

Development Plan – Junior Play in Sussex

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		Date	August 2006
		Version no.	Initial Draft

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Everyone associated with the management of badminton has a fiduciary responsibility to create an environment for players to enjoy and develop, whatever their background, age or status.

At present, the Sussex Junior Committee is largely responsible for the development of the junior county teams and the peripheral county squad.

The Sussex Junior Committee does not have any significant involvement with the development of junior badminton throughout the county.

1.2 Development Plan

The objective of this plan is to define the different roles that the various committees play, and to create a structure and strategy that addresses the development of junior badminton throughout the county.

1.3 Objectives

The ultimate aim for the Sussex Junior Committee must be to encourage and develop the young players that have achieved the standard necessary for the Junior County Squad, and to maximise their potential.

One of the primary aims of the Sussex Badminton Association is to bring as many young players as possible into the game, and provide them with training, coaching and the required skills for them to be able to progress to their highest level. As part of this progression, they should be encouraged to reach for the Junior County Squads where their development will become the responsibility of the Sussex Junior Committee.

2 Planned Organisational Structure

2.1 Sussex Junior Committee

The Sussex Junior Committee is wholly responsible for the development, organisation and management of the Junior County Teams and the associated squad of players from which the team players are called.

This committee comprises of a management team that is responsible for the organisation, running and finances associated with the development of this squad.

The Sussex Junior Committee must also represent its interests within the larger Sussex County Committee and Development Committee and draw any necessary support and resources from the main body. A senior representative of the County Committee should be present within the Junior Committee and vice a versa.

2.2 Development Committee

The Development Committee, chaired by Colin Blackmore, is responsible for all of the badminton development activities which are being led by the County, and supporting other organisations or partners that are developing or playing badminton.

It is proposed, that this committee support the Junior Committee by officially taking on the responsibility of the development of all young players outside of the County Squad. It is critical to the on-going development of the game at a Junior level that the Junior Committee and Development Committee work very closely together, and that continuous liaison is vital.

The Development Committee will be responsible for ensuring that all players understand how they can progress into a County Squad, and when they are not eligible or capable enough for a County Squad, they have a route to continue to develop their skills.

The Development Committee will be responsible for creating clubs and coaching academies/or cells to support players that are not quite eligible for the County Squads. And, to have these cells supported by local clubs to provide a neat transition into Senior badminton.

The Development Committee is the key liaison with the Badminton Development Officer and Development resources available from Badminton England.

2.3 Sussex County Committee

This is the management group responsible for all badminton activities throughout the county. The Development Committee reports directly to the Sussex County Committee.

The County Committee will provide operational and administrative assistance wherever needed to the various sub-committees in pursuit of the development of players.

3 Planned Activities

3.1 Junior Committee

To continue with their strategy to develop the Junior County Squad and the team players selected to represent the County.

To provide players who are not successful in belonging to the County Squad with detailed information, guidance and encouragement to ensure that they have somewhere to train and develop so that they can continue to make themselves a contender for a squad place.

3.2 Development Committee

To work with the various junior and senior clubs, as well as the coaches throughout the county to build the infrastructure (clubs, academies and cells) necessary to support the development of junior players.

To maintain information about clubs, academies and cells to ensure that players not selected for the Junior Squads have a route to develop their game further.

To create a development plan and necessary relationships that enables junior players to transition easily and seamlessly into senior clubs.

To devise a program of work for the Development Officer, and to manage the program so as to support these objectives.

4 Action Plan

4.1 Initial Actions

4.1.1 Sussex Junior Committee

To be provided by Jane and the Junior Committee.

4.1.2 Development Committee

1. Establish an understanding of where the existing players come from.
2. Understand the existing junior infrastructure and identify gaps in coaching skills, or quality of playing environment.
3. Identify senior clubs who will assist in filling the gaps.
4. Determine a hit list of clubs and coaches and approach them to start activities.

4.2 Additional Actions

4.2.1 Standard of Coaching

The general level and standard of coaching across the county is varied and poor. There is a distinct lack of structure and expertise available to develop the young players.

As a parallel activity, the coaching structure needs to be reviewed to determine a plan in which this key issue can be addressed.