

Sportshall Team Manager's Report

The Suffolk team enjoyed a very good day at Hatfield on 22nd March. This year the aims were to enter full teams and be competitive across all age groups. We achieved these aims and, in addition, were very smart in our new t-shirts.

Special thanks go to all the athletes who put in tremendous performances through the day. To James and colleagues from Waveney AC who supported the event from the word go and took responsibility in managing the boys' teams, organising t-shirts, hosting the successful training day among other things. To Bungay Black Dog and Ipswich Jaffa for their support, and to the Ipswich parents managing the girls' teams.

The practical arrangements went well with coaches from Ipswich and Lowestoft getting us all there in good time.

Under 11s.

Third in the girls and fourth in the boys were tremendous performances. The girls were very strong in the field events with three first places, two seconds and a third. The highlight was Brooke Oram's javelin throw of 18 metres, the best performance from all the regional events. If the nucleus of the team can be maintained as the girls move through the age groups, and we can increase the strength in depth then the signs are very positive.

The boys also did well in the field with three third places, the highlight being the winning partnership of Joel Burgess and Jack Fayers in two track events. Again, very promising looking ahead.

Under 13s

Very good performances against some of the best teams in the country. Including one girl who missed the event through illness nine out of the eleven are eligible next year. Half the boy's team is also eligible. If we can retain the nucleus of these teams and incorporate some outstanding athletes coming through from the under 11s we can only improve.

Under 15s

Again, some creditable performances against very strong competition. For the future we need to retain athletes through the age groups.

As was evident in the under 11s the top athletes are as good as or better than anybody in the region, even the country. Compared to Norfolk we don't yet have quite the same depth in strength. For the future the more clubs that participate in the county league programme the stronger the depth of talent will be. There was no representation last autumn from the west of the county. Clubs combining for the competition as happened with two clubs last season can also be an option.

Therefore, maximum publicity and conversations with club officials are needed prior to the first meeting this autumn. We have to recognise that many athletes will give up regular Sportshall sessions as they move into mainstream competition. For Ipswich athletes there is easy access to indoor competition at Lea Valley and Chelmsford. If athletes are members of successful teams in the younger age groups there is every chance they will want to take that success through to under 15 level. We need to build from the bottom.

Geoff Morgan

25/03/15.