



AGM REPORT

17 July 2024

Chairman's Remarks

I would like to start by saying a massive thank you to all of the coaching and management team for all the help and support this season – the first season we have successfully managed to run four teams in the Shires Leagues, an ICT Team and a Herts Team Challenge Team. There is so much organising that has to happen behind the scenes to source venues, shuttles, arrange the team and comms with opponents!

There are always lots of highlights and rewarding moments in every season – a particular highlight for me this year was seeing our U13 team competing for the first time. The enthusiasm and passion that these young players displayed on court was so nice to see – often competing with players with vastly more experience.

Once again our U19 team came through a tough league to qualify for the play-offs and there were also some great wins in all other age groups. We once again took teams to ICT and the Herts Team Challenge which presented some of our less experienced players with the opportunity to compete with some of the best players in the country – and everyone rose to the challenge and gained vast amounts of experience from the events.

And finally – as a junior section we aim to transition our juniors through to senior badminton – and this season we had seven players make this step into senior badminton – the youngest of who was 13 when she played!

Ben

Chair, SJBA

1.0: 2023/24 Season review

In the 2023/24 season Suffolk entered teams into the U13, U15, U17, U19 age categories.

U19s

The U19 team finished a very credible 10th position out of 29 teams with wins over Northants, Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. There were narrow losses to both Herts and Kent. This meant we finished in the play-off positions but sadly had to forfeit our play-off match to Leicester as a number of players were unavailable on the date of the match.

U17s

It was a tough season for our U17s due to a long-term injury to our top girl and various other players missing due to mock exam preparation meaning on occasions, we had to field a very young team. Despite this, every player fought for every point, with the highlight of the season being a 13-7 win over Norfolk. The team finished in 28th position out of 33 teams.

U15s

It was a similar story in the U15s team where we had to borrow at least two girls and two boys from the U13 team for every match of the season. Again, despite this, the team showed great morale and team spirit to finish 20th out of 30 teams with wins over Cambridgeshire and Kent 2.

U13s

It was the inaugural season for our Minis and it was an absolute pleasure to watch them play. Many of our players hadn't had any previous exposure to Badminton England tournaments so it was a steep learning curve. However, this did not phase this great group of youngsters who put their all into every match and finished the season in 16 out of 23 teams.

The highlight of the season came on the final day with a 12-8 win over Middlesex.

As massive thank you to all the coaches, helpers, parents and anyone who has volunteered and helped throughout the season.

2024 Inter Counties Tournament (ICT)

29 teams entered the Inter County Tournament which was once again held at the David Ross Sports Village at the University of Nottingham. This year's tournament was for players born 2007 and younger.

In round one the Suffolk Team found themselves in a very tough box with Leicestershire and Avon – two teams expected to finish very highly in the tournament. Two defeats meant we then went into a box with Sussex, Staffordshire, Northants and Cornwall. We finished day two with one win, two draws and 1 loss which meant we would compete on the final day with Cornwall, Worcestershire and Cheshire.

We started our final day with a 9-1 win over Cornwall and a 9-1 win over Worcestershire before falling to a very close 6-4 defeat to Cheshire.

It was a fantastic week once again with lots of supporters making the journey to Notts to cheer on the team. A massive thank you to David Driver and Sue Scott who once again undertook all of the organising to ensure the event ran seamlessly for the team.



2024 Herts Team Challenge

The 2024 Bill Goode Memorial tournament took place on Sunday 16th June at the Herts Sports Village in Hatfield. The event was for players born 2009 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 2, Yorkshire 1, Cambridgeshire and Northants. We finished the group with one win and three losses, albeit the loss to Herts 2 was a narrow 4-3 defeat with us losing 15-14 in the third set of the girl's doubles. We then played Yorkshire 2 in the play-off and finished the day with a convincing 7-0 win which meant we finished the day in 7th position.

We had some of our more inexperienced players competing and it was really encouraging the way they took the fight to some of their more experienced counterparts. There was also a great team spirit within the camp which we haven't seen in previous years – it was great to see and lead such a great group of players.



Senior Team participation

This season we saw a seven of our junior players representing the senior county teams.

Rylee, Summer, Anastasiia, Jane, Mariia, Henry and Amelia all played for the senior county 2nd team while Kayleigh maintained her position in the first team, helping the side to a second successful Division One play-offs.

2.0: Summer Squad Sessions

We ran a series of squad sessions throughout the season – with Group One being aimed at the younger more inexperienced players, and Group Two being aimed at those with a bit more experience looking to enhance the tactical elements of the game, but also with a focus on improving technique.

The sessions were well attended throughout the season with the winter block ending at the end of May.

We are now into the summer block of sessions and have decided to operate six sessions for Group One, and three sessions for Group Two – largely due to a number of players in this group undertaking GCSEs.

3.0: 2024/25 Shires League Season.

We are very excited to once again be entering teams into the U13, U15, U17 and U19 age categories for the 2024/25 Shires league season.