

Essex Veterans Report to the AGM 2010.

This season has again been very busy with Tournaments and matches in all age groups from over 40 through to over 65. There is an opportunity for over 70 matches be they all friendly (if there is such a thing) but currently fielding a team will impact the over 65 team so we are still debating this matter.

The first major tournament of the season was the World Championships in September 2009 held at Punta Umbria in Spain. Essex was well represented and the following players (IN CAPITALS) from Essex were successful as follows;

Over 40 mens doubles – DAVE WOOD and Rajeev Bagga – Bronze Medal
Over 40 mixed doubles – SUE CROMPTON and Julian Priestley – Bronze Medal
Over 45 womens doubles – SUE CROMPTON and VIV GILLARD – Silver Medal
Over 50 womens doubles – ANDI STRETCH and Reggie Baker – Silver Medal
Over 55 mens doubles – JOHN GARDNER and PETER EMPTAGE – Gold Medal
Over 55 womens doubles – PAM DALLOW and LINDA SCRACE – Silver Medal
Over 55 mixed doubles – PAM DALLOW and PETER EMPTAGE – Silver Medal
Over 55 mixed doubles – JOHN GARDNER and Pauline Davies – Bronze Medal.

The National Championships were in December 2009 held at Hatfield and again the following Essex players were successful;

Over 40 mens doubles – DAVE WOOD and Rajeev Bagga – Winners
Over 40 mixed doubles – VIV GILLARD and DAVE WOOD – runner up
Over 45 womens doubles – SUE CROMPTON and VIV GILLARD – winners
Over 50 mens singles – TERRY FELTON – runner up.
Over 50 mens doubles – KIM YONG and Darryl Roebuck – winners
Over 55 mens singles – JOHN GARDNER – runner up
Over 55 mens doubles – JOHN GARDNER and PETER EMPTAGE – winners
Over 55 mixed doubles – PAM DALLOW and PETER EMPTAGE – winners
Over 65 mens doubles – ROGER BALDWIN and JOHN WHALEBONE – runner up
Over 65 mixed doubles – Muriel Burgess and JOHN WHALEBONE – 3rd.

March 2010 saw the All England international tournament held at Milton Keynes and a truly international entry. The following Essex players were successful;

Over 40 mens doubles – DAVE WOOD and Rajeev Bagga – 3rd
Over 40 mixed doubles – VIV GILLARD and DAVE WOOD – winners
Over 45 womens doubles – SUE CROMPTON and VIV GILLARD – runner up
Over 50 mens doubles – KIM YONG and Darryl Roebuck – winners
Over 50 mixed doubles – Ellen Aagaard and KIM YONG – 3rd
Over 55 mixed doubles – PAM DALLOW and PETER EMPTAGE – runner up
Over 60 mens doubles – Bob Bell and ROY LORD winners
Over 65 mens doubles – ROGER BALDWIN and JOHN WHALEBONE – runner up.

The ICC tournament was devastated this year because of the heavy snow that fell across the country. This meant that rearranged dates and venues needed to be sorted and not all dates and venues proved to be popular, with many teams having difficulty fielding sides of expected strength and some counties withdrawing completely. I am pleased to say that

Essex were able to fulfil their obligations and every age group managed to send a team to play in their respective event, even though some teams were depleted in usual strength.

The following are the final placings of the Essex teams in their respective divisions;

Over 40 came 2nd in division 1B

Over 45 came 1st in Premier division

Over 50 came 4th in Premier division

Over 55 came 2nd in Premier division

Over 60 came 5th in division 1A

Over 65 came 2nd in division 1B.

The Inter County League is played over the whole season by area with play-off matches against other areas where necessary to progress through to final event play-off matches at the end of the season. Final positions are as follows;

Over 40 got through to finals coming 4th overall

Over 45 got through to final and were overall winners

Over 50 won their area but lost on play-off to Surrey

Over 55 got through to finals coming 2nd overall

Over 60 came 3rd in area.

Over 65 came 5th in area..

In general we have had a successful season with many of our players showing themselves to be top players in the country and even in the world's arena for veterans badminton. Our Over 45 team have been our most successful this season winning both the ICC and ICL trophies so very well done to them. The next main event in the Veterans calendar will be the European Championships which are due to be played at Dundalk in Southern Ireland. These will be played during September/October and it is anticipated that Essex will have a strong team presence in the squad of English players.

Roy Lord

Essex Vets Coordinator.