### SUSSEX COUNTY BADMINTON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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# **Affiliation**: *Sara Foster writes:*

*No updates in this area*

**Chairman Report –** *Mark Russ writes*

There has been no badminton this year but plans are afoot to kick start the new season with some regional coaching days and to expand the 3 series to 4 series.

The 3 divisions of the county will be collaborating on kit in the future.

**Senior Team Report:** *Mark Russ/Dean George and writes:*

*With regards to senior team play there isn’t anything new to report.*

*We hoped that there would be appetite for a return to play for our senior players but after 4 weeks we have decided to suspend this until 7th September.*

**Competitions:** *Mark Russ writes:*

# *Sussex Restricted is planned for September 26/27th*

**The 3 Series:***Samantha Huggett writes:*

*Due to Covid, the 3 Series was cancelled for the 2020/2021 season. Plans have progressed with the option for a 4th leg in Crawley, but we still need someone to act as tournament secretary for the event. The proposed dates for the 2021/2022 season are: 17th October (Bognor), 5th December (Crawley), 6th February (Brighton), and 10th April (Eastbourne).*

**Sussex County Junior Badminton:***Neil Warwick writes:*

*With an emphasis from the Government on having smaller numbers working together, and social distance measures remaining, the junior committee took an early decision to temporarily revert from our “mixed cell” training to defined age group training for 2020-21, as this would make organising sessions from the start of the season a lot easier. Our annual trials event usually held before the start of the season was also put on hold, and the number of juniors selected for each training session was temporarily reduced from existing numbers to meet guidance. During the last year, training for our junior age groups has been extremely limited, with only a few weeks available between lockdowns. It is a credit not only to our coaches who managed the sessions, but also our juniors who participated in making the limited number of sessions as safe as possible during an exceedingly difficult period. During April this year, the Junior Committee took the decision to end our season early, with the availability and functionality of venues not allowing us to return to play with any continuity. With all Shires matches suspended and no tournaments taking place there is no information on team or individual successes. Finally, several of our U18s have now completed their time with us, and we wish them every success with their badminton in the future. Not the finish we would have wanted for them, but we hope they enjoyed their time playing for Sussex over the past few years and will continue their journey with Sussex County Seniors. Planning is now underway for 2021-22 when we hope to get back to some normality. A further meeting has also been organised to discuss ideas for 2022-23 and I hope to give further information on this later in the year*.

**The Masters:***Sara Foster (interim master’s Co-ordinator):*

*Practices & Trials June-September 2021*

*7 practice sessions have been booked at Portslade between 27th June and 15th September. 146 masters are on the membership list and 85 have accepted an invite to join the first session.*

*Masters County Challenge – January 2021*

*There was obviously no event in 2021 but we have been asked to submit teams for 2022 with a hope that the event will go ahead as planned next January.*

*County Matches & Tournaments 2020/21*

*Whilst no play occurred in 20/21 we are planning to field teams in all age groups from 38 to 70 in 21/22. The 40’s age group has been changed (as a result of a vote amongst counties in 2020) and is now open to players aged 38+*

*We have provisional bookings for courts for our home matches at Horsham.*

*Sussex players in master’s National Champs successes – 20/21  
No news*

*Masters Coordinator role*

*We have still yet to recruit a master’s co-ordinator. Sara F and Anna P have organised the summer training, but neither are available to take on the role properly.*

*Courts for matches have been booked and we have two possible solutions to get fixtures organised when the time happens. It will then pass to the captains to manage teams through the season with a view to getting this post filled in Summer 22.*

*We also have no 38’s captain but we are hoping that some networking at the first practice may unearth someone to take on this role.*

*Captain Call*

*We held a captains call on 28th May and went through the ‘vision’ for Sussex masters. Going forward we agreed that we’d like Sussex Masters to be about competitive play more than just participation without losing the spirit of master’s badminton. Guidance was discussed (and minuted for those who could not attend) as to how this could be achieved.*

**Development:***Julia Alkema writes*

*There is not really a lot to report from last year, things that were in the pipeline will be ad-dressed going forwards. We finally got a new BE relationship manager to replace Tanya (Cameron) at the beginning of the 1st lockdown which was unfortunate timing. Sadly, he was made redundant recently and we now have another one Aleisha Challands who oversees an enormous geographical area including Sussex.*

***Plans Going Forward.***

***3/4 Series:***

*Following up on our idea to add a Crawley leg to the current 3 Series Tournament. The Chairman of Crawley league (David Eaves) thinks it is a very good idea and will be a welcome addition, but he won’t commit to running it himself as he already has too many badminton commitments. He was also very unsure if he would have time to contact his clubs to ask if anyone would like to run it, he said he currently has very limited contact with them. After discussing this with the committee it was decided that we should go ahead and book courts with a view to finding someone nearer the time. Hopefully Sam (Huggett ) will be able to book courts at a suitable time to fit in with the other 3 events. I will follow up with David when their league gets going and hopefully at the time, he will have more communication with the Crawley clubs.*

***Lancing Manor:***

*We are hoping to develop a new club at Lancing Manor under its new ownership (South-downs Leisure). We are working in conjunction with Shuttlers Academy and the new BE relationship manager Aleisha Challands. Unfortunately she is in charge of a huge geo-graphical area and it is proving difficult to get things moving. It has taken considerable time to get a line of communication with LM but I am meeting with them on Monday and feeling positive about the outcome. Shutters Academy will be bringing 2 new coaches onboard for this project, 1 of whom hasn’t passed her L2 yet as her assessment was cancelled during the 1st lockdown. I am going to do her assessment 1 to 1 when she is ready so we can increase our workforce accordingly. David will mentor the coaches in the hope that we can develop a cohesive, consistent coaching team using up to date methods of coaching both juniors and adults.*

***Foundation Award and Level 2 Coaching Award News:***

*BE have replaced the old L1 Award with a Foundation Award, we have only run 1 in Sus-sex so far, just before lockdown 1. There is no assessment therefore it is now much easier to become an assistant coach, essentially everyone who attends passes. Having seen the vastly different standard of candidates on that course I can only assume that BE will have to address this soon. We had some great candidates from Sussex who will hopefully be interested in progressing onto L2 if they haven’t gone off to Uni as it has been quite a long time.BE would like to hold annual coaching courses in Sussex (Foundation and L2) but there are no firm dates as yet. I have requested that we do a Foundation Award in July as we have several candidates wanting to do it. David has got 6 names and possibly a few more from the Uni of Sussex. I have also asked if we can do the L2 in February after university exams as this would be most convenient for any students who have completed L1 or the Foundation Award. No reply from Aleisha as yet.*

***Club Coaching Days:***

*Chris Evans at BE asked if we would consider doing some coaching days for the league clubs over the Summer to get their interest up ready for the leagues restarting. The committee have discussed this at length as you all know and I’m pleased to be able to report back to Chris that we have 2 in place and 2 more pending. Hopefully we will have a few more positive things to report this time next year*

**Financial:***Philip Huggett writes:*

*The financial report for the year season 2020/21 will be shared at the AGM*

**Other Matters**:

**The Management Group** *Sara Foster writes*

*The group have managed to meet 4 times via Zoom with a view to kick starting badminton in Sussex in September 2021.*

*Presentation of awards for debuts and significant county appearances that weren’t presented because of Covid lockdown will be presented at the Restricted weekend in September.*