

Essex Veterans Report to the AGM 2011.

The Veterans Badminton scene continues to grow with more and more tournaments being organised and the Inter County league matches and Inter County Championships continuing to be a success story. This season has been very hard on Essex players and we have unfortunately had many injuries causing players to miss out on Open as well as County representative events. My view on this is simply that we are all so keen to play and we all still think we are in our Twenties but unfortunately our bodies are not quite up to the stress and strain we impart whilst playing our beloved game.

We entered teams in all ages over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70 in the inter-county league. The over 70 team was entered for the first time and played as friendly matches.

Unfortunately not all matches were played and distances travelled became a problem. Also the severe winter weather early in December played havoc with fixture travel and subsequent rearrangement of match fixtures. At least this season the ICC weekend in January had reasonable weather and to the best of my knowledge everyone had a good weekend of Badminton at the various venues.

The first major tournament of the season was the European Championships in September 2010 held at Dundalk, Southern Ireland. Essex was well represented and the following players (IN CAPITALS) from Essex were successful as follows;

Over 40 mixed doubles – VIV GILLARD and DAVE WOOD – Bronze Medal
Over 40 mixed doubles – SUE CROMPTON and Rajeev Bagga – Silver Medal
Over 45 womens doubles – SUE CROMPTON and VIV GILLARD – Bronze Medal
Over 50 mens doubles – KIM YONG and Darrel Roebuck – Gold Medal
Over 50 womens doubles – ANDI STRETCH and Reggie Baker – Bronze Medal
Over 55 womens doubles – PAM DALLOW and Betty Bartlett – Silver Medal
Over 55 mixed doubles – PAM DALLOW and PETER EMPTAGE – Bronze Medal
Over 60 mens doubles – ROY LORD and Bob Bell – Silver Medal.

The National Championships were in December 2010 held at Hatfield and again the following Essex players were successful;

Over 40 mens singles – Daniel Eghan – third place
Over 40 mens doubles – Kum Wai Kok - winner
Over 40 mens doubles – Dave Wood - third place
Over 40 womens doubles – Tracey Dineen – runner up.
Over 40 mixed doubles – Tracey Dineen – runner up.
Over 40 mixed doubles – Dave Wood – third place
Over 45 womens doubles – Sue Crompton and Viv Gillard – winners
Over 45 mixed doubles – Sue Crompton – runner up.
Over 50 mens doubles – Kim Yong – winner
Over 50 womens singles – Pam Dallow – third place
Over 50 mixed doubles – Peter Moseley – third place
Over 55 mixed doubles – Pam Dallow and Peter Emptage – winners
Over 60 mens doubles – Roy Lord runner up

April 2011 saw the All England international tournament held at Milton Keynes and a truly international entry. Unfortunately as I go to print I am unable to access the results from the BE website however there is a report which highlights the success of Tracy Dineen in both Mixed doubles and Ladies Doubles so a well done to Tracy and we hope she has a long and enjoyable playing career with the Seniors events.

The ICC tournament was played in January with the events being spread around the country at Stoke, Milton Keynes, Hatfield, Swindon and Bournemouth. Some of our teams struggled to field players this season which is a disappointment after all the hard work that goes into arranging these events. I am advised however that everyone had an enjoyable weekend and as always the Badminton was very competitive.

Over 40 came 2nd in division 1B
Over 45 came 3rd in Premier division
Over 50 came 5th in Premier division
Over 55 came 3rd in Premier division
Over 60 came 3rd in division 1A
Over 65 came 1st 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 have not been posted as yet however our over 45 team went through to the finals play-off at Stoke on Trent coming second to Surrey.

Once again our players have had a successful season with many showing themselves to be top players in the country and even in the worlds arena for veterans badminton. Our Over 45 team have been our most successful again this season but with everyone fit and healthy for next season I expect to see more trophies coming our way.

The next main event in the Veterans calendar will be the World Championships which are due to be played at Vancouver in Canada. These will be played during August which due to it being in the holiday season costs are rather high. This seems to have put off many players that might otherwise have gone but even so there is a strong contingent of Essex players in the England squad.

Roy Lord
Essex Vets Coordinator.