

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MASTERS REPORT

2022-2023

The Masters County teams have had a very successful Championship league season. Three of our six teams progressing to the National Finals weekend. A great result for a small county. Congratulations to all teams. We had a full season of league matches, 31 in total, with 62 players representing their county in all six age groups: - 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s, 60s and 65s. Unfortunately during the season, Essex 50s team conceded a match due to lack of players. Lincolnshire 60s dropped out of the league and our 65s had to concede a match against Worcester 2<sup>nd</sup> due to injuries.

In particularly this season, I want to thank all the players who stepped in at short notice, many on the actual day of the match to support various teams and players, often due to injury or unforeseen circumstances. Players called out on a Saturday night to travel to Birmingham early Sunday morning having last represented their county 10 years ago. Another player who having been called out to support an injured player in the 55s team was literally diverted en route to support a 60s match instead, which in turn meant calling yet another player to support the 55s team!

Fielding so many Masters teams is not without its challenges! Without this level of support, commitment and flexibility from so many players, we would not continue to achieve the level of success that we have enjoyed. I hope it is not too long before all those suffering injury are soon back on the court.

As a county, we are committed to encouraging people to keep playing our wonderful sport into their later years. Some counties in England are able to field teams of players in the 75years age group. Wouldn't that be great to see here in Notts?

### MASTERS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

<u>Team</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Loosing draw</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Walk over</u>	<u>Position</u>
Over 40s	6	2	1	3	0	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Over 45s	6	2	0	4	0	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Over 50s	5	5	0	0	1	1 <sup>st</sup>
Over 55s	6	6	0	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup>
Over 60s	4	4	0	0	0	1 <sup>st</sup>
Over 65s	4	3	0	1	0	4 <sup>th</sup>

### League Finals – Venue Birmingham University

Notts 50s team (winners of the Midlands division) beat West of Scotland 7-5 in the Semi Final then lost to favourites Hampshire 3-9 in the finals, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall.

Notts 55s team (winners of the North division) beat Worcestershire 9-3 in the Semi Final, then lost 3-9 to favourites Essex in the finals, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. The 60s team (winners of the Midlands division), had their problems, they were without five regular team players due to injuries and personal reasons. The team lost heavily to Yorkshire 1-11 in the Semi Final, then lost to Essex 8-4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Play Off.

Congratulations to all three teams.

## **MASTERS COUNTY CHALLENGE**

All six of Nottinghamshire's Masters Teams competed in the annual Masters County Challenge Tournament. The 50s played over the weekend of 7/8<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The 40s, 45s, 55s, 60s and 65s teams all played over the weekend of 14/15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The format for this competition; for the younger age groups over 40s to over 60s, is one Men's, one Ladies and two Mixed rubbers. The over 65s play one Men's, one Ladies and one Mixed rubber.

Notts performed very well, with two team's finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, two teams 4<sup>th</sup> and two in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall.

**Over 40s results:** Division 1A – venue: University of Worcester.

Oxford: Drew 2-2, Leicestershire: Lost 1-3, Lincolnshire: Drew 2-2, Worcestershire: Drew 2-2, Cambridgeshire: Drew 2-2, Cheshire: Lost 1-3.

Overall Final Position: 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Over 45s results:** Division 1A – venue: University of Birmingham.

Worcestershire: Lost 0-4, Cheshire: Drew 2-2, Buckinghamshire: Won: 3-1, Lancashire: Lost 4-0, Glasgow: Lost 1-3.

Overall Final Position: 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Over 50s results:** Premier Division – venue: University of Nottingham.

Hampshire: Lost 1-3, Surrey: Drew 2-2, West of Scotland: Drew 2-2, Lancashire: Won 3-1, Cambridgeshire: Drew: 2-2.

Overall Final Position: 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Over 55s results:** Division 1A – venue: University of Birmingham.

Worcestershire: Drew 2-2, Hertfordshire: Drew 2-2, Cambridgeshire: Won 4-0, Warwickshire: Won 3-1, Norfolk: Won 3-1.

Overall Final Position: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Over 60s results:** Division 1A – venue: University of Birmingham.

Played each team twice:-

Hertfordshire: Drew 2-2 & Drew 2-2, Worcestershire: Won 3-1 & 4-0,

Shropshire: Won 4-0 & Drew 2-2.

Overall Final Position: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Over 65s results:** Division 1A – venue University of Birmingham.

Played each team twice:-

Lancashire: Lost 1-3 & Lost 1-3. Worcestershire: Lost 0-4 & Lost 1-3, Yorkshire: Lost 0-4 & Lost 0-4.

Overall Final Position: 4<sup>th</sup>.

There has been renewed interest in players entering tournaments and I look forward with anticipation to this exciting development.

We are constantly on the lookout for more players in all age groups, over 40s through to over 65's.

We are not looking for superstars. If you are of a good club standard and remain fit and injury free then age is a great leveller!

We would love to see you at one of our beginning of season get-together's, where we shall also be organising a ladies only session too.

If you would like to find out more about Notts Masters County badminton, please come and join us at one of these sessions by getting in touch with Gill Maloney or Jenny Abbott.

My thanks to all members of the County Masters Committee, together with the Captains and their Selectors, who put in the effort to organise their teams. Without these dedicated people, it would be difficult to play County masters matches but with their commitment and support of the players, we will continue to be one of the best-organised Masters units.

**Gill Maloney**

Joint Masters Coordinator.