

UNDER-17 SQUAD 2009/10 SEASON

The Under-17 Squad ended the season on a high, with Beth Fox & Charlotte Clouting winning Under-17 Girls Gold at Eastern Region single sex event together with an excellent team effort achieving 16th place at Inter-Counties Tournament (ICT) Nottingham over Easter equalling our higher ever finish. It was a challenging year regarding dates. David Driver squad coach, has undertaken the Level 3 coaching award which will be of great benefit in the future, however the compulsory dates were only notified after the squad programme had been arranged. This necessitated several dates & venues needing to be rearranged which was not ideal for the players and parents who needed regular updates regarding changes. The weather also managed to complicate matters with 1 squad needing to be cancelled & rebooked and more unfortunately the only friendly match arranged was cancelled due to snow.

Our Shires campaign

This season we competed in a smaller sub group with playoff dates agreed across all counties to finalise the whole group positions. With the first team claiming our number one boy James Scott on two occasions we were not able to field the strongest teams possible. That said, the team always played to their best with committed, improving performances throughout the season and most squad players had competitive opportunities. We achieved third in our mini group of five and following a play off v Kent our final position was sixth out of ten. We try to play 5 x 5 players to give more playing opportunities rather than 4 x 4 with players preferring to play in more matches even if it means sharing a slot & not playing four games in a match. Players are advised in advance of each match the disciplines we expect them to play and we adjust the match fee pro rata to reflect this.

Inter-Counties Tournament 2010

[Fuller report available on Suffolk Badminton Association website]

We continued with the policy of travelling the day before the event, leaving everyone more relaxed & ready for the competition, we are again grateful to the Suffolk Badminton Association for assisting with the extra nights cost. Once again there was total commitment from every player. This years tournament was a resounding success for us, matching Suffolk's highest position of 16th. The results were proof that Suffolk can perform to a very high level. The extra preparation again showed dividends and as these were sometimes re arranged at short notice this would not be possible without the commitment parents made in providing transport & giving up their valuable time to make sure players were available.

Squad Locations

The practice of the Under-17 Squad travelling around the county for training still continues to be a success, four venues again being used:- St Felix School - Southwold, Rushmere Sports Club - near Ipswich, King Edward VI School - Bury St. Edmunds and Holbrook High School - Holbrook. Our aim is to fairly share travel, time & expense for all players' parents. We really need to make sure Suffolk Badminton Association squads can reach all players of suitable standard in ALL areas of Suffolk & encourage them to make themselves available for all age squad selections. I firmly believe this can only happen if all age group squads adopt the same practice of offering squads in the three main areas of the county, or as a minimum around Ipswich where the road network is centred. We are unfortunate that an obvious geographic centre doesn't really exist in Suffolk and we must therefore make efforts to enable everyone to have easier access our squads.

David & I would like to thank everyone who has assisted with our squad during this season, with special thanks to Tony Isherwood, Daniel Hooper & Gary Shepard who all gave many hours of their time. Our experience is that players benefit greatly from the input the younger helpers/coaches give & the different approach from other senior coaches is complimentary to getting the coaching messages over.

I would especially like to thank David Driver for his tireless efforts in coaching the youngsters both at squad and at numerous extra coaching sessions during the week. His belief in players has boosted confidence in their play and his coaching is giving the players the tools they need to reach their full potential.

Our summer preparation is under way with an under-16 tournament on Sunday 16th May [entry forms available at on website, late entries can be accepted] and a squad session for invited players on Sun 27th June at Rushmere Sports Club. Please ensure any eligible players are seen by us at these events, we rely on all coaches to make sure players come to our notice.

Lisa Jacobs, Squad Manager