



Masters Handbook 2023 – 2024

MASTERS POLICY GROUP

The 2023/4 Masters Policy Group consists of the following members:

CHAIRMAN AND CHALLENGE

**Roy Carder
07734008006**

CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Margaret Houlton
01962 869443**

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

**Sue Warnock
07584 568962**

AND

**Tim Moore
07734 879562**

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SELECTION AND SEEDING GROUP NATIONS CUP, WORLDS, EUROPEANS AND MCCOIG

Liz Austin, Peter Emptage, Christine Crossley, Mark King, Suzanne Brewer

**Badminton England Competition Manager
Jon Hancock 01908 268411**

Any person interested in joining the Masters Policy Group should please contact Roy Carder (as above). Please note it is a working group, and you will be allocated suitable tasks.

MASTERS COMPETITIONS

2023

Worlds	11/17 th September
Cumbria Silver	14/15 th October
Kent Gold	27/29 th October
Northumberland Silver	4/5 th November
West of England Silver	18/19 th November
Nationals	1/3rd December

2024

County Challenge	All venues	13/14th January
Lancs Silver and Middlesex Bronze		3/4 th February
Hampshire Silver		17/18 th February
Yorkshire Gold and McCoig on 1st		1/3 rd March
Masters Champs Playoffs		7th April
All England Masters		11/14th April
Masters Champs Finals		20/21st April
Masters Annual Coordinators meeting		12th May
Essex Silver		19/20th May

Senior County Champs 11/12th Nov 2023

20/21st January 2024 and 23/24th March 2024

MASTERS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISIONS

Over 40s

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Lincolnshire Yorkshire	Cambridgeshire 1 Cambridgeshire 2 Essex Norfolk Suffolk 1 Suffolk 2	Bedfordshire Leicestershire Nottinghamshire Staffordshire Warwickshire Worcestershire	Berkshire Hampshire Oxfordshire Wiltshire	Buckinghamshire Hertfordshire Kent Middlesex Surrey Sussex	Avon Devon Dorset Somerset

Over 45s

North	Midlands	South and East		South West
Cheshire Lancashire Yorkshire	Derbyshire Nottinghamshire Shropshire Worcestershire	Buckinghamshire Essex Kent Middlesex Surrey Sussex		Avon Hampshire Wiltshire

Over 50s

North	Midlands: East	Midlands: West	South S & E		South West
Lancashire West of Scotland Yorkshire	Cambridgeshire Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire Suffolk	Bedfordshire Gloucestershire Leicestershire Oxfordshire	Essex Hampshire Hertfordshire Kent Middlesex Surrey Sussex		Avon Cornwall Devon Wiltshire

Over 55s

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Nottinghamshire Yorkshire	Buckinghamshire Hertfordshire Warwickshire Worcestershire	Essex Kent Surrey Sussex	Cambridgeshire Lincolnshire Norfolk	Devon Hampshire Somerset Wiltshire

Over 60s

North	Midlands	S&E: South	S&E: East	South West
Cheshire Lancashire Nottinghamshire Yorkshire	Leicestershire Shropshire 1 Shropshire 2 Worcestershire	Buckinghamshire Middlesex Surrey Sussex	Essex Hertfordshire Kent Suffolk	Avon Devon Hampshire Wiltshire

Over 65s

North	Midlands	S & E		South West
Cheshire 1 Lancashire 1 Lancashire 2 Yorkshire	Cheshire 2 Leicestershire Nottinghamshire Warwickshire Worcestershire 1 Worcestershire 2	Essex Hertfordshire 1 Hertfordshire 2 Kent Suffolk Surrey Sussex		Avon Devon Hampshire Wiltshire

Over 70s

South West	East	South	North
Avon Cornwall Devon 1 Devon 2 Dorset Hampshire 1 Somerset	Essex Kent Surrey 2 Sussex 2	Berkshire Hampshire 2 I.O.W Surrey 1 Sussex 1 Wiltshire	Cheshire Lancashire 1 Lancashire 2 Leicestershire Staffordshire Yorkshire

Over 75s

Dorset Kent Middlesex Sussex

MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE 2023-24

Divisions

Over 40 Premier	Over 45 Premier	Over 50 Premier	Over 55 Premier	Over 60 Premier	Over 65 Premier
Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
Worcester	Milton Keynes	Worcester	Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	Wolverhampton
Bedfordshire	Derbyshire	Cambridgeshire	Cheshire	E. Scotland	Avon
Cambridgeshire 1	Glasgow N	Cheshire	Essex	Essex	Cheshire
Devon	Middlesex	Hampshire	Hertfordshire	Hampshire	Glasgow N
Hampshire	Surrey	Kent	Lancashire	Hertfordshire	Lancashire
Lancashire	Sussex	Nottinghamshire 1	Surrey 1	Lancashire	Surrey
Staffordshire	Worcestershire	Surrey	Sussex	Surrey	Sussex
Surrey	Yorkshire	W of Scotland	Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire
Over 40 Div 1A	Over 45 Div 1A	Over 50 Div 1A	Over 55 Div 1A	Over 60 Div 1A	Over 65 Div 1A
Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton	Worcester	Wolverhampton	Worcester	Wolverhampton
Cheshire	Buckinghamshire	Gloucestershire	Cambridgeshire	Buckinghamshire	Lancashire 2
Leicestershire	Cheshire	Lancashire	Norfolk	Cheshire	Hertfordshire 2
Lincolnshire	Lancashire	Lincolnshire	Warwickshire	Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire
Norfolk	Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire 2	Worcestershire	Shropshire	Shropshire
Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Yorkshire		Worcestershire	Suffolk
Oxfordshire					Worcestershire
Worcestershire					
Yorkshire	PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE	

MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE 2023-24

Divisions

Over 40 Div 1B	Over 45 Div 1B	Over 50 Div 1B	Over 55 Div 1B	Over 60 Div 1B	Over 65 Div 1B
Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
Bournemouth	Eastleigh	Eastleigh	Bournemouth	Eastleigh	Eastleigh
Berkshire	Avon	Avon	Buckinghamshire	Avon	Devon
Cambridgeshire 2	Essex	Bedfordshire	Devon	Devon	Essex
Dorset	Hampshire	Devon	Hampshire	Kent	Hampshire
Essex	Kent	Essex	Kent	Middlesex	Hertfordshire
Kent	Wiltshire	Hertfordshire	Somerset	Suffolk	Kent
Middlesex		Middlesex	Surrey 2	Sussex	Somerset
Sussex		Sussex	Wiltshire	Wiltshire	Wiltshire
	PLAY TWICE				

Over 40 Div 2B		Over 50 Div 2B	Over 70 Premier	Over 70 Div 1A	Over 70 Div 1B
Playing at		Playing at	Playing at	Playing at	Playing at
Eastleigh		Bournemouth	Worcester	Wolverhampton	Bournemouth
Avon		Cornwall	Essex	Avon	Cornwall
Buckinghamshire		Oxfordshire	Kent 1	Berkshire	Devon
Hertfordshire		Suffolk	Lancashire 1	Cheshire	Dorset
Somerset		Wales	Leicestershire	Lancashire 2	Hampshire
Suffolk		Wiltshire	Surrey 1	Staffordshire	I.O.W
Wales			Sussex 1	Sussex 2	Kent 2
Wiltshire			Yorkshire	Wiltshire	Middlesex
		PLAY TWICE			Surrey 2

MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE VENUES 2023/24

Eastleigh				
040 Div 2B	045 Div 1B	050 Div 1B	060 Div 1B	065 Div 1B
Avon	Avon	Avon	Avon	Devon
Buckinghamshire	Essex	Bedfordshire	Devon	Essex
Hertfordshire	Hampshire	Devon	Kent	Hampshire
Somerset	Kent	Essex	Middlesex	Hertfordshire
Suffolk	Wiltshire	Hertfordshire	Suffolk	Kent
Wales		Middlesex	Sussex	Somerset
Wiltshire		Sussex	Wiltshire	Wiltshire
	PLAY TWICE			
Bournemouth				
040 Div 1B	050 Div 2B	055 Div 1B	070 Div 1B	
Berkshire	Cornwall	Buckinghamshire	Cornwall	
Cambridgeshire 2	Oxfordshire	Devon	Devon	
Dorset	Suffolk	Hampshire	Dorset	
Essex	Wales	Kent	Hampshire	
Kent	Wiltshire	Somerset	I.O.W	
Middlesex		Surrey 2	Kent 2	
Sussex		Wiltshire	Middlesex	
	PLAY TWICE		Surrey 2	
Milton Keynes				
045 Premier	055 Premier	060 Premier		
Derbyshire	Cheshire	E. of Scotland		
Glasgow N	Essex	Essex		
Middlesex	Hertfordshire	Hampshire		
Surrey	Lancashire	Hertfordshire		
Sussex	Surrey 1	Lancashire		
Worcestershire	Sussex	Surrey		
Yorkshire	Yorkshire	Yorkshire		

Wolverhampton

040 Div 1A	045 Div 1A	055 Div 1A	060 Premier	065 Div 1A	070 Div 1A
Cheshire	Buckinghamshire	Cambridgeshire	Avon	Lancashire 2	Avon
Leicestershire	Cheshire	Norfolk	Cheshire	Hertfordshire 2	Berkshire
Lincolnshire	Lancashire	Warwickshire	Glasgow N	Nottinghamshire	Cheshire
Norfolk	Nottinghamshire	Worcestershire	Lancashire	Shropshire	Lancashire 2
Nottingham	Warwickshire		Surrey	Suffolk	Staffordshire
Oxfordshire			Sussex	Worcestershire	Sussex 2
Worcestershire			Yorkshire		Wiltshire
Yorkshire	PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE			

Worcester

040 Premier	050 Premier	050 Div 1A	060 Div 1A	070 Premier
Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Gloucestershire	Buckinghamshire	Essex
Cambridgeshire 1	Cheshire	Lancashire	Cheshire	Kent 1
Devon	Hampshire	Lincolnshire	Nottinghamshire	Lancashire 1
Hampshire	Kent	Nottinghamshire 2	Shropshire	Leicestershire
Lancashire	Nottinghamshire 1	Yorkshire	Worcestershire	Surrey 1
Staffordshire	Surrey			Sussex 1
Surrey	W of Scotland			Yorkshire
		PLAY TWICE	PLAY TWICE	



Regulations for the Badminton England Masters County Championships 2023/24

GENERAL

1. The competition shall be called the Masters County Championships. It will be competed for in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as Badminton England, or the Masters Policy Group (hereinafter called the Committee) may from time to time determine, and the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the Badminton World Federation.
2. The Competition shall be open to every English county, if governed by a county association affiliated to Badminton England, the different Channel Islands and the Isle of Man if governed by an association recognised as a county association and affiliated to Badminton England, provided that the full affiliation fees are paid. Entries from associations affiliated to other National Associations may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.
3. Entry forms will be circulated to counties in April and these must be returned to the Championship Secretary by the closing date stipulated on the entry form. Entry fees will be invoiced direct by Badminton England. Counties may enter more than one team in each age group. An additional fee shall be payable by those counties qualifying for the National finals.

THE DIVISIONS AND FINALS

- 4a) The country will be divided into 4 regions where possible, in which a competition for age groups over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 will take place (subject to sufficient entries being received). It may be necessary to split age groups within an area based on standard or geography, as determined by the Committee, taking in the views of the counties involved.
- b) Where there are two divisions by standard the team winning Division 1 will proceed to the National finals and the top team in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1 and the bottom team in Division 1 will be relegated.
- c) Where regions have been split geographically, the winning teams from each section will play off on a pre-determined date to qualify for the National finals.
- d) In the event of there being only 5 teams or less in any region, then normally they will play group matches at home and away, otherwise teams will compete on a home OR away basis, alternating if possible each year.
- e) To qualify for the finals, the region winning team will be the one with the highest number of points based on:

For the Over 40,45, 50,55, and 60 age groups there will be 3 points for a win, 2 points for a winning draw, 1 point for a losing draw and none for a defeat. In the Over 65 and 70's there will be 3 points for a win and none for a defeat. In the case of a walkover three points will be given to the non-offending team and none to the defaulting team.

In the event of 2 or more teams having the same number of points, the winners will be decided on matches won to lost. If 2 counties are still tied the result of the tie between them or, where home and away fixtures are played, the combined results of the ties between them will decide.

Where a tie that has not been played affects the winner of a league this will be referred to the MPG to make a decision on the outcome of the final positions in the division.

f) Each year the age group winners will play off over a weekend for the National League title on a knockout basis. A draw will be made before the event with semi-finals on the Saturday, with the winners contesting the final on Sunday and losers competing for 3rd and 4th place.

- g) If there are only three regions in any age group, then each team will play each other.
- h) Unless there are time restrictions the same rules apply for the finals as for the area ties.
- i) The Referee's decision on all matters is final.

THE FIXTURES

5a) When making fixtures the home team must offer two dates to the away team. If during the season an away team is unable to field a full team and cancels the fixture every effort must be made to rearrange the fixture, but the home side is not obliged to offer two further dates to their opponents.

If travelling distance is too great it is possible for the tie to be played at a mutually agreed venue with shared expenses. Where possible teams should complete half their ties prior to 31st December and all ties by 31st March each year, except where a playoff is involved when ties must be completed at least a week before the play off date.

The dates, times and venues of all home fixtures shall be notified to the Masters Coordinator of each opposing county and the Championship Secretary by 31st August preceding the season of competition. This should be achieved by using the Confirmation of Home Fixtures Form supplied.

- b) In an area with more than one team from an individual county (i.e., a county first and second team), these two teams **must** play each other before the 31st December. Failure to adhere to this requirement will lead to the tie(s) being considered as 'Not Played' and no points will be awarded to either team.
- c) A tie should be played on at least two courts allowing 8 hours playing time per tie. For Over 65 & Over 70 ties 6 court hours should be allowed. For an Over 75 tie 4 court hours should be allowed.
- d) When a tie is cancelled by the away team, and the home team can demonstrate that cancellation charges for hall hire will be incurred, then the away team may be asked to pay (or contribute towards) the cost. If a tie is cancelled because of bad weather, then any costs should be shared by the

- two counties.
- e) The home team is responsible for all the tie expenses and should provide light refreshments.
 - f) If a fixture is postponed or rearranged the home county must advise the Championships Secretary as soon as possible and if appropriate the new date and details if amended.
 - g) Feather shuttlecocks must be used.

ELIGIBILITY of PLAYERS

- 6a) All players must be eligible to play for their county under the current County Competition regulations.
 - (i) If a player is playing in the Masters County Challenge, that player must play for the same county if that county enters a team of the appropriate age group within the Masters County Championships. If such a team is not entered, the player may play for another county provided that the player is otherwise eligible.
 - (ii) No player shall play for more than one county in the Championships during the same season of competition
 - (iii) A player must be a member of Badminton England and hold a current and valid Compete Membership. Players not living in England and members of another association must be registered as a non-resident.
 - (iv) Every player will be required to hold a Compete Membership to be eligible to represent their county within the Master's Championship. To assist counties every match can be played using one "wild card" to cover last minute non-compete players up to 31st December each year, AND from January 1st may have up to two "wild cards" for any match. The Challenge weekend will count as one "wild card". A player may only have two wild cards in a season which may be two Championship matches or one Championship match and the Challenge weekend. If that player plays again without a compete licence their games will be voided.
- b) Players must be over the age of 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 at the start of a tie, except any over 40 team may play up to two players aged over 38 at the start of a tie.
- c) Nominations for squad members in all teams must be made before that county's first tie or by 31st October, whichever is earlier. Details of subsequent players added to a squad must also be advised as soon as possible to the Championship Secretary before they compete.
- d) A player who has been nominated for a particular team may play as a reserve for other teams on three occasions in total. An 'occasion' means a Championship tie; or a play-off; or the semi-final/final weekend (i.e. The semi-final and final is only considered as a single occasion).

If a player is found to have exceeded the three reserve appearances, then the scores in the first three ties will stand but the scores in any subsequent reserve appearances will be conceded to the opponents. The player will be allowed to

play for the team for which he/she was originally nominated in any remaining ties.

Players will be allowed to play for two teams on the same day providing they qualify age wise and are not exceeding three reserve appearances and that it does not cause undue delay. A player nominated in a lower age group may play as often as they like in the Over 75's without effecting reserve appearances.

- e) Where counties have 2 teams or more in an age group, at least 4 men and 4 women must be nominated prior to the start of that county's fixtures as first team players, except in the over 65 and over 70 age group, for which at least 3 men and 3 women must be nominated. Nominations must be sent to the Championships Secretary 10 days before that County's first match in that age group. Nominated first team players will be allowed to play for the second team once only, and no more than one man and one woman from the first team may play in any single second team tie.

Second team players may play for the first team on two occasions but if they should play a third time they will be deemed to be part of the first team and cannot play for the second team again.

- f) To qualify to play in the finals a player must have competed in at least two league ties or one tie and a play off. In those age groups and areas where a team plays only four ties or less a player must have competed in at least one league tie or a play off to qualify to play in the finals.
- g) If a team is withdrawn after the competition has begun all fixtures played by that team shall be discounted.

THE TEAM

- 7. A team should consist of a minimum of 4 men and 4 women and with a maximum of 6 men and 6 women. An over 65 or over 70 team should consist of a minimum of 3 men and 3 women and with a maximum of 5 men and 5 women. An over 75 team should consist of 2 men and 2 ladies with a maximum of 3 men and 3 ladies.

THE TIE

- 8a) (i) Over 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 age groups
A tie will consist of 12 matches. Each team shall provide 2 men's doubles pairs, 2 women's doubles pairs and 4 mixed doubles pairs. In the men's and women's doubles events each pair of a team will play each of the opposing 2 pairs. In the mixed doubles each pair will only play their opposite number and they must play in strength order.
 - (ii) Over 65 & 70 age groups
A tie will consist of 9 matches. Each team shall provide 3 men's doubles pairs (each man shall play twice), 3 women's doubles pairs (each woman shall play twice) and 3 mixed doubles pairs. All pairs must play in strength order, i.e., Man 1 & 2, 1 & 3, 2 & 3, Lady 1 & 2, 1 & 3, 2 & 3 followed by the Mixed again in order of strength of the pairs
 - (i) Over 75 age group
A tie will consist of 6 matches. There will be men's and ladies' doubles followed by 1v 1 mixed, 2 v 2 mixed and reverse. Mixed pairs must be in order of strength.
- b) Completed team sheets should be exchanged before commencement of the tie. A copy must also be given to the Referee or organiser, when requested to do so. Ineligible players must be declared before the tie starts. If a team is fielding an ineligible player(s) in order to give opponents their full quota of matches, they must be

considered as the weakest player(s) where matches are to be played in order of strength.

- c) Each match will be the best of three games of 21 points except that if the score reaches 20-all the winner is the pair with 2 clear points or whose score reaches 30 first. This is known as the Rally Point Scoring System as under the revised Laws of Badminton as introduced by the BWF in May 2006.

Note: there shall be NO intervals when a side reaches 11 points in a game, NOR be between the first and second or second and third games.

- d) In the event of an injury, illness or emergency in the first round of men's or women's doubles a substitute (if available) may play in the second round. An injury, illness or emergency substitution can be made for the mixed doubles providing it is done before that mixed match has commenced (i.e., once the first service has started).

In the event of an injury, illness or emergency in the level doubles and no reserve is available to play in the mixed, the mixed doubles matches will be played in the same order as decided at the outset of the tie with no changes allowed in the pairings. The mixed match in which the injured player was due to play will be conceded to their opponents 21-0, 21-0.

If an injury, illness or emergency prevents a match being completed any points or games won by the defaulting pair shall stand with their opponents being awarded the necessary points and games to win the match.

A substitution can be made using a player who has played for another team on the same day provided they qualify age wise, are not exceeding three reserve appearances and that it does not cause undue delay. It should be borne in mind that even if the substitute plays only a mixed match it will count as a reserve appearance. Any substitution must not cause undue delay.

Players may only play in one team at the playoffs. Substitutes cannot be used from players in other participating teams. Also players may play in only one team for the finals weekend. Substitutes cannot be used from players who are playing in another team at the event.

- e) The winner will be decided on the higher number of matches won. Should the tie finish level on matches, a winning draw will be awarded to the team winning the most games; if equal then the most points and if still equal the result of the 1st mixed (see regulation 4e regarding the points awarded for draws). In the Over 65 and Over 70 age group the winner of a tie will be the team winning the most matches.
- f) Full results shall be submitted online within 7 days by the TEAM PLAYING AT HOME. A county failing to comply shall be fined £25 on each occasion. On the first occasion the home county does not submit the result within 7 days they will receive a written warning allowing a further 7 days before the fine is imposed.

The away county shall have a further 7 days to confirm the result. If this is not done, then it will be assumed to be correct, and the Championship Secretary will confirm the result 14 days after the match.

Any dispute must be raised with the Championship Secretary within 14 days of the match.

COMMITTEE POWERS

- 9 The Masters Policy Group shall have full powers to decide on matters not covered in the foregoing regulations and shall rule in the event of any disputes.



Regulations for the Badminton England Masters County Challenge 2023/24

GENERAL

- 1 The competitions shall be called the Masters County Challenge. They shall be competed annually in accordance with the following regulations, or such other regulations as Badminton England, or the Masters Policy Group (hereinafter called the Committee) may from time to time determine, and the Laws of Badminton as adopted by the International Badminton Federation.
- 2 The Challenge shall be open to every English county, if governed by a county association affiliated to Badminton England, the different Channel Islands and the Isle of Man if governed by an association recognised as a county association and affiliated to Badminton England, provided that the full affiliation fees are paid. Entries from associations affiliated to other National Associations may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.
- 3 Separate challenge teams shall be run for Over 40s, Over 45s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, and Over 70's.
- 4 Entry forms will be circulated to counties in April, and these must be returned to the Challenge or Championship Secretary by the stipulated closing date. Counties may enter more than one team in each age group. Entry fees will be invoiced directly by Badminton England.
- 5 The Challenge will be held over the second Saturday/Sunday in January annually at various venues, to be arranged by the Challenge Organiser. Feather shuttlecocks will be used.

DIVISIONS

- 6 Teams will be placed in strength order as determined by the Committee, with a Premier Division, followed by Divisions 1A and 1B based on strength and geographical location and then 2A and 2B likewise. This is subject to entries received by Badminton England.
- 7 At the end of the season, the two lowest teams from each age group in the Premier Division will be relegated to Division 1. The top team from 1A and from 1B in each age group will be promoted to the Premier Division. The lowest team in each age group from Division 1A and from 1B will be relegated to Division 2 provided there is a relevant age group. The top team from 2A and from 2B in each group will be promoted to Division 1. However, there may be circumstances which need to be considered in respect of promotion and relegation. The Committee's decisions on these circumstances will be final.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 8 All players must be eligible to play for their county under the current County Competition regulations.

If a player is playing in the Masters County Championships, that player must play for the same county if that county enters a team of the appropriate age group within Masters County Challenge. If such a team is not entered the player may play for another county provided, he/she is eligible.

- (a) A player must possess a Compete membership with Badminton England through either Club or Direct membership. Players not living in England and members of another association must be registered as a non-resident.
- (b) Every player will be required to hold a Compete Membership to be eligible to represent their county within the Masters' Challenge. To assist counties every team can use up to two "wild cards" for the whole weekend to cover last minute non-compete players. A player may only have two wild cards in a season which may be two Championship matches or one Championship match and the Challenge weekend. If that player plays again without a compete licence their games will be voided.
- 9 Players must have reached, or be over, the appropriate age category on the day they are due to play. As a concession a team Over 40 may use up to two players who are Over 38 at the time of the first event.

TERMINOLOGY

- 10 Tie – competition between one county and another.
Event – a Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles or a Mixed Doubles.
Match – an event consisting of the best of three games of 21 points, except that if the score reaches 20-all, the winner is the pair with 2 clear points or whose score reaches 30 first.
Note: there shall be NO intervals when a side reaches 11 points in a game, NOR between the first and second games, and the second and third games.

TEAMS

- 11 Each squad, except the Over 65s, Over 70s and Over 75's should consist of not less than 4 women and 4 men and not more than 6 women and 6 men. Over 65s and Over 70s squads should consist of not less than 3 women and 3 men and not more than 5 women and 5 men. Before the competition starts each team must submit the names of all its squad members to the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the appropriate Organising Committee.

Provided it does not contravene the maximum number of nominations for a squad and that they are eligible for the age groups, a player may be nominated in more than one age group. The player(s) would have to be included on both team sheets and once he/she has played he/she is committed to that team for the whole weekend.

Teams may be changed for each tie within the parameters of the squad that has been nominated, as set out above.

No player may play in more than one event in any one tie.

No substitution shall be permitted in a match at any stage once play in that match has commenced (i.e., once the first service has started).

If a team is unable to field a full team in a tie they must try and arrange for an ineligible player to play (either a player who has not reached the qualifying age, a player playing in

more than one event in that tie, or a player from another county team). They must inform the referee 30 minutes before the tie which event they will be forfeiting and at that time whether they are able to field an ineligible player or not. The referee will notify the opposition who shall be allowed to rightfully alter their pairings before the tie starts and the 2 games of the forfeited event will be awarded to them 21-0, 21-0. The ineligible player would not be able to play the 1st mixed doubles where pairs must play in order of strength. Failure of a team to declare an ineligible player would mean a 4-0 or 3-0 defeat depending on the age group.

FORMAT OF A TIE

- 12 The competition will be played as ties between the county teams with each team playing each of the other teams in the group.

In the Over 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s and 60s age groups a tie shall consist of four events:

A Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles, a 1st Mixed Doubles and a 2nd Mixed Doubles. The Mixed pairs must be ranked in order of strength.

In the Over 65s and Over 70s a tie shall consist of three events: A Women's Doubles, a Men's Doubles and a Mixed Doubles.

- 13 The order of play shall be as above, unless otherwise agreed by the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the Organising Committee.

Pairs shall play at such time and on such court as may be specified by the Referee, or if one is not appointed, the appropriate Organising Committee.

- 14 Before commencement of each tie, teams will exchange team sheets giving the eight names (or six for Over 65s and Over 70s and 4 for Over 75s) and their pairings to play that tie with the mixed doubles pairs, where appropriate, ranked in order of strength.

- 15 If a match shall not be completed the existing score (if any) of the defaulting pair shall stand and their opponents shall be credited with the number of points and games required to win as appropriate.

- 16 The decision of a tie shall be determined by the number of matches won. In the event of both teams being unable to field a pair for a match it will be deemed "not played" and neither team will be awarded the match or part thereof. Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. For the O65's and Over 70s team 2 points for a win and 0 points for a loss.

GROUP POSITIONS

- 17 The position of each team in each age group shall be determined as follows:
- a) the number of points awarded.
 - b) if two teams are equal, the winner of the tie between them. If drawn, then count back from that tie of games won to lost and if still equal then count back from that tie on points won to lost and if still equal then the result of the first mixed.
 - c) If three or more teams are equal, then the team(s) with the most wins. If there are two teams left with the same number of wins then 17b applies.
 - d) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in (b).
 - e) if three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom, overall, matches won minus matches lost is greatest.
 - f) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.
 - g) if three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom, overall, games won minus games lost is greatest.
 - h) if two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.
 - i) If three or more teams are still equal the team from among them for whom overall points won minus points lost is greatest.
 - j) If two teams are still equal the winner of the tie between them as in 17b applies.

TROPHIES

- 18 A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the champion county in each age group of the Premier Division. The trophies will remain the property of Badminton England, which shall be responsible for insurance, but the holders shall be responsible for their care and maintenance.

GENERAL

- 19 Badminton England's current Tournament Regulations shall apply.
- 20 The Masters Policy Group shall have full powers to decide on matters not covered in the foregoing regulations and shall rule in the event of any disputes.

The Badminton England Masters County Championships 2023/24

COORDINATORS CONTACT DETAILS

Avon

Bob Hammersley (Co-ordinator + Development)	3 Cooper's Meadow, Yatton Keynell Chippenham Wiltshire SN14 7PZ	01249 782079 (H) 07974 183582 (M)	Bobhammersley.avonba@gmail.com
Joanna Elson (Fixtures)	14 Belvedere Road Redland Bristol BS6 7JQ	01179 733391 (H) 07807 542432 (M)	c.j.elson@bris.ac.uk

Bedfordshire

Matt Molyneux	52a High Road Shillington Hitchin SG5 3LL	01462 711638 (H) 07881 349952 (M)	molyneux71@btinternet.com
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Berkshire

Alex Elliott	61, St.Legers Way Riseley, Hants RG7 1GH	0118 3049275(H) 07798 714096(M)	alexelliott119@gmail.com
Derek Penn (Over 70 fixtures)	4,Barclay Road, Calcot, Reading RG31 7EL	0118 961 4034(H)	derek.c.penn@ntlworld.com

Buckinghamshire

Andrew Norris	3,Whiskin Lane, Aylesbury HP21 9BY	07710 090390(M)	andrewnorris.kb@btinternet.com
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Cambridgeshire

Helen Taylor	25, High Street Over Cambridge CB24 5NB	07825 740506 (M)	yes.helen@gmail.com
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Cheshire

Derek Neary	28 Manor Way Woolton Liverpool L25 8QZ	01512 914677 (H) 07981 121218 (M)	d.neary@liv.ac.uk
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Cornwall

Brian Hannibal (Coordinator + Development)	Trelan, Rospeath Ave. Crowlas Penzance TR20 8DU	01736 740913 (H) 07770442800 (M)	brianhannibal@hotmail.co.uk
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Cumbria

Malcolm Grayson 39 Hunters Drive 01900 64118 (H) m.grayson58@outlook.com
Seaton 07714 994 633 (M)
Workington
CA14 1QJ

Nicola Highmore 07823 325 909(M) niclozluk@gmail.com
(Fixtures)

Derbyshire

Colin Whitaker 166,Burley Lane 07776 690515(M) colinwhitaker@gmail.com
Quarndon
Derbyshire DE22 5JS

Devon

Lorna See Woodrow Farm 07762 910012(M) lorna.see@icloud.com
(Co-ordinator} Ashreigney
Chumleigh
Devon
EX18 7PN

Lynne Hunt 7 Inverdene 07766 431673(M) lynne.hunt1963@gmail.com
(Challenge) Peverell
Plymouth
PL3 4LE

Dorset

Sarah Ellis 12,Enfield Rd, 07984 549100 (M) mrsarahellis@yahoo.co.uk
(co-ordinator) Poole
BH15 3LJ

Roy Carder (Fixtures) 17 Wessex Trade 01202 735944 (W) royccarder@gmail.com
Secretary and Dev. Centre Ringwood 07734 008006 (M)
Officer) Road Parkstone Poole
Dorset BH12 3PF

Durham

Jackie Hurst 34 Tarr Steps Ingleby 01642 762759 (H) shuttlecock@sky.com
Barwick Stockton-on- 07954 437648 (M)
Tees
TS17 0NG

East of Scotland

Ross Gladwin 60 Barntongate Drive 07539 970548 ross.gladwin02@gmail.com
Edinburgh EH4 8BY

Essex

Trevor Rogers 19,Lexden Rd, 01206 242067 (H) trev.deb@btinternet.com
West Bergholt, 07966 437614 M)
Colchester
C06 3BT

Glasgow

Ashley Sharp 14 Glebelands Way 07789 095382 (M) sharpashley@sky.com
(Over 65's) Beith Ayrshire
KA15 1AS

Lynne Campbell lynne011@googlemail.com
(over 45's)

Gloucestershire

Linda Pearcy Whites Farm 07791 330697(M) alistairpearcy@hotmail.co.uk
Shutter Lane
Gotherington
Cheltenham
GL52 9EZ

Hampshire

Margaret Houlton 56 Teg Down Meads 01962 869443 (H) mhoulton@gmail.com
(Joint Co-ordinator) Winchester SO22
5ND

Linda Coombes 1.Spring Close 01202 285909(H) Linda_coombes@sky.com
(Joint Verwood BH31 6LB 07502 023817(M)
Co-ordinator and
fixtures)

Hertfordshire

Steve Willis 2 Church Fields 07887 514276 (M) steve586@msn.com
Church Lane,
Sheering
Nr Bishops Stortford
Herts
CM22 7FG

Isle Of Wight

Neil Cain Beacon View, 07958 205359(M) neil_cain_1@yahoo.co.uk
Broadway, 01983 752969(H)
Totland
IOW PO39 0BU

Kent

Michelle Brothers 42 Shepherds Gate 07952 393347(M) michbrothers@yahoo.co.uk
Hempstead
ME7 3TG

Ian Brothers 46 Maidstone Road 01634 363083 (H) ian.brothers@yahoo.co.uk
(Fixtures) Rainham Gillingham 07753 428681 (M)
Kent
ME8 0DQ

Lancashire

Roger Taylor	15 Walton Close Heywood Lancashire OL10 2BN	07796 331244 (M) 01706 367989(H)	rt2507@hotmail.com
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Leicestershire

Sue Mahmood	440.Welford Rd Leicester LE2 6EL	07879023281 (M)	suemahmood@hotmail.co.uk
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Lincolnshire

Peter Crawshaw	13 Cecil Street, Lincoln, LN1 3AT	07977 887336 (M) 01522 422266 (H)	petecrawshaw@hotmail.co.uk
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Middlesex

Lynn Davies (Co-ordinator)	125 Stevenage Rd Fulham London SW6 6PA	07801 705517 (M)	lynmmdavies01@gmail.com
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Norfolk

Sarah Farquhar	Blackhorse Cottage. The Street Flordon.Norwich NR15 1RN	07740 983275 01508 473016	sarah@dodifferent.co.uk
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Northamptonshire

Beryl Goodall	30 Newton Rd Geddington Kettering NN14 1AU	01536 743626 (H) 07879622074 (M)	j.goodall490@btinternet.com
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Northumberland

Muriel Burgess	Old Vicarage Hedgefield, Ryton Tyne & Wear NE21 4NN	0191 4135599 (H)	muriel.vicarage@hotmail.co.uk
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Nottinghamshire

Gill Maloney (Joint Co-ordinator)	53 Springfield Drive Nottingham NG6 8WD	07905 458314(M)	gilldmaloney@gmail.com
Alan Hunt (Joint Co-ordinator)	57, Burnside Drive Bramcote Nottingham NG9 3EF	0115 9223654	
Jenny Abbott (Fixtures)	20, Winterbourne Drive, Stapleford Nottingham NG9 8NH	0115 9171536 (H) 07745 509807 (M)	jenny.colin.abbott@ntlworld.com

Oxfordshire

Paul Casey (Co-ordinator)	34 Meadow Close Farmoor Oxford. OX2 9NZ	07711 407884 (M) 01865 865322 (H)	pncasey@btinternet.com
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Shropshire

Sue Warnock	20 Reynolds Wharf Coalport Shropshire TF8 7HU	01952 581768 (H) 07584 568962 (M)	sue.warnock1@btinternet.com
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Somerset

Stuart Pilkington	146, Ilchester Rd Yeovil BA21 3BN	01935 473540 (H) 07777 648963 (M)	stuartpilkington943@btinternet.com
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Staffordshire

Peter Blake	2 Goldthorn Ave Cannock Staffordshire WS11 6LF	01543 324653 (H) 07548 901163 (M)	peter07blake@yahoo.co.uk
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Suffolk

Sue McKinley	18 Tayberry Place Ipswich Suffolk IP3 9GP	07860 812605 (M)	sue.mckinley2410@gmail.com
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Surrey

Doug Green (Co-ordinator + Development)	12 Orwell Rd Petersfield Hampshire GU31 4LQ	07792 424844 (M) 01730 300347(H)	dr.doug@outlook.com
Brenda Creasey (Fixtures)	30 Anne Boleyn's Walk Cheam Sutton, Surrey SM3 8DF	07932 615246 (M)	brenda.creasey@gmail.com

Sussex

Mike Stoneman (Co-ordinator + Development)	2, Forestfield Horsham RH13 6DZ	07793 047097(M)	mike.j.stoneman@googlemail.com
Paul Moss (fixtures)	Elkham House 6 Station Rd Billingshurst RH14 9SX	07843 393586 (M)	paulimoss01@outlook.com

Warwickshire

James Savin	Winton House Upper Quinton Stratford upon Avon CV37 8SX	0207 0423382(W) 01789 720500(H) 07970 111363(M)	james.savin@proforce.co.uk
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Wales

Steve Aylott		07906 877275 (H) 01244 880817 (W)	steveayl@btinternet.com
--------------	--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------

West Of Scotland

Gordon Milne (Co-ordinator) 20,Rodel Drive Polmont Stirlingshire FK2 0XL 07771 773887(M) wgordonmilne@gmail.com

Dougie McBriar (Fixtures) 26 Stephen Crescent Garrowhill Glasgow G69 6JD 07474 969090 (M) mcbriardougie@gmail.com

Wiltshire

Jeanette Legg 9,Dragonfly Close, Frome, Somerset BA11 5BX 01373 471389 (H) 07929 000053 (M) jeanette.legg@yahoo.co.uk

Worcestershire

Debbie Beeston-Smith 32, Glendene Cres Kings Norton Birmingham B38 8LX 07794 627417 (M) debbie.beeston-smith@compass-group.co.uk

Yorkshire

Jen Greensmith 3,Sunfield Mews, Stanningley, Leeds LS28 6FA 0113 2570284 (H) 07841 820769(M) yorkshiremasterscoordinator@gmail.com

The Badminton England Masters County Championships Past Winners

	Over 40s	Over 45s	Over 50s	Over 55s	Over 60s	Over 65s	Over 70s	Over 75s	
2000	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS				
2001	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA				
2002	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA				
2003	DERBYS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS				
2004	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS	CHESHIRE			
2005	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	HANTS	NOTTS			
2006	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	STAFFS	KENT	CUMBRIA			
2007	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS			
2008	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	HANTS	YORK			
2009	GLOUCS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	CUMBRIA			
2010	CHESHIRE	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT			
2011	CHESHIRE	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	YORKS	HANTS			
2012	ESSEX	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY	SURREY	KENT	DORSET		
2013	GLOUCS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	SURREY	HANTS	DEVON		
2014	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DEVON		
2015	YORKS	ESSEX	YORKS	YORKS	LANCS	KENT	WILTS		
2016	ESSEX	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	ESSEX	YORKS	KENT		
2017	YORKS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	KENT		
2018	YORKS	GLOUCS	YORKS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT		
2019	YORKS	GLOUCS	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT		
2020	NO FINALS DUE TO CORONA VIRUS								WILTS
2021	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS								
2022	STAFFS	GLOUCS	HANTS	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	LEICS	KENT	
2023	CAMBS	SUSSEX	HANTS	ESSEX	YORKS	LANCS	ESSEX	KENT	

The Badminton England Masters County Challenge Past Winners

	Over 40s	Over 45s	Over 50s	Over 55s	Over 60s	Over 65s	Over 70s
1986	LANCS	YORKS					
1987	LANCS	YORKS	ESSEX				
1988	LANCS	MIDDX	LANCS				
1989	DURHAM	YORKS	SURREY				
1990	KENT	KENT	ESSEX				
1991	LANCS	KENT	SURREY				
1992	LANCS	KENT	ESSEX				
1993	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	ESSEX			
1994	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	SURREY			
1995	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	ESSEX			
1996	ESSEX	LANCS	NOTTS	YORKS	MIDDX		
1997	ESSEX	LANCS	LANCS	CUMBRIA	HANTS		
1998	DURHAM	LANCS	NOTTS	LANCS	ESSEX		
1999	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	CUMBRIA		
2000	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	SURREY	NOTTS		
2001	SURREY	LANCS	ESSEX	NOTTS	NOTTS		
2002	DEVON	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	CUMBRIA		
2003	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	YORKS	CUMBRIA	
2004	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	CUMBRIA	
2005	HERTS	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	LANCS	NOTTS	
2006	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	
2007	ESSEX	LANCS	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	NOTTS	
2008	ESSEX	LANCS	SURREY	ESSEX	KENT	YORKS	
2009	HERTS	CHESH	SURREY	LANCS	LANCS	YORKS	
2010	HERTS	ESSEX	LANCS	LANCS	KENT	KENT	CUMBRIA
2011	GLOUCS	DERBYS	SURREY	LANCS	HANTS	HANTS	HANTS
2012	GLOUCS	HERTS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	NOTTS
2013	CHESHIRE	HERTS	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DORSET
2014	LEICS	HERTS	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	DEVON
2015	ESSEX	W. SCOT	SURREY	SURREY	LANCS	KENT	HANTS
2016	ESSEX	HERTS	ESSEX	SURREY	SURREY	YORKS	KENT
2017	ESSEX	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	LANCS	YORKS	KENT
2018	YORKS	HERTS	LANCS	LANCS	SURREY	LANCS	KENT
2019	ESSEX	HANTS	YORKS	YORKS	LANCS	SURREY	KENT
2020	ESSEX	HERTS	ESSEX	ESSEX	SURREY	LANCS	KENT
2021	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS						
2022	NO COMPETITION DUE TO CORONA VIRUS						
2023	LANCS	YORKS	HANTS	ESSEX	YORKS	SURREY	KENT