

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Report for the Season 2008/09

Membership

Season	Affiliated Clubs, Junior Clubs and Associations	Members
2008/09	63	to come
2007/08	63	1,660
2006/07	60	1,779
2005/06	64	1,746
2004/05	75	1,584
2003/04	71	1,506
2002/03	58	1,444
2001/02	65	1,218
2000/01	59	1,127

Officers and Committee

President	Mr K F Brooks
Chair	Mr I R Moody
Hon. Secretary	Mrs G Mann
Hon Treasurer	Ms F Foy
Hon. Coaching Secretary	Mr T Coyne
Hon. Veterans Co-ordinator	Mr M Lawrence
Development Officer	Position vacant
Committee	Mrs J Strong, Mr J Mann, Mr M Statham
Bucks Schools Chair	Mrs R Jefferies
Aylesbury & District B.A.	Mrs C Halewood
Chalfont & District B.A.	Ms F Foy
High Wycombe & District B.A.	Mrs L Walmsley
Milton Keynes & District B.A.	Mr T Coyne
Hon. Auditor	Mr L J Holloway
County Team Selection Committee	Mr G McMenemy (County Captain), Mrs C Halewood, Mrs J Strong, Mr R Went

Chair's Report

I would like to start by recording the Counties appreciation and thanks for all the work that Jim Mann has done for Bucks over many years of dedicated service. Jim has decided to call it a day on the Bucks CBA committee after decades of involvement. We wish him all the best for the future. In recognition of all the work he has done it is proposed to make Jim a Life Vice-President of the Association.

In this report I am not only covering the past season but also looking forward to some of the developments we can expect in the next season. This is occasioned by the new BADMINTON England funding over the period 2009-2013 and the requirements linked to that funding.

This last year has been a mixed one for Bucks. In my last report I welcomed Gillian Tyler as the new Badminton Development Officer for Bucks. Unfortunately Gillian decided to take up another work opportunity and left us after only a few months. Replacing her was put on hold by BADMINTON England as they were in the process of obtaining funding from Sport England and, linked to that, also reviewing the role of BDO's. This process is now pretty nearly finished and recruiting will be starting soon but for a Regional Officer (rather than a BDO) who will probably cover a wider area than just Bucks. The Regional Officer will be fully funded by

BADMINTON England with no financial county support being required. It is anticipated that the new RO will be in post by the end of this October at the latest.

Requirements of the new funding is for BADMINTON England to:

- a) Increase the participation of 16+ players
- b) Increase 5-19 year olds playing the sport
- c) Retain 16-18 year olds in the sport
- d) Increase the talent pool

It will be the task of the Regional Officer, overseen by Tom Duggan (the Regional Manager), to help achieve these targets. Bucks CBA intends to work closely with the RO to help achieve these aims. A main plank in reaching these targets is the setting up of Performance Centres and Community Badminton Networks. Bucks already has one Performance Centre at Wycombe Badminton Centre. The setting up of Community Badminton Networks, which will be centred on a hub badminton club, will be one of the main tasks of the new RO. One of the main things that Bucks CBA will be looking for is that any new structures should work closely with and take account of existing structures in the county. Other aims of BADMINTON England to achieve the Sport England targets are an improved competition structure, having coaches in the right place at the right times and more and better facilities as well as optimising the use of existing facilities.

I have endeavoured to make sure the website (<http://www.badmintonbucks.co.uk>) has been kept up to date with latest news items and Senior and Vets County team results. We have well over 5,000 hits so it appears to be well used. We have been a bit skimpy on pictures and I might remove the picture sections from the site. Please check out the website from time to time, it is the main communication tool of Buck CBA. I will be looking through the website contents in the next few months with a view to expanding its coverage. If you have any comments, please contact me at ianmoody@globalnet.co.uk.

This season we played home county matches mainly at Wycombe. Next season we are renewing our efforts to play Senior and Vets County home matches more equally at Wycombe and at Milton Keynes as well as splitting the county practices between the two. This will, I hope, foster a closer relationship between players from the north, middle and south of the county. I will also be looking to see what other steps can be taken to support this aim.

During 2008/09 BADMINTON England have been working on updating their membership database to make it more user friendly and comprehensive. The new system should be in place by the beginning of next season.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for all their efforts over the last year.

Ian Moody
Bucks Chair

Finance Report

Bucks CBA achieved nearly £2,000 Income over Expenditure compared to nearly £1,000 the other way last year ending the season with a Balance Sheet figure of nearly £7,500. The main positive and negative movements were as follows:

1. Affiliation fees paid by clubs fell by over £250. It is difficult to assess the reason for this as BADMINTON England records are going through a transitional phase prior to a new system being introduced. Some payments are still not getting through to the county and an assessment has been made to cover this.
2. £2,000 saved by not having to pay towards a Badminton Development Officer and Community Badminton Coach. This will not be an expenditure next year when a Regional Officer will be in post as their salary will be fully funded by BADMINTON England.
3. Nearly £300 saved by using the website to disseminate information instead of a hard copy newsletter

4. Nearly £350 increase in income from volunteer help by Bucks CBA at BADMINTON England events run at the NBC.
5. Additional costs of £550 for the Senior County teams due mainly to increased shuttle costs and the 1st team having two weekends away with a commensurate increase in accommodation costs. Note that a batch of 100 dozen shuttles were bought at the beginning of the season prior to a price hike by Yonex. It can be anticipated that shuttle cost will increase significantly next season. Against this the 1st team will only have one away match next season.
6. A saving of nearly £700 on County Vets. Shuttles actually cost less due, mainly, to overseeing shuttle usage. Match fees also increased as last season there were a number of away matches that were not played decreasing income. This season there were more matches played leading to more match fees being collected.
7. Tournament income increased by nearly £450.

Fiona Foy
Treasurer

Coaching Report

Several clubs have taken up the opportunity of the free coaching offer provided by Bucks CBA to BADMINTON England affiliated clubs. Clubs availing themselves of this came from Chiltern, Wycombe and Milton Keynes leagues.

It is understood that BADMINTON England is updating their Coaching Register. As the coaching contact for Bucks I have a list of coaches in the Bucks area and I am currently waiting for BADMINTON England to provide a list of coaches who have agreed to allow their contact information to be made generally available for inclusion on the badmintonbucks.co.uk website.

Tony Coyne
County Coaching Co-ordinator

County Captains Report

I undertook the County Captaincy role this year with much hope and enthusiasm. I had many ideas of how to push the County forward and build on our strong positions within the 4 divisions in which we compete in. The season started with a very strong and highly attended restricted tournament, where many new faces came to show their abilities, this in itself lifting the standard of many of the existing players. The sheer amount of quality players, competing for a spot in the highest team possible, made for a long and hard selection meeting. However, after much debate and deliberation, four very strong teams were selected, with a good list of reserves to call on if required.

Unfortunately, the season panned out far from how I and probably many others would have expected. Over the course of the season, the 2nds, 3rds and 4th teams all finished bottom of their respective divisions, the 1st team was the only team to keep a hold on their position, by finishing a solid 6th (of 10 teams) in the Premier B division.

For me, this has been the worst possible start as a County Captain, and I am very disappointed with the way things have turned out. There is no 'one reason' for these results in my opinion, but moreover a combination of factors, ranging from lack of availability, injuries, tournament/Vets/Juniors date clashes, and I'm afraid in some cases, just lack of commitment. From the word Go, the captains of the respective teams struggled to put out a consistent and competitive team each week, they were sometimes 3-4 players short a week before a match, which resulted in numerous phone calls down the team sheet to find a player to fill in. I feel this has really diluted the whole ethos of what representing your county is all about, and has done much harm to the image of County play within Bucks. Unfortunately, due to some of the reasons above, we had to make the decision not to enter a 4th team again for next season. This being the lowest of the County team suffered the most during the season, with the least amount of players to call upon in reserve.

Looking forward, I feel I have learned an awful lot about the role, and the County as a whole, and have some ideas on how to lift the profile of County play and put and place systems whereby players prove their commitment prior to the start of the season.

Now with the 2nd team dropping to the 2nd Division, and the 3rd team dropping to the 4th Division, I hope that Bucks can consolidate as a County and start the coming season, a stronger and more committed County. The fact that there will be no 4th team will also mean that there are less county team positions available, hopefully this will enthuse people to push hard for those final spots in the side.

Finally I would like to thank those who captained the 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams in what was a very difficult season for fielding teams. Without you the season wouldn't have worked at all!

Glenn McMenamin
Bucks County Badminton Captain

Bucks Schools Report

First of all I would like to thank all the committee, especially Robyn (our Treasurer) who despite jetting around the world has managed to produce a set of accounts that actually show we are in the black!.

Secondly to Don our valued Secretary who takes a great deal of the workload off me.

Thirdly to Rodger Coupar who retired at Easter after numerous years coaching for the County – Rodger first recognised for the talent of

Michelle Cheung
Munn Tzin Bong
Alyssa Lim
Lexi Gilders

Just to mention a few. He will be sorely missed.

All county teams from the U11's to U17's have performed well despite lack of girls/injuries/unavailability and praise must go to the Team Managers who are not always recognised for the time and effort they put in. We now have a large number of U11's which bears well for the future.

In the New Year we were privileged to have a Performance Centre (High Wycombe) up and running and George Bevan who is Head Coach is lucky to have such experienced coaches on hand.

And with the above came the question that was raised last year regarding the restructuring of County.

We have given this a lot of time and thought and had several meeting and have decided that for a 12 month trial we will offer county places without children having to commit to weekly training sessions.

Finally thanks to Ian Moody who has been very supportive when called upon.

Ruth Jefferies
Chairperson, Bucks Schools Badminton Association

Veterans Report

In the Inter County Championships, played over the 2nd weekend in January, Bucks entered teams in the Over 40's, 45's, 50's and 65's.

The Over 40's were playing in the Premier Division and faced some strong opposition finishing in 4th out of 6 teams, winning two matches and losing three. The Over 45's playing in Division 1B just missed out on

promotion to the Premier Division finishing 2nd to runaway winners Kent. The Over 50's were not so fortunate managing just one draw and finishing bottom and in Division 1A. The Over 65's lost only 1 game in Division 1 and came 2nd being piped at the post by the winners Wiltshire. This was especially noteworthy as there were 8 teams in this division. All in all a very creditable performance from Bucks. Congratulations to all who played.

In the Inter County League, played throughout the season, Bucks entered teams in all the age groups (over 40's, 45's, 50's, 55's, 60's and 65's) a feat only matched by 6 other counties.

The Over 40's had a very tough division playing Herts, Essex 1 and 2 and Middx. The team, however, excelled itself and finished 2nd in the Division. The Over 45's were the star performers for Bucks this year winning a division of 7 teams without losing a game. They unfortunately lost to a strong Derbyshire side in the play-offs to get into the national finals. The Over 50's had a disappointing season finishing 4th out of five, only winning two matches. The Over 55's achieved 2nd place in their division out of 4 teams taking part. The Over 65's finished up middle of their division, finishing 3rd out of five. In the Over 65's it was the same story finishing 2nd out of three teams. The disappointment for the Over 65's was only having four matches.

My thanks to all who played County Vets for Bucks this season and especial thanks to the team captains Steve Emptage (Over 40's), Sandra Alderton (Over 45's), Dave Bates (Over 50's), Jeff Brydon (Over 55's), Ian Moody (Over 60's) and Kate Griffiths (Over 65's).

A number of Bucks players took part in the All England Vets Tournament in April 2009. Of particular note was our Over 40's ladies pairing of Julia Strong and Lisa Holloway who narrowly lost out to a strong Danish pair in the finals having won through their group by beating the 2nd seeded Danish pair.

Finally, I am giving up running the Vets at the end of this year. I wish my successor all the very best for the future. May Bucks Vets go from strength to strength.

Mark Lawrence
County Vets Co-ordinator