

Essex Veterans Report – 2008/2009

Summary

This season has shown a variation of results in both the Inter County League and the Inter County Championships. Some of this is due to movements within the divisions and some due to change in area allocation. The ICC is very much based upon results and therefore division based. The ICL tends to be more associated with geographic location and associated with that to a smaller extent, strength of teams in surrounding areas.

Inter County League:

This season our over 40 "A" team finished 3rd and our over 40 "B" team finished 4th out of 5 teams overall.

Our over 45 team were our most successful this season and finished as overall champions in their age group for the whole country so a big well done to them.

The Over 50 team finished 1st in their respective area but then lost to a very strong team from Surrey in the Southern play-off match.

Our over 55 team had mixed fortunes playing in a different area this season finishing 3rd out of 5 teams but having draws against the two teams above them.

Our over 60 team unfortunately finished 5th out of 5 teams but playing in a very strong area.

The over 65 team like the 60's finished 4th out of 4 teams again against very strong opposition in that age and area.

Inter County Championships:

The ICC is played over 1 weekend in January when all counties take part in several different locations around the country. Essex ages were split between Hatfield, Swindon, Loughborough and Bournemouth with the following results;

Over 40 team finished 5th out of 6 teams in the Premier division for that age group.

Over 45 team finished 2nd out of 7 teams in the Division 1 for that age group.

Over 50 team finished 3rd out 7 teams in the premier division for their respective age group.

Over 55 team finished 2nd out of 6 teams in the premier division for their age group.

Over 60 team finished 5th out of 8 teams in division 1 for their age group and

Over 65 team finished 7th out of 8 teams in division 1 for their age group.

Essex have had a number of players representing England at the 6 Nations events held in Holland and the McCoig trophy international against Scotland.

English Rankings for end of season have been posted on the BADMINTON England website but notable inclusions ranked above number 10 in each age are as follows;

Over 40:

Men's singles Danny Eghan ranked 6

Men's doubles Dave Wood ranked 5

Mixed doubles Dave Wood ranked 5
 Viv Gillard ranked 4

Over 45:

Ladies singles Sue Crompton ranked 3

Mens doubles Kim Tong ranked 1

Ladies doubles Sue Crompton ranked 5
 Viv Gillard ranked 4

Mixed doubles Sue Crompton ranked 4

Over 50:

Mens singles Terry Felton ranked 9
George Joseph ranked 5
Ladies doubles Andi Stretch ranked 4
Mixed doubles Andi Stretch ranked 3

Over 55:

Mens singles John Gardner ranked 1
Mens doubles John Garner ranked= 1
Peter Emptage ranked= 1
Roy Lord ranked =5
Ladies doubles Pam Dallow ranked 2
Linda Scrace ranked 1
Mixed doubles Peter Emptage ranked 1
John Gardner ranked 2
Roy Lord ranked 3
Pam Dallow ranked 1
Linda Scrace ranked 6
Jane Noremberg ranked 9

Over 60:

Mens doubles John Whalebone ranked 9

Over 65:

Mixed doubles Roger Baldwin ranked 3

All rankings are based upon tournament results throughout the season. Tournaments themselves are ranked "A" "B" and "C" so points awarded depends on how many entries are made and at what level the tournament is graded as well as results obtained.

Essex Veterans Team Reports – 2008/2009

Over 40's 'A'

ICL Report. The team seemed to have one of those seasons where whatever could go wrong did go wrong. Injury and illness were a recurring theme this season.

The ICL team was much changed from the previous year with Viv & Sue moving up an age group. Clive Palmer & Ian Smith were welcomed as new arrivals.

After the early skirmishes of the A v B team, (where the A team did suffer the indignity of losing 1 game!) the more serious business of matches v Herts & Bucks followed. The home game v Herts looked as if it was going down to the wire as after the level doubles the match was tied at 4-4, but unusually for Essex we lost all the mixed doubles leaving Herts 8-4 winners. Further damage to the campaign was done by only managing a winning draw in the home game v Bucks. Straightforward wins followed against Middlesex both home & away. The return game away at Herts saw some help sought from the O45's due to injury to Dave Wood and unavailability of Andy Bailey. Kim Yong & Pete Moseley did the team proud winning one men's together and each winning their mixed partnered by Viv & Amanda respectively. Danny Eghan also stepped in to play due to injury to Clive. Danny again excelled winning one men's with Trevor and his mixed with Donna Tubb. The ladies played their part as Viv & Donna won both games and Amanda & Jo Agar picked up 1. Revenge was gained as we ran out 8-4 winners. Not so with the return against Bucks, despite Andy & Trevor picking up both men's and Ian Smith & Richard Taylor 1 of theirs, Ian & Donna were the only other winners as we went down to our first loss to Bucks. This left the team a disappointing 3rd in the division after some dispute over the time taken to register a result of one of the A v B games. Better is hoped for next season, but much will rely on the availability of key players!

ICC Report. The ICC was another case in point where we lost a lady through illness at 7.00 on the Saturday morning. I am very grateful to Vicky Le Fevre for standing in at the very last minute to play which enabled us to compete with a full team, and for the organisational skills of Amanda & Andi who got the messages through.

The team acquitted itself well under the circumstances. Starting with the potentially toughest match against home county Herts, Amanda Austin & Pam Lee won the ladies, unfortunately this success was not repeated by the men's or mixed pairs and we lost 3-1. Next up were Bucks, and a rejig of the pairs saw Clive Palmer & Trevor Rogers take the men's, but again this was the sole success, which at the end of the 2 days would prove the most costly. The final game on the Saturday saw a 3-1 success over Surrey, with both mixed being won by Amanda & Andy Bailey and Pam & Adrian Watling, Clive & Trevor again winning their men's.

A crunch tie was first up on Sunday, against Lancs who had beaten us so narrowly in the ICL final last April. A mark of how much the team had changed with Trevor being the only Essex player who played in that match against much the same opposition. Again the men's was won, but we narrowly lost the ladies with Jan Davies & Vicky putting up an excellent fight. So to the mixed, which seemed to last forever, both matches ebbed and flowed during their 3 sets. Eventually we won 1st with Amanda partnered by Richard Taylor, but narrowly lost 2nd with Pam & Ian Smith going down in setting in the 3rd set. So we had to settle for a 2-2 draw. Last up were Hampshire, who somewhat surprisingly were vying with Herts for top spot. This time neither levels was won, and again the mixed proved to be close affairs, Amanda & Richard prevailed but Pam & Ian again lost by the narrowest of margins.

This left us in 5th place out of 6, with 3 points, 1 point behind Bucks, & 2 behind Lancs.

Trevor Rogers

Captain Over 40's 'A' team

Over 45s.

The Essex O45's Veterans team won the ICL, held on 26th April 2009 in Stoke on Trent.

The team for the weekend was Pam Dallow, Andi Stretch, Helen Turrells, Viv Gillard, Peter Emptage, Kim Yong, Peter Moseley, Paul Kirby and George Joseph(Capt). Basically a well balanced team of O45's - O55's

On the Saturday Essex had a convincing 9 -3 win over Derbyshire.

Last year Essex lost to Derbyshire 7-5 in the ICL and lost to them again, in January's ICC - by one point.

In the Final Essex met Yorkshire, with Essex sprinting to a 3 - 1 lead.

However Yorkshire nibbled away, to make it all square after the level doubles.

At 6 games to 5 in Essex's favour, the culmination of a whole seasons campaign rested on the very last game, to be played by Pam and Peter E.

If we had lost this game Essex would have lost on points, but after a thrilling three ender, Pam and Peter pulled the proverbial 'cat out of the bag', to win the match 7 - 5.

Well done to all those who played in O45's, including Sue Crompton and Peter Ostrowsky, as we won every match this season.

Over 50's.

ICL Report. After a settled period of 2 seasons, my 3rd & final year as captain saw a great many changes. The migration of Barbara Childs to the Over 55's was expected, as was Loreen joining us from the Over 45's and with Vicky Le Fevre becoming part of the regular squad I no longer had to borrow ladies from Roy's team, (or so I thought). More of a surprise though was Kevin Martin's decision to withdraw from county commitments and tournaments, and regrettably a long term injury to stalwart John Holdsworth rendered him unavailable for the entire season. I was therefore hugely relieved and delighted to welcome Terry Felton as a regular and committed member of the team.

Historically our league games have tended to be one sided and although the Rally Points scoring system has had an impact, making the games closer, we were still winning all our games comfortably, until we at under strength, came up against a much improved Herts team and recorded our first loss for many seasons. We did beat them on the return fixture and won the league on games difference, but it was purely academic as we bombed out to Surrey, as usual, (11-1) in the play-off.

My thanks go to all my players for their dedication and commitment, knowing that you have reliable personnel makes the captains job that much easier.

Over 50's regular squad:- Peter Emptage (league only), Terry Felton, Richard Noremborg & Gary Webb. Pam Dallow (most successful dropping only 2 of 21 games), Jane Noremborg, Loreen Roberts & Vicky Le Fevre.

With grateful thanks to the following for filling in the gaps:- John Gardner, Roy Lord, John Stretch, George Joseph, Neil Eastern, Barbara Childs, Linda Scrace, Pat Lee and lastly but by no means least, Andi Stretch (over to you!)

ICC Report. The most satisfying event in the year's calendar was the ICC (sorry Peter). Having finished in the bottom two the previous season, we were surprised, if not wholly thrilled to find ourselves back at Hatfield in the Premier Division this year. With Pam Dallow and Richard & Jane Noremborg being the only survivors of the 2008 team, the team itself took on a very different look. With Terry Felton and Gary Webb injured at the Christmas break, fitness was to be a key factor, but we were all delighted that their bodies held up and both played better than anyone could have hoped for a week or two previously. Terry in fact played all the men's doubles matches against the strongest of the opposition.

Clearly the object of the weekend was to finish no lower than 5th out of 7 and leave a legacy for the 2010 team to continue in the top division. In fact the team played with infectious

enthusiasm and determination, which resulted in:- only one loss to Surrey (3-1); three draws - against Yorkshire, Glasgow and Lancashire (yes!!); a resounding 4-0 win against Hampshire; and probably the most pleasing result of all, a 3-1 win over our old adversaries, Kent. We finished in a very creditable 3rd place behind old adversaries Surrey & Lancashire.

Worthy of special mention was George and Andi's spectacular win over Lancashire's John Machin & Sue Hirst, and Richard and Loreen's dogged win over Dave Chapman & Dee Wall from Kent. Andi in fact won all of her matches.

My thanks go to the whole team for their supreme commitment both on and off the court and especially to Andi for organising the team over the weekend. Also a warm welcome and thanks to 'new boy' Neil Eastern, who brought fresh legs to the side on Sunday.

The Essex over 50's ICC 2009 Team was:

George Joseph, Tery Felton, Richard Noremberg, Gary Webb and Neil Eastern. Andi Stretch, Pam Dallow, Jane Noremberg and Loreen Roberts.

Jane Noremberg

Over 50's Co-ordinator.

Over 55s.

The season 2008/2009 was a change from the previous few seasons in that the over 55 team were moved to a different area. Previously we had played teams north of the River Thames but now we were playing against teams south of the river, those teams being Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

This was a very different experience from being the dominating county to now finding the going much tougher. We started unfortunately with a slightly weakened side some of our normal team members not being available but managed to beat Sussex 9-3 in our first encounter. The next match against Hampshire found us wanting and we lost 8-4. Our third match against Kent was a success winning 7-5 but the next match saw us on the end of a losing draw against Surrey at 6-6 losing by 519 points to 503. The return against Kent was a win for us 10-2 and against Sussex we were victors with a score of 12-0. The next match was important for us since we needed to win but alas this was not to be with another draw at 6-6 losing with 514 points to 499. Our last match against Surrey would see us either in 2nd place or third but our result would determine who won the division between Surrey or Hampshire. In the end the match became a farce when we were depleted because of injury to two men and then an injury to one of the substitute players and at the start of the mixed games our first lady Linda Scrace took a tumble on court and severely fractured her wrist. The end result with three rubbers conceded was 10-2 in favour of Surrey who then went on to contest the finals at Stoke.

Roy Lord