

## SUSSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### Affiliation:

*Sue Bailey* writes:

All change!

For me, a quiet start to the season with no affiliation packs to post or distribute at the Fixture meetings. I had a few enquiries from clubs asking where the affiliation packs were! When clubs began to affiliate on the new Vision web-site some problems arose mainly with coaches in clubs, and members who play for more than one club with no facility to pay county fees at more than one club. The problem could only be rectified by phoning BADMINTON England.

Hopefully for next season the problems will be resolved. Coaches will affiliate through the club and Vision will allow players to pay county fees at more than one club.

### Senior Team Report:

*Derek Webb* reports:

Nick Chambers stood down as Performance Director in the new year and we are grateful to the team managers, Will Hilton-Jackson and Matt Hodgson, for keeping things going for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams until the end of the season.

The County teams have had a season of mixed fortunes. The 1<sup>st</sup> team, despite some close individual matches, will be relegated to Division 2 of the ICC next season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team had a better season finishing in mid table in Division 3. The Under 21 squad played in the ICC weekend competition at the end of March and finished a commendable 9<sup>th</sup> out of 20.

We are pleased to report that Jeanette Powell will be the team manager and Myra Boyce, the match secretary for next season.

In order to achieve more competitive play for the Under 21's, we are entering a 3<sup>rd</sup> team in the ICC next season. The plan is to play mainly under 21's in that team.

### Competitions:

- **Sussex Restricted**

Congratulations to the County Champions: -

Men's Singles - Will Hilton-Jackson

R/U: Mark Burtenshaw

Ladies Singles – Steph Pound

R/U: Bryony Morris

Men's Doubles - Colin Dow & Will Hilton-Jackson

R/U: Mark Burtenshaw & Sean Such

Ladies Doubles - Karen Arscott & Steph Pond

R/U: Sara Hall & Sara Addison

Mixed Doubles - Will Hilton-Jackson & Karen Arscot

R/U: Harry Hacking & Wendy Adams

- **The 3 Series:**

This replaced the County League and 3 events were held at Arun LC in October, Portslade Sports Centre in January and Summerfield LC, Hastings in March. The overall winners are:

Ladies Doubles: Michelle Mason (Steyning) with 1809 points. Only 1 ladies winner as Michelle had different partners at each venue.

Mens Doubles: Ian Shek & Steve Shippam (both Stanford Penguins) with 1887 points.

Mixed Doubles: Gill Chitty (Arcadians) & Glenn Gaylor (Steyning) with 1965 points.

### Regional Officer:

*Gemma Finlay* reports:

- **Community Badminton Networks:**

Over the last 6 months I have developed good relationships with partners who sit on the Littlehampton/Arun CBN & Crawley CBN management groups. I have also brought together key partners to create a management group to develop a CBN in Hastings & Rother. The action plans produced for each of the CBNs is developing well and we are seeing increased activity in these areas. Participations projects have seen new and returning players complete coaching programmes and continue to play either by joining a club or attending 'Pay and Play/No Strings' sessions. Another twelve plus projects for adult participants (16+) will take place over the next financial year with strong exit routes being ensured. With the provision of more coaching courses and relevant CPD available, the activity in these key areas will be sustainable and ensure an increase in badminton continues into the future.

The above only highlights some of the key areas that the CBN focuses on, through the delivery of the action plan there has been an increase in School participation including Premier School accreditation, curricular and extra-curricular coaching, festivals, competitions, club development and No Strings. In 2011 I will be looking to develop a CBN in Brighton and initial communication with the key partners in this area has already begun.

- **Schools:**

This year all 9 School Sports Partnerships, affiliated to BADMINTON England, competed in the Center Parcs National Schools Competition. The Regional round held at K2 Crawley saw participants from schools from Sussex, Kent, Surrey and the London Boroughs. The two representing Sussex boy's teams did themselves proud both playing strong opponents in their group. Helenswood School girls and Uckfield School girls both played outstanding badminton, winning the final of the regional round to put them through to the Nationals. Helenswood held onto their title by winning the Key Stage 3 Girls final and Uckfield came an impressive 5<sup>th</sup> especially considering over 1,600 schools entered the tournament with over 22,000 children taking part. BISI for Primary courses are being run to train teachers to deliver the new BISI Primary resource. Many of the teachers from cluster schools will then encourage pupils to take part in a BISI festival run by the Sports Coordinator at the local Secondary school. Following on the fantastic Primary resource the BISI Secondary resource is now available and Secondary School PE teachers will be encouraged to use this to deliver badminton.

An approach to the Universities within Sussex, who run Post Graduate Certificate in Education courses in PE, to run the familiarisation course as part of the degree has been warmly received. It is hoped that students will use BISI when on their School placement as well as being able to deliver BISI once qualified.

- **Coaching:**

So far this year there have been two UKCC Level 1 courses, one held at the Eastbourne Campus of Brighton University in March and the second finishing on 23d May in Hastings. The next UKCC Level 2 course has been booked to start in September at K2 Crawley, which will also be the venue for another UKCC Level 1 in February 2011. I am also looking at the possibility of holding a UKCC Level 1 and Level 2 at Chichester University in the near future.

The Level 2 bursary 'Raising Your Game' closes in October, so anyone wishing to complete the qualification is being urged to attend a course before this date.

'Recruit to Coaching' funding has supported some candidates attending the Hastings Level 1 through Hasting Borough Councils Active Leadership Trainer.

Other candidates residing in or near CBN areas also have the opportunity to request help towards coaching courses through the CBN management group by agreeing to deliver a number of coaching hours in the community.

- **Clubs:**

The following Premier clubs passed their Annual Health Check;

- Felbridge Badminton Club
- Forest Badminton Club

Chelwood Gate Badminton Club and Horsham/Arun Badminton Club are awaiting assessment for re-accreditation and Littlehampton are awaiting confirmation as to whether they have achieved Premier Status.

There are several other clubs, some in line with CBNs, who are working towards Club mark;

- Faststep Badminton Academy
- Hasting YMCA Badminton Club
- Lewes Badminton Club
- Worthing Junior Badminton Club

- **Competition & Events:**

As the Lead Officer for this area across the South East region, I will be carrying out an audit, working with the 7 County Badminton Associations, to look at the current provision of competitive opportunities and look forward as to how we can ensure there is an appropriate competition pathway for all ages and levels of player.

[gemmafinlay@badmintonengland.co.uk](mailto:gemmafinlay@badmintonengland.co.uk)

## **Sussex County Junior Badminton:**

*Jane Fenner* (Junior Secretary) reports:

Another Season has slipped by – seems unbelievable to me!

In May 2009, the Junior committee said goodbye to their Chair, Teresa Large, and Zeyar Win was voted into the position by a clear majority at our end of season meeting.

The new season brought new challenges for our committee which is made up principally of volunteers (only the coaches are paid), who work tirelessly to provide badminton for all junior players in the county set up at a wide variety of levels.

We were sad to have a very few U11 girls trial this year and this meant that our U11 squad was not able to field a full team of equal numbers of boys and girls in their matches. U11 numbers nationally are down and it is a trend our committee will look to buck over the next season, as this is where the future of all our junior squads starts. That said, our boys and girls who did play achieved some very promising results and once again we clearly have some talented youngsters which is very exciting.

In the U13s we are once again short of girls, and with some disagreement between ourselves and the Performance Centre, our squads were depleted, unfortunately losing some of our more able players who decided not to play for the county this year. However, squads have been, by and large, full this year, and the committee will look to try to forge links with the PC, who in turn must undertake to support county junior badminton. Many of our U15 and U17 squad players seem to be able to attend both PC and county and there was no such problem here with attendance at both main squad and team training sessions virtually 100%.

Both the U13 and U15 teams qualified for the National team challenge finals at Herts. sports village in February, the U15s by winning their regional round at Haywards Heath in November, and the U13s by coming runners up. In the finals, the U13s enjoyed enormous success, gaining bronze medal position. A wonderful result for some very talented players. The U15s came 11<sup>th</sup> on the day, often losing by only points, but unfortunately they all count. Team spirit was good, and the parents were fabulous. Thank you!

U17s beat their track up the M1 to Nottingham in April for the ICT, where they had a very tough first round box playing Yorkshire and Cheshire on the first day! However, they made the top half of the cut, and went on to come 18<sup>th</sup> out of 42 county teams. The experience was great for them, and they came back very tired, but full of refreshed enthusiasm. Many thanks to Jason Large (U17 coach) and Ruth Woodhams (U17 parent rep) for chaperoning the players over the 5 days and 4 (pretty-much sleepless) nights. Without you they couldn't have gone.

For the first time in 4 years, Jason decided to take an U16 team to the Wimbledon Invitation U16 tournament, which attracts an overseas entry, as he felt the experience would do these younger players the power of good and at the end of the season would spur them on to train hard during the closed season ready for U17s next year. They had some good games, some of them again very close, and the players came away duly enthused.

In April we decided to hold a “whole squad team tournament” to mark the end of another season and we made it into our prize presentation as well. Many thanks must go to Sue Hacking for her tireless organising both before and on the day, and to Neil Warwick and Sean Colbert who were landed right in it when Chris & Janice Byerley got “stuck” in Mexico due to volcanic ash! About 55 of our youngsters were involved in mixed age group teams playing a mixture of singles and doubles. A lovely day was had by all, Adrian Adams ran a wonderful café, keeping everyone supplied with bacon butties, tea and coffee, and raising some funds to boot. Thanks Adrian – you may do it again!

Very many thanks must go to all our volunteers, front and back office so to speak, as without you the future of junior badminton looks rather bleak. We will have a new committee for next season and I wish them well.

So now we are looking forward to a few weeks respite before our trials on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. Please encourage your youngsters to come along. Remember they are the future of the county set up.

## **The Veterans**

*Vanessa Bramble*, (Vets Co-ordinator) writes:

Sussex Veterans get better and better as time goes by!

Another season has flown by and each age group had some wonderful moments of success and achieved closer scores than last year. My Over 50's managed two losing draws, which could so easily have been outright wins, before ending the season with a home win against Kent for the first time ever by this group of players.

The snow delayed Yehlex tournament finally went ahead in March and although we lost some of our regular players, new replacements gave their all, picked up games here and there and told me they thoroughly enjoyed their fun week-end away and what a great County spirit flows through each age group. Watch out, they want your place next year too!!!

To continue the improvement Sussex is making, I am now moving aside for the younger, vibrant Gary Nicholls to run the co-ordinating side and wish him all the very best, but I still aim to try, play harder and make next year a winning one.

For all of us the only way is up.

## **Other Matters:**

The Sussex National Elite Tournament was once again successfully held at the Olympos LC, Haywards Heath in May. We are grateful to the volunteer umpires, line judges and stewards.

The Management Group has met on four occasions and the Management Committee also meets regularly.

The County Handbook has once again been updated by Colin Blackmore and circulated to each club.

The Website: [www.badmintonssussex.co.uk](http://www.badmintonssussex.co.uk) always wants new material/results, so please contribute if you can.

Sussex Badminton Newsletters: owing to distribution problems via Courtside magazine, there have been no newsletters this season. It is planned to use the BADMINTON England Vision system, when it is operational, to send newsletters by e mail to all affiliated members.

*Linda Pettigrew* (Secretary) [pettigrew@tooay.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:pettigrew@tooay.freeserve.co.uk) June 2010