

Masters Report 2017/18 Season

Over 40s

Our season can be summarised in the following limerick;

*We had Adi and Barry,
The joker that played with Danny
Caz, Simon & Lynne,
Phil and Justine
We're only defeated by Yorkie*

Despite missing our captain, Karina, for the majority of the season due to injury and work commitments we reached the final in both events only losing to a strong Yorkshire side both times.

Vice-Captain: Simon Gilhooly

Over 45s

There were 5 fixtures in the Masters County Championships South & East Division East this season with Cambridgeshire & Oxfordshire played twice and Hertfordshire only once as 1 match was postponed due to poor weather in December and no date could be agreed upon to rearrange. The matches v Cambs & Oxon were not close, but the match v Herts was a hard fought 7-5 in our favour.

The playing squad was: Amanda Austin, Donna Tubb, Lesley Pallett & Tracy Hutchinson; Trevor Rogers, Andy Bailey, Dave Wood, Ian Smith. We were indebted throughout the season for help from the O40s & O50s squads with June Hammond, Julia Cloughton, Pam Lee, Jacqui Twitchell, Ady Munro, Viv Gillard, Sue Crompton, Marion Neale, Glenda Templeman, Simon Gilhooly, Peter Emptage, Phil Tuffee & Bhanu Sisupalan who all happily helped out when asked to do so. A special mention to Pete, who helped out at short notice for his home match v Oxon and again at Finals weekend; and to Glenda, who saved the day by also playing in the finals for us.

For the County Challenge we were back at Milton Keynes, but could not defend our title. The team was similar to the previous winning team, with Bhanu convinced that a title was worth defending, so he defected from the 50's, Andy came in for Dave who was most unfortunately away skiing! We started with a 4-0 win against a depleted Lancs team then followed with a draw v Yorks. Glos appeared a strong team and again we had to settle for a draw. Sunday morning

started with the usual match v Surrey and ended up as previous matches in another 2-2 draw. Herts followed, strengthened with Jo Goode in their team and we secured another draw. Hants was the last match and they had an outside chance of winning the competition, but we put a stop to that by securing yet another draw. So a weekend unbeaten with 1 win and 5 draws – some bad luck coming out the wrong side of a couple of close games and a bad performance at the end of the Hants game that should have resulted in a win, meant the team finished 4th out of 7, with Herts ending up as winners.

The League play-offs at Hatfield saw the team at full strength. Again we expected tough match against Surrey, and this year it all looked to be going wrong as we lost the first 2 men's doubles. Thankfully the ladies restored normal service, followed by the men pulling their respective fingers out and a comfortable 9-3 win was secured – an unwell Donna decided to concede her mixed rather than play it.

The finals were also at Hatfield and we had a favourable draw against Notts. No mishaps in the levels and we went 8-0 up. Foot off the gas in the mixed gave Notts some consolation wins, but safely through to the final v Glos, who happened to call upon the services of Nick Ponting for the day. His presence swung the final in their favour and our winning run of 5 consecutive wins was put to a stop, as we were on the wrong end of a 9-3 score line. Runners up are not normally too bad – except when you get used to winning!

Again with thanks to all the squad for another great season!
Trevor Rogers O45 Captain

Over 50s

“Would like to thank everyone for their support for this year

in the league we won convincingly to make the playoffs and with injuries and absentees we scraped through

in the finals - we came up against good opposition and came 4th in a close fought match

The ICC weekender - was a wash out due to injuries and absentees to the main players and struggled to win any games and hence got relegated next year

looking forward to next year”

In poetic form;

*Here is the report for the fifties
where the team this year wasn't very nifty
we won our league matches*

*without any catches
but lost at the finals due to injury*

Captain: Dave Spurling

Over 55s

See separate report from George Joseph

Over 60s

In September 2017, before the start of the domestic season the World Senior Championships 2017 were held in Kerala, India. The following players decided to make the long journey and the challenge of representing England in these championships. The players from the squad were Lim Loo, Janice Flower, Annette Baker and probably the coolest man in Southend, Mr Eastwood himself – John Kindred. As expected the opposition was extremely tough and all players enjoyed the experience. John partnered a player from Surrey, Ian Purton, probably England's number 1 in the 60's age group. You could say John got the 'Golden Ticket'. John & Ian played extremely well and managed to finish 3rd in the age group.

The County League started in October with a game against Kent which we won 9-3, followed by a win against Suffolk 8 -4. In the New Year we had the reverse fixtures against Kent we won 10-2. Two weeks later we played Suffolk and won that 9-3. We had yet to play Hertfordshire, we played the first game in February and won 9-3. Unfortunately, we did not play the reverse fixture as it was the weekend we had heavy snow fall and we had to cancel due to the weather conditions making travel dangerous. Sadly, we were unable to rearrange the fixture. Despite this Essex won the league. This meant we had to have a play-off against the winners of the South & East pool which was Surrey.

The play-off was going to be a tough match as they had an extremely strong squad. We struggled to field a team due to injuries but we managed to get a team together. We had an unfortunate start as Kevin Martin tore his calf muscle in the first game and we had to concede 3 games. Throughout the event we struggled but we had some good games which could have gone either way, sadly not our way and we lost 12 - 0.

As throughout the season Essex was unable to field their strongest squad due to some players having long term injuries. But despite this, everyone that played gave their all and the results reflected this.

County Challenge

In January 2018, all the age groups have a weekend of badminton at various locations around the County. This year the O' 60's played at Milton Keynes. In this event you play against various Counties that are in the same league and for Essex that is the Premier League. The format for these matches is 8 players and the playing programme is 1 level men's, 1 level ladies and 2 mixed. Due to injuries we were not able to send our strongest squad despite this the team came 3rd.

Players representing the O60s

Janice Flower, Chris Pennock, Pam Dallow, Jane Noremberg, Linda Scrace, Annette Baker, Barbara Childs, Gary Webb, John Kindred, Kevin Martin, Richard Noremberg, John Gardner, Lim Loo, Roger Baldwin.

Over 65s

Captain Roger Baldwin