

BADMINTON

ESSEX



U18 Inter Counties Tournament

This event takes place over 4 days with teams playing in a group of four teams (three matches) each day. For many it is the pinnacle of junior badminton with all young players keen to take part. It is also a quite expensive event and one of the main financial commitments of the County for which we rely on our membership subscriptions.

We were very fortunate to get sponsorship from the London Badminton Super League that allowed us to kit out the team.



Our team at Nottingham University was short of a couple of our usual girls due to the pressure of exams but the team played some excellent badminton to win through to the 5th - 8th place group on the final day. By that stage the team was showing signs of tiredness and finished up in 8th place. Disappointing perhaps but actually a strong result given we had two U14 players involved.

Result details:

<http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=59C1641A-E297-4961-AE98-4CBB3571B22A>

Shires League

U12 team (born on or after 1st Jan 2007)

Team Manager: Michael Kong

For the u12 league this year, Essex came 7th winning 4 out of their 6 county matches. The first 8 teams qualified automatically for the Shires Final, which was held at Aylesbury on Sunday 8th April

Due to some of the players being away as they were unaware that the shires finals were held at this time of year, we had just enough for a team of 4 boys and 4 girls. In the first round we drew against Warwickshire, the team played well but lost 17-3. Overall, we finished 8th after losing to Leicestershire 11-9 and then losing to Hertfordshire 12-8, despite having some close games.

It was a great team effort for such a young team, having 4 (2007), 4 (2008) and 5 (2009) players. So was a great experience and many will play for the next few years! TM Michael has been a great support/coach to the team during the season and will continue in his current role next season. Well done and thank you to Michael.

Final result 1st Berkshire, 2nd Warwickshire, 3rd Yorkshire, 4th Devon, 5th Surrey, 6th Leicestershire, 7th Hertfordshire, **8th ESSEX**

U14 team (born on or after 1st Jan 2005)

Team Manager: Allison & Ashley

It was a great start to the 17/18 season, Essex winning 5 of their 6 county matches. They finished in position 8th and played the play-off at home against Berkshire during the Easter break. Even with 2 of the regular players away Essex won 11-9.

Shires Final was held at Wolverhampton on Sunday 20th May. Due to players unavailable and a last-minute injury we only had 3 boys and 5 girls. For the first round we drew against the 1st seed Cheshire, the team played very well but lost 11-9, with a few close games and having to concede 4 games to start the match! Overall, we finished 8th after losing to Nottinghamshire 12-8 and then losing to Devon 9-11.

It was a great team effort this year and we had two excellent TM to support the team during the season, well done and thank you to Allison and Ashley. For the following season Ashley will stay on as TM and from the existing team, 7 of the 11 players will move up with Allison, who has agreed to manage the u16 team next year.

Final result 1st Yorkshire, 2nd Surrey, 3rd Cheshire, 4th Hampshire, 5th Warwickshire, 6th Nottinghamshire, 7th Devon, **8th ESSEX**

U16 team (born on or after 1st Jan 2003)

Team Manager: Jenny (Shires Final TM Simon G)

During the 17/18 season the u16 team also won 5 of their 6 county matches. It was a great result as the aim this year was to try and use more players to develop the players along, but still aim for the shires final. The team finished in position 10th and had to play against Buckinghamshire in the play-off between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, Essex won 16-4!

Shires Final was held at Aylesbury on Sunday 6th May. For Essex's first round we drew against the 1st seed Hertfordshire, the team played very well but lost 15-5, in the 2nd round we lost against Leicestershire 14-6, final round we beat Hampshire 13-7 to finish in 7th position at the shires final.

Final result 1st Warwickshire, 2nd Yorkshire, 3rd Hertfordshire, 4th Surrey, 5th Leicestershire, 6th Berkshires, **7th ESSEX**, 8th Hampshire.

Great team spirit from the players and their parents, who supported the team even when their son/daughter was not playing. Eight (2003) players from the team of 14 players move up this year to join the existing u18 team.

U18 team (born on or after 1st Jan 2001)

Team Manager: Elaine, Team coach: Yap

It was an excellent start to the 17/18 season, Essex won all their county matches and finished 3rd in the league, guaranteeing an automatic place at the Shires Final!

On Sunday 27th May, the 8 highest ranked teams of the League battled it out in Wolverhampton to round off the season. In the first match, Essex drew Surrey 1, we started well leading 8-4, however the tables turned when we began our level doubles matches, Surrey 1 showing their true expertise and we drew at 10-10 but lost on only 19 points, these 19 points meant losing out to placing within the top 4.

Our next opponent was Yorkshire, we were evenly matched with their boys, each side taking 2 games in each event involving the boys. This left our girls to provide the pivotal wins, they did not fail us, securing 3 out of 4 wins in both the girls' events giving us our 12-8 win.

Our final match was against an old foe, Warwickshire, we started steadily in the mixed doubles and next the boys increased our lead to 5-2 with their singles wins. The girls were not so fortunate as the opposition's girls were of an exceptionally high calibre. Alicia took the helm, stepped up her game, giving us level pegging. The boys were all tired, but they fortunately pulled away in the level doubles setting us up at 10-6, leaving it all up to the girls. The girls played well and provided the final victory 11-9!

Final result 1st Buckinghamshire, 2nd Surrey, 3rd Kent, 4th Cheshire, **5th Essex**, 6th Warwickshire, 7th Yorkshires, 8th Leicestershire.

The players really dug deep and gave it their all this season and for most of the boys it was their last Shires season. A big thank you to Elaine and Yap who have supported and coached this team for several years. They both have contributed to Essex junior badminton a lot over the past few years.

17-21 County Challenge

Team Manager: Arran Weston

Our team finished 2nd behind a strong Yorkshire side on their home patch. Many thanks to Arran.