



Kent Junior Badminton 2021-2022 End of Season Report 22nd May 2022

WHAT A BUZZ is how I describe my first season in charge of the Kent juniors, not just because the under 13's went unbeaten for the season and became Champions or my first experience of the emotional rollercoaster ride that was the U18 Inter County Tournament, but throughout the season our young players repeatedly dispel this idea that the youth of today are lazy, not driven and that we as a society have driven the competitive spirit out of our youth. We have such a charming bunch of motivated young individuals that are a credit to their coaches and parents that it makes this role a pleasure and honour to hold.

I have definitely learnt a lot this season and believe I can do more to further improve our opportunities to succeed. This is only possible with the continued support from the parents and efforts from the coaches that are working with these players week in week out.

As a county we recognise the struggle to keep up with the demand for 1-2-1 and small group coaching. To achieve this we need more coaches and affordable court space which is not easy to magic up but clubs are making a difference by helping our older players qualify to assist and hopefully go on to take their level 2 and help increase the capacity. We are gradually increasing the strength in depth in the squads that the top counties have done for a while by running 1st and 2nd teams. This will help bridge the natural gap that a two year age system creates where one year you are playing in team at the top of the age range and the next you are just outside the team. Having a 2nd team will allow this continuity but must be done with the realisation that some of the matches will be very tough.

There were many examples of individual and doubles pair success at tournaments this season but I do not plan to go to that level of detail in this report because there is plenty of information regarding these on the various club websites and there is no question that I would miss something and upset someone along the way.

To continue the optimism we have a good number of Under 11 players coaching at various clubs. I am working with Park Langley and Dave Robert's and on the 28th of May are running an under 11 event which will have 24 players. This will help form a new squad of U10s and enable Kent to organise some friendlies for this fledgling age group. We have added an U10 age group to the Futures and Restricted tournaments.

It feels a long time away but I am looking forward to the Kent restricted tournament on the 10th and 11th of September. Please reserve that date's in your diaries because there is the potential for it to be a very large and very competitive entry.

My thanks as always to the dedicated coaches and amazing parents as well as the players who make all of this possible.

Richard McNally
Director of Kent Junior Badminton

Your County Needs You

As our ambitions are big in Kent, we have two things to ask.

One, do any of you parents out there have businesses or work for large companies that would consider some sponsorship for the Kent Juniors to help fund the various events such as the ECC, ICT, shires league finals and funding visiting coaches to reduce the financial burden of the parents after a long season. The opportunity for businesses to be seen to promote such positive activities, not to mentioned being associated with the success that Kent will continue to deliver, is an opportunity not to be missed.

Two, Do you have any professional skills and a little time now and then to help...??

The Board of Kent Badminton Ltd are all volunteers who have been elected as they are all passionate about the sport of badminton at all levels throughout Kent, from grassroots to national level. We all believe in the ethos that the county is run "by the members for the members" and want to increase the involvement of all members to drive the County forward.

We are thus reaching out to members of Kent Badminton who have professional skills who may be able to help on a varied ad hoc basis to provide advice and help to the Board either as a director (Please complete the form on the Kent [website](#) to support a nomination) or to provide general help & support. The following areas need specific support:

- IT & Social Media - we need to spread the word to a broader, younger audience plus keep our website up-dated
- Sponsorship / Fundraising - our annual income is low at around GBP8,000 p.a. We could do some much more for our players and coaches if we had more funds.
- Volunteering - help run our tournament programme
- Sport Disability
- Referees/Umpires
- Coaching - to build the numbers of active coaches and to facilitate CPD

If you have these skills / professional experience and want to help, please let us know. We also have scope for young people who are interested in developing a career in any of these areas to get involved.

Thanks

Jo

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U12-13 Team - Champions

Just amazing, unbeaten all season despite being in the toughest group. Everybody played their part to deliver this exceptional result. Jyo backed up by Kayal did an excellent job organising the teams, motivating and making things work like clockwork and the commitment of the parents to reserve these dates is what gives good continuity of the team.

Date	Match	Score	Opponents Position
28/11/2021	Kent vs Surrey	12 - 8	7th
18/12/2021	Kent vs Essex	14 - 6	5th
16/01/2022	Hampshire vs Kent	2 - 18	11th
29/01/2022	Middlesex vs Kent	1 - 19	14th
06/02/2022	Hertfordshire vs Kent	8 - 12	10th
06/03/2022	Berkshire vs Kent	10 - 10	2nd
10/04/2022	Kent vs Essex	13 - 7	5th
10/04/2022	Kent vs Yorkshire 1	12 - 8	3rd
10/04/2022	Kent vs Berkshire	11 - 9	2nd



Player roll call in alphabetical order

Arjun Bhattiprolu (8)	Alice Demina (1)
David Kwiecien (8)	Mahi Sarthi (9)
Kavin Karunakaran (8)	Olivia Martin (5)
Siddhant Pawar(5)	Scarlett Hellicar (1)
Suhas Govindarajula (9)	Shraddha Gopalakrishnan (8)
Yida Yu (2)	Vedanshi Jain (9)
	Veronika Kodagi (7)

Team Captains: Jyo Bhattiprolu/Kayal Karunakaran

Top 8 League Table after the finals

Team	Played	Points	Won	Draws	Lost
Kent	9	17	8	1	0
Berkshire	9	15	7	1	1
Leicestershire	9	14	7	0	2
Yorkshire	9	14	7	0	2
Essex	9	12	6	0	3
Avon	9	10	5	0	4
Surrey	9	10	5	0	4
Warwickshire	9	8	4	0	5

Looking forward to the 2022/2023 season

Six players from the team are still under 12 next season and we have a squad in excess of 20 players including two players, one from Essex and Surrey teams who have moved to Kent. A 1st and 2nd team next season will be possible with the commitment from parents and a couple of volunteers to be team captain and an assistant captain.

U14-15 Team

A very inexperienced squad, when it comes to shires, took on a hard group with the eventual winners, 3rd place, 7th and 9th place teams who all had high graded players. We also had injuries and absences but despite all of that, each match was competitive and the players grew in confidence with each match and had we started with the three weaker teams in the group we would have had a better chance to take on the tougher teams with more experience and confidence under our belts. Alex, Judy and Oneil ever-present keeping an experience eye on proceedings.

Date	Match	Score	Opponents Position
28/11/2021	Essex vs Kent	16-4	7th
11/12/2021	Surrey 1 vs Kent	17-3	3rd
23/01/2022	Kent vs Hertfordshire	4-16	1st
19/02/2022	Kent vs Surrey 2	11-9	9th
05/03/2022	Sussex vs Kent	0-20	25th
13/03/2022	Kent vs Suffolk	Walkover	18th

Player roll call in alphabetical order

Ben McNally (2)	Annabel Nung (3)
Deeraj Balachandar (2)	Anya Peng (3)
Harry Pattullo (5)	Erin Cheong (4)
Isaac Allen (5)	Gloria Yeung (1)
Matthew Chow (1)	Jessica Swaite (1)
Sonny Chaplin (5)	Millie Mugridge (1)
	Rhea Gowda (4)
	Shraddha Gopalakrishnan (1)
	Youxi Liang (3)

Team Captains: Alex Pattullo/Judy Amato

Looking forward to the 2022/2023 season

Over 20 players currently on the books as U14-15s for the next season, seven of which have played this season in the U15 team. Another opportunity to run two teams if we can get the commitment of the parents and some volunteers to help as team manager and assistant.



U16-17 Team

This team should now be preparing to for a play off place or have been in the top four waiting to battle in the finals. I am frustrated for the players that the season was impacted for a number of reasons. Primarily exam pressure, injury and tournament clashes meant using so many players to fill in, some of which were U15s due to a lack of availability. When you consider our last match of the season was against the 3rd placed Hertfordshire and was still impacted by injury and we narrowly lost 11-9 shows with many of those games decided by 21-19 results shows that we should have been competing with the top teams at the finals. Inku and Julian kept the matches ticking over nicely providing cover for each other on numerous occasions.

Date	Match	Score	Opponents Position
13/11/2021	Surrey 2 vs Kent	3-17	22nd
20/11/2021	Surrey 1 vs Kent	11-9	8th but into the finals
18/12/2021	Essex vs Kent	5-15	26th
12/03/2022	Sussex vs Kent	12-8	7th with playoff to play
20/03/2022	Suffolk vs Kent	7-13	14th
27/03/2022	Kent vs Hertfordshire	9-11	3rd with finals to come

Player roll call in alphabetical order

Arjun Jadhav (1)	Bhavana Ratakonda (3)
Ayan Mahajan (4)	Ella Darlington (3)
Haridhra Balachandar (3)	Emma Kennedy (4)
Matthew Chow (1)	Evie Thompson (1)
Michael Sherriff (3)	Mili Patel (4)
Namish Jain (2)	Niamh Rogers (6)
Rohan Patel (1)	Rhea Gowda (1)
Samual Pannel (3)	Shraddha Gopalakrishnan (1)
Simon Laukaitis (1)	Sofia Bao (1)
Sonny Chaplin (1)	
Tom Larchet (5)	

Team Captains: Inku Patel/Julian Sherriff

Looking forward to the 2022/2023 season

We are not quite so blessed with boys in this age group and I will be on the hunt for players to see if a 2nd team is possible.

U18-19 Team

A gutsy season with only two players making all six matches but some great scalps along the way and some cunning work by Terry researching opponents and doing whatever was possible to get an advantage. This is an age group where exam pressure and jobs start to put pressure on team captains to keep teams together but credit to all for reaching the finals and it was with a very heavy heart that we collectively agreed to concede the playoff match against Leicestershire after many phone calls were made to find courts in Milton Keynes or surrounding areas to reduce the burden of travel. We even tried to arrange the match immediately after the ICT event but even had there been time we injuries would have beaten us.

Date	Match	Score	Opponents Position
13/11/2021	Kent vs Essex	11-9	14th
28/11/2021	Kent vs Sussex	16-4	17th
08/01/2022	Surrey 1 vs Kent	17-3	1st with finals to play
16/01/2022	Hertfordshire vs Kent	12-8	8th losing to Yorkshire 2 in the playoffs
23/01/2022	Suffolk vs Kent	8-12	21st
19/02/2022	Kent vs Surrey 2	17-3	23rd
17/04/2022	Leicestershire vs Kent	Conceded	7th with finals to play

Player roll call in alphabetical order

Ayman Ahmad. (6)	Bhavana Ratakonda (3)
Christopher Darlington (3)	Ciara Aylott (3)
Daniel Wright (2)	Emma Kennedy (1)
Jack Browne (4)	Evie Thompson (1)
Kieran Grant (5)	Lucy Satterford (6)
Sam Goddard (3)	Melissa Mundy (5)
Tom Larchet (2)	Mili Patel (2)
	Niamh Rogers (1)
	Sadie Brooks (1)
	Sofia Bao (1)

Team Captain: Terry Satterford

Looking forward to the 2022/2023 season

We are in the unfortunate position to have fewer boys in the squad to commit to two teams although I will be on the hunt. This is harsh because we have twelve very competitive young ladies available. I have not given up yet.

U18 Inter Counties Tournament (ICT) 2022 - 11th to 13th April

The ICT is usually a four day event but Covid has impacted a number of counties much harder than others and fewer teams entering meant that the event was dropped to three days, which quite honestly might have been a blessing because I don't know that I couldn't have avoided attacking the next person that blew an air horn or a vuvuzela next to my head.

The Team managers, coaches and players were made up of:

(Back row) Emily Tillman (coach), Terry Satterford (Team captain), Jack Browne, William Osaseri, Tom Larchet, Sam Goddard, Kieran Grant, Me (Coach) Inku Patel (Assistant Team Captain)

(Front row) Melissa Mundy, Ella Darlington, Mili Patel, Bhavana Ratakonda and Lucy Satterford.



The relatively young Kent team did a marvellous job of navigating the tough three matches on day one, three on day two and two on the last day to secure a well earned fifth place from the 22 counties that were present.

Day one's first match against Gloucestershire couldn't have been a better start with a 10-0 win. The second match of the day against Middlesex was a narrow 4-6 loss with six of the games finishing with a sudden death 15-14 result and five of the ten matches going to 3 games. The last match of the day was another 10-0 win against Gloucestershire.

Day two started with a down to earth bump against the eventual second place team of Cheshire, who were quicker out of the traps in all games and made those early points count. With a format of best of three to 15 with no setting, it doesn't take long to be a game down and having to fight hard to recover. A 9-1 loss was hard to take but it was a huge wake up call for the players who went on to win 7-2 against a very loud and strongly supported Leicestershire team and finished the day with a winning draw 5-5 against Wiltshire with just one game tipping it in Kent's favour. This put us in the 4-6 position group on the final day against Surrey and Avon.

Day three didn't start well and before a shuttle was hit two of the boys were struggling, with one unable to play at all. Another tough start to a morning losing 8-2 to Avon but followed up with a spirited 7-3 win against Surrey. We were confident at that point that Avon would beat Surrey comfortably to give us the fifth spot but Surrey were desperately trying to spoil the day and won the 5-5 draw by one game... had it been by two games then they would have got the fifth spot on a games count back.

So many highlights from the three days and the players should all be proud of what they achieved during that week.

17-21 English County Challenge 2022 (ECC) - 9th and 10th of April

A team made up left to right of Vijay Singh, Holly Williams, Owen Fowler, Jess Beckett Thomas Knapp, Shivani Bhoombla, Josh Oxley and Monica Patel headed to York to take on 11 other counties in this two day event.



The first round saw wins against Oxfordshire and Worcestershire and a draw against the eventual runners up Avon and just one rubber and a few points was all that prevented progression to the top 3 group. The second day saw a win against Lancashire and a 4-2 loss to Leicestershire that meant the team finished in a creditable 5th place.

Final positions were:

Yorkshire
Avon
Devon
Leicestershire
Kent
Lancashire
Worcestershire
Sussex
Isle of Man
Cornwall
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire

Inter Regional - 24th April

A much quieter experience than the ICT, not a vuvuzela in sight, and very much dominated by Tunbridge Wells this year with their U19 team entirely made up of ICT and ECC players and a strong U15 team made up from the younger U17 and U15 Kent team and squad players with the girls brilliantly stepping up at the last minute.

The usual banter as to be expected between the adults and some spirited displays from the players with a number of U15 players stepping up to full gaps in the U19 teams and giving it their all.

U15 event

- 1st Tunbridge Wells
- 2nd Orpington
- 3rd Ashford/Maidstone A
- 4th Ashford/Maidstone B

Winning Tunbridge Wells team made up of (left to right):
Haridhra Balachandar
Simon Laukaitis
Michael Sherriff
Kavin Karunakaran
Zoe Hutton
Annabel Nung
Abigail Barnes



U19 event

- 1st Tunbridge Wells
- 2nd Ashford/Maidstone
- 3rd Medway
- 4th Orpington
- 5th North Foreland

Winning Tunbridge Wells team made up of (left to right):

Owen Fowler
Monica Patel
Tom Larchet
Lucy Satterford
William Osaseri
Bhavana Ratakonda
Kieran Grant

