



Cheshire County Badminton Association

Cheshire Chat – AGM Edition 2023

AGM 2023 Edition

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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	Ben Woodward
Tournament Co-ordinator	Alan Nottingham
Masters' Secretary	Derek Neary
Website Manager	Kay Vickers
Child Welfare Officer	Emma Hilton
Chair of Selectors	Richard Morrisey

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

Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting of Cheshire County Badminton Association held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 at the Hinderton Arms, Neston, commencing at 7.15 p.m.

There were 15 members present.

1. President's Welcome

Mr Ewing welcomed everyone to the 64th Annual General Meeting and stressed how wonderful it was, after the previous two very difficult years, to see people in the flesh again. Although we had not been able to hold formal AGMs over the previous two years, we were still calling it our 64th AGM as it was 64 years since Cheshire had split with Lancashire to become Cheshire County Badminton Association, so it was historic.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs B Andrews, Miss B Hickson, Mrs A Minihan and Mr I Thomas.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in June 2020

The record of the AGM paperwork originally circulated in 2020 had been re-circulated and it was proposed, seconded and agreed, that it 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 2021/22 season

It was proposed by Council, seconded by Gavin Simpson, and agreed that the Secretary's report be adopted.

At this point Mr Meredith (Wirral League) referred to Miss Emma Hilton's role as Child Welfare Officer and asked for some assistance. Wirral Borough Council, together with the Wirral Sports Forum, was looking to engage with a few sports clubs to put on taster days and had suggested badminton. However, they had asked the League to put forward a nominee as Child Welfare Officer and Mr Meredith enquired whether Miss Hilton's name could go forward. It was advised that this was not appropriate as the Wirral League should have nominated a Child Welfare Officer and each club in the League should also have nominated a Child Welfare Officer. After further discussion advice was to be sought from BE as to what course would be appropriate for a potential Child Welfare Officer within a League/Club to attend.

6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2022 and to agree the affiliation fee for 2022/2023

The Treasurer had circulated copies of the Accounts and asked if there were any questions.

The County Shuttle Scheme was raised, and Mr Bergh explained how the scheme operated. Currently the discounted rate CCBA had negotiated for Yehlex shuttles was £18.50 for Premiership

Shuttles and £17.50 for Championship Orange. After discussion it was agreed that a reminder should be circulated reminding clubs that the facility still existed, and Mr Bergh agreed to action this.

The Coaching & Development expenditure of £300 was raised and Mr Bergh explained that this was for people trying to obtain coaching qualifications and if successful they would be expected to work within the County. Mr Meredith advised that the Wirral League did have a sum of money for "development". Mr Bergh said that CCBA would wish to support initiatives within the County. Mr Meredith said that he would like to have a conversation with Mr Bergh outside of the meeting.

Mr Simpson advised that as there were no Development Officers within the County at the present time. Gavin and Richard Morrissey were organising courses themselves and these courses could be organised within three weeks. However, getting court time was proving to be an issue.

Mr Bergh advised that he had had an issue with BE about the receipt of County fees as he had noted in December that no monies had come through since July 2021. He was advised that there had been a problem with the software in that the money that was supposed to come to CCBA had gone to BE. Mr Bergh had had a conversation with Nick Rimmer (BE) the previous day and he had investigated. It was now understood that more money was to come through to CCBA in the following week of c£500.

The Accounts at present were unaudited.

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

7. To receive and adopt the Match Secretary's Report for the 2021/22 season

The role of Match Secretary was currently vacant. The function of Match Secretary was currently covered by the Selectors. Mr Bergh had hoped to include match reports for all three teams but had only received one for the first team. When the other reports were received it was suggested they be attached as an appendix to the minutes. As regards the three teams: -

- The 1st Team had survived relegation and remained in Premiership.
- The 2nd Team came third in their division, Division 2 North.
- The 3rd team were relegated from Division 2 North.

The comment was made that it would be nice if the County could provide some badminton viewing that children could aspire to. Mr Bergh advised that the fixtures are decided by the BE ICC Committee and that matches were all played at several regional venues.

The suggestion was also made that perhaps there should be a report prepared by each of the Leagues for the AGM.

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

8. To receive and adopt the Tournament Secretary's Report for the 2021/2022 season

The report had been prepared by Mrs Jan Bergh. The County had managed to keep two tournaments running and they had made a profit for the County. Thanks were expressed to Alan Nottingham and Jan Bergh for doing an excellent job. The point was made that without the tournament income the County would not be able to cover its costs.

The suggestion was made that CCBA might consider organising a tournament for paraplegic badminton players. It was understood that a tournament had been held in the south and this had proved to be very popular. Mr Bergh said that he would speak to Mr Nottingham in this regard. It was proposed, seconded by Ben Kyffin, and agreed that the report be adopted.

9. To receive and adopt the Master's Secretary's Report for the 2021/2022 season

Mr Neary stated that the challenge for the next season would be our Over 40s team and the other challenge would be to get more ladies playing.

It was agreed that some Practice Sessions would be organised.

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

10. County Affiliation Fees

Mr Bergh reported that to support the clubs that had been struggling due to the coronavirus the recommendation was that there would be no increase in the affiliation fee for 2022/23 and the County fee would remain at the existing rate. The meeting was in agreement.

As regards the Badminton England affiliation fees, the Treasurer advised that he had not yet seen or heard what affiliation fee was being proposed for the forthcoming season. There had been a rumour that the fee could be increased by 10%.

The BE increases can now be seen below.

Category	2021/22	2022/23
Club Affiliation 1-8 Members	£ 60.00	£ 66.00
Club Affiliation 9-20 Members	£ 80.00	£ 88.00
Club Affiliation 21-49 Members	£ 100.00	£ 110.00
Club Affiliation 50+ Members	£ 120.00	£ 132.00
Club Player	£ 12.00	£ 13.50
Junior Player	£ 4.00	£ 4.50
Compete Player	£ 24.00	£ 26.50
Compete Junior Player	£ 14.00	£ 15.50
The Racket Pack	N/A	N/A
The Racket Pack + Compete Player	£ 10.00	£ 10.00
Compete Non Resident	£ 12.00	£ 13.50
Fan Member	£ 9.00	£ 10.00
Social Player	£ 9.00	£ 10.00
Compete Coach	£ 57.00	£ 63.00
Coach Member	£ 45.00	£ 50.00

It was understood that Badminton Wales was also trying to establish what the BE fee would be.

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

The appointment of Mrs Brenda Andrew was confirmed.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was understood that Mrs Jill Jackson was willing to continue in the role and it was agreed that she should act as our Independent Examiner and Mr Bergh undertook to contact her to confirm the appointment.

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 by Council, seconded by Mrs Salter, and agreed, that the officers listed be re-elected en bloc.

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 Morrisey

14. Election of President and Vice Presidents

Mr Bergh proposed, seconded by Mr Westmorland, that Mr Roger Ewing should continue as our President, and this was agreed.

It was proposed by Mr Sumner, seconded and agreed, that the Vice-Presidents should be re-elected en bloc as follows: - 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 - Awarded to Mr David Isherwood, Crewe League. Mr Sumner accepted the trophy on behalf of Mr Isherwood and it was agreed to try and keep the award quiet and Mr Bergh and Mr Sumner would identify a suitable event in the Crewe League calendar which Mr Bergh could attend and present the trophy to Mr Isherwood personally.

Arthur Evans Memorial Trophy - Awarded to Mr Derek Neary

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

At the conclusion Mr Meredith reported that the Wirral Sports Awards were taking place on the 13th October in Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. This was an opportunity to put forward anyone from the badminton fraternity for an award. The Wirral Badminton League was affiliated to the forum.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022/23 SEASON

As is normally the situation, most of the County's activities are covered by other reports.

It has been a difficult season for our leagues and clubs as they try to get back to pre-pandemic activities, but they all seem to have succeeded. The CCBA meetings have not been particularly well attended which is disappointing, but we have still managed to ensure that the obligations of the County have been carried out. We held the final meeting over Zoom, and this went well, and we may try this again.

Alan Nottingham and Jan Bergh continue to do a tremendous job in running our tournaments and the County is very grateful to them for all they do on the tournament scene, particularly also recognising the income generated from tournaments.

Derek Neary does a tremendous amount of work in co-ordinating the master's group and we thank him for all his hard work.

The Selectors have managed to continue to put out the three County teams but sadly the 1st team was relegated, the 2nd team finished mid-table and I am delighted to say that the 3rd team won promotion. The fact that Cheshire was represented is a key factor bearing in mind all the difficulties of the last few years. Well done to the Selectors.

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

CCBA was very pleased to welcome Louise Hewitt as our new Badminton England representative. Louise has made a great start, particularly from a junior point of view, and I would like to express the County's appreciation to Louise for the enthusiasm she has demonstrated to date.

As I have stated before, the County owes a great deal of gratitude to Karl Bergh for all the work he undertakes as Chairman and Treasurer. This has been even more evident during the pandemic and as CCBA gets back to some sort of normality. Karl is also active in various other ways in ensuring that CCBA continues to function. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Karl most sincerely for his dedication.

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. Roger has not been in the best of health recently but his loyalty to CCBA never waivers! The County is lucky to have such a committed President.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Doreen Francey
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT FOR SEASON 2022/23

From a playing perspective it has been pretty much 'normal business resumed' for all of the County sides but we are still not yet back to the pre-covid level of activity within our Leagues and most definitely not at junior level.

The Leagues have seen a drop-off in playing numbers, resulting in clubs having no option but to drop teams and several have, and still are, struggling to survive.

At County level, our three senior teams have enjoyed a full calendar and by and large, the master's group has also been back to normal.

In general terms, our cash flow remains positive, and we have returned a surplus of £1,160.59 but this has been bolstered by the addition of two exceptional items totalling £1,200.00 which masks the fact that we have sustained a small underlying loss of just on £40.00.

As in every set of accounts, there are several 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

We have seen a welcome improvement in income from membership fees but at £3,329.55, it is still a lot lower than pre-covid levels of £4,668.00. This is a product of falling numbers within our Leagues and it is thought that we may not ever get back to those levels.

Therefore, predicting future membership income with this level of uncertainty is quite difficult.

During the covid pandemic, we took a prudent view and made a general provision of £2,000.00 to cover for the expected downturn in membership income. Currently, we have decided to feed £700.00 back in this year with the balance spread over the next two years. This provision was funded mainly from the return of previously paid BE entry fees following the cancellation and cutting short of the 20/21 ICC campaign plus our reduced expenditure during the covid lockdown period.

This is the first of the two exceptional items referred to earlier.

Tournament income, as has always been the case, is once again a major and crucial contributor to our finances. This season we have run three tournaments and hosted two BE circuit tournaments, both of which have seen exceptional entry levels and produced a record surplus of £2,579.56. This increase of some £600.00 on last year was partly helped by the re-establishment of the County Championships. I must repeat the same thing each year in that these tournaments are difficult to predict in terms of their viability but if this year is anything to go by, the two tournaments are very much a fixture within the players calendar and all the feedback is that they enjoy them and look to play whenever they can.

The second exceptional item mentioned is due entirely to the professionalism of our tournament team and the high regard with which they are held in by BE. This resulted in Alan Nottingham and Jan Bergh being asked to organise and run the U15 Derbyshire Gold tournament at Derbyshire University back in February 2023, with a county fee of £500.00 being received for doing so.

There is no doubt in my mind that the continued success of these tournaments is a product of 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.

Bank interest has shown a modicum of improvement but nothing to write home about.

Shuttle sales through the County Shuttle Scheme has made a vast improvement, partly down to 'normal business being resumed' on the playing front but also because we have seen the addition of several new clubs taking advantage of the competitive prices and excellent service provided. So, the word is getting out there! Once again, thank you so much to Helen Williams for doing a sterling job holding stocks and continuing to supply various clubs in the Chester area.

So, income this year is up to £7,985.64 and it can clearly be seen that without the crucial contribution made by our tournament team, then we wouldn't be able to finance our activities from membership fees alone.

Expenditure

Generally, expenditure in the period has been predictable and has benefitted from a tight rein being kept on the purse strings.

Meeting expenses are down significantly, as we have had to cancel a few due to the low numbers available to attend. We have also tried a meeting using zoom, so this may be a way forward in future, but I personally prefer face-to-face meetings wherever possible.

Coaching & Development expenditure this year has been slow to get going. We have also received the balance of funds held by the West Cheshire PC at its closure pre-covid and this means that we now have a fund available with just approaching £3,000.00, for future expenditure.

The cost of the Senior County Squad was marginally lower than last year and within budget. It is always difficult to budget at this time of year, as we never actually know where our teams will be allocated to play their matches. Sadly, our 1st team was relegated this year, so that may have a knock-on effect to our costs next year.

The overall cost of the master's Group has risen significantly this year, due in part to the fact that we didn't increase players match fees and decided to hold them at £11.00 per player per match, even in the face of rising shuttle, court, catering and BE costs.

But more significantly, unlike other counties, we haven't for many years, made a player charge for the County Challenge event in January each year in recognition of the significant cost that each player will incur in travelling and hotel accommodation. This has cost the group £1,445.00 this year.

We also have to subsidise the cost of hosting home matches as an economical match fee to cover our costs would be far too expensive. With a few un-expected concessions and late cancellations this year, this has cost the group £823.94.

The other unanticipated cost was the losses brought forward from the masters practice sessions, mainly due to the tail-off in interest towards the end of the season plus a flurry of re-arranged matches. Rather disappointingly, this has cost the group £144.98. We will however be reviewing

the frequency of practices for next season and perhaps curtailing them a little earlier, so that hopefully we won't incur such a loss again.

Once again, we were not able to field a team in the National 17-21 competition this season and with inter-league events not yet resuming, we have not sustained a cost from these events.

Summary

The overall result is a surplus to be carried forward of £1,160.59.

The budget for next season is as difficult as ever to predict with any real certainty. However, with the usual sprinkling of guestimates based on past experience, we are anticipating and hoping for a small surplus, 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 some of our clubs and the general reduction in county members, we do feel that we should continue 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 2022/23

Everybody was looking forward to a normal season ahead and to again playing County weekends in November, January and March.

We knew that the season ahead would prove another challenge for our 1st team as our squad is again going to be depleted with some of our most experienced senior players being again unavailable to us due to another busy international tournament and club calendar.

Our 3rd team, who were relegated from the same division as our 2nd team last season are now looking confident for a bounce back to return to the higher division.

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: November 2022**Match overview of 12 November 2022**

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Lancashire - Middlesex	1-10	NBC
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Hertfordshire	4-7	NBC
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Cheshire - Surrey	5-6	NBC
11:35	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Yorkshire	9-2	NBC
11:35	SCC – Premiership	Hampshire - Leicestershire	7-4	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Cheshire - Lancashire	5-6	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Surrey	5-6	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Hampshire	5-6	NBC
16:15	SCC – Premiership	Hertfordshire - Leicestershire	5-6	NBC
16:15	SCC – Premiership	Middlesex - Yorkshire	8-3	NBC

Match overview of 13 November 2022

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Cheshire	7-4	NBC
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Hampshire - Hertfordshire	7-4	NBC
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Middlesex - Surrey	6-5	NBC
10:35	SCC – Premiership	Lancashire - Yorkshire	5-6	NBC
10:35	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Leicestershire	6-5	NBC

The first County weekend proved to be as tough as expected, with some spirited and first-class performances but we finished the opening weekend without a win.

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: January 2023

Team Report

The weekend of the 21/22nd January saw the second instalment of the SCC Premiership competition. As captain and self-diagnosed glass-half-empty realist, I have been styling this year 'relegation with dignity'. With Yorkshire and long-term rivals Lancashire being promoted into the division this year, it has made our regular haunt of 8th place decidedly less comfortable... We did however enter the weekend on that familiar footing and with every hope of being able to clinch enough games to keep us there.

The team to face the music was:

- Claire Weaver
- Sophie Taylor
- Charlotte Forbes
- Steph Rowarth
- Mike Roe
- Rich Morrissey
- Cholan Kayan
- Sid Palakkal
- Jack Taylor (Saturday only)

Honourable mention to Rach Vickers who sent me a photo of her arm strapped up on Thursday night and so had to reluctantly pull-out last minute.

Anyway, enough rambling and onto the matches.

First up we faced Leicestershire, and on a purely selfish note – the tie I had identified as being the one where I would be most likely to pick up a match (and avoid an eye-wateringly bad season W:L ratio...).

Men's singles kicked off the day's events and we flew 3-0 into the lead with 3 very solid performances. Our Women were up next, and Charlotte really held her nerve to win an impressive 3 setter at top singles. Sophie wasn't quite as fortunate, and we entered the doubles 4-1 up.

Men's doubles on next and what was affectionately described as onlookers as 'a surprisingly low standard of badminton' did in fact lead to my 1st and (plot spoiler) only win of the season to date. 5-1 to Cheshire! Could we go the whole hog and win the tie?

Sadly not, Leicestershire have a very strong set of women and they proved it in style winning both women's matches and the mixed doubles. However, a 5-6 loss was nothing to sniff at.

Next, we faced Bucks, who for the last couple of years have definitely been challenging for the title. They asserted this dominance over us but we did put up a fight. Cholan and Sid performed well to pick up MS1 and MS2. Jack T came very close to clinching a set in his and Steph put up a great fight in hers to be narrowly edged out in 2 tight games. Other than that, there was just a few too many tricks up their combined sleeve and it ended overall with a comfortable 9-2 win for our opponents.

Sunday morning arrived and with varying degrees of freshness our slightly shrunken team (Jack was back to uni to revise for his exams) were in action this time against Hertfordshire. A tricky opponent but a tie which was very much open to either side for the taking.

As is becoming pleasantly commonplace, we started off the match with a strong 3-0 from the men's singles. Rich Morrissey doing an excellent job of filling in for Jack – I would have volunteered to play singles myself but 1) I didn't want to and 2) I'm captain so didn't have to and 3) I was confident Rich would have a better chance of winning than me. I do enjoy being proved right so thanks Rich for that!

The women's singles proved quite a bit tougher and Steph and Charlotte didn't quite manage to pick up games. The 2nd men's doubles had a heartbreakingly close 3 setter where they were edged out 21-19 in the third. Thankfully, we did manage to clinch another game, and Cholan stepped up to be a 3 fixture hero, taking 2nd XD with Claire 24-22 in the second! The match finished 7-4 to Hertfordshire which was a little annoying but as we are proving – you can't win them all!!

So, despite a valiant effort, we now sit firmly in the danger zone in 9th place, with a difficult final weekend ahead of us. However, we are ahead of Lancashire which is very important for county pride...

Mike Roe
Joint 1st Team Captain

Match overview of 21 January 2023

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Lancashire	8-3	NBC
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Middlesex	2-9	NBC
11:00	SCC – Premiership	Hertfordshire - Surrey	5-6	NBC
11:35	SCC – Premiership	Hampshire - Yorkshire	7-4	NBC
11:35	SCC – Premiership	Cheshire - Leicestershire	5-6	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Lancashire	8-3	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Hertfordshire - Yorkshire	3-8	NBC
15:40	SCC – Premiership	Leicestershire - Middlesex	3-8	NBC
16:15	SCC – Premiership	Hampshire - Surrey	6-5	NBC
16:15	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Cheshire	9-2	NBC

Match overview of 22 January 2023

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Surrey - Yorkshire	3-8	NBC
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Lancashire - Leicestershire	6-5	NBC
10:00	SCC – Premiership	Cheshire - Hertfordshire	4-7	NBC
10:35	SCC – Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Middlesex	7-4	NBC
10:35	SCC – Premiership	Avon - Hampshire	4-7	NBC

Premier A – Cheshire 1st Team: March 2023

Team Report

The 25/26th marked the final weekend in the 22/23 season and a 'going for broke' attempt by Cheshire to avoid the relegation we've been flirting with the past couple of years.

We started the weekend in 9th place, knowing we had to make up 5 games on the next placed teams of Hertfordshire and Leicestershire to stay up. We also had tough fixtures ahead, with Middlesex (top of the table), Hampshire (unbeaten this season so far) and Yorkshire (newly promoted and looking like they're wanting to reinstate some of their former glory). The team we brought to the fight:

Rach Vickers
Sammy Hutt
Sophie Taylor
Steph Rowarth
Matt Nottingham
Dan Font
Cholan Kayan
Sid Palakkal
Me (Mike Roe)

First up was Hampshire who were missing a couple of key players and our first opportunity to claw back a few matches.

Men's singles on first and, as has become very pleasant as captain, a strong 3-0 no fuss start to proceedings. Women's singles gave Hampshire their first points on the board – 3-2 heading into the doubles.

Top men's doubles saw my second win of the season (it's been a tough year...) aided and abetted (and to all intents and purposes carried) by Dan Font. Second men's doubles had Cholan and Matt gliding to victory so things were looking good for Cheshire: 5-2 with only one more match needed to get the overall win!

Women's doubles and top mixed didn't quite have enough firepower to get us there, but the formidable duo of Matt Nottingham and Sammy Hutt did! 5-6 to Cheshire and the first team to beat Hampshire all season. Not a bad start to things, a glimmer of hope fluttering in my chest... Albeit somewhat dashed when I saw that Leicestershire, despite being 6-1 down in their match pulled it back to a 5-6 loss. Still a gain of 1 match is nothing to sniff at.

The afternoon was a battle against Middlesex, who had decided to bring along several of the Sri Lankan national team to help them in their title bid (perks of being the county which holds London I suppose!).

Men's singles up first and in what was probably one of the wins of the weekend – Cholan was too much for ex-olympian Niluka and came away with a massive 3 set win which lasted roughly a

day... Sid couldn't quite find his level at second, but Dan dug in and got us third singles. 2-1 to Cheshire and probably the only county to come away from Men's singles against Middlesex on top!

Women's turn now and despite a valiant effort from Steph at top against England team member Freya Redfearn-Patel and a hard fought battle by Sophie at second, Middlesex climbed back on top 3-2.

Onto the men's doubles and Dan and Matt started the charge with a win at top. Second men's doubles saw Cholan and myself in a titanic struggle winning 15-21, 23-21, 24-22. Cholan skipped off court young and fit as he is, I needed dragging like the sack of potatoes I have become.

Women's doubles again saw our women up against a tall order and we fell in both leaving the score 5-4 to Middlesex.

Into the mixed and Rach and myself were in at top again and tried our best but fell in three sets. The word 'fell' is appropriate here as there were rallies where both our legs just gave way – old and tired bodies!!

Matt and Sammy also struggled at second, so the tie finished 7-4 to Middlesex which was a great result against a very strong side.

Sadly, this did leave us with a mathematically possible but realistically implausible mountain to climb to stay up. Our hopes were based on a hungover Yorkshire and a complacent Hertfordshire. We started the day off in usual fashion, with 3 Men's singles going our way. The women fought hard in theirs, but weren't quite able to convert. Men's doubles had a great win at top for Matt and Dan, but sadly second men's and our women's pairings weren't able to follow suit. Heading into the mixed 4-5 down still had a chance of clinching the win. Unfortunately, despite valiant efforts against tough opponents, we couldn't get either game over the line and it ended with us losing 7-4.

That meant that the premiership dream is over (for now) and we finished the season with our heads held high as we drop into the championship. Despite the relegation, there was one key silver lining – we did at least finish ahead of Lancashire...

Mike Roe,
Joint 1st Team Captain

Match overview of 25 March 2023

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
10:30	SCC - Premiership	Hertfordshire - Middlesex	2-9	NBC
10:30	SCC - Premiership	Lancashire - Surrey	2-9	NBC
10:30	SCC - Premiership	Avon - Buckinghamshire	6-5	NBC
11:05	SCC - Premiership	Leicestershire - Yorkshire	5-6	NBC
11:05	SCC - Premiership	Cheshire - Hampshire	6-5	NBC
15:10	SCC - Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Hertfordshire	5-6	NBC
15:10	SCC - Premiership	Leicestershire - Surrey	5-6	NBC
15:10	SCC - Premiership	Cheshire - Middlesex	4-7	NBC
15:40	SCC - Premiership	Hampshire - Lancashire	8-3	NBC
15:40	SCC - Premiership	Avon - Yorkshire	6-5	NBC

Match overview of 26 March 2023

Time	Draw	Home - Away	Score	Court
10:00	SCC - Premiership	Avon - Leicestershire	4-7	NBC
10:00	SCC - Premiership	Cheshire - Yorkshire	4-7	NBC
10:00	SCC - Premiership	Hertfordshire - Lancashire	5-6	NBC
10:35	SCC - Premiership	Hampshire - Middlesex	2-9	NBC
10:35	SCC - Premiership	Buckinghamshire - Surrey	7-4	NBC

Final Placing

		Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1	Middlesex	70	9	8	0	1	70 - 29	141 - 73	4058 - 3452
2	Buckinghamshire	61	9	6	0	3	61 - 38	138 - 87	4272 - 3907
3	Hampshire	55	9	7	0	2	55 - 44	118 - 101	3937 - 3785
4	Surrey	50	9	5	0	4	50 - 49	121 - 111	4259 - 4115
5	Yorkshire	49	9	5	0	4	49 - 50	114 - 118	4166 - 4178
6	Avon	46	9	4	0	5	46 - 53	110 - 123	4096 - 4238
7	Leicestershire	46	9	3	0	6	46 - 53	107 - 116	3890 - 4038
8	Hertfordshire	44	9	3	0	6	44 - 55	103 - 124	4061 - 4183
9	Cheshire	39	9	1	0	8	39 - 60	86 - 129	3663 - 4008
10	Lancashire	35	9	3	0	6	35 - 64	84 - 140	3752 - 4250

So, Cheshire 1st team were relegated along with their closest rivals Lancashire.

Players representing Cheshire 1st Team

Team: Cheshire (Cheshire) ★

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Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Cholan Kayan	13	19	29 - 15	853 - 755
2	Sid Palakkal	8	10	17 - 5	441 - 338
3	Daniel Font	6	7	13 - 3	327 - 251
4	Matthew Nottingham	4	6	8 - 4	226 - 198
5	Hayley Rogers	3	6	7 - 7	263 - 278
6	Jack Taylor	3	10	6 - 15	336 - 395
7	Mike Roe	3	17	10 - 29	670 - 784
8	Charlotte Forbes	2	10	4 - 17	291 - 418
9	Rachel Vickers	2	12	6 - 20	415 - 524
10	Richard Morrissey	2	12	5 - 21	416 - 530
11	Stephanie Rowarth	2	16	5 - 29	517 - 697
12	Sammy Hutt	1	6	3 - 10	187 - 253
13	Claire Weaver	1	6	2 - 10	178 - 249
14	Sophie Taylor	0	16	1 - 32	475 - 702

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd Team November 2022

Having comfortably maintained their position in Division 2 last year, we were hoping for much of the same and perhaps going one better and pushing for promotion.

Time	Round	Stage	No	Home - Away	Score	Location	Status
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	5	18		Yorkshire 4 - Yorkshire 5	8-3	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	✓
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	7	26		Cheshire 2 - Isle of Man	5-6	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	6	24		Lothian 2 - Nottinghamshire 2	0-11	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	6	21		Durham - Lancashire 3	3-8	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	✓
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	3	9		Yorkshire 4 - Durham	9-2	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	✓
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	3	12		Cheshire 2 - Nottinghamshire 2	3-8	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	3	10		Yorkshire 5 - Isle of Man	2-9	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	3	11		Lancashire 3 - Lothian 2	6-5	Concord, Sheffield Sports Centre	

A tough first weekend saw us fail to record a win but some great performances gave us encouragement going forward into the remaining matches.

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd Team: January 2023

Sat 21/01/2023 10:30	2	8		Yorkshire 5 - Nottinghamshire 2	0-11	Sheffield EIS	✓
Sat 21/01/2023 10:30	2	6		Lancashire 3 - Isle of Man	8-3	Sheffield EIS	✓
Sat 21/01/2023 10:30	4	13		Cheshire 2 - Durham	7-4	Sheffield EIS	
Sat 21/01/2023 10:30	7	27		Yorkshire 4 - Lothian 2	11-0	Sheffield EIS	
Sat 21/01/2023 14:00	4	16		Isle of Man - Nottinghamshire 2	3-8	Sheffield EIS	✓
Sat 21/01/2023 14:00	4	14		Yorkshire 4 - Lancashire 3	6-5	Sheffield EIS	✓
Sat 21/01/2023 14:00	2	7		Durham - Lothian 2	9-2	Sheffield EIS	
Sat 21/01/2023 14:00	6	22		Cheshire 2 - Yorkshire 5	8-3	Sheffield EIS	

A brilliant all-round performance saw us record two wins out of two which will hold us in good stead for the final county weekend to come.

Division 2 North – Cheshire 2nd Team: March 2023

Sat 25/03/2023 10:30	2	5	Yorkshire 4 - Cheshire 2	6-5	The Dolphin	✓
Sat 25/03/2023 10:30	4	15	Yorkshire 5 - Lothian 2	9-2	The Dolphin	
Sat 25/03/2023 10:30	7	28	Lancashire 3 - Nottinghamshire 2	3-8	The Dolphin	
Sat 25/03/2023 10:30	1	2	Durham - Isle of Man	2-9	The Dolphin	✓
Sat 25/03/2023 14:00	1	1	Lancashire 3 - Yorkshire 5	6-5	The Dolphin	✓
Sat 25/03/2023 14:00	1	3	Cheshire 2 - Lothian 2	8-3	The Dolphin	
Sat 25/03/2023 14:00	5	20	Durham - Nottinghamshire 2	1-10	The Dolphin	✓
Sat 25/03/2023 14:00	6	23	Yorkshire 4 - Isle of Man	4-7	The Dolphin	✓
Sun 26/03/2023 10:30	5	19	Isle of Man - Lothian 2	11-0	The Dolphin	
Sun 26/03/2023 10:30	7	25	Durham - Yorkshire 5	5-6	The Dolphin	✓
Sun 26/03/2023 10:30	5	17	Cheshire 2 - Lancashire 3	3-8	The Dolphin	✓
Sun 26/03/2023 10:30	1	4	Yorkshire 4 - Nottinghamshire 2	3-8	The Dolphin	✓

This weekend saw us lose a very close match to Yorkshire 5, bounce back with a thumping win over the bottom team Lothian and a rather disappointing loss to Lancashire 3 on the final day.

All in all, a good squad performance that saw us finish comfortably mid-table.

Final Placing

Division 2 - Division 2 - North

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Nottinghamshire 2	64	7	7	0	0	64 - 13	134 - 41	3516 - 2863
2 Isle of Man	48	7	5	0	2	48 - 29	106 - 73	3370 - 3018
3 Yorkshire 4	47	7	5	0	2	47 - 30	110 - 74	3494 - 3180
4 Lancashire 3	44	7	5	0	2	44 - 33	98 - 81	3302 - 3225
5 Cheshire 2	39	7	3	0	4	39 - 38	91 - 87	3238 - 3256
6 Yorkshire 5	28	7	2	0	5	28 - 49	69 - 105	3043 - 3258
7 Durham	26	7	1	0	6	26 - 51	67 - 113	3085 - 3376
8 Lothian 2	12	7	0	0	7	12 - 65	34 - 135	2561 - 3433

Players representing Cheshire 2nd Team

Team: Cheshire 2 (Ch2) ★

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Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Harry Liver	10	14	22 - 12	648 - 577
2	Jamie Noble	9	13	21 - 11	665 - 612
3	Jonathan Savory	9	15	21 - 14	665 - 629
4	Sammy Hutt	4	4	8 - 0	173 - 129
5	Aaren SUM	4	5	8 - 3	220 - 162
6	Owen Edwards	4	6	9 - 5	289 - 263
7	Olivia Frankland	4	13	11 - 18	464 - 558
8	Ashleigh Mok	4	13	9 - 19	444 - 526
9	Ryan Evans	3	3	6 - 1	146 - 108
10	Jennifer Moss	3	6	7 - 7	255 - 263
11	Michael Simmons	2	3	4 - 2	106 - 100
12	Claire Symeonides	2	3	5 - 4	166 - 152
13	Oliver Harrington	2	4	5 - 5	195 - 187
14	LIZ MacTAGGART	1	4	4 - 6	173 - 184
15	Unknown female player	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
16	Unknown male player	0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0
17	Natasha Devbhandari	0	3	1 - 6	103 - 143
18	Kay Vickers	0	4	2 - 8	171 - 203
19	Natalie Mok	0	6	1 - 12	168 - 269

Division 3 North – Cheshire 3rd Team November 2022

Having dropped down a division last season, we were optimistic for a quick return.

Sat 12/11/2022 10:00	7	1 26	Derbyshire 2 - Staffordshire 2	8-3	Nottingham Trent University	
Sat 12/11/2022 10:00	3	1 12	Lincolnshire - Nottinghamshire 3	8-3	Nottingham Trent University	
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	4	1 16	Cheshire 3 - Northumberland 2	9-2	Pendle LC	✓
Sat 12/11/2022 10:30	6	1 22	Cumbria - Lancashire 4	2-9	Pendle LC	✓
Sat 12/11/2022 13:30	5	1 19	Nottinghamshire 3 - Staffordshire 2	9-2	Nottingham Trent University	
Sat 12/11/2022 13:30	5	1 20	Lincolnshire - Derbyshire 2	6-5	Nottingham Trent University	⚡
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	5	1 18	Northumberland 2 - Cumbria	6-5	Pendle LC	✓ ⚡
Sat 12/11/2022 14:00	5	1 17	Lancashire 4 - Cheshire 3	4-7	Pendle LC	✓ ⚡

Our first weekend saw us record to excellent wins and set us up nicely for the second round in January.

Division 3 North – Cheshire 3rd Team January 2023

Team Report

Cheshire 3 v Derbyshire 2

6-5

After the men's singles we were 2-1 up thanks to wins from David Humphreys and Ben Woodward, but after two very close ladies singles games we headed into the doubles down 3-2. Things soon picked up after Ben and Jack Raiswell took their men's doubles, with David and Olly Harrington following suit. Alex Goodwin and Rachel Green pulled through a battling doubles to take a brilliant win in three ends but unfortunately for Ruth Flatman and Linh Ly their opponents proved too strong this time round. Heading into the mixed doubles we lead the match 5-4 meaning we needed one more game to record the win. Ruth and Jack won a tight game in two game, Ben and Linh fought hard but lost in the third end 24-22 in a game which could only be separated by 2 points across all 3 ends. It was a strong team performance in what we knew would be a tough match, therefore a pleasing 6-5 win.

Cheshire 3 v Staffordshire 2

11-0

Heading into this game Staffordshire sat bottom of the league but were not to be underestimated by any means. However, Cheshire came out guns blazing in a game we knew we would need to pick up lots of points. With routine wins in all singles games we began the game 5-0 up thanks to Olly, David, Jack, Rachel and Alex. Then came the doubles, Ben and Jack and Rachel and Alex both won their games in two ends. Olly and David and Ruth and Linh had to work a bit harder in their matches, but also both managed to win their games in three. 9-0. Mixed up next and both pairs performed well and delivered the points in two games which meant we recorded an 11-0 win! Fantastic performances from everyone once again. These two wins leave us sitting at the top of the table going into the final weekend with three tough fixtures to go. Come on Cheshire!!

Ben Woodward, 3rd Team Captain

Division 3 North – Cheshire 3rd Team March 2023

Sat 21/01/2023 11:00	7	1 25	Lancashire 4 - Lincolnshire	5-6	York RI	🔄
Sat 21/01/2023 11:00	6	1 24	Staffordshire 2 - Northumberland 2	3-8	York RI	🔄
Sat 21/01/2023 11:00	4	1 13	Cumbria - Nottinghamshire 3	3-8	York RI	
Sat 21/01/2023 11:00	3	1 11	Derbyshire 2 - Cheshire 3	5-6	York RI	🔄
Sat 21/01/2023 14:30	1	1 1	Cheshire 3 - Staffordshire 2	11-0	York RI	✓
Sat 21/01/2023 14:30	2	1 8	Derbyshire 2 - Northumberland 2	8-3	York RI	
Sat 21/01/2023 14:30	1	1 2	Nottinghamshire 3 - Lancashire 4	8-3	York RI	
Sat 21/01/2023 14:30	2	1 7	Lincolnshire - Cumbria	6-5	York RI	✓🔄

Team Report

Cheshire 3 vs Northumberland 2

9-2

It was a tough start to the match with Jack Raiswell taking the only men's singles, but we were soon ahead in the match after wins from Rachel Green and Alex Goodwin. Ben Woodward and Alistair Hawgood came through a tough men's doubles to win 27-25 in the third end, Jack and David Humphreys took theirs in two. Then into the ladies doubles: Ruth Flatman and Linh Ly and Rachel and Alex both won comfortably to take the match score to 7-2. Alistair and Ruth then won their mixed in two, it took Ben and Linh three ends to do the same, giving us a comprehensive 9-2 victory to start the season off in style.

Cheshire 3 vs Lancashire 4

7-4

1st men's singles was a thriller and a great performance from David but ultimately losing out in the third end, a similar fate was to befall Jack. Ben came through a close game in two sets. Alex and Rachel once again proved too strong for their opponents winning both ladies singles putting us up in the match after the singles. Both men's doubles pairs came through close, competitive games winning in three sets. Ruth and Linh won their ladies doubles in two ends whilst Rachel and Alex had a battle on their hands, unfortunately losing out 22-20 in the third set. Alistair and Ruth yet again cruised to victory in 2 sets, while Jack (playing his third three setter of the match) and Linh, lost out in three games. A 7-4 win was again an excellent result, well done to all.

Ben Woodward, 3rd Team Captain

A number of powerful performances from a largely settled team saw us build a commanding lead and one that couldn't be caught. Our reward was promotion as we'd hoped.

Final Placing

Division 3 - Division 3 - North

	Points	Played	Won	Draws	Lost	Rubbers	Games	Points
1 Cheshire 3	49	7	5	0	2	49 - 28	110 - 67	3417 - 3150
2 Lincolnshire	47	7	6	0	1	47 - 30	110 - 72	3457 - 3091
3 Derbyshire 2	46	7	5	0	2	46 - 31	100 - 80	3327 - 3215
4 Nottinghamshire 3	45	7	5	0	2	45 - 32	106 - 73	3400 - 3113
5 Northumberland 2	36	7	4	0	3	36 - 41	79 - 100	3142 - 3352
6 Lancashire 4	36	7	2	0	5	36 - 41	87 - 97	3334 - 3418
7 Cumbria	31	7	1	0	6	31 - 46	79 - 104	3296 - 3369
8 Staffordshire 2	18	7	0	0	7	18 - 59	48 - 126	2753 - 3418

Players representing Cheshire 3rd Team

Team: Cheshire 3 (Ch3) ★

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Rank	Player	Won	Played	Games	Points
1	Jack Raiswell	13	16	28 - 10	757 - 615
2	David Humphreys	12	14	25 - 7	649 - 537
3	Ben Woodward	12	16	25 - 11	720 - 670
4	Rachel Green	8	14	19 - 14	629 - 578
5	Alexandra Goodwin	8	14	18 - 14	621 - 559
6	Ruth Flatman	7	14	18 - 15	625 - 622
7	Linh Ly	7	14	17 - 17	633 - 639
8	Alistair Hawgood	5	10	13 - 12	479 - 500
9	Oliver Harrington	4	7	9 - 7	287 - 293
10		0	0	0 - 0	0 - 0

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2022/23

For the first time in a while, we ran the Senior County Championships as well as the Senior Bronze and Silver Tournaments.

The tournaments were run at Ellesmere Port Sports Village and the levels of entry for both the Senior Bronze in December 2022 and the Senior Silver in January 2023 were very high thus enabling us to run two very competitive events.

County Championships October 2022

There was not a very big entry for this event but there were some very good matches and some new faces.

Mens Singles

Dan Font had an untroubled run to victory in this event. Owen Edwards in contrast had a couple of very tough matches beating the number 2 seed Richard Morrissey in a very exciting three set quarter final but an in-form Dan had not lost a set in previous matches.

Ladies Singles

Only 4 players in this event which was played as one group. Ashleigh Mok, who at only age 13 is a very promising young player, won all her matches including a very closely contested 3 set match with Sophie Taylor.

Mens Doubles

Rich Morrissey and Mike Roe the number 1 seeds did not drop a set on their way to their win in the final against Jamie Noble and Luke Tanner who had very good 3 set win over Harry Liver and Jonathan Savory the number 2 seeds.

Ladies Doubles

This event was also played in one group and was won by Sammy Hutt and Rachel Vickers without losing a set.

Mixed Doubles

This was a hard fought final contested by the two top seeded pairs although Rich Morrissey and Sophie Taylor (2) were given a scare by Owen Edwards and Olivia Frankland at the group stage. Mike Roe and Rachel Vickers were the eventual winners of a very close and entertaining match.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Dan Font	Owen Edwards
Ladies Singles	Ashleigh Mok	Charlotte Forbes
Men's Doubles	Richard Morrissey	Jamie Noble
	Mike Roe	Luke Tanner
Ladies Doubles	Sammy Hutt	Charlotte Forbes
	Rachel Vickers	Sophie Taylor
Mixed Doubles	Mike Roe	Richard Morrissey
	Rachel Vickers	Sophie Taylor

Senior Bronze December 2022

There was an entry of 130 players which was higher than 2021 and emphasises the popularity of this tournament.

Mens Singles

Mihir Acharya was the most successful of the Cheshire contingent losing a very close 3 set quarter final match to Jack Wilson (Yorkshire) who had already put out the number 1 seed. The final was an easy win for Dale Turner.

Ladies Singles

There were 8 players in this event with the only Cheshire representative Rachel Green in a box with the number 1 seed Emily Harper who was untroubled on her way to the win.

Mens Doubles

There were 30 pairs in this event which was very difficult to seed as there were many overseas students representing Lancashire who were unknown to us. Some turned out to be accomplished players so cards are marked for next time!

The Cheshire pair of Harry Liver and Jonathan Savory had a largely untroubled run to the final which was an entertaining well contested 3 set match against a Lancashire pair who had also made it an easy run to the final.

Ladies Doubles

The first seeds Wanwimon Lloyd and Laura Wall were hard pushed to make it out of their box at the group stages and were beaten relatively easily by Vivian Cheng and Cici Lu. (2)

Mixed Doubles

There was some Cheshire interest in the final stages of the mixed. The third seeds Olivia Frankland and her partner Ed Telfer (Warks) lost in the semi-final to Jake White and Cici Lu who then went on to beat another Cheshire player Jonathan Savory and his partner Ellen Liddle in a very competitive 3 set match.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Dale Turner (Gloucestershire)	Robert Donald (Hertfordshire)
Ladies Singles	Emily Harper (Yorkshire)	Yuan Lu (Warwickshire)
Men's Doubles	Kar Hon Luu (Lancashire)	Harry Liver (Cheshire)
	Yixuan Shen (Lancashire)	Jonathan Savory (Cheshire)
Ladies Doubles	Vivien Cheng (Lancashire)	Wanwimon Lloyd (Yorkshire)
	Cici Lu (Yorkshire)	Laura Wall (Yorkshire)
Mixed Doubles	Jake White (Lancashire)	Jonathan Savory (Cheshire)
	Cici Lu (Yorkshire)	Ellen Liddle (Lancashire)

Senior Silver January 2023

There were 99 players and the tournament was well supported by Cheshire players but again with many Lancashire players that were unknown to us.

This tournament was played over 2 days with semi-finals and finals played on Sunday.

Mens Singles

Dan Font was defending the title he won last year and was unstoppable making it through to the final without dropping a set and having a comfortable 2 set win over Adam Shepherd.

Ladies Singles

Steph Rowarth was the only Cheshire representative in the singles and unfortunately lost a hard fought match at the group stage 23-21 in the third set. The finalists were both under 16 and Lucy Brierley went on to win comfortably in 2 sets.

Mens Doubles

There were some very close and exciting matches in this event not least in a group without a seed where all matches went to 3 sets or setting. The winners were Dan Font and William Kitching (Dan again not losing a set) who beat the Cheshire pairing of Dave Edgar and Matt Nottingham.

Ladies Doubles

There was not a large entry in this event. The number 1 seeded pair of Rachel Vickers and Ellie Wheatley had a tough semi-final match before meeting the eventual winners Abby Downing and Natasha Lado who survived some close matches in the group stages.

Mixed Doubles

Seeds fell by the wayside here with only the number 2 seeds Jacob Weekes and Katherine Arksey remaining at the semi-final stage. They were beaten fairly comfortably by Jacob's older brother Samuel and partner Megan Brierley.

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Men's Singles	Dan Font (Cheshire)	Adam Shepherd (Oxfordshire)
Ladies Singles	Lucy Brierley (Nottinghamshire)	Raye Wan (Nottinghamshire)
Men's Doubles	Dan Font (Cheshire)	Dave Edgar (Cheshire)
	Will Kitching (Warwickshire)	Matt Nottingham (Cheshire)
Ladies Doubles	Abby Downing (Derbyshire)	Rachel Vickers (Cheshire)
	Natasha Lado (Hampshire)	Ellie Wheatley (Nottinghamshire)
Mixed Doubles	Samuel Weekes (Avon)	Jacob Weekes (Avon)
	Megan Brierley (Nottinghamshire)	Katherine Arksey (Yorkshire)

These two senior tournaments are always well supported, and players respond well to our attempts to keep play moving and seem to enjoy the atmosphere created. We hope that they will be as well supported in the 23/24 season and we can continue to put on events that players can come to knowing that we do our best to give them a well run, and enjoyable tournament.

The Senior County Championships will be held on 23rd September 2023. The date for the 2023 Senior Bronze is 2nd December 2023 but as yet, we do not have a date in January 2024 for the Senior Silver until the calendar is published in the next few weeks.

Jan Bergh
Tournament Secretary

MASTERS SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2022/23

As I reflect on the 2022-23 season it is obvious to me that our sport is not as strong post Covid as it was pre Covid. However, the recovery is underway and as a County whilst we cannot celebrate any major playing successes there are some reasons to be optimistic for the future. In the championship we didn't withdraw any teams, as we had to last year, though it must be said re-arrangements were plentiful. At times we were short of players and our opponents were gracious enough to rearrange. Added to this there was a change of date for the teams due to play at Milton Keynes in the Challenge event which affected several matches. This caused rearrangement chaos throughout the country. The playing results are summarised below:

Over 40s: Finished 2nd out of 4. The eventual national champions were Cambridgeshire.

Over 45s: Finished 3rd out of 4 but conceded 1, received 1 concession and had 1 mutual concession. The National winners were Sussex.

Over 50s: Finished 4th from 4 and conceded 1. The National champions are Hampshire.

Over 55s: Finished 3rd from 4. The National champions are Essex.

Over 60s: Finished 3rd from 3. The National champions are Yorkshire.

Over 65s: Finished 3rd from 4. The National champions are Lancashire.

Over 70s: Finished 4th from 5 and conceded 1. Essex won the National final.

Interesting to note that in 5 of the 7 divisions the National champions or runners up came from our region, so we do play at a high level. The good performance of our O40s team gives me some optimism for the future. My thanks go to all of the players who represented us and particularly to the captains Emily, Pete, Ruth, Dave, Andy/Jean, Stuart/Linda without whom we wouldn't have any teams.

The Challenge event takes place in January and all teams play over 1 weekend. As alluded to earlier, the Milton Keynes event had to move to Nottingham a week earlier than usual. I am assured this will not happen again. We started the weekend with 3 teams in the premier division and finished the weekend with 3 teams in the premier division. Unfortunately, the O60s were relegated but although we were a lady short, we still turned up, which was much appreciated by our opponents and the organisers. On the plus side the O50s won their division and were promoted so congratulations to them. To field so many teams over a weekend is a major effort and I hope all those who participated enjoyed their weekend. Unlike many other counties we don't charge a match fee for this event as there is accommodation and travelling expenses which the players pay for along with the considerable cost of rehydration. The bill for this year was £1445. Nationally over 1000 players participated over 5 venues and over 3500 shuttles were used. Congratulations go to the winners who are (in ascending age groups) Lancashire, Yorkshire, Hampshire, Essex, Yorkshire, Surrey and Kent. There were several late withdrawals for this event and in an effort to combat this the last day which we can withdraw a team without being liable to the full fee is the end of October and the teams must be nominated by mid-November. Nominations can be altered though at any time.

The championship teams are already entered for next season and I will be arranging fixtures in a few weeks when the divisions are published. I regret that we haven't entered an O50s team in the championship. This is due to the fact that 3 ladies move up an age group at O50, O55 and O60 but no ladies have moved into or out of the O45. I will be more than happy to try to arrange some friendlies at O50 if we have enough players interested. I have also put an entry into the Challenge

event and we have until October to make a final decision on this. We will be fielding 2 teams at O65 as a result of this. Can I also remind players that to play in county matches your BE affiliation needs to be up to date and have 'Compete' status. Although there are some concessions on this we were penalised some games this season as a result of us not complying. Fortunately, this did not affect the result of the match.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank Karl for all of the help he gives us in booking courts and catering. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you in September when our playing sessions will restart.

Derek Neary
Masters Coordinator.