - 15	214 - 46	5225 - 3583
2	U18>19 Yorkshire1	12	6	6	0	0	98 - 21	202 - 52	4939 - 3019
3	U18>19 Kent	12	6	6	0	0	95 - 25	201 - 68	5227 - 3868
4	U18>19 Avon1	11	6	5	1	0	105 - 15	217 - 43	5215 - 3166
5	U18>19 Leicestershire	10	6	5	0	1	97 - 23	200 - 61	5126 - 3392
6	U18>19 Surrey1	10	6	5	0	1	91 - 29	156 - 70	4340 - 3324
7	U18>19 Nottinghamshire	9	6	4	1	1	96 - 24	197 - 66	5137 - 3369
8	U18>19 Cheshire	8	6	4	0	2	81 - 39	168 - 93	4804 - 3559
9	U18>19 Devon	8	6	4	0	2	58 - 62	128 - 133	4484 - 4203
10	U18>19 Suffolk	8	6	4	0	2	57 - 63	131 - 136	4689 - 4669
11	U18>19 Hampshire	7	6	3	1	2	74 - 46	165 - 113	5128 - 4223
12	U18>19 Warwickshire	7	6	3	1	2	57 - 63	139 - 144	5037 - 5178
13	U18>19 Surrey2	6	6	3	0	3	69 - 51	151 - 120	4856 - 4200
14	U18>19 Essex	6	6	3	0	3	66 - 54	151 - 121	4905 - 4485
15	U18>19 Wiltshire	6	6	3	0	3	63 - 57	137 - 122	4285 - 4393
16	U18>19 Berkshire	5	6	2	1	3	62 - 58	141 - 123	4764 - 3965
17	U18>19 Middlesex	5	6	2	1	3	53 - 67	119 - 154	4314 - 4877
18	U18>19 Avon2	5	6	2	1	3	49 - 71	121 - 154	4166 - 4921
19	U18>19 Northumberland	5	6	2	1	3	46 - 74	106 - 153	4129 - 4234
20	U18>19 Staffordshire	4	6	2	0	4	41 - 79	90 - 166	3898 - 4289
21	U18>19 Gloucestershire	4	6	2	0	4	39 - 81	84 - 175	3876 - 4924
22	U18>19 Yorkshire2	3	6	1	1	4	53 - 66	122 - 140	4473 - 4116
23	U18>19 Sussex	2	6	1	0	5	34 - 86	82 - 182	3508 - 4942
24	U18>19 Cambridgeshire	1	6	0	1	5	29 - 91	69 - 194	3827 - 5096
25	U18>19 Oxfordshire	1	6	0	1	5	23 - 97	58 - 166	2876 - 4410
26	U18>19 Norfolk	1	6	0	1	5	20 - 100	57 - 206	3776 - 5194
27	U18>19 Cornwall	0	6	0	0	6	18 - 102	43 - 208	2593 - 4958
28	U18>19 Lancashire	0	6	0	0	6	0 - 120	0 - 240	0 - 5040