## Mid Sussex District Badminton Association

## Junior League Secretary Report for 2017 / 2018

From having the problem of not having the Junior Leagues running for the past 2 seasons, the Committee decided at last year’s AGM, to offer to all Junior Teams to enter the respective Feeder League for the coming season.

Soon after the AGM was held, all clubs were contacted to inform them of another route by which clubs could get matches for their juniors, even if the junior league was not going to be run.

With the offer of joining the Feeder League being presented to all clubs, I was hopeful that this could be a big, positive step forward for junior badminton, but this turned out, not to be the case. The outcome is, for a number of reasons, I did not secure the support to re-commence the Year 9 & Year 11 Junior Badminton League

However, on a positive note, a junior boys’ team was entered from Lewes BC, into the Men’s Feeder League. The players were informed of this league, what it entails and were looking forward to playing in matches with older players from other local clubs.

Despite finishing bottom of the division and only winning one match*,* the boys approached each match with a positive attitude, looking forward to see if they could attain any improvement from the last match that they played.

The matches that I have seen, the boys representing Lewes have fought hard over each point played and never allowing their heads to drop and fought to the very end of each game. I have spoken with the opposing teams and with regards to the Lewes Junior Team in this league and asked for their feedback, all of which has been positive and some of the comments received are as follows:

“I am amazed that we have played against 3 Year 10’s and a Year 8; I thought that they were older than that”

“Thank you to Lewes BC for putting a team forward in this league, they have really tested us in this match”

“They fought very, very well and even returned smashes that I was not expecting them to get to”

The biggest complement received was:

“Being so young & playing this at this level, I would not want to be playing them in 3 – 5 years’ time”

On a personal note, I would like to thank the following:

* The Committee of MSDBA for taking the decision to allow the junior teams to play in the respective Feeder League
* Holbrook BC, Forest BC & Dolphin BC for playing the matches in right sporting manner and showing respect to the young Lewes players
* Lewes BC, despite an already congested fixture list for this season, for accommodating another set of matches for this Junior Team
* The young players from Lewes, for taking on this challenge in playing in an adult league and representing their club with enthusiasm and pride

The boys have enjoyed their first season in the Men’s Feeder League and I am hoping to build upon this success, in the event that the Junior League not being held next year, by the committee inviting junior teams to participate in the Feeder League.

Nick Saunders

MSDBA Junior League Secretary.