



On The Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Juniors Badminton Association

END OF SEASON 2018-2019

Welcome to this edition of On The Line for the 2018/19 season.

Hertfordshire Junior League

The number of teams in this season's League surged from 6 in 2017/18 to 11, the most in the League's four-year history and a very welcome development which necessitated a hasty re-think by the organiser about match scheduling and the use of three match days across the season, all played at Birchwood Leisure Centre in Hatfield. Each team was made up of children in the Under 14 age group from outside the County squad, thus enabling young players to gain experience of competitive badminton, in many cases their first such experience. Particularly pleasing was to see a large number of clubs entering in their own right, rather than as part of the composite district teams that had taken part in previous seasons, including teams from some of the County's smallest clubs such as Dane End JBC and Much Hadham JBC. In the event, a few struggled to put out teams for a couple of the match days, but we were still able to run three full afternoons of play offering challenging badminton for all participants.

Matches comprised a game in each of the five events: girls' singles and doubles, boys' singles and doubles and mixed doubles, and over the course of the season each team played a match against each of the 10 other teams.

The first two match days had seen the teams from Baldock JBC and Harpenden JBC steadily pull ahead of the rest of the field, winning all their matches up to this point, though with League positions being decided by points scored, it still was possible on the final match day for other teams to challenge the two front-runners. It transpired, however, that in these two teams we were indeed seeing the Manchester City and Liverpool of this season's title race. Each of them dominated their matches against other opponents, though the Baldock team's aura of invincibility was slightly dented by defeats in boys' doubles in their matches against both Wizard JBC and Harpenden JBC! The latter match was effectively the match to determine the destination of the trophy, and though all games were fiercely contested, Baldock emerged as clear winners thanks to a terrific run of success which saw them lose only two games all season, Swifts JBC taking the bronze medals. Congratulations to all the medal winners, but congratulations equally to everyone who took part this season and showed an exemplary spirit of sportsmanship through their 100% commitment during play and their impeccable behaviour both on and off court.

The success of this season's League was due to a lot of effort by team managers Ken Winchester, Dan Glynn, Jim Robson, Neil and Sue Clarke, Jennifer Fereday, Brian Jackson, Mel Clarke, Ian Robinson, Doug Clark, Phil Adams and Bob Green, to whom many thanks are due; likewise to Barbara Lewczynska and Beverley Stobo who collated the results on match days throughout the season and to Mike Newlove who, with Beverley, completed flawlessly the task of calculating the final positions at the end of the third match day.

Final League table

Position Team

1. Baldock JBC
2. Harpenden JBC
3. Swifts JBC
4. Watford district
5. Much Hadham JBC
6. Wizard JBC
7. All Saints JBC
8. Stanstead Abbotts JBC
9. Dane End JBC
10. Hertford JBC
11. Abbey JBC

John Stobo, League Organiser



HSBA Closed Tournaments 2018/2019

Thank you to all the helpers that were kind enough to lend a hand during the closed tournaments this year. To name but a few (and apologies to anyone who I have missed out); Mike Newlove, Graham Clarke, Ken Winchester, Mickey Mahbubhani, Ronni Goode, Cris Di Gesaro, Joseph Eckunnel.

Well done in particular to Aahna Bhatia, who during this season won the following, U10 GS, U11 GS and GD, and U13 GS.

Winner (s)	R/Up (s)	Semi Finalists/Third
October 21st 2018		
U18 Girls Singles		
Paankhuri Bhatia	Molly Goode	Olivia Clarke (3 rd)
U18 Boys Singles		
Steven Elliot	Cameron Bannister	Edward Chen Harry Goode
U18 Boys Doubles		
Cameron Bannister Steven Elliot	Harry Goode Thomas Sweetnam	Robert Donald Toby Goddard
U18 Mixed Doubles		
Cameron Bannister Molly Goode	Olivia Clarke Harry Goode	Amelia Dixon Steven Elliot
U11 Girls Singles		
Aahna Bhatia	Isabelle Lee	Diya Prakesh Anna Stewart
U11 Boys Singles		
Jeff Ani Joseph	Dev Mathur	Ray Chen Brandon Ratanavong
U11 Girls Doubles		
Aahna Bhatia Diya Prakesh	Chenara De Silva Isabelle Lee	Aditi Dhelaria Anna Stewart
U11 Boys Doubles		
Jaxon Clarke Brandon Ratanavong	Jeff Ani Joseph Johan Joseph	Ali Mehdi Ismail/Suhail Merali Ben Neal /William Sutterby
Sunday 18th November 2018 U13, U15 & U18 'B' Tournaments		
U13 Girls Singles		
Amber Hawtin	Mishika Khurana	Tamsin Bisseker/Krithika Jeyabalan
U13 Boys Singles		
Suhail Merali	Johan Joseph	Anish Despande/Abid Hassad Ravji
U15 Girls Singles		
Christina Chan	Imogen Fox	Hannah Hemmant/Mahek Khan
U15 Boys Singles		
Qain-Ali Ravji	Archie Sutherland	Hanying Hong/Chamath Wijayasundra
U18 Girls Singles		

Lia Di Gesaro	Lucy Kelly	Beatrix Towers/Cindy Lui
U18 Boys Singles		
Shashank Madhukiran	JoWaugh	Leo Yang/Ghaajanaan Jeevananthan
Sunday 20th January 2019		
U10 Girls Singles		
Aahna Bhatia	Saghana Thayaparan	Nishita Medikonda/Aditi Dhelaria
U10 Boys Singles		
Johan Joseph	Brandon Ratanavong	Dev Mathur/Ray Malde
U13 Girls Singles		
Aahna Bhatia	Shiami Thayaparan	Katie Savage/Saghana Thayaparan
U13 Boys Singles		
Charlie Windebank	James Joseph	Manav Kolthari/Jaxon Clarke
U13 Girls Doubles		
Mia Harvey-Hill Katie Savage	Shiami Thayaparan Saghana Thayaparan	Lily Allworth/Diya Prakesh Mishika Medikonda/ Venella Medikonda
U13 Boys Doubles		
James Joseph Charlie Windebank	Jaxon Clarke Vincent Lee	Chris Clark/Keiran Clark Suhail Merali/Abid-Hasan Ravji
U13 Mixed Doubles		
Shiami Thayaparan James Joseph	Mia Harvey-Hill Charlie Windebank	Jaxon Clarke/Katie Savage (3 rd)
Sunday 31st March 2019		
U15 Girls Singles		
Shiami Thayaparan	Yu Xuan Teh	Sneha Jogi/Saghana Thayaparan
U15 Boys Singles		
Nithin Santhosh	James Joseph	Charlie Windebank/Charlie Aitken
U15 Girls Doubles		
Holly Clayton Sydney Hall	Maia Mendes Di Gesaro/Shiami Thayaparan	Mia Harvey-Hill/Saghana Thayaparan
U15 Boys Doubles		
Nithin Santhosh James Joseph	Fred Constantine/James Franklin	Adiveer Barweja/Krish Mahbubhani/ Charlie Windebank/Charlie Aitken
U15 Mixed Doubles		
Finley Goode Holly Clayton	Nithin Santhosh/Sneha Jogi	Aarav Raheja/Shiami Thayaparan

County Squad News & Information

Hertfordshire juniors crowned champions in national badminton finals

The Hertfordshire Under 11 team took the gold medals at last week's finals of the national inter-county badminton league after winning all their matches, the only team of the 22 competing counties to do so. The team had qualified for the finals thanks to victories over all six of the counties they had faced during the season, and on finals day they were joined by the other counties in the top eight league positions.

The draw for the quarter-finals pitted the Hertfordshire youngsters against Yorkshire, traditionally a very strong team, but after a confident start in the mixed doubles games, winning three out of four, the team went on to an emphatic win by 15 games to 5. The winning margin was convincing, but all the games had been closely fought, including one win by 21-20 points!

It was in the semi-finals against Warwickshire that the team really hit their stride, sweeping their opponents aside by a whopping 18 games to 2, two games being dropped towards the end of the match when victory had already been secured. This result was a great confidence-booster, but the stiffest challenge of all was still ahead: a final against Surrey, the only other team that had also won every one of their matches throughout the season.

The final proved to be almost unbearably tense, especially for the large contingent of vociferous supporters that accompanied the Herts players on finals day. Almost every game was desperately close, two being lost by an agonising 20-21 points, one won by the same margin, and four others ending in victories by a margin of less than 4 points. Nonetheless, with the match score poised at 10-9 in Hertfordshire's favour, victory was closed out by a win in the final girls' doubles game to secure the national title for Hertfordshire by 11 games to 9.

After the match team manager Adrian Leung, who had performed a remarkable victory dance on court when the final point was won, said: "I am extremely proud of all the players today. They were battling like warriors, fighting for every single point and never giving up. This success has been three years in the making and is the culmination of lots of hard work that the players and coaches have put in." The Hertfordshire players had indeed demonstrated an outstandingly strong team spirit, the result of many hours of training together over months and years, and everyone in Hertfordshire badminton hopes this team spirit will keep them together and lead these gifted young players to further successes as they progress through the age groups of junior badminton.

Team members:

- Boys: Daniel Bennett (Ralph Sadleir Middle School), Jaxon Clarke (Duncombe), Jeff Ani Joseph (St Vincent de Paul), Johan Joseph (St Catherine of Siena), Dev Mathur (St John's, Digswell), Charlie Ogier (Bengeo)
- Girls: Aahna Bhatia (Chalfont Valley), Chenara De Silva (Purwell), Aditi and Aayushi Dhelaria (The Ryde), Saghana Thayaparan (Purwell)

Coaches: Adrian Leung (team manager), Nick Goode, Ben Vranjkovic, Stephanie White



U14 short report

The U14 squad was quite consistent in shires league results finishing 7th and earning a play off versus Leicester, which we won 15-5 on the 4th May, well done all who played throughout the season, there were some hard fought matches to get there.

The finals are in Aldersley near Wolverhampton on June the 2nd, when 3 rounds of matches will be played to get to a final order of placing 1 to 8 on the day, it will be busy, fun and no doubt challenging, one that the team can meet.

Thanks to all those who have contributed, coaches, parents, and players.

Mike Newlove

U14 Squad Manager

HJBA U16 Newspaper Report (Hitesh Shah)

For the Badminton season 2018/2019 for HJBA the trials took place on Sunday 24th June 2018 we had total 55 attended with the help of five parents for registering and to keep the scores and the games play moving on with the limited time that we had, so the coaches could monitor the standard required to play for the county to select the better players for the squad.

At the trials we had selected 30, 2004 Boys 7, 2004 girls 6, 2005 boys 10 and 2005 girls 6 and thereafter we added one more 2005 boy for the squad. One girl did not join the squad and Midway through the season we lost 2 more boys.

Start of the season we had held a parents meeting to say what is expected out of the squad member to participate certain number of Badminton England tournaments and the practice requirement in the squad.

As coaches we were very happy to see that majority of them qualified for that. Standard raised was very high as Holly Clayton, Lavigne Leung, Lucy Savage and Shiami Thayaparan also trained with U18. In the year 2019 further two more boys Nithin Santhosh and Sajinth Thyaparan joined the training with U18

We had two Parents Reps selected and they were Christina DI Gesaro and Arun Gothandaraman to help the parents of the squad members and also did an event over Christmas holidays.

Throughout the season we had six courts to train on the squad nights just after the Christmas we were sharing two courts with U18 as some of our top players mainly girls trained with U18 regularly.

After Christmas we had two boys from U14 came and trained with us, James Joseph and Charlie Windebank who showed some tremendous skills in their play.

Shires league we had put two teams for the season, as there are hardly any team county matches organized for the B and C squad players. Our Herts 2nd team played good matches in the shires but lost all of them, this way at least gave them the opportunity for the B team players to have matches and learn.

Our A team played all the matches in the league and lost only one match against Leicestershire which we were runners up and had to go into finals play off. That match we were drawn against Hampshire an away match and lost. Our first team were girls Holly Clayton, Lavigne Leung, Sydney Hall, Shiami Thayaparan and Lucy Savage and boys were Nithin Santhosh, Sajinth Thyaparan, Alastair Bennett, Adiver Baweja, Finley Goode and Jack Moylan.

We also had two friendly matches arranged for the B and C squad players one with Cambridgeshire and won and the other one was with Suffolk that we lost This way at least most of the members in the squad played some county matches.

Most improved player in the squad for the season 2018/19 went to Nithin Santhosh whereby he received a trophy to keep for a year and his name will go on the shield for the season 2018/19.

Coaches for this season we had John Stobo, Ian Robinson, Khalid Quershi and Hitesh Shah as main Coaches and we also had a BE level one coach Chris Adey helping with the coaching team throughout the season too. We had a great supportive team coaches to help all the members in the squad.

Fixture secretary Joseph Eluekunnel sorted out all the matches for the shires league for the season 2018/19.

Thanks to the committee to rectify the constitution and keeping the HJBA running smoothly for the season 2018/19

Hitesh Shah

U16 Team Manager & Squad manager.

U18 Report

In March 2019 I took over from Becky White as team manager for the U18 team. I would like to thank Becky for all her hard work with the U18 squad over recent years. Under Becky's leadership, the U18 team has achieved some great results. She has now moved out of the area and had a baby boy called Caleb in April. We wish her all the very best for the future and hope she and her new family have many happy badminton-playing years ahead!

Thanks also to Kelly Mathews and Dave Westwood who has been of great help over the season - taking time to assist with RIO and ICT - and to the players, parents and coaches for all their efforts and help throughout the season.

During the course of the 2018-2019 season, the team have performed well and delivered some impressive results.

Shires League Results

The team won five out of six matches and finished 8th in the Shires League

Hertfordshire v Kent	14-6
Hertfordshire v Cambridgeshire	20-0
Hertfordshire v Sussex	17-3
Hertfordshire v Norfolk	14-6
Hertfordshire v Essex	7-13
Hertfordshire v Bedfordshire	20-0 (w/o)

The team then played Buckinghamshire for a place in the Shires League finals and lost by the narrowest of margins. A 10-10 draw, but lost by one game. It was a great performance considering Buckinghamshire played two top twenty ranked women singles player. Note: Buckinghamshire finished 2nd in the Shires League finals.

RIO (York Invitation Team Tournament)

Despite being a very young Herts team that went to RIO (indeed all the girls were from the U16 squad), the team had a great tournament, finishing 4th behind Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire.

Hertfordshire v Warwickshire	1-14
Hertfordshire v Nottinghamshire	9-6
Hertfordshire v Lancashire	9-6
Hertfordshire v Leicestershire	6-9
Hertfordshire v Yorkshire	3-12

Thanks to Becky White (Manager), Kelly Mathews and Dave Westwood for coaching over the weekend.

ICT (Inter-Counties Tournament)

The U18 team played an exceptional ICT. Credit is due to all players both on and off court. The team went into the tournament seeded 5th-8th and ended up with a 7th place finish.

Day 1

Hertfordshire v Wiltshire	10-0
Hertfordshire v Lancashire	10-0
Hertfordshire v Nottingham	8-2

Day 2

Hertfordshire v Avon	6-4
Hertfordshire v Berkshire	9-1
Hertfordshire v Leicestershire	4-6

Day 3

Hertfordshire v Leinster	5-5 (Lost on games)
Hertfordshire v Surrey	4-6

Final Day

Hertfordshire v Essex	6-4
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Thanks to Kelly Mathews and Dave Westwood for all their help over the 4 days.

I would also like to thank all the parents for their support at the event, which makes a huge difference to the atmosphere!

See the separate ICT report for more details.

Players who have represented Herts in the U18 team 2018-2019

Cameron Banister	Paankhuri Bhatia
Zach Bobrowski	Holly Clayton
Finley Catermole	Sydney Hall
Edward Chen	Leona Lee
Toby Goddard	Lavigne Leung

Harry Goode	Katie Savage
Thomas Sweetnam	Lucy Savage
	Shiami Thayaparan

U18 Inter Counties Tournament (ICT) 2019 Report

There really is nothing like ICT, the premier junior event of the season. In recent years Herts has been under-seeded at this tournament and proved the point. So this year's fifth seeding was a two-edged sword; Herts had eyes on the finals, but were also up there to be shot at. How did that work out?

Bucks, with six consecutive wins behind them, and head and shoulders the leading county, had too many players on England duty, so declined to send a team. In doing so, they lost their chance, for now, to challenge Yorkshire's record ten consecutive wins from 1999 to 2008. Shropshire, who at 16th last year recorded their highest finish since 1970, also declined. Worcester and Wiltshire opted back in, but neither has ever finished in the top half. This did, however, preserve the neat draw of 32; eight groups of four, as last year.

Most years the tournament runs Thursday to Sunday. This year it was the Monday to Thursday leading up to Good Friday, and Monday's Round 1, found Herts in Group E. With five players new to ICT – Holly and the three L's, Lavigne, Leona and Lucy, plus Toby for the boys - it was a chance for them to acclimatize, and for the returnees - Paankhuri for the girls plus Cameron, Harry, Thomas and Zack - to loosen up.

For higher seeds, the first day is generally a formality, and so it proved. Three games spaced evenly over the day were comfortably completed with wins over Wiltshire, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire: 10-0, 10-0 and 8-2. Since Lancs would finish 11th, that 10-0 was a far better result than we knew at the time. Job done.

Tuesday dawned. Round 2 is always problematic, where the fingers nails begin to get attention. Win all your matches and you are in the finals, but every match

lost is a group down: lose one and you will play for 5th place, lose two and you will play for 9th, and, unthinkably, lose all three and you will scrap for 12th place.

And it was indeed an altogether tougher proposition. Leicester, seeded fourth, and two first round group runners up, Avon and Berkshire.

Kicking off with Avon, Holly and Harry reeled in Mxd1. Toby and Lavigne at Mxd2 had a tougher match but took it 15-13, 15-12. A good start; 2-0 to Herts. Then the doubts set in as the boys singles stretched on and on. Zack took his first set 15-14 then lost the second 14-15; Cameron lost his 11-15 but won his second 15-13. The two games side by side inched forward. Agonizingly, and perfectly illustrating how the slimmest of margins can translate into large place differences for the team, both lost their final ends; Zack 14-15 yet again, and Cameron 13-15. Great effort boys. But it was now 2-2.

Herts needn't have worried. Leona and Paankhuri brought home the girls singles, for a 4-2 lead, leaving Herts needing just one of the final four doubles. Harry and Thomas obliged. The other three were all close, and Holly and Paankhuri took theirs for a clear 6-4 win. Avon would finish 9th. They had provided the first good test, and Herts had risen to it.

The afternoon game was against Berkshire, and a lot less stressful for the resolute band of supporters. Lavigne beat the marginally higher ranked Panda, 15-14, 15-13, whilst Cameron and Zack took first

doubles, 15-12, 15-13. Four games went to three sets, all with fairly close finishes, Herts winning three of those for what was in the end a comfortable 9-1 match win. And thoughts turned to Leicester after the dinner break.

Playing in the fixed order now required by the organisers, that removes yet another avenue for managerial cunning, the Mixed were shared, 1-1. The Boys' singles were shared, 2-2. The Girls' singles were shared, with Paankhuri losing 12-15 in the third set to the higher ranked Sophie Watson. A great effort. The match was now poised at 3-3. On to the doubles. Cameron and Zack lost 11-15 in their third set. So two games going to Leics, that on another day could have come to Herts, once again showing the knife-edge nature of this competition. Herts were now 3-4 down with three to finish. Harry and Thomas pulled back with another three set win. Match 4-4. It's all down to the girls. Sadly both went to Leics, although Holly and Leona's second was, for the umpteenth time, lost by a whisker 14-15.

Herts were somewhat down, but with hindsight a 4-6, that could so easily have been 6-4, against the side that would finish in *second place* to Warwickshire, was a fine showing. As group winners Leics took their place in the finals, but we are in the 5th to 8th group tomorrow and all to play for.

Wednesday was another lovely sunny day. On paper Herts should have been playing 7th seeds Yorks, but they had edged a 5-5 draw with 2nd seeds Essex. Level on games, too, Yorks had won a place in the finals by 4 points, 281 to 277. You just can't keep them down. So we were to entertain Essex along with a Surrey side deprived of their three top players on England duty, and Leinster who were seeded 8. Leinster's seeding is always harder to judge than the English counties and they are always tough. So a group too hard to call.

The morning match was Leinster, and well illustrated the ebb and flow that has the supporters in shreds. The mixed was shared and Zack and Thomas won their singles. 3-1 to Herts. But what's this? The girls' singles and boys' doubles all went to Leinster. We are suddenly 3-5 down. But here is the essence of this event. Holly/Leona and Paankhuri/Lavigne raised their games and rolled out winners of two epic three-setters, each winning 15-12 in their thirds. The match was 5-5. The team did not deserve to lose but, harshly, three of their wins had been in three sets. Kelly, with the sad emoji look, gave the balcony the thumbs down. Ah well, on to Surrey. It can't get worse, can it?

In what seemed no time at all, the mixed had been shared, Harry and Holly winning at Mxd2, but both Boys' singles went away and Herts were 1-3 down, a big margin against a top side; defeat loomed. What on Earth did they have for lunch? Leona and Paankhuri pulled two back with their singles, but Cameron and Zack lost their doubles in three. At 3-4 down the match looked lost; we needed two of the three games on court. Harry and Thomas won their doubles. 4-4. Come on girls! Holly/Leona lost theirs 13-15 in the third; another of those wafer thin margins going the wrong way. But once again Paankhuri and Lavigne stepped up and won theirs. Brilliant. What a come back. 5-5 and Herts has the extra game. We win. Or so we thought.

The team went off to prepare for the disco, happy in the knowledge they had only Essex to beat tomorrow for 6th place. But whilst queuing for their meal the coaches received a call from the referee to say that Holly and Harry's mixed game had been scratched. The officials had been informed, and had verified, that whilst Lavigne's grading combined with Cameron's was equivalent to Holly and Harry's, their combined ranking points were not enough to allow them to play *above* Holly and Harry. The match result was therefore a Surrey 6-4 win.

And so to the final day and the final match. Essex! Who writes the script? They too had lost to both Leinster and Surrey so we were both playing for 7th or 8th place. And remember they had been seeded 2, so there was much to play for.

Holly/Harry, back at first mixed, duly won and the mixed was shared. Zack put up a fight but went down to the higher ranked Pillai, whilst Cameron was far too strong for Liam Purton. So match score 2-2. On to the girls singles. Leona had had to leave the squad for England duty. A blow because she had won 12 of her 16 games including all 6 singles. As it was Paankhuri back at girls' one had an easy win over Kiera Dennis-Neilson, ranked 227 (on that day). Whilst Lucy lost to Mia Petchey, playing second singles, who was ranked 107 (on that day). Hmm. Perhaps Herts should have mentioned this to the referee.

With the match standing at 3-3 it was all on the doubles. Harry/Thomas gave us a good win for 4-3 to Herts, but Cameron and Zack were into another epic first set, until they stretched ahead and took it 15-12, only to lose their second to 10. Meanwhile Paankuri and Lavigne were slipping behind against Essex's first girls, Chu and Mehta. On a third court Holly and Lucy had also been behind, but little noticed, had somehow come back from the dead to take their first game 15-13. Despite valliant efforts, Paankuri and Lavigne lost their second game; the match was balanced 4-4. Tension on the balcony was off the scale. 5-5 was no good as Herts were two games down on count-back. We needed to win both games remaining on court.

Hearts in mouths; Holly/Lucy were again trailing in theirs. And Zack/Cameron against Pillai and Tu was a war of attrition, the score creeping up agonizingly slowly, with barely ever a point between them. It reached yet another 14-14, no one dared breathe. But finally one went Herts' way. 15-14; Zack and Cameron had it. All eyes switched back to the girls. They were still behind, yet suddenly produced a run of points to level at 13-13. And amazingly, continued to 15-13.

OMG! 6-4 to Herts. Say it again: 6-4 to Herts. 'The crowd went wild' is an understatement. What a way to finish. A clear win over the 2nd seeds.

Yorks had beaten Essex by a mere handful of points to win their group and reach the finals, whilst Herts had now managed a clear 6-4 win. Just imagine Herts' and Yorks' seedings had been reversed; Herts could have been in the top group. But that's the luck of the draw. On another day, too, we could have beaten Leinster; or the Surrey result could have stood. The magic and unpredictability of the ICT. As it was we finished 7th, two below seeding but on a high after that nerve jangling win over Essex. The team fully deserved it.

Sadly it was Cameron's last, but the rest of the team are eligible to return another year stronger for a rematch. And experience of this event is not to be underestimated as a factor. So an exciting prospect.

As always, huge credit and thanks must go to the coaches, Kelly, Graham and David, for staying calm, at least outwardly, and for their continual sage advice to the players. And to the players for their tireless striving, and for maintaining that scrupulous fairness and decorum on court, for which Herts is known. I'd also like to think the balcony played its part - what a great venue and event this is for that participation factor.

Phil Westwood



CBN NEWS

[Chairman's report of Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network](#)

Autumn 2018

Stanborough school primary school's Bisi tournaments: Jo Moxham organised this year's tournaments for Birchwood, Green Lanes, Hatfield Free, Howe Dell, Oak View and St Marys NM. Thanks to the 20+ leaders, teachers and John Stobo and Dave Bartlett.

St Michael's Woolmer Green primary school had 6 curriculum and 3 after-school Racket Pack sessions delivered by Gill and Dave Bartlett. They subsequently entered a team in the WH Gifted and Talented tournament and came 5th.

WH Primary Gifted and Talented Tournament, 29 November, organised by Jo Moxham: 8 WH schools and 16 teams participated, winners (I believe) St John's.



Applecroft in red, Green Lanes in green

County Inter-schools final, 6 December, organised by Tanya Angus. Fewer schools entered this year but good number compared with other counties. U 16 Girls – Queenswood school contact Jo Wakeley e: Jo.Wakeley@Queenswood.org; U16 Boys – John Henry Newman contact Chris Heley e: heleyc@jhn.herts.sch.uk;

U14 Girls – Presdales e: presdalespe@yahoo.co.uk; U14 boys – Richard Hale e: Tim: sa@richardhale.co.uk . Thanks to Tanya, coaches, volunteers, and Aleisha.

New Sports Hall at Queenswood school is available.

Gosling Sports Park northern sports facility closure 31Mar19 announced by GLL 24 December.



Herts

U14 Winners Presdales

Spring

Save Gosling Campaign established 4 January: chairman Dave Bartlett, secretary (and business plan) to keep the facility open. Meetings with GLL and WH BC were held and significant help came from MP Grant Shapps.

Herts Primary Schools Conference, 15 January: About 350 participants attended and 25 requested Racket Pack information. Thanks to Ken Winchester, Brian Jackson, Dave Bartlett.

February Coaching Courses: The Level 1 & Level 2 were cancelled owing to insufficient take-up. Brian will see if a Level 1 can be re-scheduled for the autumn. Contact him if interested.

Herts first Social Badminton Tournament for 16+, 16 February, supported by BE Head Office, and organised by Micky Mahbubani saw 45 participants and declared an enjoyable tournament at Herts Sports Village. However there were concerns that many of the participants were of league or higher standard. A similar concern was mentioned at the Hemel Hempstead tournament, 11th May. See Micky's report.

GLL announced, extension of Gosling opening, 20 March, from 31 March to 30 June except for during 9-5 weekdays owing to Herts police occupancy. Dave Bartlett stood down as chairman with Nick Catt elected new chairman.

Gosling closed, 31 March, for weekday sport with the loss of Phil Adams sessions: Monday - 12; Tuesday - 6; Thursday - 8; Friday - 28; Saturday, juniors 14 - adults 28; Monday Lakes BC, Thursday ladies. John Stobo's Monday sessions now start at 5pm (instead of 4). Thursday ladies have mostly joined HSV Multisport, Monday Lakes are continually seeking alternatives. Knebworth BC and The DKway are intact.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's 'The Challenges we Face' conference, 13 March, were reminded that only 39% of the local adult population do enough exercise to keep themselves healthy and that while Hatfield has 45 sports centres with a total of 22 courts open during the day, Welwyn Garden City now has none. It is hoped that this is noted in the council's coming Facilities Strategy consultation.

Summer

Gosling Sports Park availability: Chairman of Save Gosling, Nick reports: 'The Gosling project is going reasonably well but as yet we don't have an agreement. However, I am confident that we will get a deal for a short term (4 year) period based on peak hours usage and the Police using the building in the weekday non-peak times. GLL have muted that we can have a further extension if the deal is not done in time for the current 30th June closure date. We have also met the Police separately and they are happy to be flexible

with us. I think this all points towards the sports hall being available on 12th July [for the primary school games]. We have a meeting with GLL on Monday so I will raise it and feedback.'

This is confirmed so Ian Robinson has offered to lead the badminton for the 21 primary schools' games (contact Ky or Stuart).

Knock-on effects of Gosling closing during the 9-5 weekdays is that clubs and participants are moving, or trying to move to Hatfield leisure centres with some difficulties being reported. This increase, particularly from outside Hatfield has initiated a rethink of badminton usage at Birchwood LC.

Birchwood have now declined renewal of the HBA-HJBA agreement and we are urgently looking for alternative venues.

All of the above is to be taken into account in the WH CBN Development Plan.

Welwyn Hatfield Sport and Physical Activity Alliance was taken into borough council control and rebranded a 'WelHat Sports'. A well-attended club forum, 30 May, heard presentations on WGC Centenary Sport for All, Funding, Volunteering and how to use social media (slides on the website).

Howard Centre Manager meeting: WH BC's new Sports Partnership Officer, Milan Johnston, Dave Bartlett and Kumiko (WelHat Sports), 8 May, met the new Howard Centre Manager, Shaun, who is keen to support sports club demonstrations in the centre.

Welwyn Garden Centenary 2020 Celebrations, Sport for All: Nick Goode met Eric Walsby, John Beech and Dave Bartlett of the Sport for All group and kindly agreed to sponsor, junior, adult, schools tournaments and a special Inter-garden city tournament with Letchworth. Dates to be decided.

Shoppers Badminton and This Girl Can at Hatfield Galleria, 15 June; WH CBN coaches will be providing badminton as part of the Welwyn Hatfield This Girl Can week and handing out leaflets of all clubs and sessions. Helpers welcomed!

National Schools Tournament – is free of charge next year. County round (Tanya Angus again organising), 5 Dec. at HSV. Entry is already open.

Dave Bartlett, Chairman WH CBN

Reports & Information for the next newsletter

Please send to Jackie Ward newsletter editor - publicity@hsba.org.uk

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