

MIDDLESEX JUNIOR SRA – Annual report 2008/9

There was no SE area festival (Graham Stevenson's) this year, We could not find an U11 team even after increasing the age cut off and moving the event date; there is hope for the coming year with Harrow, Coolhurst, Finchley Manor and Southgate all reporting an increased number of 'little-uns'.

The Inter County teams had mixed fortunes, the Girls U17 started out well but a reluctance to commit and travel meant they had to concede their last match. The U19 & U17 boys had some hard losses. The U15 Boys scraped through their stage one and stage two as highest runners-up and made it to the Inter County finals in Manchester where they came fourth in the Country – an outstanding achievement.

Our juniors in the London Area team went on win the ES&R inter Area competition.

We were unsuccessful on a sizeable lottery bid at the end of the financial year but very timely ES&R have had major reorganisations and an increase in national funding which will be used to focus on Squash Development in Middlesex starting with advertising for Regional Coaches and support for County Coaches.

The County Closed was an excellently event run at Southgate where some really good matches were played and the full extent of the junior squash in Middlesex could be seen. One trophy from a few years back is proving difficult to recover (any assistance gratefully received -see TT).

There was a coaches workshop day held recently at FM, jointly with Herts, for all our county coaches to get a coaching update from ES&R Area Director on the latest Junior training, it was followed by a Middlesex junior session where this new knowledge was put into practice – enjoyed by all. It was hoped to repeat this soon possibly hosted by Herts.

The Junior league maintained its tradition of being difficult to manage, the results for the U13 were a struggle and the U17 results were even trickier. My thanks to Chris for trying hard to manage this elusive league despite some personal problems and for Martin Wells for agreeing to try and master it next season.

There is rumour of a couple of new clubs/team next season (Harrow & Queens for starters?). Al's Urban Squash initiative at Sobell is gathering pace and hopefully other clubs may follow – hope to see them in the not too distant future.

We are in the midst of London Youth Games – It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce some of your emerging club Juniors to team competition as part of the biggest youth competition in the world.

At the time of writing we are just awaiting confirmation from ES&R to hold a FM Mdx Junior Open on the 27th & 28th Oct 2009 (Autumn Half Term when the old Coolhurst Jnr Open was held). This is a great Bronze level event for all aspiring Juniors in Middlesex to enter and meet juniors from the whole area and follows on from the County Closed.

My report would not tell the whole story if I was not put out a plea for some more committee volunteers, with numerous positions unfilled and the natural age progression of prodigy resulting in vacating positions your committee needs your support.

I am very indebted to all the Team Managers, Coaches and Club Team Managers for all their support last year and hopefully in the year to come together with the support received from all the 'Junior' clubs..

Tim Taylor June 2009