

Junior County U18>19 Squad Report- Season 22/23

The squad sessions this season have not been that well attended due to players having jobs, playing tournaments and having family occasions. The content of the session has been focused on;

- Footwork with foot speed and constant movement to move around to the extremes of the court.
- Racquet skills with players having in mind a target for the shuttle to go to.
- Doubles play with an emphasis on player rotation to maintain the attack.
- Games with singles, level and mixed doubles being played

The U18>19 group sessions have had mainly coached by Abhay, Sue and myself, with Ben and Paul helping when available, I wish to thank them all for their help during the season. To ensure a larger number of players attend the U18>19 training session it has been decided from the New Year this group will also include U16>17 players. This did lead to more players attending the reduced number of training sessions.

The Shires League fixtures for the U18>19 age group were completed. The results for the matches completed do appear on the SBA website.

For the record they are as follows;

20th Nov, Suffolk v Essex (A), Won 12-8
11th Dec, Suffolk v Surrey (H), Won 12-8
8th Jan, Suffolk v Norfolk (H), Won 18-2
29th Jan, Suffolk v Herts 1 (L), Lost 0-20
19th Feb, Suffolk v Kent (L), Lost 4-16
5th March, Suffolk v Cambs (H), Won 11-9

This resulted in Suffolk finishing 10th in the Shires League and being invited to play in the knock out stage for a place in the league finals. The invitation for this event was declined as we could not raise a team to play Nottinghamshire in the next knock out stage with exams on the horizon and the very short timeframe available.

All of the 3 age group squad training sessions were held on Sunday's throughout the season at Ipswich School Sports Club - Rushmere. We have played all of our home Shires League fixtures at Holbrook Academy to ensure the number of squad training sessions, particularly the U14>15 group, was maximised. This policy hope fully will continue for the 2023/24 season.

I finally like to thank Sue Scott for arranging all the Shire League fixtures under very demanding circumstances.

We again entered the Inter County Tournament (ICT) which was held from 3rd to 6th April 2023 at Nottingham University Sports Centre. The event this year had an increase in the number of teams entered from 22 to 28 teams and because of this was run over the normal 4 days. The team travelled on Sunday 2nd April to ensure we are ready to play the following day. The team, which consisted of a number of younger players finished a very credible 10th overall. All the players who played in the event found it hard but a very enjoyable experience.

I wish to thank Sue Scott, Ben Williams, Adrian Cook, Paul Adderson and Karen Adderson for helping to make it an enjoyable experience for all the players. The arrangements for ensuring Accomodation, Food and dietary requirements, Team Photographs, Safeguarding and Coach Accreditation were all in place with the BE Competition Team.

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For the 2023/24 Shires League season we are for the first time entering a U12>13 team to ensure we done everything possible to help with the development of players younger players available in the county. We are still looking for more players in this age group, any parents/players, if interested please contact Adrian Cook(email – cookap19@aol.com)

During the summer we have also arranged to hold a number of training sessions for the U12>13, U14>15 and U16>17 groups as well as some friendly matches, which are being arranged by Adrian Cook who I wish to thank for doing this for the players. These sessions are being held at Ipswich School Sports Centre – Rushmere and dates of these are posted on the SBA website.

I wish to thank Clive Palmer who is very supportive with of what we are doing for junior players in the county as well as Sue Scott, Abhay Samel, Ben Williams and Paul Adderson who have helped with the arranging fixtures, coaching at the sessions and helping at matches when available.

David Driver
U18>19 Manager & Coach