

BADMINTON

ESSEX



Senior County Report 2017/18

We fielded three teams again this season. Due to the withdrawal of Jersey the Third Team was unexpectedly promoted to Division 3 at the last minute prior to the season.

We employed a selection committee to pick the teams this year instead of leaving it with team captains. This eliminated some conflicts. Our strategy is to select players that are keen to play in the majority of matches rather than the outright strongest team. With the exception of some players that have represented the county for many years we pick from players participating in the Essex League.

First Team

Division One South

Final Position: 4th of 8

The team was boosted by 17 year old Brandon Yap and his father Yee Guan but sorely missed Caz Westley who was not eligible for selection due to playing for a club in the French National League and Arran Weston who was injured. Rosemary Allen had a great season despite having to step up to first singles in the absence of Caz Westley; she won 9 of her 14 rubbers.

Special mentions to Anna Richardson who stood in to play singles in the last weekend and Vidhi Garg who made her first senior county appearance straight into the first team and gave very creditable performances.

Second Team

Division Two South-East

Final Position: 8th of 8

The team at the start of the season was barely recognisable from the one that finished the previous season. Louis Bowman was unable to play at the last minute due to illness; we hope he will be recovered in time for the coming season.

The division was also much stronger this year and every match was a high standard. We lost a lot of rubbers in three close sets.

On the final day we managed a win over Kent 2 to gain some respectability but couldn't avoid relegation.

Third Team

Division Three South

Final Position: 5th of 8

Despite struggling to get women for the January fixtures the team comfortably retained their place in the division. The team had a good balance of juniors and experienced players with Surej Salim, Akhil Pillai and Kiera Dennis-Nelson topping the performance tables.

A big "thank you" to Clare Smith, Jenny Chu and Natasha Boyton-West who stood in at short notice to ensure we had a complete team for every match.

2018/19 Season

We plan to enter three teams again for next season.