

SUFFOLK BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

MASTERS REPORT

The 23/24 season is now complete for Suffolk using a total of 60 players (34 men, 26 ladies) across 5 teams and 27 matches. With numbers growing in the Over 40s age group, we were able to sustain 2 teams for the second season and conceded just the last match of the season.

Huge thanks go to the 40s and 50s squad captains Steve Lambert and Alan Jones for all their efforts in leading their squads and to Alice Sim, Lisa Lee and Lisa Jacobs for their work with their teams across the season and to everyone who has been part of Suffolk's Masters 23/4 season – players and supporters alike. The season has not been without its injury challenges including some long term ones – we hope to welcome everyone back next season fresh and ready for action, along with some newcomers already recruited for the Over 40s, 50s and 65s.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the performance of the Over 60s squad at the County Challenge in January, where they finished top of their league and gained promotion to the Premier League for next season, likely to be played at Badminton England's headquarters at Milton Keynes. Congratulations to the successful squad of Lisa Jacobs, Sue Poole, Kate Hooper, Carol Bowden, Lesley Crack, Sandy Taylor, Pete Taylor, Adam Rae, Norman Noble and Peter Jones.

The league tables and match results really don't do justice to the many close games Suffolk's teams enjoyed with lots of setting and games going to 3 throughout all age groups.

Final league tables are below:

Masters County Championships – Over 40 – Midlands East

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Cambridgeshire O40 1	15	5	5	0	0	51 - 9	108 - 23	2638 - 1622
2 Norfolk O40	12	5	4	0	1	42 - 18	89 - 47	2605 - 2096
3 Suffolk O40 1	6	5	2	0	3	28 - 32	65 - 73	2449 - 2481
4 Essex O40	6	5	2	0	3	29 - 31	62 - 65	1598 - 1909
5 Cambridgeshire O40 2	3	5	1	0	4	20 - 40	47 - 83	1817 - 2138
6 Suffolk O40 2	3	5	1	0	4	10 - 50	23 - 103	1475 - 2336

Masters County Championships – Over 50 – Midlands East

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Nottinghamshire O50	18	6	6	0	0	56 - 15	115 - 35	2914 - 2099
2 Cambridgeshire O50	12	6	4	0	2	46 - 25	95 - 59	2758 - 2548
3 Lincolnshire O50	6	6	2	0	4	26 - 46	61 - 97	2664 - 2984
4 Suffolk O50	0	6	0	0	6	15 - 57	39 - 119	2395 - 3100

Masters County Championships – Over 60 – South & East - East

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Essex O60	15	6	5	0	1	54 - 18	114 - 42	2960 - 2054
2 Kent O60	12	6	4	0	2	45 - 27	99 - 64	3012 - 2633
3 Suffolk O60	6	6	2	0	4	35 - 37	79 - 84	2879 - 2552
4 Hertfordshire O60	3	6	1	0	5	10 - 62	26 - 128	1492 - 3104

Masters County Championships – Over 65 – South East

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Surrey O65	18	6	6	0	0	47 - 7	95 - 18	2192 - 1394
2 Kent O65	15	6	5	0	1	43 - 11	90 - 29	2343 - 1768
3 Essex O65	12	6	4	0	2	34 - 20	71 - 48	2167 - 1966
4 Sussex O65	9	6	3	0	3	26 - 28	60 - 63	2230 - 2174
5 Suffolk O65	6	6	2	0	4	14 - 40	35 - 84	1707 - 2211
6 Hertfordshire O65 1	3	6	1	0	5	15 - 39	42 - 82	2011 - 2342
7 Hertfordshire O65 2	0	6	0	0	6	10 - 44	23 - 92	1488 - 2283

The Masters Inter County Challenge was held at Eastleigh (40s), Bournemouth (50s) and Tidworth, Wilts (60s) in January for the three Suffolk teams. An excellent weekend was had by all the players and the many supporters who travelled. Unfortunately the 65s team was not able to fulfil its entry, due to player unavailability and a lack of substitutes. The final league tables are below:

O40 - O40 Div 2B - Eastleigh

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Avon O40	8	5	3	2	0	14 - 6	31 - 15	894 - 781
2 Wales O40	6	5	3	0	2	11 - 9	24 - 24	892 - 901
3 Hertfordshire O40	6	5	2	2	1	12 - 8	28 - 19	876 - 779
4 Wiltshire O40	6	5	1	4	0	11 - 9	26 - 22	889 - 870
5 Suffolk O40	3	5	1	1	3	7 - 13	20 - 29	858 - 939
6 Somerset O40	1	5	0	1	4	5 - 15	13 - 33	764 - 903

O50 - O50 Div 2B - Bournemouth

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Wiltshire O50	12	8	6	0	2	25 - 7	53 - 22	1473 - 1235
2 Wales O50	12	8	5	2	1	19 - 13	42 - 31	1400 - 1221
3 Oxfordshire O50	8	8	2	4	2	17 - 15	40 - 36	1341 - 1373
4 Suffolk O50	5	8	1	3	4	11 - 21	29 - 47	1307 - 1421
5 Cornwall O50	3	8	0	3	5	8 - 24	22 - 50	1141 - 1412

O60 - O60 Div 1B - Easteligh

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Suffolk O60	11	6	5	1	0	18 - 6	40 - 18	1101 - 910
2 Avon O60	9	6	4	1	1	15 - 9	33 - 26	1046 - 1005
3 Kent O60	8	6	3	2	1	15 - 9	37 - 22	1119 - 967
4 Devon O60	5	6	2	1	3	13 - 11	28 - 26	995 - 928
5 Sussex O60	4	6	1	2	3	10 - 14	24 - 33	1002 - 1059
6 Middlesex O60	3	6	0	3	3	8 - 16	23 - 35	1025 - 1115
7 Wiltshire O60	2	6	0	2	4	5 - 19	15 - 40	757 - 1061

Two Practice sessions were held in October and January and were not as well attended as usual, which was disappointing. They do provide a great opportunity for newcomers to the squad to get to know their teammates and to test out new partnerships so hope appropriate support is forthcoming next season.

We had a total of 60 Masters' squad members registered on Tournament Software for the season and around 90 currently on the data base, including the new recruits!

For a relatively small county, we have excellent numbers playing in the Masters Competitions – we are keen to continue this reputation and welcome new members at any stage once they are qualified to play. There is an abundance of information on Masters on the SBA website and many thanks go to our fast and efficient Webmaster for keeping this updated throughout the season.

The 2024/25 entries for both the league and Challenge weekend have been submitted and include 2 Over 40s, 1 Over 50s, 1 Over 60s and 1 Over 65s in the league competition. Next year's Challenge weekend will be 11/12 January and Suffolk's entries include one team in each of the Over 40s, Over 50s, Over 60s and Over 65s. Venues and details are yet to be confirmed.

Sue McKinley
Masters Co-ordinator
23/06/24