

SUSSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Affiliation:

Sue Bailey writes:

Very little to report this season. Once Badminton England had the Vision site up and running, the Club Affiliations ran smoothly. The only problem throughout the season was that clubs were not able to pay County Affiliation fees for members who had affiliated with another club, unless they rang BE to do it for them. A few clubs needed chasing up in January, these clubs should be aware that club insurance runs out on October 31st. Derek has done a Sussex membership breakdown. We have 1443 Senior members, 158 Junior members playing in Senior clubs/Leagues, 542 Juniors playing in Junior clubs, and 102 Volunteers or Coaches. The figures include duplicates so the number of individual people is less than that shown. Thank you, Derek.

Senior Team Report:

Myra Boyce and Jeanette Powell report:

Senior County Squads achieved great success in the Inter County Championship this season.

The First Team finished top of their League and gained promotion to Division 1, beating teams from Kent, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex and Berkshire, winning 7 out of 8 ties.

The Second Team gained some excellent results against Kent, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire and comfortably retained their place in Division 3 for next year.

The Third Team, a new entry to the Leagues this year, topped their table in Division 5 by beating Guernsey, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire in both home and away ties. To gain promotion to Division 4, they were then required to play two extra matches against Somerset and Middlesex. They won both games in fine style, 11-4 and 10-5 respectively and so move up to Division 4 next season.

Sussex was also represented at the Inter County 17-21 Championships at Hatfield and finished in 5th place – a notable achievement. Congratulations! Following the successful growth of the County Squads this year, a Fourth Team will be entered into the Leagues for the 2011/2012 season. This will help to ensure that there are additional places available for the growing number of players, including promising juniors, who are committed to gaining Senior County Team places.

Team Details 2010/2011:

1st Team Appearances this season:

Men: Mark Burtenshaw, Gareth Cooke, Andrej Gasz, Dean George, Will Hilton-Jackson, Vimu Kalugalage, Luke Jones, Chris Spice (Capt), Sean Such

Ladies: Karen Arscott, Cathy Bargh, Felicity Boyce, Jenny Cross, Sarah Gray, Steph Pound, Lydia Powell, Anna Prestwich, Amber Roberts, Karen Thomas, Tanya Woodward

Special congratulations to Karen Thomas on achieving 100 County appearances.

2nd Team Appearances this season:

Men: Mark Burtenshaw, Chris Clarke, Gareth Cook, Phil Fenner, Peter Fuller, Andrej Gasz, Matt Hodgson (Capt), Luke Jones, Duncan Murray, Paul Cooper, Sean Such

Ladies: Sara Addison, Karen Arscott, Felicity Boyce, Kim George, Sarah Gray, Sara Hall, Linda Park, Anna Prestwich

3rd Team Appearances this season:

Men: James Clark, Chris Clarke, Phil Fenner, Peter Fuller, Harry Hacking, Wojtek Jaranowski, Chris Jones, Luke Jones, Jeremy Lambert

Ladies: Wendy Adams, Rachel Adams, Sara Addison, Sam Bennett, Jenny Cross, Rachel Fenner, Gemma Finlay, Ella Harry, Lauren Holness, Bryony Morris, Linda Park, Anna Prestwich, Amber Roberts, Adele Woodhams

17-21s Team Players this season:

Men: Mark Burtenshaw, Phil Fenner, Sean Such

Ladies: Kim George, Ella Harry and Adele Woodhams

Competitions:

- **Sussex Restricted:** held at Portslade SC.

Congratulations to the County Champions: -

Men's Singles - Will Hilton-Jackson

R/U: Vimu Kalugalage

Ladies Singles – Lydia Powell

R/U: Steph Pound

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

R/U: Chris Spice / Vimu Kalugalage

Ladies Doubles – Tanya Woodward / Lydia Powell

R/U: Linda Park / Anna Prestwich

Mixed Doubles - Will Hilton-Jackson / Karen Arscott

R/U: Chris Spice / Lydia Powell

- **The 3 Series:**

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

Ladies Doubles: Jess Bennett/Rhiannon Turner-Noakes (County U 17's) with 2043 points.

Mens Doubles: Ian Shek/ Steve Shippam (both Stanford Penguins) with 1731 points.

Mixed Doubles: George Lambourne/ Jess Bennett (County U 17's) with 2043 points.

Many thanks go to Janice Byerley for organising this event.

Regional Officer:

Gemma Finlay (gemmafinlay@badmintonengland.co.uk) reports:

CBNS:

I have been updating you quarterly on the progress of the CBNs across Sussex, and all in all, I feel it has been a very positive and productive year, all be it challenging at times! With the CSR and many changes taking place due to budget cuts, restrictions to resources and jobs at threat, the relationships that have formed over time has been key to sustaining projects and adding to the great work that was achieved the previous year. Having retained the buy in from partners (from across the board – club volunteers to Local Authority Sports Development Officers) in these challenging times shows their commitment to continue to raise the profile of badminton and deliver more projects to engage new participants into the sport.

There are now four CBNs within the county, with the establishment of a new network in Brighton & Hove.

All CBNs have run successful participation projects for varying target groups, and have seen new players join clubs or No Strings Sessions where available. Please see below a summary new people engaged across all CBNs.

| Summary of all CBNs | 2010/11 | |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| Overall adult participation summary | Tot | 16-19 |
| Senior members within club environment (increase since 2009/2010) | 85 | |
| Weekly No Strings participants (once a week average across sites) | 56 | |
| Participants in year round participation programmes | 73 | 43 |
| Total of new once a week participants | 257 | |

Arun/Chichester CBN (FKA: Littlehampton) has seen half a dozen new programmes and 5 NSB sessions across the districts. In particular, engagement with the University of Chichester has been very fruitful. The University Volunteer Placement Officers have had a significant impact on increasing participation of students and staff, creating new Young Officials and generating some new Level 1 coaches. The university wishes to continue the placement project in the next academic year alongside their successful Active Universities bid Activator Officer. I look forward to working with the new students and building on the fantastic work that has already occurred. Both local leisure operators, Westgate Leisure Chichester and Inspire Leisure have been paramount to the development of junior activity in the area. Both have set up sessions at local schools directly feeding in to junior sessions at their facilities. The hub club is now Club Mark accredited, which is inspiring the other junior clubs to follow suit.

The Crawley CBN is a perfect case study to show the positive outcomes the network can achieve. In particular, the communication that is now occurring between partners has resulted in a wider volunteer network at events, more court time being available, and a better knowledge of the appropriate exit routes in the area for new players. Therefore by working together they have amplified the voice of badminton and ultimately increased participation. The NSB session is running at near capacity, the club has seen a significant increase in members, when at the beginning of the season they were concerned that they may have to drop out of the leagues and possibly fold. The progression of a local Young Leader to a Level 1 coach is a great example of how the leadership pathway works. As well as having a younger person's view within the CBN they are also an integral member of the SE Youth Forum and will help shape 16-19 projects across the South East. A real accomplishment this year was engaging with local businesses to compete in a fun tournament. In the past this has been a hard target to engage with, but uptake was encouraging and the tournament was a great success. Another encouraging foresight of the CBN is that even with the loss of the current SSP structure, the Hub school will look to host and run the SSP equivalent round of the CPNSC competition due to the agreed support from Club members and coaches within the CBN who are willing to volunteer their time to assist with competition, as they see the overall benefits of engaging junior players. After some initial changes to key partner personnel in the early set up of the Hastings & Rother CBN, the group is now strongly established, with better representation across the area from different stakeholders. Programmes have started to be delivered, and facilities have identified a need for pay and play/NSB sessions. Good links are forming with Bexhill and Hastings College, to really engage the 16-19 target group. One significant outcome of the CBN is the support it gave to help Hastings Borough Council be successfully awarded funding for their Active women's bid. This funding is to enable a specific participation officer who will be responsible for increasing badminton activity in the area specifically targeted towards women and girls. The funding will also be used to train up new leaders and coaches to help sustain the increase in activity.

Having only been established at the beginning of the year, the Brighton & Hove CBN has had overwhelming support and has engaged many partners within the locality. Some programmes have already started with the Back 2 Badminton session now ongoing due to overwhelming popularity it initially created. This uptake has highlighted a definite need for more activity and local facility providers are keen to work with coaches to offer more opportunities. Some other significant aspects of the CBN moving forward are the engagement with the University of Brighton and University of Sussex, who are both looking to host Voluntary University Badminton Officers, like that of Chichester Uni. Brighton was also successful in its Active Universities bid and again their Activator will work hand in hand with the placement officers. 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, junior club development. Other significant increases against BE's objectives are;

| Objective | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Premier clubs in CBN | 0 | 2 |
| Junior members within club environment | 198 | 245 |
| Weekly coaching hours delivered within CBN | 45 | 68 |
| New weekly court hours released for badminton | 0 | 33 |
| External funding brought in | 0 | 3408 |

There is also development happening outside CBN areas. Several clubs are working towards Club Mark Premier status, and are already looking to be proactive at supporting the new Schools competition structure. In terms of NSB, Freedom Leisure has shown an interest in running sessions at many of their sites. Their new Sports Development Manager will take up post shortly, and hopefully this will enable me to revisit the possibility of a larger franchise purchase to roll out across 6-8 sites hosting one session each.

Schools:

8 out of 9 SSPs within the county ran an SSP round at least one of the 4 events. Although the 9th SPP (Southdowns) didn't run an interschool level competition, they nominated a school to represent them at County stage and therefore all SSPs were represented in at least 2 events at the county round. In total the competition engaged with 24 schools within CBN network areas and another 31 across the remaining 5 SSPs. The county round was once again held at K2 Crawley with great success, and saw some fantastic badminton. The winning schools came from within 2 CBN areas, which perhaps shows the influence that the network has had in encouraging more young people to take part, and offering increased opportunities in which they have been able to excel at.

Sussex County Round Winners:

KS3 Boys – Chichester High School for Boys, Chichester

KS4 Boys – William Parker, Hastings

KS3 Girls – Helenswood Girls School, Hastings

KS4 Girls – Felpham School, Bognor Regis

The Regional round was held at Surrey Sports Park due to a change in the regional round split this year. The South Regional round saw participants from schools from Sussex, Hampshire & IOW, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey, with Kent and the London Boroughs playing a separate London & South East round. All the teams from Sussex did well at the regional round, especially as they were up against teams with a strong county contingence. Both boys' teams came 4th with Helenswood taking 3rd place and Felpham just missing out with a respectable 2nd place position.

The CPNSC will continue to take place in the next academic year with some slight changes inline with the new 2011-2012 - Olympic Style Games. There will be Local School Games Organisers in post responsible for the level 2 interschool competition alongside RO's, but it is hoped that there will also be support from CBA's, Clubs and Young Leaders to run this level of the CPNSC competition. Winners from interschool/SSP equivalent rounds will go into the CPNSC county round and the School Games.

C4L school clubs are now up and running in many of the originally identified schools. Some have had great success while others are struggling to become sustainable. Where possible, schools have tried to link with local clubs and coaches to help facilitate the running of the club. Teachers and Leaders from these schools have been given the opportunity to complete a BISI Secondary course, to increase their knowledge of Badminton activity with resources to assist the running of the club. It will be the decision of the school whether these clubs continue in the next academic year, especially in light of my next point.

One unfortunate consequence to have happened due to the CSR is the loss of core Youth Sports Trust funded Schools Sports Partnerships (SSP). As of March Competition managers were made redundant and Partnership Development Managers (PDMs) will be made redundant of their current roles as of August. Some SSP areas have managed to encourage schools to use some of their budget to help maintain a certain level of support similar to that of the current structure, but as yet it is not clear exactly what each school/cluster has decided to do for the coming year. The current PDMs are keen to ensure that school-club links are in place before their role comes to an end, to ensure exit routes are available for children in their local area if the school can't provide this opportunity.

Coaching:

So far this year there have been two UKCC Level 1 courses, one held at K2 Crawley (February/March) and one at University of Chichester (May). I will look to run another UKCC Level 2 course in the New Year to enable the recently qualified L1s this year to further their qualification.

The Level 2 'Raising Your Game' bursary closed in October 2010, however the Coaching Manager at Active Sussex has announced that there will be a bursary funding pot which candidates can apply to for support on L1 or L2 course. The condition is they must be signed up to CoachWeb to receive the information and be eligible to apply - www.coachsussex.org.

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

Clubs:

The following club has achieved Club Mark Premier status;

- Littlehampton Badminton & Squash Club

The following Premier clubs passed re-accreditation;

- Chelwood Gate Badminton Club and Chelwood Gate Juniors (Gaters)
- Horsham Arun Badminton Club/Performance Centre

The following Premier clubs passed their Annual Health Check;

- Felbridge Badminton Club
- Forest Badminton Club

The following clubs have submitted their Club mark applications;

- Faststep Badminton Academy
- Lewes Badminton Club

The following clubs are working towards Club mark;

- Hasting YMCA Badminton Club
- Hastings Junior Badminton Club

16-19 Retention:

Having now adopted this lead role, I have attended Regional Lead meetings and I am working closely with the Young People's Manager to ensure the South East team are focusing some of their projects within their CBNs around 16-19 retention.

One of my first tasks was to initiate a SE Youth Forum, and the group has met several times now. It is hoped that representatives on this forum can really help to guide BE as to how to retain young people in badminton and engage new participants. In light of the University Officer project at Chichester and working closely with local colleges within CBN areas, I feel I have been able to share good practice with the other Officers. It is hoped that each CBN across the region will have a focus college with a potential Further Education officer who acts as an ambassador at the college. This role will be similar to the Voluntary University Officers.

In Sussex, as stated in my CBN area updates, all three Universities are looking to host two officers to help increase participation of students and staff across their campuses and within the community. From the successes and challenges that have been clear from the Chichester University project, I hope that this can be used to help shape the work of the officers in the coming academic year. Recruitment for these officers is underway and we will hopefully have successful candidates in post by August/September. Although the main objective of the officers is to increase participation, leadership, Coaching and volunteer opportunities are also being provided and it is hoped that there will be a stronger link between the student players, local clubs and the CBA.

Sussex County Junior Badminton:

Adrian Adams (Junior Secretary) reports:

The 2010/11 season has been one of transition off court and fantastic achievements on court.

The season began with a number of new faces joining the committee in key roles as Zeyar, Franky and Jane stepped down having given years of service to the junior committee. We thank them for their immense contribution over the years in helping develop junior badminton in Sussex.

On court we've seen some fantastic achievements at both a team and individual level for which players, parents and coaches should share the accolades. Children from within the current county set up have won over 100 medals in BE events this season, a fantastic achievement. There are too many successes to go through them individually but a few highlights are:

- U11's
 - Zac Russ U11 National Singles Champion and No 1 ranked player in the country
 - Owen West-Bourne ranked number 6 in the country
 - Dominic Morgan Silver Medal in U11 Nationals
 - Only lost 1 quad match all season (and that by a single game)

- U13's
 - Finished 4th in Team Challenge
 - Finished 8th in Shires League
- U15's
 - Just missed out on Shires League finals, with a side, the majority of whom will still be U15's next season.
 - David King played for England in quadrangle match
- U17's
 - Finished 13th in ICT, 5 places higher than last year.
 - Finished 8th in Shires League finals

Delivering junior badminton in Sussex remains a challenge. We have seen the number of U11's involved with the county double to 18 this year and much thanks goes to David Fletcher for his support in this area. However there remains a dearth of girls playing, particularly in the younger age groups. This is an issue which runs far deeper than just Sussex. We also have the challenge of the shape of our county, which makes things testing when it comes to finding suitable venues which minimise the travelling burden on juniors and parents alike. This is something that is ever more important as petrol prices soar and money gets ever tighter for parents.

As a committee we remain committed to playing our part in developing both the numbers and quality of junior badminton players in Sussex. To this end we plan to move U11's coaching to 3 regional sites in the east, west and centre of the county next season in an effort to broaden the base at the youngest age group of the junior pyramid. In addition we shall also be working on fostering closer relations with clubs, schools and coaches. It is vital that as a junior committee we work closely with others who have similar remits to that which we have set for ourselves.

Finally I would like to thank all those on the junior committee for their outstanding effort and commitment over the past season. I would also like to thank the Senior Committee for their generous funding of the Tom Bowker Scholarship this season. As a result, a number of juniors had the opportunity to develop their coaching skills and now have the opportunity to put something back into badminton over the coming years.

I wish you all a relaxing off season and shall be raising a glass to outstanding success in 2011/12.

The Veterans: Gary Nicholls writes:

My first season has now come to an end; it has been good fun and a very steep learning curve. Thanks to the hard work of my team of captains we have had more victories than previous years. The two main changes going into next season are firstly the name Veterans being replaced by Masters; secondly we will be entering a 65's team in the league for the first time. Good luck to that team for next season.

The Inter County Championship is the weekend event that most Masters look forward to. This year we were lucky enough to be able to enter two Teams into the 40's age group meaning even more tables were taken over by Sussex, at the Dinner, when this can only be described as bedlam. The 45's led by Colin Hayhurst won their group this year but they will face hardship next year in a higher division.

I am looking forward to my second season and hope to further increase the number of players.

Other Matters:

The Sussex Diamond Tournament was once again successfully held at the Olympos LC, Haywards Heath in April. This is the last time that BE will run this event, so we are investigating the hosting of other tournaments. We are grateful to the volunteer umpires, line judges and stewards.

The Management Group has met on four occasions.

The County Handbook has once again been updated by Colin Blackmore and circulated to each club. It is available on the website.

The Website: www.badmintonsussex.co.uk always wants new material/results, so please contribute if you can.

Linda Pettigrew (Secretary) pettigrew@tooay.freeserve.co.uk June 2011