

# Avon Badminton Association AGM Report 2022-23 Season



Prepared on 19<sup>th</sup> April for AGM 2023

[www.avonba.co.uk](http://www.avonba.co.uk)

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## **1. Chairperson's Report 2022-23**

Before I started to write this year's report, once again I referred to my report of the previous year. It began with the statement '*Avon Badminton is back!*' hinting at the level of confidence in Avon's strong foundations built on the exceptional and outstanding work of our junior coaches, clubs and the county set up. That confidence it seems was not misplaced.

I am sure that more detail will be provided in others' reports but suffice to say Avon have had an outstanding year. A year that has seen some of our Juniors winning National titles and being ranked among the very best in the country for their age. A year that saw National recognition for one of our coaches. Will Mellersh was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) announced in the honours list, earlier this year. The BEM is awarded for 'hands-on' service to the local community, this could be a long-term charitable or voluntary activity, that has made a significant difference. There is no doubt that Will ticks all those boxes and a few more besides, and the whole Avon badminton community celebrate this well-deserved recognition. However, Will would be the first to say that his award is also the recognition of the work of many others, all of which very much encompasses the Avon 'One Team' ethos.

This year, Avon's achievements caught the attention of Badminton England (BE), following the record entry in the Avon Restricted which bucked the national trend and prompted BE to send a representative to observe the tournament and find out what Avon were doing different to generate this level of interest. Results at junior, senior and master's levels including the Avon 17-21 team bringing home the Keith Stables Memorial Trophy, suggests that Avon are riding a huge wave, and there are many working hard to ensure that this wave continues to rise. Our thanks once again go to coaches Will Mellersh, Emscee Manabat, James Elkin, Bex Pantaney, Jess Hopton, Penny Shears, Mark Marsh, Paul Edwards and a few others involved in Avon junior coaching for their work and dedication which will continue to benefit, league, junior and senior County badminton for many years to come.

I would also like to thank tournament organisers, Penny, Will, Paul, Fiach and Mark, etc., with a couple of special mentions; for Bob Hammersley whose efforts result in the best run tournaments anywhere in the country. Also, a mention for Fiach O'Rourke, who in setting up Swifts and hosting the annual Swifts Cup in Bristol has brought together LGBT+ players from the UK, Europe, and Asia, helping to make badminton in Avon a much more inclusive sport. Our thanks extend to junior team managers, Junior, Senior and Masters County Captains; all are responsible for some incredible individual and team tournament successes.

### **President**

We were all really pleased that Val O'Neil took over as our president this year, and I have personally been very grateful for her support and advice.

### **The work of and changes to the ABA council**

Aside from the routine and the usual organising and preparing for and through the season, the council members have been active in addressing the threat to one of the best badminton facilities in the SW. I'm very pleased to say the threat to Kingsdown Sports Centre has now been lifted, with Elite having

now taken over the management, and the clubs that play there given some assurances on their bookings. Meanwhile BE have notified us that the building of a 12-court facility on the edge of Bristol has been delayed for a year. With these and other issues including the growing significance of Avon on the County badminton map, chairing the Avon County set up could be quite onerous. However, Avon Badminton is supported by a council of some incredibly dedicated, talented individuals all with a love of this fantastic sport, prepared to give something back, and ensuring things run smoothly.

Along with the others already named elsewhere in this report, I should also like to mention, Hannah at BE, Judy White, Judith Ogden, Ian Nicholls, Harriet Mortimer, and each member of the council who have contributed fully at the ABA meetings throughout the season and who have made the role of Chair relatively easy. This year we are also very pleased to welcome Laura Light as Coaching Coordinator and Development Officer, taking over the role from Penny Shears and Harriet Mortimer. Due to the councils' efforts, Avon badminton is as strong as ever and continues to be one of the most successful counties in the sport of badminton.

### **Looking ahead, we need you!**

We know in Avon we have a considerable number of juniors wanting to play, socially and competitively, often there are too many for the limited junior clubs and tournaments that we have. Going forwards, the council are looking to address this issue but as always, the challenge is often finding others who are prepared to give something back and volunteer in some capacity or other. The more hands, the easier things become, and can help maintain this incredible momentum. Whether this means helping with a single tournament, or through the season, or maybe helping to set up, or support a junior club. If you can play a part however small, please let us know.

Finally, my thanks to the colleagues on the Council and to the many selfless administrators and players within Avon whose efforts are already contributing in some way to the Avon 'One Team' Badminton set up. I wish you all continuing success and good health for the future.

**Gene Joyner**

**Chairperson**

## **2. Accounts 2022-23**

### **Position at 31st March 2023**

The accounts are attached which show just over £50,000 in funds, of which a little over £9,000 relates to Badminton England (BE) and Wesport funding for specific projects, (the Avon Workforce Academy, junior coaching and a BE balance for general funding).

Therefore, the net balance of ABA general funds available is around £41,000, an increase on previous years.

Paypal eventually released the £2,397.36 that was being held in the frozen Avon Badminton Association Paypal account – thanks to Bob for his perseverance in getting this sorted out. Badminton England owes Avon £152.72 for shuttles supplied by Joshua Parsons and Beaufort Badminton Club for the first round of the Senior County Championships.

### **Income and expenditure commentary**

The net income for the 10 months to 31 March 2023 is just under £4,500. £7,727 is from county affiliation fees. £1,456 was made from the Tier 4 tournament run by Bob in February 2023; £1,928 from the Senior Restricted, £710 from the U19 Bronze tournament in October 2022 and £1,049 from the West of England Masters tournament.

Funds have been applied to cover costs for the Senior County Challenge. The match fees paid by players contribute to the entry fee for our seven teams, but there is a shortfall which is budgeted for. We have helped university students with out-of-pocket expenses to enable them to represent their county without further increasing their debt, for which they have been extremely grateful. We also made a contribution to costs for our young players representing Avon at the English County Challenge event in York.

### **Other**

Taking card payments through the Avon website via Stripe has enabled us to easily process tournament entry fees, SCC match fees, and booking fees for the coaching sessions for adult players. We have taken a total of £23,488 via the website this year.

### **County Fee Proposals**

The County affiliation fee for adults is currently set at £6.70 and the junior fee at £0 to encourage junior membership. As we should make a surplus, the committee and I cannot see any reason to change the fee amount this year.

**Judith Ogden**  
**ABA Treasurer**

# Balance Sheet

Avon Badminton Association

As at 31 May 2023

Account	31 May 2023	31 May 2022
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		
Avon Badminton Association	23,177.31	20,063.01
Community Reserve Account	27,023.48	26,909.37
<b>Total Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>50,200.79</b>	<b>46,972.38</b>
ABA Shuttle Stock	3,935.10	3,935.10
Amounts Receivable (Debtors)	152.72	0.00
Monzo Summer Series Account	137.00	137.00
Stock of Avon Badminton Shirts	300.00	300.00
Trophies (In stock on balance sheet)	71.84	71.84
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>54,797.45</b>	<b>51,416.32</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Amounts Payable (Creditors)	0.00	1,245.15
Badminton England (BE) Avon Workforce Academy (AWA) Funding	2,340.24	2,340.24
Badminton England Funding Held (Unconstrained)	4,537.54	4,537.54
Wesport Project Funding	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>8,877.78</b>	<b>10,122.93</b>
<b>Net Current Assets (Liabilities)</b>	<b>45,919.67</b>	<b>41,293.39</b>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>45,919.67</b>	<b>41,293.39</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>45,919.67</b>	<b>41,293.39</b>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Current Year Earnings	4,626.28	7,718.81
Retained Earnings	41,293.39	33,574.58
<b>Total Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>45,919.67</b>	<b>41,293.39</b>

# Profit and Loss

Avon Badminton Association  
For the year ended 31 May 2023

	Account	2023	2022
<b>Turnover</b>			
	ABA Affiliations Income paid from Badminton England	7,727.99	4,043.82
	Interest Income	114.11	6.52
	Other Income	0.00	1,951.35
	<b>Training Cells &amp; Summer Series Income</b>		
	Avon coaching sessions income	654.19	335.77
	Summer series Income	0.00	604.00
	<b>Total Training Cells &amp; Summer Series Income</b>	<b>654.19</b>	<b>939.77</b>
	<b>Tournament Income</b>		
	ECC 17-20 Player Contribution Income	825.00	1,125.00
	Avon BE Tier 4 tournaments income	3,305.38	6,666.77
	Avon BE Copper tournament Income Feb	0.00	47.38
	Avon Junior Restricted income	(47.66)	(28.00)
	County Championships (Restr.) Entry Fee Income	3,079.57	1,910.67
	U19 Bronze tournament income	1,348.97	1,900.17
	West of England Tournament Entry Fee Income	5,375.96	4,757.83
	<b>Total Tournament Income</b>	<b>13,887.22</b>	<b>16,379.82</b>
	<b>SCC Match Fee Income</b>		
	SCC teams match fees	1,865.00	2,485.97
	<b>Total SCC Match Fee Income</b>	<b>1,865.00</b>	<b>2,485.97</b>
	<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>24,248.51</b>	<b>25,807.25</b>
	<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>24,248.51</b>	<b>25,807.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	<b>Administrative Costs</b>		
	Other expenses	46.80	85.00
	Other Shuttle Costs	152.72	0.00
	Paypal fees	0.00	0.01
	Xero & Accountancy fees	360.00	307.20
	<b>Training Cells &amp; Summer Series</b>		
	Avon coaching sessions costs	757.50	395.76
	Summer Series expenses incl Hall Hire	0.00	1,046.87
	<b>Total Training Cells &amp; Summer Series</b>	<b>757.50</b>	<b>1,442.63</b>
	<b>Tournament Expenses</b>		
	Avon BE Copper expenses Feb	0.00	1,245.15
	Avon Junior Restricted costs	40.00	0.00
	BE Avon Tier 4 tournaments costs	1,848.61	1,452.19
	County Championships Expenses incl Hall Hire	1,151.34	973.00
	ECC 17-20 York Entry fee & Expenses	2,047.50	1,606.90
	U19 Bronze tournaments costs	638.74	1,294.84
	West of England Expenses Incl Hall Hire	4,326.52	4,442.84
	Costs: Other Tournaments	52.02	150.82
	<b>Total Tournament Expenses</b>	<b>10,104.73</b>	<b>11,165.74</b>
	<b>SCC Expenses</b>		
	SCC Accommodation and Expenses	3,053.20	825.86
	SCC Entry Fees	5,300.00	4,262.00
	<b>Total SCC Expenses</b>	<b>8,353.20</b>	<b>5,087.86</b>
	<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>19,774.95</b>	<b>18,088.44</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(19,774.95)</b>	<b>(18,088.44)</b>
	<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>4,473.56</b>	<b>7,718.81</b>

**Other Income**

	Avon Juniors - money transferred between Seniors and Juniors	0.00	170.00
	Avon Juniors - money transferred from Seniors to Juniors	0.00	(170.00)
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation</b>	<b>4,473.56</b>	<b>7,718.81</b>

**Unmapped Accounts**

	SCC costs	152.72	0.00
<b>Total Unmapped Accounts</b>		<b>152.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Profit after Taxation</b>	<b>4,473.56</b>	<b>7,718.81</b>

**Judith Ogden,**

**ABA Treasurer**



### **3. County Captain's Report 2022-23**

In 2022/23 Avon entered seven teams into the Senior County Championships for the first time in our history. Teams 1-6 have completed their seasons with one promotion and one relegation so far. Avon 7ths still have one round of matches left to play on 6th & 7th May.

#### **Avon 1sts - Premiership** - National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes

Despite taking 30 hard earned points into the final weekend Avon 1sts were still not safe from the threat of relegation as R3 started. First up were reigning Champions Buckinghamshire, always strong Yorkshire and a very talented Leicestershire side. On an outstanding Super Saturday Avon beat both Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire 6-5, leaving the team only needing a couple of rubbers on the Sunday against Leicestershire to survive. Four more rubbers were gained on Sunday and Adam Porter's team secured an excellent 6th place in a very competitive season. Debuts for Susanna Ogden and Jacob Weekes proved Avon's pathway from Juniors to Seniors is strong and healthy. Cheshire and Lancashire, who came up last season, went straight back down whilst Middlesex (with a heavy presence from the Sri Lankan National team and 27 rubbers played by Dinuka Karunarakne) went on to win The Premiership for the 3rd time in four years.

#### **Avon 2nds - Division 1** - Leicester & York

Avon 2nds, in their second season in Division 1, were given a spot into the Northern section with some new opposition to challenge themselves against. The fixtures were played in York and Leicester in a league with Lanarkshire, Lothian, Leicester 2nds, Lancashire 2nds, Warwickshire 2nds, Gloucestershire 1sts and Yorkshire 3rds. Five match victories left the team with an average age of 19 years old with a third place finish for the second season running. A superb performance under Alex Robinson's leadership.

#### **Avon 3rds - Division 2** - South West - Bath University

Lucy Manley and Pippa Larkin's Avon 3rds had the shortest journey of all Avon teams this season, competing all three rounds at Bath University. The division had six 1st teams, one 2nd team plus Avon 3rds and proved to be as competitive as it is every season with Avon securing a very strong 4th finishing ahead of Cornwall 1sts, Shropshire 1sts, West Glamorgan 1sts and Devon 2nds and just behind Devon, Worcestershire and Wiltshire. A very strong county third team competing at this level against other first teams consistently so well shows the current strength in depth of Avon in the Senior County Championships.

#### **Avon 4ths - Division 3** - South West - Leaf Academy, Bournemouth

Avon 4ths made three trips down to the Leaf Academy in Bournemouth with a very talented large team managed by Fiach O'Rourke and Bonny Mo. Expectations were high and were met with 7 victories from 7 matches. The division title always looked as if it would be between Dorset 2nd and Avon 4ths from Round 1 and so it proved. Although Avon beat Dorset 6-5 in the final fixture of an unbeaten season it was Dorset, who had collected the most points over the seven matches, who eventually topped the table. Avon 4ths were a comfortable best Runner Up across the four Division 3 regions and secured a fantastic promotion and return to Division 2 were they will re-join Avon 3rds next season.

#### **Avon 5ths - Division 3** - South West - Leaf Academy, Bournemouth

Avon 5ths finished runners up in this division last season missing out on promotion by a couple of rubbers. This season was to be very different. With so many players of a similar standard available in the Avon selection process, selection for this team was very challenging. A number of players,

disappointed with their selection in Avon 5ths, sadly made themselves unavailable following selection. The team went on to suffer unprecedented levels of unavailability from nominated players in every round with 20 players eventually playing in the team over the season. Team Manager, Eve Chilcott, has done an amazing job in very challenging circumstances, as did all the players who represented the team against seven strong opponents who didn't suffer the same unavailability problems that defined Avon 5ths 22/23 season. We are left to review what we can all collectively do differently in 23/24 to avoid a repeat of this season's organisational challenges for this team in this division. Avon 6ths survived in Division 3 Central (report to follow) meaning Avon will still have a 5th team in Division 3 next season - we have the opportunity to learn from the challenges that beset this team from beginning to end of a head scratching season. Well done to Eve Chilcott and her young team who showed great resilience, grit and no shortage of talented performances in the face of adversity this season.

**Avon 6ths - Division 3** - Central - Reading, Peterborough and Evesham

Barry Garnham's 6ths faced some stiff opposition a very strong Central league. A battling approach and a victory against Oxford 3rds meant Avon 6ths, in their first season at this level, amassed enough points to avoid relegation. Avon 5ths relegation means Avon 6ths will be in Division 4 next season, however by avoiding the drop Avon 6ths ensured Division three badminton for an Avon 5th team next season. This is a very important achievement for Avon. It is great that Avon will still have competitive team badminton opportunities for our eligible players at as many tiers as possible across the Senior County Championships. Avon 6ths performance may prove to be the most significant performance of all of the Avon teams in 22/23 as we plan for next season and the future. Huge congratulations to Barry Garnham and his team of 20 players over a season of long journeys and several unexpected logistical challenges - all overcome.

**Avon 7ths - Division 4** - South West - Bath University

Rohan Weeke's 7th team have had an exciting start to the season with three tight wins over Hereford 1sts, Worcester 3rds and Somerset 2nds. Four matches remain against Guernsey 2nds, Isle of Wight, Berkshire 3rds and Wiltshire 3rds on 6th & 7th May at Bath University. Good luck to the team.

**Will Mellersh**  
**ABA County Captain**

#### **4. Affiliation Secretary's Report 2022-23**

Affiliation takes two forms. One is your affiliation to the National Governing Body which is Badminton England. The other is your affiliation to your county which for players in Bristol and North Somerset playing for clubs participating in the Bristol and North Somerset Leagues, is the county of Avon. Badminton England charge affiliation fees the base level being Play with upgrades required to play in competitions (Compete) and to coach (Coaching). The County charge adults (over 18s) a fee of £6.70 annually with under 18s being free. County fees provide an important contribution to your County who work tirelessly to promote and develop badminton within your area.

All players who play for clubs in the Bristol and North Somerset Leagues should be affiliated to Badminton England and Avon County. In the general rules of the Bristol Badminton League rule 3 it states that membership of the League shall be open to clubs whose members are affiliated to the Avon Badminton Association and Badminton England. In the North Somerset Badminton League Rules rule 3 Member Clubs it states all member clubs shall be affiliated to the Avon or Somerset Badminton Associations. All club members shall appear on the BE database as members of the NSBL club for which they are playing, even though they may already be registered via another club/area/county. This also applies to all club members for clubs playing in the Bristol League.

I have access to Badminton England's Just Go Membership System and can look at reports covering members of Avon Badminton Association. Consequently, if the leagues or any clubs have any queries on the eligibility of players playing in matches or for or against clubs, I can help resolve such queries. I have not been inundated with any queries this last year but the few that have come I have been able to help resolve and explain. I have been providing the Bristol League with periodic updated versions of the Avon Members database so they can use the latest information on affiliation status in connection with any quality assurance checks they perform.

Going back to affiliation to Badminton England. The insurance implications are the most important. All clubs running as properly constituted clubs, committee run, should be affiliated as a club to Badminton England to be covered by their insurance as must all their members have individual memberships, whether playing for teams or not, for the insurance cover to be valid and effective.

**Nigel Birkett**

**Affiliation Secretary**

## **5. Development and Coaching Co-ordinator Report 2022-23**

Coming from a background of 20 years working within sport and having played badminton since I was 5 years old, I am excited to join the Avon team and work together with the Avon Badminton Community to further the excellent and dedicated development work of Penny Shears.

Avon is in fantastic position at present and as a volunteer I hope to help towards making this sustainable for future generations. This will include supporting our Badminton Community and partnership working with organisations such as Badminton England, Wesport County Sports Partnership and Facility Providers.

My first priority for next season will be to carry out a club visit to as many clubs as possible to see where we can help and also to highlight the excellent work already being carried out by our amazing Badminton Community.

I will be contacting clubs shortly and I look forward to meeting everyone soon.

**Laura Light**

**Development Officer and Coaching Co-ordinator**

## **6. Avon Junior Club League Report 2022–23**

### **Junior League**

This has been a fantastic season with some incredibly close matches. My thanks go to all the club volunteer coaches and parents who enable these matches to go ahead.

U10 XD 1<sup>st</sup> Chew Valley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Uphill, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bristol Falcons

U12 XD 1<sup>st</sup> Chew Valley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Uphill, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bristol Falcons

U14 XD 1<sup>st</sup> Uphill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol Falcons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chew Valley

U16 XD 1<sup>st</sup> Uphill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol Falcons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chew Valley

U18 XD 1<sup>st</sup> Bristol Falcons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yate Racketeers ,3<sup>rd</sup> Uphill,4<sup>th</sup> Chew Valley

U18 Girls 1<sup>st</sup> Uphill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol Falcons

### **Local Junior Tournament's**

This season Uphill have run 2 tournaments aimed at Junior Club players.

Bristol Falcons have also run the Feathers tournament which is also aimed at non-County players.

Hopefully plans are in place to run a few more tournaments for players in the Junior Clubs next season

### **Roy Niblett Award**

This award is given to a BE affiliated Junior Club member, the criteria for this award is someone who has shown progress, outstanding attitude and most importantly supported the junior club. The nominations are sent to me and I then edit out club and players names before sending to the judges. The winner this year is Eva Mamman from Uphill.

### **Kingsdown closure**

Elite Sports UK are now the new operators of Kingsdown Sports Centre. The Leisure Centre closed for 14 days and re-opened with new gym equipment but the sports hall has remained the same. They had an open day on 15<sup>th</sup> April which was quite successful. Elite Sports are very keen on promoting children's sport so hopefully we could form a new grass roots junior club running from the centre. Thank you to all the people who campaigned to keep it as a sports centre. People from Beaufort Badminton, Bristol and District and Bristol Swifts were all heavily involved trying successfully to save it as a Badminton Centre. I am convinced that if the Council had managed to keep it quiet it would have been sold off and would be flats, thank you to all who helped campaign.

### **Penny Shears**

### **Junior Club League Co-ordinator**

## 7. Events Report 2022-23

Tournaments are run under approval from Badminton England and are open to national entry; they are split into Juniors, Seniors and Masters. For Juniors there are age groups events at U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19.

The Seniors tournaments have a minimum entry age of 16 whilst the Masters tournaments have a minimum entry age of 35 and a top age (at the moment!) of over 75. The Masters tournaments themselves are arranged into 5-year age bands to keep competition on a level (ish) playing field.

All the above tournaments are arranged into Bronze, Silver and Gold categories with the Senior tournaments also having a category of Tier4 to help players “dip their toes” into tournament play.

In addition to these tournaments the county ran two “restricted” tournaments (Juniors and Seniors) that are restricted to players eligible to represent Avon in competitions, which helps give selectors a guide as to current form.

In Avon we staged 7 Badminton England tournaments (3 Junior Events, 3 Senior Events and 1 Masters event) as well as the 2 Avon County tournaments (Junior and Senior Restricteds).

The Senior Restricted was an outstanding event with an entry of 111 players – by far the biggest entry of any county in the country - who played some 159 matches over 2 days.

The Junior restricted was also a very successful event with an entry of 73 players (the youngest being 8 years old). The younger age groups don't play full matches but nonetheless some 158 matches were played over 2 days.

The other event really worthy of a mention is the West of England Masters held at Bath University, which had an entry of some 184 players who played 208 matches over the weekend.

Avon players regularly take medals at all of these events so are too numerous to list here but Avon players achieve amazing results and we should be very proud of them.

The staging of these events relies heavily on the help of volunteers on the day and whilst we have a small core of regulars, we seriously need some others to lend a hand – **without the volunteers, the tournaments will just not take place**. The more volunteers we have the less often we need to call on them. The sort of things the volunteers do are checking players in, answering player queries, scheduling matches, making sure players are ready to play when their matches are called (a bit like herding cats), overseeing the courts – making sure none are left empty, controlling shuttles etc.so if you could occasionally give up a morning or afternoon or even a whole day please contact me at [bobhammersley.avonba@gmail.com](mailto:bobhammersley.avonba@gmail.com) – we do need your help!

**Bob Hammersley**

**Events Secretary**

## **8. Bristol League Report 2022-23**

A big thank you to clubs for supporting Bristol League by entering teams. The newest addition - but has run for a few years now - of the Singles League is proving popular, which is great news, and hopefully encourages more players to take part in Badminton and gives Fiach some homework.

It was good to see so many new faces at the AGM last September. Hopefully this is a positive sign that more members are willing to take on roles within their clubs - although the number of clubs is decreasing overall. The fixtures section of the meeting has become less of a free for all, with the introduction of the draft fixtures being circulated beforehand. It did take quite a while for this format to be accepted, but clubs have found it to be much less fractious on the night, and they do have the ability to amend dates. As you would expect technical work goes on behind the scenes, so a huge thanks to Tania for her input this year, and to Kahoo. Score cards are emailed now, which generates an automated reply, once received. I have my fingers crossed that this has meant less chasing by Kahoo. His report at the next AGM will give that answer.

Since the Avon AGM on May 18th, is to be held via Zoom, I cannot suggest that trophies be brought along! However, they are now needed and can be passed to any committee member. If you need any further info about this process, please direct your query to the Bristol League website, which is regularly monitored, and your question will be answered.

Enjoy the summer. I will look forward to seeing some of you at BAWA in September.

**Moira Roberts**

**Chairman, Bristol League**

## 9. Masters Report 2022-23

Badminton England run 2 National competitions for Masters (players aged 38 and over). One is the Inter-County Championship, which is a season long competition, and the other is the Inter-County Challenge, which is run over one weekend. Teams compete in 5 year age bands from O40 to O75 (O38 players are allowed into O40 competition to help encourage players to enter at the lower age group end).

Avon entered teams at the O40, O50, O60 and O65 ages although we can enter as many teams as we have players for. Teams are 4 ladies and 4 men (3 +3 in the older age groups) playing mixed and level doubles.

**Inter County Championship.** Teams play other counties in the South West on either a home **and** away basis or a home **or** away basis to give between 4 and 8 matches per season usually played on a Sunday afternoon. The final positions were O40 5<sup>th</sup>, O50 2<sup>nd</sup>, O60 3<sup>rd</sup>, O65 1<sup>st</sup> team 1<sup>st</sup>, O65 2<sup>nds</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. The O65 1<sup>st</sup> team by finishing 1<sup>st</sup> are through to the National Final to play against the winners from other regions.

**Inter County Challenge.** This is arranged into divisions, with promotion and relegation, played over one weekend. This year our O40s were 5<sup>th</sup> in division 2b, O50s 4<sup>th</sup> in division 1b, O60s 4<sup>th</sup> in division 1b and O65s 5<sup>th</sup> in the premiership (this a national division)

One of the national concerns with Masters badminton is the lack of new players, especially ladies, particularly in the lower age groups, and we are no exception although we have been complimented by Badminton England as being the only county in the country that has managed to increase its number of Masters players overall. We are always looking for more players in all age groups – **you don't need to be superstars** so if you think you might be interested in Masters Badminton, please contact me at [bobhammersley.avonba@gmail.com](mailto:bobhammersley.avonba@gmail.com)

**Individuals.** Avon players also compete on an individual basis. This year the European Masters event was held in Slovenia and a number of players from Avon took part bringing back some medals – Gene Joyner and partner took silver in the O60 MD, Joanna Elson and partner took silver in the O75XD but Cathy Alexander and her partner from Germany took the gold in the O70WD – an outstanding achievement. In the English National Championships, Dave Gribble took a silver in the O60MD and Gene Joyner took a Bronze in the same event. Ian Nicholls took a silver in the O65 XD and a bronze in the MD. Cathy Alexander took a bronze in the O70WD and Joanna Elson took a silver in the O75WD but the best achievement was Mike Cox who took gold in the O75MD and a bronze in the XD – well done to all of them.

Again, remember that, whilst we applaud all this success these players are the tip of the iceberg and **the vast majority of our players are just good standard club players**, so please don't be put off by their success!! Also, there are many "unmentioned" people (for example the captains of the various teams) without whom none of the competitions would happen, so on behalf of all the players a big thank you to them.



**Bob Hammersley**

**Avon Masters Coordinator**

## **10. Badminton England Meetings Report 2022-23**

Similar to 2021-22, this year's BE meetings have again been held by Zoom, with no face-to-face meetings.

The April 2022 Meeting started with approval of the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2022 and discussed the continuing efforts of "Return to Play", following the inactivity during Covid, in particular efforts to rebuild the coaching workforce and maintain/increase existing Club numbers. In addition, thought was also being given to other considerations, such as reducing teams in the ICT/SCC/Shires League and maintaining numbers of tournaments, by identifying potential tournament organisers, by providing training & support and re-establishing a full competition calendar.

The success of the 2022 All England was reported and we were informed a full review was under way, focusing on what went well and what could be done better. We were also informed of continuing efforts to host an event on the BWF World Tour 2023-2026.

The October 2022 Meeting, again held on Zoom, included reports from the Chair and Morten Frost's plans for the future of the Performance Programme, including changes to facilitate a renewed focus on singles play and greater investment in the development of our coaches.

We were also informed of Chloe Birch being welcomed to the Board of Directors as an Athlete Representative for the first time. It was also highlighted there were issues with the French and German leagues not allowing players to play in SCC and the French having a rule that players can represent only 1 Club.

The January 2023 Meeting informed us of 2 Open Days for Coaches hosted by Morten Frost, with over 90 Coaches attending and Badminton England being able to re-engage key people to support athlete work. There was a visit to Yorkshire planned for the Chief Executive, and Kent Badminton had successfully run a regional schools competition. There were concerns about the costs of playing badminton and the Chief Executive reported that BE are not making any profits on tournaments, with the entry fees simply covering the costs of running the tournaments.

The Safeguarding Manager, Victoria Brown, reported on the safeguarding strategy, which was to be circulated in the coming weeks.

The next Meeting is scheduled for 27 April 2023.

**Ian Nicholls**

**Avon BE Delegate**

## **11. Digital/Media Report 2022-23**

The Avon Badminton Association website is a useful centre for information and we have worked to keep it up to date and make some improvements.

We have used the spaces on the home page to spread the word about the threatened closure of Kingsdown Sports Centre, give information about upcoming tournaments, how to get involved in county badminton for Juniors, Seniors and Masters and signposting visitors to places to find information about clubs and how to get started in badminton. I have updated the clubs directory using the information from the Bristol League and North Somerset league handbooks, and also from information sent by club administrators. Please do send details if club information changes or needs updating – we do our best to pick up changes from handbooks but the best source of information is from the clubs themselves.

The website also has information about local leagues including contact information, fixtures lists, league rules and league tables which are embedded from Google documents, so are instantly updated when the administrators update results.

We have achieved some of the aims we set out last year, and made a start on others:

- There is more detailed direction for people new to badminton on how to get started, including No Strings sessions and local clubs and groups that take beginners.
- Find a coach information – we explored whether having a directory of local coaches would be useful. We emailed all the coaches on Harriet Mortimer's contact list but only heard back from two, one of whom doesn't have any capacity for new players at present so didn't want to be included. We have continued with the link through to the Badminton England coach finder for the moment.

For the coming year I would like to:

- Include some player profiles demonstrating the pathway from club to county badminton – Juniors, Seniors and Masters
- Consider a move to Wordpress rather than Wix as I find the content management system awkward and fiddly to update. Our contract with Wix runs to the beginning of April 2024.

**Judith Ogden**

**Website and Digital Officer**