

Avon Badminton Association AGM Report 2023-24 Season



Prepared on 19th April for AGM 2024

www.avonba.co.uk

Contents

1.	Chairperson's Report	3
2.	Accounts.....	5
3.	County Captain's Report.....	9
4.	Affiliation Secretary's Report.....	11
5.	Development and Coaching Report.....	12
6.	Junior Club & League Report.....	13
7.	Events Report.....	14
8.	Bristol League Report.....	15
9.	Masters Report.....	16
10.	Badminton England Meetings Report.....	17
11.	Digital/Media Report.....	18

1. Chairperson's Report

Last year my report focused on the success on all fronts of Avon Badminton and those who had contributed to that success. I am pleased to say that Avon have continued to compete across the junior, senior, masters' league county teams, and tournaments.

Also in my previous year's report, I spoke of the need for Avon to provide more opportunities for junior players, and the report included a shoutout to clubs to consider whether they could facilitate this, and whilst there is still more to do, it's fantastic that in the last year we have been able to offer support to up to three potential new junior clubs. The support provided, includes both advice and resources.

One of Avon's initiatives last year was asking players to donate their old rackets, this realised a fantastic response across Avon and resulted in a significant number of rackets that could be provided to some of our junior clubs. It was such a popular initiative which was quickly copied by other counties as well as national badminton organisations. Other Avon initiatives included various 'open to all' summer coaching sessions and exhibition matches with some of our senior county players.

I will leave it to other members of the committee to provide details of the success of Avon's individuals and teams but suffice to say it has been another good year for Avon Badminton at all levels.

What the Avon Badminton Association are most concerned about is maintaining and building on the success Avon have enjoyed in recent years. To this end we are in the process of reviewing our strategy and objectives with the aim of putting together a three-year strategy, a part of which will involve reaching out to clubs for their input.

There are numerous challenges going forward, attracting juniors and new players to the sport, ensuring we have enough coaches and clubs for the juniors and beginners wanting to play, providing competitive play for those juniors outside of the county set up, being inclusive by supporting and encouraging more diversity in the sport. Retaining those badminton venues who are seeking to increase their revenue by releasing badminton courts to other activities, workout sessions, basketball, pickleball, etc.

As Chair of Avon Badminton Association, I'm supported by an incredible committee without whose efforts much of Avon's activities would not be possible. So, I should thank our tournament organisers, Penny Shears, Will Mellersh, Paul Edwards, Fiach O'Rourke, Mark Marsh, etc., not forgetting our tournament maestro Bob Hammersley. We are indebted to Fiach O'Rourke, who via Swifts BC, once again recently hosted the annual Swifts Cup in Bristol bringing together LGBTQ+ players from the UK, Europe and Asia, helping to ensure badminton in Avon is genuinely inclusive.

In addition to those members involved in organising tournaments there are others on the committee I need to thank, Ian Nicholls, Judy White, Judith Ogden, Nigel Birkett and Laura Light. Our appreciation and gratitude also include, coaches, junior team managers, Junior, Senior and

Masters, County Captains, who have all been responsible for some incredible individual and team tournament successes.

Congratulations to Thomas Feilding, club secretary of Bristol Swifts, who recently won 2024 Badminton England Volunteer of the Year award. Tom has managed the substantial growth in the club ensuring a welcoming culture for LGBTQ+ members in Bristol, which now plays 5 sessions a week with over 250 players. Well done Tom on your fantastic achievement!

We recognise all those holding committee responsibilities within their respective badminton clubs, because without your commitment there would be no local clubs or leagues.

Finally, my thanks to all the players within Avon, I wish you all continuing success and good health for the future.

Gene Joyner

Chairperson

2. Accounts 2023-24

Position at 31st March 2024

The accounts are attached which show just over £53,300 in funds, of which £8,877 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 £44,423, an increase on previous years.

Income and expenditure commentary

The net income for the 10 months to 31 March 2024 is just under £3,500. £7,727 is from county affiliation fees. £4,289 was made from the Tier 4 tournaments run in October 2023 and April 2024 by Bob Hammersley; £1,143 from the Senior Restricted and £1,736 from the West of England Masters tournament. A huge thank you to Bob for all his hard work running these very successful tournaments.

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 continued to help 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.

We have made some grants to local clubs - contributing to the cost of setting up the junior club at Bristol and District, and contributing to the costs of the Level 2 coaching course for volunteers at Oldfield Park Badminton Club. We have also subsidised a Masters coaching session, covered court costs for a very successful Masters welcome session, and subsidised a mixed doubles and women's singles workshops in June 2023.

County Fee Proposals

The County adult 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 2024

Account	31 May 2024	31 May 2023
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Avon Badminton Association	25,914.94	22,787.25
Community Reserve Account	27,386.59	27,070.85
Total Cash at bank and in hand	53,301.53	49,858.10
ABA Shuttle Stock	3,935.10	3,935.10
Amounts Receivable (Debtors)	0.00	152.72
Monzo Summer Series Account	137.00	137.00
Stock of Avon Badminton Shirts	505.90	300.00
Trophies (In stock on balance sheet)	71.84	71.84
Total Current Assets	57,951.37	54,454.76
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
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
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8,877.78	8,877.78
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	49,073.59	45,576.98
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	49,073.59	45,576.98
Net Assets	49,073.59	45,576.98
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	3,496.61	4,283.59
Retained Earnings	45,576.98	41,293.39
Total Capital and Reserves	49,073.59	45,576.98

Profit and Loss

Avon Badminton Association

For the year ended 31 May 2024

Account	2024	2023
Turnover		
ABA Affiliations Income paid from Badminton England	7,408.58	7,849.15
Interest Income	315.74	161.48
Training Cells & Summer Series Income		
Avon coaching sessions income	451.11	654.19
Total Training Cells & Summer Series Income	451.11	654.19
Tournament Income		
ECC 17-20 Player Contribution Income	660.00	825.00
Avon BE Tier 4 tournaments income	5,310.26	3,305.38
Avon BE Copper tournament Income Feb	716.36	0.00
Avon Junior Restricted income	(52.33)	(47.66)
County Championships (Restr.) Entry Fee Income	2,620.28	3,079.57
U19 Bronze tournament income	(33.29)	1,348.97
West of England Tournament Entry Fee Income	6,683.50	5,375.96
Other Tournament Income	1,209.17	0.00
Total Tournament Income	17,113.95	13,887.22
SCC Match Fee Income		
SCC teams match fees	2,007.43	1,913.35
Total SCC Match Fee Income	2,007.43	1,913.35
Masters County Championships match fees	332.23	0.00
Masters Registration Fees	3.41	0.00
Total Turnover	27,632.45	24,465.39
Gross Income	27,632.45	24,465.39

Expenses

Administrative Costs

Development Officer, Coaching & Inspiration	0.00	75.97
Funding Grants Paid	710.00	0.00
Kit Supplier Payments	33.37	0.00
Other expenses	860.80	46.80
Other Shuttle Costs	0.00	152.72
Travel - National	68.00	0.00
Website Costs	14.92	0.00
Xero & Accountancy fees	204.58	393.60
Training Cells & Summer Series		
Avon coaching sessions costs	729.00	757.50
Hall Hire (Training & Other)	280.00	450.00
Summer Series expenses incl Hall Hire	620.99	0.00
Total Training Cells & Summer Series	1,629.99	1,207.50
Tournament Expenses		
Avon BE Copper/Tier 4 expenses	1,737.91	1,172.61
Avon Junior Restricted costs	0.00	40.00
BE Avon Tier 4 tournaments costs	0.00	676.00
County Championships Expenses incl Hall Hire	1,477.00	1,151.34
ECC 17-20 York Entry fee & Expenses	1,828.90	2,047.50
U19 Bronze tournaments costs	0.00	638.74
West of England Expenses Incl Hall Hire	4,947.21	4,326.52
Costs: Other Tournaments	1,155.12	52.02

	Total Tournament Expenses	11,146.14	10,104.73
	SCC Expenses		
	SCC Accommodation and Expenses	3,643.04	2,900.48
	SCC Entry Fees	5,825.00	5,300.00
	Total SCC Expenses	9,468.04	8,200.48
	Total Administrative Costs	24,135.84	20,181.80
Total Expenses		(24,135.84)	(20,181.80)
	Operating Profit	3,496.61	4,283.59
	Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	3,496.61	4,283.59
	Profit after Taxation	3,496.61	4,283.59

Judith Ogden
ABA Treasurer

3. County Captain's Report 2023-24

Avon fielded 7 teams in the Senior County Championships for the second successive season fulfilling every rubber in every team with a One Team of 95 players over the season.

Avon 7ths secured promotion on the final day of the season by finishing 2nd in Division 4 South West.

Avon 6ths finished with more points than last season in Division 3 SW, however, unfortunately in a stronger league this season were relegated.

Avon 5ths finished bottom of National 3 SW in 22/23, but this season saw a massive improvement finishing a very close 3rd in the same division, just missing out on promotion by 4pts.

Avon 4ths were promoted into Division 2 SW last season and comfortably remained in the same tier for next season.

Avon 3rds improved a place to 3rd on last season performance, also in Division 2 SW.

Five young players from Avon 2nds last season gained selection into Avon 1sts in 23/24 making the challenge in National Division 1 a tough one for Avon 2nds. The team battled hard all season, and still had a survival chance right up until the final rubbers on the final day, just failing short by a few rubbers.

In 24/25 Avon will have three teams (2nds, 3rds and 4ths) in same tier of the SCC – Division 2 – reflecting the current strength and depth of the county.

After two solid rounds, Avon 1sts flew up the table on the final weekend from 7th to 4th with an amazing 28 point weekend, finishing just two points off runners up spot.

One promotion, two relegations, two 3rd places, consolidation for the 4ths and a 4th placed team in the Premiership represents a hugely successful season for Avon's One Team

Avon 1st Team – Team Managers – Jess Hopton & Adam Porter – Team – Jess Hopton, Devon Minnis, Magda Lozniceru, Susanna Ogden, Martha Ng, Dominique Bell, Kaylen Jensen, Harry Jones, Toby Dillingham, Barney Chau, Sam Weekes, Jacob Weekes, Adam Porter.

Avon 2nds – Team Managers – Lucy Manley & Alex Robinson – Team – Lucy Manley, Pippa Larkin, Bonny Mo, Clara Fitzpatrick Milton, Lucy Gorham, Valeriia Zhadonova, Sid Halder, Barney Pridmore, Aarya Ramachandra, Alex Robinson, Rob Armstrong, Andrew Craig.

Avon 3rds – Team Manager – Fiach O'Rourke – Team - Lucy Gorham, Serena Farrelly, Rachel Chew, Izzy Mullen, Dominique Bell, Amy Mellersh, Nicola Wall, Aarya Ramachandra, Barney Pridmore, Shane Marriot, Fiach O'Rourke, Caleb Walker, John Joe Pye, David Bailey.

Avon 4ths – Team Manager – Alice Lamb - Jiaya He, Valeriia Zhadonova, Alice Lamb, Anna Webster, Tanya Chetham, Xiaoyue Zhou, Harriet Mortimer, Rhiannon Kelley, Andrew Chan, Phil Sayer, Tom Paterson-Watts, Ian Bush, Toby Pridmore, Ben Kemp, Rishi Panchal, Darren Wong.

Avon 5ths – Team Managers – Eve Chilcott & Kahoo Tse – Team - Georgia Creed, Valeriia Zhadonova, Aimee Morgan, Sharlene Careng, Danaan Butler-Roche, Catherine Chen, Louise King, Megan King, Liam Clements, Harvey Thompson, Kahoo Tse, Yuxuan Ye, Will Mullaney, Callum Nicholls, Andre Cardoso, Andrew Salvador

Avon 6ths – Team Manager – Joe Bird – Team - Sharlene Careng, Danaan Butler-Roche, Yana Jaff, Kimberley Wong, Yana Jaff, Anna Gorham, Imogen Drew, Tamina Manabat, Penny Scott, Jane Watson, Megan King, Claire Widdicombe, Chloe Wright, Will Mullaney, Brendan Foreman, Joe Bird, Josh Parsons, Andrew Cardoso, Barry Garnham, Sully Hussain, Steve Goodchild.

Avon 7ths – Team Manager – Joe Urwin – Team – Rhiannon Kelley, Catherine Chen, Amy Amin, Noel Chui, Judith Ogden, Jane Watson, Bethan Knight, Tash Velayutham, Kim Wong, Jana Jaff, Ellie Siddall, Megan King, Stevie Pitt, Joe Urwin, Hay Lam, Pranava Kuma, Sai Non, Vincent Tsang, Rohan Weekes, Bruce Yao, Ricky Lam, Joe Warren.

Will Mellersh

County Captain

4. Affiliation Secretary's Report 2023-24

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 had any queries this last year. 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 2023-24

A busy year for Avon Development sees some fantastic outcomes for the 2023-2024 season.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes at Avon and without the dedicated team of volunteers, coaches, clubs and players, this would not be possible.

This year's development work has included gathering information, reviewing and planning ahead to ensure future generations can enjoy badminton in a safe and inclusive environment.

The last committee meeting saw a strategic review of Avon to plan ahead for the next three years and details will be available in the near future.

Two new junior clubs have been set up in Avon this year with another to follow shortly. These have received development support through funding, equipment and training.

This year saw an increase in Avon Masters players aged 35 and over in both the county leagues and nationwide tournaments. Processes have been put in place to try to bridge the gap between senior and masters. The hope for next season is to put a 55s team, with Avon then having a team in each age group.

This summer will see another welcome event to encourage new players to get involved with the Masters set up.

Sustainability has been a key area which the Avon initiative – Pre-Loved Racket Round Up! Was a huge success. We will continue to work hard to build resources which will be available for clubs and individuals to access and more information and how you can help will be available for the 2024/2025 season.

The website will be updated with some new areas of information to support players, volunteers, coaches and clubs launching in the new season. This will include a club support area, Safe sport and inclusivity information, Sustainability in badminton and much, much more! So, keep a look out for the exciting changes.

Facilities support from the committee continues to help clubs access venues in Avon.

Laura Light

Development and Coaching Coordinator Officer

6. Avon Junior Club League Report 2023–24

Junior League

This season there have been some incredibly close matches. Unfortunately, one or two of the matches have been very one sided despite the efforts of the coaches to balance the sides. My thanks again go to all the club volunteer coaches and parents who enable these matches to go ahead.

U10 XD 1st Bristol Falcons - 2nd Uphill - 3rd Chew Valley

U12 XD 1st Chew Valley - 2nd Uphill - 3rd Bristol Falcons

U14 XD 1st Chew Valley - 2nd Uphill - 3rd Bristol Falcons

U16 XD 1st Uphill - 2nd Bristol Falcons - 3rd Chew Valley - 4th Yate Racketeers

U18 XD 1st Uphill - 2nd Chew Valley - 3rd Bristol Falcons - 4th Yate Racketeers

U18 Girls 1st Uphill - 2nd Chew Valley - 3rd Bristol Falcons.

Next season hopefully some of the other newly formed Junior clubs will put in a team?

Local Junior Tournaments

Avon Junior County ran the Junior County Restricted tournament.

The following Junior clubs have run tournaments this season with Uphill running 3 doubles tournaments aimed at Junior Club players. Bristol Falcons have run the Feathers singles tournament which is also aimed at non-county players, and Yate Racketeers have run 1 doubles tournament which again is aimed at non-county players.

Hopefully these club tournaments will inspire the children to go on and play at senior clubs and possibly the County. There was a good mix of players from the junior clubs.

Next season maybe some of the new junior clubs could run some? I will contact the BE affiliated clubs to ask you!

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. I have asked for nominations which are then sent to me. I then edit out the club and players names before sending to the judges. The winner will be presented with the trophy at the Bristol League Fixtures meeting.

Penny Shears

Junior Club League Co-ordinator

7. Events Report 2023-24

Tournaments are run under approval from Badminton England and are open to national entry; they are split into Juniors, Seniors (minimum entry age 16) and Masters (minimum entry age 35). For Juniors there are age groups events at U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19.

All the above tournaments are arranged into Bronze, Silver and Gold categories with the Senior tournaments also having a category of Tier 4 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, 8 Badminton England tournaments were staged (3 Junior Events, 4 Senior Events and 1 Masters event) as well as the 2 Avon County tournaments (Junior and Senior Restricted).

The tournaments are extremely popular attracting entries from players all over the country. For example, the most recent event – a Tier 4 event - attracted an entry of some 130 players (coming from as far afield as Lancashire and Derbyshire not to mention the over 40 Avon players who entered) all of whom played almost 150 matches during the day. The largest event was the West of England Masters silver event which attracted an entry of 214 players who played just under 200 matches over a weekend.

These events made a significant profit which helps fund badminton projects within the county.

The Junior restricted was also a very successful event with an entry of over 60 players (the youngest being 7 years old). The younger age groups don't play full matches but nonetheless nearly 150 matches were played over 2 days.

Avon players regularly take medals at all of these events so are too numerous to list here, but for example, at our last event – the Tier4 – Avon players took Gold in the Women's Singles, the Women's Doubles and the Open Singles along with a number of silver and bronze medals. Avon players achieve amazing results and we should be very proud of them.

As ever 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 – we do need your help!

Bob Hammersley

Events Secretary

8. Bristol League Report 2023-24

A big thank you to clubs for supporting Bristol League by entering teams. This year we had 32 clubs participating with a total of 123 teams. That's an uplift from the 114 teams from the prior year and is a very positive sign for the future of badminton in the area.

This year was also the first year that the new entry rule was in effect. The rule allows new teams to enter directly into a higher division by beating the current season's winner of that division. This season, we had two new teams successfully win their playoff matches and enter the division using this rule. Looking forward we have four new applicants with scheduled playoffs hoping to capitalize on the new rule, spread evenly across the open and mixed leagues. These applicants include two new clubs which suggests that the new rule is enticing new clubs and teams which will again strengthen badminton in our area, which we are excited to see.

On a final note, it is once again time for us to start retrieving the league trophies, so that they can be engraved before September's AGM. If you have a trophy, please ensure it is cleaned and then passed to any committee member for collection. If you need any further information about this process, please direct your query to bristol.fixtures@gmail.com, 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.

Vanessa Bagwell-Slack

Treasurer, Bristol League

9. Masters Report 2023-24

Overall, Master's badminton in Avon is going from strength to strength!

Badminton England run two team-based county competitions for Masters players. The Masters County Championship, which is a season long competition, and the Masters 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 encourage "young" players to enter).

Masters County Championship. Avon were singled out for praise by Badminton England as the only county in the country that had consistently increased its number of players over the last 3 years. This year we had our largest number of players – 99, (42 Ladies and 57 Men). Also, this year we held a "welcome" session aimed at encouraging ladies, as a result of which we were able to run both O40 and O45 teams rather than a combined team. Special thanks must go to the team captains who put in so much time and effort to organising the teams. We play other counties in the South West and each team generally has between 4 and 8 matches per season usually played on a Sunday afternoon. The final positions were O40 2nd, O45 3rd, O50 2nd, O60 2nd, O65 1st and O70 1st. By finishing first, the O65s and O70s got through to the National Finals where the O65s took bronze beating Worcestershire for 3rd place and the O70s also took bronze beating Essex for 3rd place – a great result!!

Inter County Challenge. This is arranged into divisions, with promotion and relegation. Our O70s must take pride of place by winning the premier division and so becoming national champions. Our O65s (having lost some players to the O70 team) were 6th and so will be demoted, our O40s won division 2b and will be promoted to division 1 (a great achievement for our first time as a separate team), the O45s who struggled to find their feet remain in division 1b as do the O50s and the O60s who just missed promotion coming 2nd.

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

Individuals. This year the World Masters event was held in Korea. The outstanding Avon players were Mike Cox who, with his partner Jim Garrett of Kent, took the O75 Men's doubles Gold and Cathy Alexander with partner Sylvia Gill (Lancashire) took the Silver medal in the Ladies O70 doubles, both a great achievement. Avon players also compete in tournaments all around the country and regularly win medals.

Remember that, whilst we applaud the success of these players, they 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 behind the scenes people (for example our fixture secretary Joanna Elson and team captains) 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 2023-24

Similar to previous years, with the exception of the AGM in June 2023, this year's Meetings have again been held by Zoom.

The April 2023 BE Meeting started with reporting the success of the 2023 Yonex All England tournament in Birmingham, including the spectator count of nearly 37,000 people exceeding the BE target of 25,000 spectators, including many young people who were given free attendance. It also reported results from the Club & Coach survey, which suggested a desire to increase the numbers of youngsters playing, including an aim to increase numbers of female players. The National Schools Competition was to be reintroduced from September 2023.

The Badminton England AGM took place in Milton Keynes in June 2023 and involved actual face-to-face attendance. There was a presentation from Sue Storey (Chief Exec.) and she summarised the previous 12-months, including the success of the All England in Birmingham, affirmed her desire to visit badminton communities & associations around the country and reported on Commonwealth Games successes. The Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 were approved.

The October 2023 Meeting, again held on Zoom, reported that the Board had met in July 2023 to discuss strategy, transgender policy and the appointment of non-executive Directors and then met again in September 2023 – being a joint visit to Sheffield to meet the GB para squad.

In October 2023, we learned of the death of Diana Troke (President of Badminton England) and in December 2023, we learned of the passing of Mike Robinson (Chair of Badminton England), following a period of illness.

The final General Meeting of the year took place in January 2024 and identified Peter Emptage being elected Badminton England Interim Chair and Derek Batchelor becoming Badminton England President. Peter Emptage addressed the Meeting and expressed many things, including his great honour to become Interim Chair and he identified the legacy left by Mike Robinson. Reference was also made to the passing of Diana Troke and a presentation was made by Sue Storey (CEO), who identified the development team at BE were exploring a new primary school programme called Shuttle Stars.

The next Meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2024 (via zoom), with the AGM scheduled for 22 June 2024 (in person).

Ian Nicholls
Avon BE Delegate

11. Digital/Media Report 2023-24

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 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 club's 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 set up a new Instagram account and I have added news posts to that.

We will be creating a new Wordpress-based site over the coming year with photographs that were taken at the Senior Restricted and the West of England, and will be moving the hosting from Wix to Krystal.

Judith Ogden

Website and Digital Officer