



Cheshire County Badminton Association

Cheshire Chat – AGM Edition 2022

AGM 2022 Edition

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Notice is hereby given that the 64th Annual General Meeting of the Cheshire County Badminton Association will be held in the Function Suite at the Hinderton Arms Hotel, Chester High Road, Neston, Wirral, CH64 7TA on Wednesday 8th June 2022 commencing at 7.15 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1. President's Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Record of the Annual General Meeting – June 2020**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. To receive and adopt the Secretary's Report for the 2021/2022 season**
- 6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2022 and to agree the affiliation fee for 2022/2023**
- 7. To receive and adopt the Match Secretary's Report for the 2021/2022 season**
- 8. To receive and adopt the Tournament Secretary Report for the 2021/2022 season**
- 9. To receive and adopt the Masters' Secretary's Report for the 2021/2022 season**
- 10. Affiliation Fees**
CCBA
Badminton England.
- 11. To confirm appointment of Cheshire Delegates on Badminton England Council**

Representative	Brenda Andrew
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- 12. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Independent Examiner	Jill Jackson
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13. Election of Officers and Members of Council

The following have been proposed and seconded:

Chairman	Karl Bergh
Secretary	Doreen Francey
Treasurer	Karl Bergh
Registration Secretary	Vacancy
Match Secretary	Vacancy
Tournament Co-ordinator	Alan Nottingham
Masters' Secretary	Derek Neary
Website Manager	Kay Vickers
Child Welfare Officer	Emma Hilton
Chair of Selectors	Richard Morrissey

14. Election of President and Vice Presidents

The following have been proposed and seconded:

President	Mr Roger Ewing
Vice Presidents	Mrs B Andrew, J Berry, Mrs J Houston, P Mascarenhas, D Potter, R Westmorland and Mrs B Hickson.

15. Presentation of Awards

Marjorie Bryce-Smith Trophy

Arthur Evans Memorial Trophy

Record of the 62nd Annual General Meeting of Cheshire County Badminton Association which was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 10th June 2020 but, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, was held in the form of an e-mail circulation.

1. President's Welcome

Everyone was welcomed to the 62nd Annual General Meeting.

Mr Ewing congratulated everyone involved in producing the reports.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence - Not applicable.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019

The AGM minutes for 2019 had been circulated and it was proposed, seconded and agreed, that they be signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. To receive and adopt the Secretary's Report for the 2019/2020 season

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the report be adopted.

6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2020 and to agree the affiliation fee for 2020/2021

The Treasurer had circulated copies of the Accounts.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Accounts be adopted.

Mr Bergh said that if anyone had any questions to please e-mail him and he would get back to them.

7. To receive and adopt the Match Secretary's Report for the 2019/2020 season

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that the report be adopted.

8. To receive and adopt the Tournament Secretary's Report for the 2019/2020 season

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the report be adopted.

9. To receive and adopt the Master's Secretary's Report for the 2019/2020 season

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that the report be adopted.

10. County Affiliation Fees

It was proposed by the Treasurer that the County affiliation fees should remain at £4.25 for Adults and £1.30 for Juniors. These fees were approved.

As regards Badminton England affiliation fees, clubs should have received this information from Badminton England and it was also on the BE website.

11. To confirm appointment of Cheshire Delegates on Badminton England Council

The appointments of Mr Roger Ewing as Representative and Mrs Brenda Andrew as Alternate were confirmed.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that Mrs Jill Jackson be asked to act as the County's Independent Examiner and Mr Bergh undertook to contact her. It was suggested that Mrs Jackson should receive some recognition for the work she did on behalf of the County.

13. Election of Officers and Council Members

The following individuals had been nominated by Council and were willing to stand. However, there was a vacancy for Match Secretary and Mr Bergh had indicated that he would be very pleased if anyone present could recommend someone to fill that vacancy. In the meantime, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the officers listed be re-elected en bloc.

Chairman	Mr Karl Bergh
Secretary	Mrs Doreen Francey
Treasurer	Mr Karl Bergh
Registration Secretary	Vacancy
Tournament Co-ordinator	Mr Alan Nottingham
Masters Secretary	Mr Derek Neary
Match Secretary	Vacancy
Website Manager	Kay Vickers
Child Welfare Officer	Carl McGregor-Ogden
Chair of Selectors	Mr Richard Morrissey

14. Election of President and Vice Presidents

Mr Bergh proposed that Mr Ewing should continue as our President and this was agreed.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that the Vice-Presidents should be re-elected en bloc as follows:- Mrs B Andrew, J Berry, D Bennion, Mrs J Evans, C Garrett, Mrs J Houston, P Mascarenhas, D Potter, P Richardson, R Westmorland, D Spencer, G Williams and Mrs B Hickson

15. Presentation of Awards

Arthur Evans Memorial Trophy – Alan Nottingham

Marjorie Bryce Smith Trophy – Emma Hilton

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2021/22 SEASON

Well, what a two years it has been as we have gone through the Coronavirus pandemic! The world now seems to be getting back to some sort of normality and hopefully the Cheshire badminton fraternity is no different. Some of our leagues have managed to get back to competitive play and it is a credit to their league officials that they have managed to achieve this.

Sadly, over the last two years CCBA has lost a number of our key volunteers - David Spencer, Mrs Jean Evans, Don Bennion, Chris Garrett, Peter Richardson, Jeremy Pearson, Andy Hill – and we thank them for the contribution they made. We will certainly miss them, and our thoughts are with their families as they continue to come to terms with their loss.

As is the usual situation, most of the County's activities are covered comprehensively by other officers on Council so there is not a lot left for me to report.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold CCBA meetings for a few years but this year we have managed a couple of meetings, albeit with low attendance.

Once again Derek Neary has been working hard co-ordinating the Masters group. We thank Derek most sincerely for all his efforts on behalf of the County.

We must express our appreciation to Kay Vickers for all the work she does in maintaining our website. This is an important tool and vitally important in sharing badminton news.

The League Representatives play an important part in the County's affairs and again thanks must go to that group of people for their contribution to the meetings which is very much appreciated.

We were impressed when Jonathan Harrison, our new BE representative, attended our last but one CCBA meeting. Unfortunately, however, Jonathan has now moved on to pastures new so we are waiting to be advised who our BE representative will be. It is a great shame as Jonathan showed real enthusiasm and would have proved a real asset.

Obviously, the wonderful game of badminton is key for all of us. The County teams have had mixed results but the fact that our teams have been able to play at all is an achievement in itself, so well done to all!

We are very pleased to welcome Emma Hilton as our Child Welfare Officer. I am sure she will do a great job.

As was stated from the floor at the last CCBA meeting, the County owes a great deal of gratitude to Karl Bergh for all the work he performs as Chairman and Treasurer and in other areas. Without Karl the County would have serious problems. Thank you, Karl, for your continued dedication and enthusiasm.

Last but not least, I would, on behalf of the County, like to thank our President, Roger Ewing, for his contribution to the County's affairs. He always has a very sensible approach to all problems.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer and we look forward to the resumption of badminton as we know it next season!

Doreen Francey
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT FOR SEASON 2021/22

It has been a rather unpredictable season, both on and off court, as we have gradually seen badminton return to clubs, Leagues, and the tentative resumption of county competitions.

All clubs have struggled not only with membership levels and rising costs but also the availability of venues, particularly schools as their covid protocols contributed to a delayed return to accepting external bookings from sports clubs and in particular, badminton bookings.

At County level, our three senior teams have been back in action, but our master's group have slowly returned to competitive play but not without a number of cancellations, especially as the omicron surge took effect at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022.

These effects have been documented in the various Officers reports, but they have also affected our finances.

In general terms, our cash flow has remained positive, and we have returned a small surplus of £357.32. As in every year, there are a number of varying factors that have brought us to this position, some predicted and some not, so I will do my best to outline these for you.

Income

The Membership levels and therefore our county fees are our biggest concern at this point, as this season has seen our income drop from pre-covid levels of £4,668.00 to £2,572.53. We understand that many clubs have made a stuttering return to play and there are many cases of clubs not restarting, folding, or shrinking as fewer players have returned to the courts. Not surprisingly, a few clubs took the individual decision not to re-affiliate, the combined effect of which has seen our income from County fees reduce by approximately 45%.

This is both a worrying and unpredictable trend and at this stage it is uncertain as to where our membership income will be next year and in the coming years ahead.

Tournament income, as has always been the case, is once again a major and crucial contributor to our finances. This season we have run and hosted two BE circuit tournaments, both of which has seen increased entry levels and produced a record surplus of £1,976.56. We say each year that these tournaments are difficult to predict their viability but if this year is anything to go by, the two tournaments are very much on the players calendar and all the feedback is that they enjoy them and look to play whenever they can. The success of these tournaments goes down particularly to how well they are run and administered. Huge thanks must go to Alan Nottingham our Tournament Referee and Jan Bergh our Tournament Secretary, both of whom work extremely hard to prepare for and deliver these tournaments and we are indebted to their dedication and professionalism.

Our Tournament Referee Alan Nottingham also officiates at National Junior tournaments and has redirected his fee from BE to the County and this was £400.00 that we did not expect. Again, a heartfelt thank you goes to Alan for his generosity and support.

Bank interest was rather disappointing but expected. However, it was bolstered by a £15.00 compensation fee from Lloyds Bank for wrongly accepting a utilities direct debit on our account!

Shuttle sales through the County Shuttle Scheme was understandably down, a trend that follows the delayed return to badminton. If more clubs were to consider our shuttle scheme with Yehlex UK we would hope to be able to provide a good service at very competitive prices, as we have an excellent relationship with Yehlex. A big thank you once again to Helen Williams for holding stocks and supplying various clubs in the Chester area.

It is fair to say that without the income that our tournaments provide, we would not be able to support our activities, especially in the light of the reduction in membership and County fees.

Expenditure

Generally, expenditure in the period has seen an overall reduction but that is mainly due to cancellations from the Masters Group.

Meeting expenses are down as we have only just returned to face-to-face meetings.

There was no expenditure for Coaching & Development this year, so consequently we have £1,086.00 carried forward into a fund for future expenditure.

The cost of the Senior County Squad was higher than in previous seasons, mainly due to an increase in BE entry costs and the cost of hotels for the 2nd & 3rd teams who were playing in York this season. If anybody has ever tried to find a hotel in York, they will realise that there is a premium to be paid for what is a very popular tourist location. When budgeting we never actually know where our teams will play their matches and estimating costs can be a little difficult.

The overall cost of the Masters Squad is considerably different to what can be called a 'normal' year. Traditionally it costs us in the region of £1600.00 to fund this group but match cancellations, often home matches as the opposition have not travelled, plus the cancellation of the annual County Challenge event in January, has meant that we covered our costs and returned a £59.15 surplus.

We were not in a position to field a team in the National 17-21 competition this season and with inter-league events not yet resuming, we have saved £850.00 against the budget.

Summary

The overall result is a surplus to be carried forward of £357.32

The budget for next season is as difficult as ever to predict with any real certainty but it is based on a 'normal' playing season or what we remember as being normal. We are anticipating a break-even situation, but I always hope that with careful management of our finances we can find ways to mitigate and improve upon the predicted outcome.

Recommendation

Given the uncertain finances of our clubs and the general reduction in county members, we do feel that we need to support our clubs wherever we can and with that in mind, I would recommend that we don't increase our fees next season and that they remain at the pre-pandemic levels of £4.25 for an Adult Play Member and £1.30 for a Junior Play Member.

Karl Bergh
County Treasurer

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT FOR SEASON 2021/22

As the season slowly started again and play resumed across the Country a debate took place as to whether the suspended playing season 2019/2020 should be concluded or to let it remain unfinished. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the availability of players, together with the pressure on suitable venues and the calendar, it was felt that the fairest thing would be to draw a line under that season and start afresh.

Given that we were still not fully back to normal play and with the emergence of the omicron strain of covid 19, the decision was made to condense the season into a three month period with county weekends scheduled for January, February and March 2022. This would obviously provide a challenge for Selectors up and down the Country but overwhelmingly we were all looking forward to get back to normal as soon as possible.

We also had another factor to consider in that our 2nd and 3rd teams were competing in the same division and to put three times out, together with a smattering of our most experienced players missing due to International tournament commitments, we knew at the outset that we would face a challenging campaign.

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: January 2022**Match overview of Premiership**

Time	Home - Away	Score	Court
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	Middlesex - Sussex	11-0	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	Buckinghamshire - Hertfordshire	6-5	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	Cheshire - Leicestershire	2-9	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	Hampshire - Surrey	4-7	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	Cheshire - Hertfordshire	4-7	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	Hampshire - Middlesex	5-6	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	Buckinghamshire - Leicestershire	4-7	NBC
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	Surrey - Sussex	10-1	NBC
Sun 16/01/2022 10:00	Hertfordshire - Surrey	7-4	NBC
Sun 16/01/2022 10:00	Leicestershire - Middlesex	3-8	NBC
Sun 16/01/2022 10:00	Cheshire - Hampshire	2-9	NBC

Cheshire 1st County Weekend Round up 2022

It has been a while since we have graced the courts of the NBC with our inimitable skill and ubiquitous charm, but the weekend of the 15/16th Jan saw a return to county badminton for the Cheshire 1sts in the Premiership. The line-up of those pulling on the red shirts was:

Claire Weaver
 Rachel Vickers
 Sophie Taylor
 Liv Frankland (Debut!)
 Cholan Kayan (Debut and last-minute super-sub after a positive covid test from Adam on Saturday morning)
 Sid Palakkal
 Jack Taylor
 Rich Morrissey
 Mike Roe

Our team stretched from those who have been training hard and fine tuning their abilities over the covid years to those (namely myself) who have gone through an intensive regime of flubbification. Anyway, on to the action...

First up was Leicestershire and a tricky tie in that we had strengths in the same places that they did. With some nailbitingly close games in the men's singles, we came out of the first group of games 4-1 down, with a fantastic singles performance from Rich Morrissey. The doubles proved to be just as tough, with only one of the remaining 6 games tipping in our favour – despite some great efforts.

Final score: Cheshire 2 – Leicestershire 9

Next up was a tie against Hertfordshire, or as they are known by their unofficial name 'Olympic and Commonwealth players through the ages'. A strong set of men's singles performance saw us 3-2 up after the first 5 games. Unfortunately, the momentum just couldn't carry on, with us again winning only one more of the remaining games (great effort at 2nd men's doubles).

Final score: Cheshire 4 – Hertfordshire 7

After the traditional Harvester dinner and Holiday Inn Express breakfast, headed to the hall for our final match of the weekend against a strong Hampshire side. A really strong start to the singles saw Cholan and Sid win their matches at first and second respectively. Again, as seemed to be the theme throughout the weekend, our joy ran out there... Despite 3 of the remaining games going close in three sets, we couldn't quite convert another rubber.

Final score: Cheshire 2 – Hampshire 9

So all in all, not the best start to the season but also not the worst. With the logistical difficulties and the ever-irritating presence of a global pandemic, who knows what will happen with the remaining fixtures! For my part, I make a solemn vow as captain to get into better shape before the next weekend...

Adios,

Mike Roe

Joint 1st Team Captain

And so, into our second county weekend without a win under our belt.

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: February 2022

Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	Hampshire - Leicestershire	6-5	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	Buckinghamshire - Sussex	8-3	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	Leinster - Middlesex	2-9	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 11:35	Cheshire - Surrey	4-7	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 11:35	Avon - Hertfordshire	8-3	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 15:40	Buckinghamshire - Middlesex	9-2	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 15:40	Hertfordshire - Sussex	6-5	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 15:40	Hampshire - Leinster	11-0	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 16:15	Avon - Cheshire	3-8	NBC
Sat 12/02/2022 16:15	Leicestershire - Surrey	3-8	NBC
Sun 13/02/2022 10:00	Leicestershire - Leinster	9-2	NBC
Sun 13/02/2022 10:00	Buckinghamshire - Surrey	7-4	NBC
Sun 13/02/2022 10:00	Cheshire - Middlesex	3-8	NBC
Sun 13/02/2022 10:35	Avon - Sussex	7-4	NBC
Sun 13/02/2022 10:35	Hampshire - Hertfordshire	7-4	NBC

A tough weekend in which we sustained two losses but a very important win against Avon which may prove crucial as we went into the final weekend in a very precarious position.

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: March 2022

Latest matches of Premiership

Time	Home - Away	Score	Court
Sat 26/03/2022 16:15	Hertfordshire - Leicestershire	6-5	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	Avon - Surrey	6-5	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	Hampshire - Sussex	7-4	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	Cheshire - Leinster	8-3	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 10:35	Hertfordshire - Middlesex	1-10	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 14:40	Avon - Leicestershire	9-2	NBC
Sun 27/03/2022 14:40	Leinster - Sussex	3-8	NBC
Sat 23/04/2022 10:30	Avon - Leinster	11-0	NBC
Sat 23/04/2022 13:30	Avon - Buckinghamshire	3-8	NBC
Sat 23/04/2022 16:30	Buckinghamshire - Leinster	11-0	NBC

1st Team Match Report – Final Weekend

This was it, our last stand - we had once again found ourselves in a relegation battle (personally I am convinced it's because we enjoy the drama of it), but unlike in previous years, it was more of a nail-trimming event rather than full on biting...

After a pretty ropery first weekend, we had managed to pull in some good results in February so that we were more danger adjacent than full bathing in fire; we were fairly confident that Leinster were heading down, which just made it a two-horse race between ourselves and Sussex - with us being a slightly better position heading into the weekend.

Our match schedule was Bucks (who are in title contention), Sussex and Leinster. So as long as we could repeat our form of the second weekend, we could secure ourselves in 8th.

Our team for the weekend was:

Rach Vickers
 Claire Weaver
 Sophie Taylor
 Steph Rowarth
 Matt Nottingham (Sat only)
 Dan Font
 Mike Roe
 Cholan Kayan
 Sid Palakkal
 Jack Taylor

1st up: Bucks

As is now becoming a (very pleasant) norm, we started our fixture coming out really strong, taking all three men's singles in solid, no-fuss displays. Our women showed great fighting spirit in their matches but were unable to convert, making it 3-2 Cheshire after the singles.

Men's doubles next and after a rusty performance at top (and by rusty, I mean *bad word* awful) from yours truly it was 3-3. Our second men's pair however went out all guns blazing and fired through their match in two sets; 4-3 Cheshire. Things were going to plan so far...

Women's doubles had the same split, with our top pair losing out but in what was arguably the best result of the weekend - Steph and Sophie managed to pull off a 3-set-19-in-the-third-me-pulling-out-hair victory to put us 5-4 up heading into the mixed.

It was always going to be a tough ask to take those matches, with some very strong players (who have the audacity to still be training full time) and despite solid efforts (including a 25-23 loss) we weren't able to nab another game and take the win overall. That being said, 6-5 loss against the potential title winners is nothing to sniff at!

Match 2 against Sussex and a chance to really put ourselves into a safe position...

Things kicked off in style again going 3-0 up after the men's singles. Form continued with Claire stepping back onto the singles court and grinding out a victory at 1st: 4-0 Cheshire. Steph took to the court at second against a strong girl (who really should have probably played at top) and took the first set but unfortunately had to pull out at the end of the second set due to feeling unwell - still a great effort and we were 4-1 up heading into the doubles.

Our men stormed through their matches winning comfortably in two (which was nice for me as I was doubting my ability to actually hold a racket the right way round at this point...) - Cheshire had got the 6 matches so the win was ours! Now to double down and secure some more all-important points.

Unfortunately, our women couldn't quite convert their matches (despite both games going to setting) which meant 6-3 into the mixed. Dominant displays again meant that we finished the match 8-3 winners - happy captain.

This meant that we were to all intents and purposes safe from relegation - but to make 100% sure, we needed at least 4 matches against Leinster to make us beyond reach.

Final match of the season – Leinster...

Again, our men's singles got us off to a flying start (despite me having to lend Sid shoes as his broke...) and we were 3-0 up. Tough asks again for our women and despite Steph pinching a set at second singles, couldn't quite get the match and we were 3-2 up.

Men's doubles went in and split - myself and Dan taking top doubles (after another ropey first set before I remembered what timing was) took our game in 3 sets. 4-2 meaning we were completely safe, but time to finish in style. 2nd men's had a great game with some amazing retrievals and really gruelling rallies, but were edged out 18 in the third. Overall, 4-3 Cheshire.

From then, it was all things to us. In a fantastic end to the season, we clean-swept the women's doubles and the mixed to come away with an 8-3 win and an overall 44 points for the year.

We live to fight another season...

Mike Roe,
Joint 1st Team Captain

Premiership

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	Buckinghamshire	65	9	8	0	1	65 - 34	140 - 83	4169 - 3753
2	Surrey	63	9	6	0	3	63 - 36	143 - 84	4320 - 3841
3	Middlesex	63	9	6	0	3	63 - 36	137 - 90	4267 - 3738
4	Hampshire	62	9	6	0	3	62 - 37	131 - 92	4162 - 3877
5	Avon	56	9	6	0	3	56 - 43	121 - 103	4121 - 3914
6	Leicestershire	52	9	4	0	5	52 - 47	110 - 105	3893 - 3855
7	Hertfordshire	47	9	5	0	4	47 - 52	110 - 110	3947 - 3892
8	Cheshire	44	9	3	0	6	44 - 55	104 - 118	3945 - 4094
9	Sussex	30	9	1	0	8	30 - 69	69 - 147	3419 - 4146
10	Leinster	13	9	0	0	9	13 - 86	40 - 173	3080 - 4213

Premiership ★

General Draw Matches Statistics Player statistics

Premiership

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Avon		3-8 Lost	3-8 Lost	3-8 Lost	8-3 Won	9-2 Won	11-0 Won	6-5 Won	6-5 Won	7-4 Won
2	Buckinghamshire	8-3 Won		6-5 Won	6-5 Won	6-5 Won	4-7 Lost	11-0 Won	9-2 Won	7-4 Won	8-3 Won
3	Cheshire	8-3 Won	5-6 Lost		2-9 Lost	4-7 Lost	2-9 Lost	8-3 Won	3-8 Lost	4-7 Lost	8-3 Won
4	Hampshire	8-3 Won	5-6 Lost	9-2 Won		7-4 Won	6-5 Won	11-0 Won	5-6 Lost	4-7 Lost	7-4 Won
5	Hertfordshire	3-8 Lost	5-6 Lost	7-4 Won	4-7 Lost		6-5 Won	8-3 Won	1-10 Lost	7-4 Won	6-5 Won
6	Leicestershire	2-9 Lost	7-4 Won	9-2 Won	5-6 Lost	5-6 Lost		9-2 Won	3-8 Lost	3-8 Lost	9-2 Won
7	Leinster	0-11 Lost	0-11 Lost	3-8 Lost	0-11 Lost	3-8 Lost	2-9 Lost		2-9 Lost	0-11 Lost	3-8 Lost
8	Middlesex	5-6 Lost	2-9 Lost	8-3 Won	6-5 Won	10-1 Won	8-3 Won	9-2 Won		4-7 Lost	11-0 Won
9	Surrey	5-6 Lost	4-7 Lost	7-4 Won	7-4 Won	4-7 Lost	8-3 Won	11-0 Won	7-4 Won		10-1 Won
10	Sussex	4-7 Lost	3-8 Lost	3-8 Lost	4-7 Lost	5-6 Lost	2-9 Lost	8-3 Won	0-11 Lost	1-10 Lost	

Team: Cheshire (Cheshire) ★

General Events Matches Standings Players Statistics

Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Cholan Kayan	11	16	27 - 11	779 - 649
2	Jack Taylor	10	16	25 - 14	788 - 711
3	Sid Palakkal	6	10	14 - 8	411 - 369
4	Mike Roe	6	16	13 - 22	635 - 659
5	Daniel Font	5	6	10 - 3	259 - 179
6	Jenny Moore	5	6	11 - 4	300 - 238
7	Claire Weaver	5	18	14 - 27	733 - 791
8	Stephanie Rowarth	4	12	10 - 17	449 - 557
9	Sophie Taylor	4	18	9 - 30	541 - 793
10	Greg Mairs	3	6	7 - 6	245 - 222
11	Rachel Vickers	3	12	7 - 18	434 - 472
12	Matt Nottingham	2	4	4 - 4	139 - 129
13	Richard Morrissey	1	7	3 - 13	279 - 342
14	Dominic Ashton	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
15	Angel Chow	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
16	Adam Dolman	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
17	Sammy Hutt	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
18	Olivia Frankland	0	6	0 - 12	132 - 252

The 21/22 season saw Cheshire 2nd team and Cheshire 3rd team competing in the same division and at the Railway Institute, York. This followed the 3rd team's promotion, pre-pandemic, to the lofty heights of the 2nd Division North.

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd & 3rd Teams: January 2022

Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	1	4	Cheshire 2 - Cheshire 3	6-5	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	5	17	Lancashire 2 - Lancashire 3	10-1	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	5	19	Yorkshire 4 - Yorkshire 5	7-4	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 11:00	7	25	Durham - Cumbria	10-1	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	3	9	Cheshire 2 - Durham	6-5	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	7	26	Lancashire 2 - Yorkshire 4	7-4	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	2	8	Cumbria - Cheshire 3	5-6	York RI	✓
Sat 15/01/2022 15:40	3	11	Lancashire 3 - Yorkshire 5	5-6	York RI	✓

The first weekend saw the two Cheshire teams play each other, with the 2nd team coming out on top with a very spirited performance by 3rd team, only losing 6-5. Both teams went on to win their next matches by similar tight margins.

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd & 3rd Teams: February 2022

Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	4	13	Lancashire 2 - Durham	8-3	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	7	27	Cheshire 2 - Yorkshire 5	6-5	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	7	28	Lancashire 3 - Cheshire 3	7-4	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 11:00	3	10	Cumbria - Yorkshire 4	2-9	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 15:30	1	1	Lancashire 3 - Cumbria	8-3	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 15:30	2	7	Durham - Yorkshire 5	8-3	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 15:30	4	16	Yorkshire 4 - Cheshire 3	10-1	York RI	✓
Sat 12/02/2022 15:30	2	5	Cheshire 2 - Lancashire 2	2-9	York RI	✓

The 2nd team continued to perform well with a win and a loss.

The match score-lines for the 3rd team didn't tell the whole story, as the 10-1 loss against Yorkshire 4 included a 24-22, 21-19 loss and 4 other games going to 3 sets.

Heading into the final weekend, the 2nd team had promotion in their sights while the 3rds had battled valiantly, but were fighting to avoid relegation.

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd & 3rd Teams: March 2022

Latest matches of Division 2 - Division 2 - North

Time	Round	Stage	No	Home - Away	Score	Location	Status
Sat 26/03/2022 11:00	4	14		Cheshire 2 - Lancashire 3	7-4	York RI	
Sat 26/03/2022 11:00	1	2		Durham - Yorkshire 4	3-8	York RI	✓
Sat 26/03/2022 15:40	5	18		Cheshire 2 - Cumbria	8-3	York RI	✓
Sat 26/03/2022 15:40	1	3		Lancashire 2 - Yorkshire 5	7-4	York RI	✓
Sat 26/03/2022 15:40	5	20		Durham - Cheshire 3	7-4	York RI	
Sat 26/03/2022 15:40	2	6		Lancashire 3 - Yorkshire 4	6-5	York RI	✓
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	6	22		Lancashire 2 - Cumbria	8-3	York RI	✓
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	6	24		Yorkshire 5 - Cheshire 3	9-2	York RI	✓
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	6	21		Durham - Lancashire 3	4-7	York RI	✓
Sun 27/03/2022 10:00	6	23		Cheshire 2 - Yorkshire 4	6-5	York RI	

The 2nd team went into the final weekend in a comfortable position and with a possibility of promotion, but despite securing 3 wins, other results meant that they just missed out on promotion. The 3rd team were unfortunately weakened by injury and unavailability and finished in 7th position, meaning that they were sadly relegated.

Final Placing

Division 2 - Division 2 - North

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Lancashire 2	58	7	7	0	0	58 - 19	124 - 55	3489 - 2914
2 Yorkshire 4	48	7	4	0	3	48 - 29	107 - 77	3466 - 3120
3 Cheshire 2	41	7	6	0	1	41 - 36	96 - 81	3298 - 3199
4 Durham	40	7	3	0	4	40 - 37	98 - 92	3485 - 3398
5 Lancashire 3	38	7	4	0	3	38 - 39	89 - 86	3140 - 3088
6 Yorkshire 5	36	7	2	0	5	36 - 41	84 - 98	3207 - 3396
7 Cheshire 3	24	7	1	0	6	24 - 53	60 - 118	2878 - 3462
8 Cumbria	23	7	1	0	6	23 - 54	65 - 116	3063 - 3449

Players representing Cheshire 2nd Team

Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Ryan Evans	9	13	19 - 8	523 - 469
2	Michael Simmons	9	14	19 - 13	594 - 550
3	Owen Edwards	7	11	15 - 9	464 - 416
4	Olivia Frankland	6	10	15 - 12	509 - 517
5	Jonathan Savory	6	13	17 - 15	614 - 598
6	Charlotte Forbes	5	6	11 - 3	270 - 234
7	Richard Morrissey	5	9	12 - 9	395 - 385
8	Stephanie Rowarth	4	4	8 - 1	193 - 146
9	Rachel Green	4	12	9 - 18	461 - 512
10	Meghan Simpson	3	4	6 - 3	172 - 159
11	Ruth Flatman	2	10	9 - 17	454 - 499
12	Linh Ly	1	4	4 - 7	198 - 226
13	Katelyn Harrington	1	6	4 - 10	226 - 278
14	Harry Liver	0	3	2 - 6	152 - 158

Players representing Cheshire 3rd Team

Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Alistair Hawgood	6	13	15 - 17	528 - 603
2	Harry Liver	5	10	11 - 12	413 - 426
3	Jack Raiswell	5	14	13 - 19	590 - 599
4	Kristian Wood	4	7	9 - 8	312 - 308
5	Kay Vickers	4	8	9 - 10	346 - 366
6	Ruth Flatman	3	4	6 - 3	180 - 159
7	LIZ MacTAGGART	2	4	6 - 6	219 - 221
8	Linh Ly	2	5	4 - 7	188 - 208
9	Alicia Adams	2	5	4 - 7	171 - 216
10	Ben Woodward	2	14	8 - 26	499 - 676
11	Oliver Harrington	1	3	2 - 4	105 - 123
12	Ashleigh Mok	1	4	3 - 7	181 - 203
13	Katelyn Harrington	1	4	2 - 7	122 - 181
14	Ceri Evans	1	9	4 - 16	256 - 401
15	Meghan Simpson	1	9	2 - 17	241 - 389
16	Unknown female player	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
17	Mark Humphreys	0	2	0 - 4	44 - 84
18	Natalie Mok	0	4	1 - 8	135 - 186

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2021/22

We were all looking forward to being able to run our events in as near to normal conditions as possible and with as little interference from Covid as possible. We were not to be disappointed.

The tournaments were run at Ellesmere Port Sports Village and the levels of entry for both the Senior Bronze in December 2021 and the Senior Silver in January 2022 were very high thus enabling us to run two very competitive events.

Senior Bronze – entry of 110 players.

MS This was a good event for Cheshire players. The seeds had a largely untroubled run to the semi-finals where, as the draw would have it, the Cheshire players Richard Morrissey and Owen Edwards were in opposite halves with the Lancashire players Jake Evans (2) and Syed Masood (1) in opposition. Both won their matches with Owen having the trickier match against Syed but coming through in 3 sets and Richard winning in 2 sets. The final was well contested with Richard coming out on top in 2 close sets.

WS There were only 5 players in this event, two of those withdrawing during play, and Charlotte Forbes was the winner of the group.

MD 6 out of 8 seeds made it to the quarter finals and all the games were well contested 3 set matches. The only unseeded pair of Mike Johnston and Joseph McCabe made it to the final where they lost to number 5 seeds Ryan Evans and Jamie Noble.

WD Both pairs in the final of this event were unseeded and it was a very hotly contested 3 set match. Olivia Frankland and Pei Yee Leong eventually lost out to Vivien Cheng and Ashleigh Quek after taking the first set.

XD Unseeded pairing Ryan Evans (Ches) and Millie Hyde (Lancs) had a good run through to the semi finals as did Zac Pallier and Olivia Frankland who beat the number 1 seeds before losing a cracking final match to Cici Lu and Thomas Long 21-18 in the 3rd set.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Richard Morrissey (Cheshire)	Owen Edwards (Cheshire)
Ladies Singles	Charlotte Forbes (Cheshire)	Vivien Cheng (Lancashire)
Men's Doubles	Ryan Evans (Cheshire)	Mike Johnston (Lancashire)
	Jamie Noble (Wales)	Joseph McCabe (Avon)
Ladies Doubles	Vivien Cheng (Lancashire)	Olivia Frankland (Cheshire)
	Ashleigh Quek (Lancashire)	Pei Yee Leong (Lancashire)
Mixed Doubles	Thomas Long (Kent)	Zac Pallier (Essex)
	Cici Lu (Yorkshire)	Olivia Frankland (Cheshire)

Senior Silver- entry of 113 players and well supported by Cheshire players

This tournament has usually been played over 2 days, but we were unable to organise courts for Sunday in the time we had to set up this event, so we relied on the co-operation of the players to help us get through the many matches now that a Silver tournament has a group stage. As always they were keen to help as keeping courts busy is in everybody's interest, players, organisers, and the venue staff. So thanks to all of them.

MS There were 38 entries and 11 groups for the Men's Singles. Dan Font had a very untroubled passage through to the final beating the number 1 and 3 seeds on the way. He played the number 2 seed Zack Bobrowski in the final and won the event without losing a set (or many points to be honest!)

WS 3 of the top 4 seeds made it to the semi finals quite easily. Rosemary Allen (1) lost in 3 sets to unseeded Aimie Whiteman after winning the first set and Ashwati Nair (2) won her match in 2 sets. Ashwati didn't find it quite so easy in the final where she eventually came out on top in a very close 3 set match.

MD There were 2 outstanding matches in the group stages of this event. Ryan Evans and Jamie Noble versus Andrew Aspinall and Mark Law (very vocal!) neither of them getting out of their box in the end and Matthew Bickerton and Steven Elliott who beat the number 3 seeds Nick Hodgson and Danny Hyde.

Mention has to be made of Koon Fung Kelvin Ho and Pak Yu Ng who were unseeded and made the final in very impressive fashion without dropping a set and then beat the number 1 seeds Nathan Rossiter and Steven Strickland 21-12 21-13. We will know a bit more about them next time!!

WD The number 2 seeds Rosemary Allen and Abbie Smith had a straightforward route to the final. Zahra Ali and Devon Minnis had an exciting 3 set match and an eventual win over Terri-Lee Holmes and Annabel Hong of Lancashire in the semi before losing to Rosemary and Abbie.

XD The matches in the mixed went the way of the seeds bar the number 1 seeds Mike Roe and Devon Minnis who, by Mike's admission, made a bit of a bad start. Mark Law and Abbie Smith won a 3 set semi to set up a match in the final against Nick Hodgson and Sarah Burgess who also had a tough 3 setter but Nick and Sarah had to withdraw due to injury so what could have been a great match was a walkover.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Dan Font (Cheshire)	Zack Bobrowski (Hertfordshire)
Ladies Singles	Ashwati Nair (Buckinghamshire)	Aimie Whiteman (Wales)
Men's Doubles	Koon Fung Kelvin Ho (Warwickshire)	Nathan Rossiter (Yorkshire)
	Pak Yu Ng (Durham)	Steven Strickland (Yorkshire)
Ladies Doubles	Rosemary Allen (Essex)	Zahra Ali (Middlesex)
	Abbie Smith (Hertfordshire)	Devon Minnis (Avon)
Mixed Doubles	Mark Law (Essex)	Nick Hodgson (Lancashire)
	Abbie Smith (Hertfordshire)	Sarah Burgess (Hampshire)

We were very pleased to see such a great entry for the two tournaments and are hopeful that we can keep these numbers up. We are aware that there are not as many tournaments being run at the moment but we are sure that, according to feedback from players, we run ours as efficiently and as fairly as possible.

The Senior Bronze this season is on 3rd December 2022 but as sanctioning of tournaments has changed, we do not have a date yet for the Senior Silver which is usually around the middle of January. The Senior County Championships were not played due to Covid protocols making it difficult to organise but hopefully they will be back in September 2022.

Both tournaments were challenging to get through to the final stages but were very enjoyable to run. As usual we were reliant on being allowed leeway on the court booking times so many thanks to the EPSV Duty Manager and his staff. Thanks to Alan Nottingham, the Referee, who drew and scheduled the event and the people who helped out on the day, Karl Bergh who bobbed about where necessary and Amie Tsang for proving much needed caffeine.

We look forward to the same level of entry in the future and hope the events prove to be as popular as ever.

Jan Bergh
Tournament Secretary

MASTERS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2021/22

It was always going to be a difficult return to Masters badminton as in October 2021 many leagues had not returned to playing and those that had were running at a reduced capacity. We were asked by the National organisers to plan and submit our fixtures to the normal deadlines. Having made our fixtures, we cancelled all our early October matches, so everything was pushed further back. Then came the Omicron surge which resulted in the next round of postponements. This then resulted in some teams not even starting the season until 19 December. The season was finally completed the week before Easter on 10 April. Not all players returned to playing. I can report that nationally there was a 25% drop in registered players at Masters level from pre-pandemic levels. Unfortunately, we found it difficult to field our younger teams which resulted in us withdrawing our O45 team from the Championship which was very disappointing. We were not alone in this dilemma. Nationally 16 teams were withdrawn from the championship, and this included both Lancashire and Essex, two of the strongest counties in the country withdrawing their O40s teams. This left our O40s team with only 2 matches to play and they were both against a very strong Yorkshire outfit. In the other age groups only the O70s completed their full quota of matches though it must be said that it was not always us who were unable to raise a side as we had concessions from both Roses counties. Spare a thought for our team captains: Peter, Ruth, Dave & Kay, Jill, Jean & Peter, Linda & Stuart who had to navigate a way through all of this. Our appreciation must go to you all.

My congratulations must go to the O50s team who came so close to winning their division. They only lost one match all season which was to the Scots in a close fought match when one of our players was injured during the match causing the concession of 3 events. The Scots then went on to win their semi-final but lost to Essex in the final.

At a national level there was a different county winning in each of the different age groups which I believe is unprecedented. The winners were Staffordshire (O40), Gloucestershire (O45), Hampshire (O50), Essex (O55), Surrey (O60), Lancashire (O65) and Leicestershire (O70). Congratulations to all those teams. It was a tough weekend for Yorkshire who fielded 5 teams at the finals weekend and unusually went home empty handed after some narrow losses.

Many of you will have been disappointed that the Challenge weekend in January was cancelled due to the surge in Omicron cases. Many people lost hotel deposits or switched their bookings to a later date. The chairman and organiser of the event was left in a very difficult position and worked tirelessly to try and make it happen. It would have been the first national badminton event since the pandemic struck. We didn't withdraw any of our teams, but other counties did, and I perfectly understand their position on this. It was only the week before when the position became untenable, and the event was cancelled. Next year the teams at Wolverhampton are provisionally booked in for 7/8 January with the other 3 venues playing on the 14/15 January.

Earlier I mentioned that there had been a 25% drop in registered players on a national basis from March 2020 to March 2022. I can share some figures with you which shows the current position on registered ladies/gents for selected counties. It is difficult to draw too many conclusions from them as they make no mention as to what standard these players are. What is clear to see though is that the number of gents far exceeds the number of ladies in every age group and that ratio is exacerbated in the younger age groups. It also shows that numerically Lancashire have a far bigger pool of players from which to choose. The comparison to Essex and Yorkshire (2 of the country's premier counties) shows that we are numerically in very similar positions. The figures for some of the other counties make particularly grim reading.

Age	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
Cheshire	13L-47G	15L-55G	15L-50G	35L-50G	35L-49G	30L-36G	29L-34G
Essex	14L-36G	13L-47G	18L-56G	15L-45G	29L-46G	16L-37G	16L-24G
Lancashire	59L-80G	43L-70G	55L-93G	73L-91G	89L-93G	82L-73G	62L-56G
Yorkshire	22L-53G	12L-47G	33L-51G	31L-64G	48L-70G	26L-47G	20L-32G

Table 1: Registered Ladies/Gents in selected counties in different age groups March 2022.

I share these figures with you as in some ways they highlight the challenges that are facing Masters badminton as we move forward, namely that we need to encourage more ladies into the game or else change the format of matches. I am told that the present format has been in existence for 23 years.

Before finishing it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the help that I receive from Karl who organises the practice sessions that are held regularly on Sunday mornings at EPSV and to Kay who emails you those details. These sessions are a great help in getting both new and older players together from across the county. If you have any suggestions on how we might improve on these then please let us know.

Derek Neary
Masters Secretary.