
HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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February 2003

H.S.B.A. Tournaments 2002/2003

Sunday, March 30

Year 5 and under (U10) Boys and Girls Singles 9.30 am
Year 8 and under (U13) Boys and Girls 'A' Singles 9.30 am
Year 5 and under (U10) Boys and Girls Doubles
2.00 pm
Year 10 and under (U15) Boys and Girls 'A' Singles 2.00 pm

at Stevenage Leisure Centre

**Please remember that closing date for entries is Thursday, March 20.
Please note that the U15 Singles starts at 2.00 pm not 2.30 pm as
originally stated.**

**Entries to: Megan Lumb, 16 Strafford Gate, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1PN
(Tel: 01707 653812)**

If you have to pull out on the day, please try to get a message to the organisers.
Telephone Megan Lumb on 01707 653812 (mobile - 07796 605828 - which will be
switched on from 8.30 am) or Marion Conway on 01707 652061

Don't forget that registration for all tournaments is 15 minutes before the start time.

England Selection

Congratulations to Laura Cousins who was selected to play for
England in the 8 Nations competition at the University of East
Anglia, Norwich from February 19 - 23.

U11 Quadrangular Match

Marion Conway

The first U11 match of the season was very successful. All the players played well and the overall result
was very satisfactory as Herts won against all the other teams:

Herts 21	Essex 3
Herts 20	Buckinghamshire 4
Herts 14	Sussex 10

The final team result was: Herts, Sussex, Buckinghamshire, Essex.
The team was Elliott Miles, Daniel Regan, Harry Sandford, Scott Williams, Richard Wilson, Abigail Bursack,
Laura Bygrave, Daniella Farsiani, Helena Lewczynska and Emily Westwood

E.S.B.A. East U17

Phil Westwood

The programme for the 2002 E.S.B.A. East U17 showed 38 girls and 81 boys although, as usual, there were
some withdrawals, which entailed some last minute tinkering with various groups. Particularly affected were
the premier boys singles and main boys doubles which were already small entries.

Premier Boys Singles - three late withdrawals, including No 1 seed Peter Wiley (Ex), reduced this group to ten entrants. David Westwood was second in his group of three, losing to the eventual event winner, Ivor Griffiths (GI). William Westwood was third in his group of four, losing to finalist Geoffrey Ball (Ha) and second seed Luke Jones (Sx).

Boys Main Doubles - in the boys main doubles, for which there were just seven pairs, we saw a familiar duo, Anthony Moye/William Westwood, but in an unfamiliar setting - their first attempt in the Main Doubles. Quite the opposite for David Westwood, who was partnered by Adam Francis (Bu), his third partner in three tournaments, and the news that Adam was in the latter stages of recovering from 'flu did not bode well. Ant/Will, in the larger group, were second after losing a marathon match to David Hardman (Ex)/Ivor Griffiths (GI). In the other group, David/Adam also finished second - to David Askey (Sx)/ Geoffrey Ball (Ha). Unfortunately, even with so few pairs, there were no winners-versus-runners-up crossover semi-finals. So, for them, that was that.

Girls Doubles - fifteen pairs, premier and standard together, contested this event. The group winners would contest semi-finals for the main doubles title, whilst the runners-up would compete for the alternate doubles title. Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy) won their group and went on to beat Kerry Mullen (GI)/Rebecca Wall (Ex), 21-10 for a place in the final, where they met the Berkshire pair of Anna/Jacqueline Smith. Almost three years the younger, Laura/Samantha were unable to make headway against the all round solid doubles performance of winners Anna/Jacqueline.

As group runners-up, Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes met the Avon pair Cara Mulcahy/Helen O'Leary in a semi-final of the alternate doubles and won. But they were unable to repeat their success in the final, going down to Natalie Howes/Louise Lester (Le). Silver medals for Herts in both the main and alternate doubles. Well done, girls.

Standard Boys Singles - Chris Armstrong and Joe Webb both lost out at the box stage of the boys standard singles, as did Damian Bruce-Hickman who had drawn the eventual silver medallist in his box. Emile Doran won his group but fell in the next round. Paul Monk battled through to the quarter finals where he too went out to the silver medallist. Anthony Moye survived a tough quarter final with Robert Kettle only to be beaten in the semi by the eventual winner, Gary Davies (Wi).

Standard Girls Singles - in the girls standard singles, Katie Comras was second in her box stretching Samantha Ward (Sy), the eventual gold medallist to 15-11. Sam would have met Laura Cousins in a semi, but had been picked from the lower half of the draw at the last minute to replace a drop-out in Katie's box. Laura won her box conceding only one point in three games. She then disposed of Bethany Wong (Wk) in her quarter final and Kathleen Mulcahy (Av) in her semi. But in a disappointing final against Sam Ward, her doubles partner, she seemed unsettled and was never able to find a rhythm and get into the game. But she had achieved a silver medal, well deserved from her earlier performances. Other Herts entrants were Nicola Farr, Emily Crabb, Emma Roantree and Emma Stokes, all of whom lost out at the box stage.

Boys Alternate Doubles - Emile Doran/Paul Monk won their box and were then unlucky to lose a close quarter final against Chris Hotchen (GI)/Robert Kettle (Mx). Chris Armstrong/Joe Webb, also won their box gaining a bye to a semi-final place. But there they were unable to stay with the eventual winners, Charlie Kenward (Sx)/Andrew Thomas (Db).

Mixed Doubles - the mixed doubles was a non-graded straight knockout event with Herts well represented by Anthony Moye/Emma Stokes and Paul Monk/Nicola Farr. each winning their first game to join third seeds David Westwood/Erika Whittingham (St) and fourth seeds Luke Jones (Sx)/Katie Comras in the second round. All four pairs then won through to the quarter finals, although David/Erika made a meal of beating the fired-up Matthew Jackson/Jacqueline Smith (Be) in a three-setter. Unfortunately for Herts, the one top-half quarter final brought David/Erika against Paul/ Nicola, the seeded pair winning. The quarter final stage also saw the demise of fourth seeds Luke/ Katie, who lost to Gary/Emma Davies (Wi), and Anthony/Emma who met second seeds David Askey/Joanne Millward (Sx).

In their semi-final, David/Erika once more gave the supporters a hard time, but eventually won a fiercely contested, seemingly endless, match against Matthew Askey/Kirsty Grieg. David Askey/Joanne Millward after a long wait for their semi, beat Gary/Emma Davies, but then had to face the final almost at once.

As the last match at the end of almost twelve hours of continuous play, the mixed doubles final was a bit of an anti-climax. David/Erika, with the more consistent defence and powerful attacking, were able to see off the tiring Sussex pair. In front of a few hardy souls at about 8.40 pm, they had taken Herts only gold from our home tournament, with the very last shot of a very long day.

Finally a word of thanks to Joan and Russell Walters, and all those who helped, for their usual calm, efficient and above all, friendly organisation, which characterises the Herts event. And for staying with it to finish on the one day - which greatly assisted the U13s the following day.

We arrived early to an empty badminton hall in Stevenage on a cold but dry December morning. Within minutes of our arrival the competitors started to register - some had left home as early as 5.00 am and were looking decidedly sleepy.

The draw for the tournament was big with well over one hundred entries, competitors coming from 27 different counties, and as usual nearly three quarters were boys. Herts. was well represented with 25 entries.

The tournament was played in two halls; the boys event in the main hall, where conditions were good for play but those on the sidelines - the parents, supporters and officials - froze, matters being made worse by hall officials insisting all doors should remain open (safety regulations). The girls, however, had the luxury of the warm smaller hall.

Boys Premier Singles - In the top half of the draw Luke Thomson (Sx) and James Reynolds met in the semi-final, Luke taking the first game fairly easily and James narrowly missing out (13-11) in taking the match into a deciding game. Oliver Crabb and Luke Donnelly didn't make it out of their boxes.

Main Boys Doubles - James Reynolds/Luke Thomson (Sx) won their box and the event beating Mark Newbery/Simon Foster (Ha) in the final.

Girls Premier Singles - Charlotte Willis, our only representative in this event, did her best but with Bronwyn Powell (Sx) and Samantha Reynolds (Nm) in her box the games were always going to be tough.

Boys Standard Singles - This competition had by far the biggest entry. Games were very competitive with many players losing with 14 or 13 points. Hertfordshire had thirteen boys playing in the singles, most won a game and Matthew Westwood won his box. Matthew played well and was unlucky to lose to Toby Sweet (Ke) in the next round.

Boys Alternate Doubles - Twenty-four pairs took part in this event. Six Herts pairs took part and congratulations to Arjun Shah/Alex Regan who won all the games in their box.

Girls Standard Singles - eighteen girls competed for this title. All six Herts girls played well and won games but unfortunately they did not win enough to reach the knock-out stage.

Girls Alternate Doubles - Two boxes of girls competed for this event with the box winners going straight into the final. Seven girls represented Herts. They all played well and produced three of the four finalists. The final was very close with both pairs having their chances to win. However it was Rebecca Cousins/ Hannah Warnes who took the gold medal and Rhian Blowers/Sarah Lewin (Nf) the silver.

Many congratulations to all finalists and all others that took part and helped to make this an enjoyable tournament. We hope to see some of you at Stevenage again next year.

Many thanks to Joan Walters and her band of officials. Also thanks to those parents who helped with the scores and shuttles on the day, without whom running a tournament of this size would be impossible.

League Match - Herts U13 v Leicestershire U13

A good win for Herts 16-4. The team was Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, James Reynolds, Matthew Westwood, Rhian Blowers, Rebecca Cousins, Hannah Warnes and Charlotte Willis.

Congratulations to Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes on winning the Gloucestershire U12 Invitation Doubles competition. (Report next time)

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U13/U15/U18 Mixed Doubles

Played at Hatfield Leisure Centre on January 3rd 2003, the mixed doubles tournament started at 9.30 am and ended at a reasonable hour for once.

Twenty four pairs contested the U13 competition. There were a few close games in the boxes, the final one being Alex Gomar/Laura Bygrave beating Jonathan Morris/Nicole Black 15-14 to scrape into the main event. In the quarter finals, Gregg Roantree/Victoria Stokes, Luke Donnelly/Charlotte Willis, Matthew Westwood/Hannah Warnes and James Reynolds/Rhian Blowers all won their games more or less easily. In the semis, Gregg/Victoria beat Luke/Charlotte 15-3, but James/Rhian had a harder game beating Matthew/Hannah 15-11. The final was hard fought, but Gregg/Victoria were convincing winners. In the plate, Richard Wilson/Jennifer Marshall and Jonathan Morris/Nicole Black reached the final which was won by Richard/Jennifer.

Results Final **Gregg Roantree/Victoria Stokes** beat James Reynolds/Rhian Blowers 21-7
Semi-finalists were Luke Donnelly/Charlotte Willis and Matthew Westwood/Hannah Warnes
Plate Final Richard Wilson/Jennifer Marshall beat Jonathan Morris/Nicole Black 21-5

Several U13s also played in the U15 tournament which began at noon. There were 13 pairs involved and not many hard games in the boxes. Gregg Roantree/Emma Stokes defeated Luke Donnelly/Kate Lester in one quarter final, while Arjun Mehta/Frankie Edelmann defeated Oliver/Emily Crabb in the other. In the semis, Gregg/Emma were beaten by Victor Liew/Victoria Stokes 15-5 and Arjun/Frankie carried on their winning ways to beat James Reynolds/Laura Cousins in a very close game 17-15. They continued in this mode to beat Victor/Victoria in a hard fought final. Matthew Westwood/Hannah Warnes carried on their good work from the morning and won the plate.

Results Final **Arjun Mehta/Frankie Edelmann** beat Victor Liew/Victoria Stokes 21-6
Semi-finalists were Gregg Roantree/Emma Stokes and James Reynolds/Laura Cousins

Plate Final Matthew Westwood/Hannah Warnes beat Daniel Dorans/Rebecca Sellars 21-7

The U18s all arrived by 2.30 pm - at least all the boys and one girl did. All other seven girls were already playing in the U15 tournament. This caused a few problems as most of them were still playing at 2.30 and the U18 event eventually started about one hour late!

The boxes were played through fairly quickly and it was straight into the semi-finals in both events. Both main event semi-finals were very close - some very entertaining badminton - with both scores ending up at 21-19, David Westwood/Frankie Edelmann beating Joe Webb/Kate Lester and Anthony Moya/Emma Stokes beating William Westwood/Laura Cousins. The hard fought final was won by Anthony/Emma. In the plate the final between Paul Monk/Nicola Farr and Emile Doran/Victoria Stokes was won by Paul/Nicola and Victoria ended a very busy day having played in all three events.

Results Final **Anthony Moya/Emma Stokes** beat David Westwood/Frankie Edelmann 21-13
Semi-finalists were Joe Webb/Kate Lester and William Westwood/Laura Cousins
Plate Final Paul Monk/Nicola Farr beat Emile Doran/Victoria Stokes 21-3

On a typically grim late November Saturday, teams from Beds, Bucks, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk, converged on the Dome - no, not that one! - the Dome Leisure Centre at Mildenhall, for the Eastern Region Heat of the U13 National Team Challenge.

Each team would play every other team once. Matches would consist of two girls and two boys singles and a girls and a boys doubles, six games in all. A team of four girls and four boys would contest each match with no one playing twice, although squads could be larger. This format should suit Herts. Another county's star can contribute only one win, whereas we have uniform strength across the squad. In fact, because of our boys strength five would share duties for us, each sitting out one game.

And for once it looked as if Herts. had a favourable draw in a major competition. We seemed to be facing the two potentially strongest teams last. And this was soon confirmed. As the day proceeded, Herts. rolled over Suffolk Norfolk and Beds, hardly breaking sweat, winning 6-0, 5-1 and 6-0 respectively, and, in the process, conceding only 64 points across 18 games. Meanwhile Essex were confirming their intentions with what, at the time, seemed a surprising 5-1 win over Bucks.

So, now, with undefeated Essex still to play, the penultimate Herts - Bucks match assumed immense proportions for both teams. If Bucks lost they were out. If Herts lost we would have to beat Essex and rely on points in a three-way tie to decide who would be going forward to the finals at Luton Regional Sports Centre next April.

James and Luke won their singles comfortably, but Charlotte and Rhian lost theirs. Match level. Now everything rested on the doubles. But we needn't have worried. Akash/Matthew and Rebecca/Hannah each won handsomely, for a 4-2 win. We were through to the finals. But there was still pride, and hopefully, a better seeding at stake. We must beat Essex to go through as winners.

Again, Charlotte and Rhian gave everything in their singles, but again it was to no avail. But Luke had wrapped-up his singles brilliantly, 21-0 (no messing!), so we were only 2-1 down, and James was still playing. Then, shock! Horror! James was beaten 21-17 by Andrew Brunning. 3-1 down! We needed both doubles, now, just to draw on games, and then hope for better points. Akash/Oliver duly obliged, 21-14, leaving just Rebecca/Hannah playing out the last game of the day. They had not conceded double figures all day, and they did not disappoint here either. Clear winners again, 21-10. 3-3! The match was drawn on games. Then the wait as points were counted and checked. And relief and celebration as Herts were declared winners by a mere 8 points.

During the day Herts had lost only one boys singles, five girls singles and had won every doubles game they played. It had been a real all round team performance and a thoroughly deserved win.

Of course, it gets harder from here, but roll-on Luton and the final. Well done, team!

The victorious team was:

Rhian Blowers	Oliver Crabb
Rebecca Cousins	Luke Donnelly
Hannah Warnes	Akash Jhunjhunwala
Charlotte Willis	James Reynolds
Emily Westwood (Res)	Matthew Westwood

N.B. Emily and Hannah played one, non-counting game, against Norfolk, who were one girl short, and won 21-12.

Eastern Region U16 Standard Invitation Tournament

**Emma Stokes
(Freman College/U17 Squad)**

This was a non-premier competition for teams of 2 boys and 2 girls. There were 8 teams divided into two groups. The format for each match was 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles and 1 mixed doubles. Herts were represented by Emile Doran, Nicola Farr, Paul Monk and myself. there was only one problem, we had a new team manager for the day - my Dad!

After an early start we arrived in Norwich at 10 am to find that the first team we had to play, Essex B, had withdrawn due to illness. We could have had an extra 2 hours in bed! Nevertheless, we made the best possible use of the spare time and kept ourselves alert by throwing shuttles into an old coffee mug. Emile was an absolute natural at 5m!

Our second scheduled match against Norfolk A was the hardest of the day. After much discussion, with a team manager who left the important decisions to the team (great!), we finally decided who would play boys singles and who would play mixed. It was very tense and the match was drawn 2-2. The girls had successful wins but the boys were unlucky and had tougher opposition. Both games were close, but the closest match was the boys doubles which we narrowly lost 17-21. This left the mixed doubles as the decider. After a nail biting match, Nicola and Paul emerged as the winners, giving us the match 3-2.

Our final group match was against Suffolk and the team format altered to allow Emile to play in the mixed with Nicola and Paul to play singles. We won this match 4-1, which meant we had won the group.

We then had the play off against the other group to decide the final positions. The top teams in each group played each other and the second placed teams and so on. These are the matches that took place:

Herts v Cambs
Norfolk A v Beds
Suffolk v Norfolk B
Essex B v Essex A

Cambs were the surprise winners of the other group, with the seeded team, Essex A, finishing in 4th place. We chose to play our original team format of Emile and myself in the singles, and Paul and Nicola in the mixed. The match was very similar to the Norfolk A match with the final result depending on the outcome of the mixed doubles. Again Nicola and Paul managed to win and so we won the tournament!

Thanks to the organisers, the drivers - Tracy Doran and Alan Farr - and the team manager for filling in the score sheets (as he didn't make any of the decisions!)

E.S.B.A. West U13

Phil Westwood

It has to be said that after a 120-ish mile journey, the hall at the Stratford Park Leisure Centre in Stroud is a little less than ideal for badminton. The Centre seems always to have areas under renovation, and perhaps it was the turn of the heating system too, but the dim orange 'street-lighting' in the hall continues to escape notice.

The day began with the Premier girls and Standard boys singles. Charlotte Willis managed only one win in a strong single group of only five entrants, but did well to take three of her four games to three sets. By contrast the boys entry was boosted to 55 by a large number from Wales, in the wake of the Van Hooijdonk's successes in earlier rounds. Matthew Westwood, whose premier upgrading had not been recognised in time for this event, made comfortable progress, beating Jack Duffy (Sy) in the quarter and Nicholas Shoreman (La) in the semi. However in a final in close proximity to a noisy crowd, he faced the eager Philip Godfrey (Powys), in his first ESBA, fired-up by plenty of vocal support. Matthew seemed drained by the situation and unable to reproduce earlier form.

Whilst these events had been taking place, the premier boys singles and standard girls singles had been underway at the nearby Archway School. Fourth-seeded James Reynolds came through the box stage, beating Andrew Brunning (Ex), against whom he had lost in their last meeting, and surviving a close three-setter against Welsh U13 champion, Jamie van Hooijdonk. The other Herts entrants fared less well. Oliver Crabb lost out to first seed Luke Thomson (Sx); Akash Jhunjunwala to third seed Simon Foster (Ha); and Luke Donnelly to second seed Mark Newbery (Ha). In the semi-final, James met Mark. There is very little between this group of top players and on this day it was Mark who won through to meet Luke Thomson in the final, and indeed to beat him too. Meanwhile, Rebecca Cousins, Herts lone entry in the girls standard singles, came second in her group.

Then some cohorts from each venue changed places. Charlotte joined Rebecca at the Archway School for the main girls doubles - sadly, a single group of only three pairs. They had a good win over the two premier singles finalists, Kelly Blake (SG)/ Olivia Payne (Ha). Then, after losing the first set 10-12 to the Hampshire pair of Lisa Turner/Katie Walters, they raised hopes by reaching 7-1 up in the second, but the last few points proved elusive and Rebecca/Charlotte had to settle for the silver medal after losing this set too, also 10-12. There were no Herts entries in the alternate girls doubles.

Back at the Leisure Centre, there were no Herts entries in the alternate boys doubles, but the main consisted two groups, with five Herts players involved in four pairs.

Akash, still not up to speed after a long break and a short illness, and young Chris Coles (Av) found the company too tough on this occasion. Matthew and Jamie van Hooijdonk, playing together for the first time, did not gel and also found it tough going. But the 'old firms' of James/Luke Thomson (Sx) and Simon Foster/Mark Newbery (Ha) had a lengthy battle, finally going to James/Luke T. In the other group, Oliver/Luke D beat Cappleman/Forsyth (Ha) and Wilde/Duffy (Sy) and they too survived a protracted three-setter against the Devonshire pair of Xavier Bramley/Ben Ferrao. From the semis, Wilde/Duffy moved on to the final beating James/Luke T, whilst Oliver/Luke D beat Foster/Newbery and went on to win the final.

E.S.B.A. West U11

Phil Westwood

Unfortunately, due to a rare clash of the same-age events - Herts own U11 singles tournament was taking place in parallel at Stevenage - there were no Herts boys taking part and only Emily Westwood and Laura Bygrave of the girls made the long trek. But for badminton, it was encouraging that even one of the less central venues could attract thirty-one boys and ten girls of this age.

There are no gradings at U11. In the girls singles there were two groups of five. Emily followed the Westwood tradition of having to play the eventual winner in the first game on court. This was not a short game and the punishing rallies had both girls short of breath. Although she held on for a while, Emily was covering too much ground and the physically bigger and stronger Laura Baker (Ha) eventually pulled away to win 15-8. But two would go through and, after two 15-1 wins, Emily faced Cassie Hall (Be), and the winner would claim a semi-final place. She had never lost to Cassie, but the Berkshire girl had clearly grown stronger, and looked twice Emily's size. But this time it was Emily who lasted the pace to scrape through 15-14. After that, the semi-final was perhaps a game too far, and she found Laura's county colleague Panuga Riou just too agile, losing 4-15. In the other group Laura Bygrave, too, had found the going tough, winning just one of her four games.

The Hampshire pair, gold and silver medallists from the singles then dominated the girls doubles. In a single group of five pairs, they trounced all opposition, but the singles semi-finalists, Emily and Hannah Bentley (St), playing together for the first time, won three of their four to claim silver medals as runners-up.

Senior Schools Two more schools - John Warner and Princess Helena College - have affiliated to H.S.B.A. making a total of 34. The Senior Schools competition has been running smoothly. The U18 section finished with the Mixed Doubles in January, while both U15 and U13 still have one more tournament to go (results below). Points are awarded for positions reached in the knock-out events, so a school with lots of players are quite likely to amass a large number of points. However, some schools with only 1 or 2 players can also get lots of points, depending on how many events they enter and if those players get really good results. Trophies and certificates will be sent to the top 3 schools in the U18 categories fairly soon (when the certificates have been printed!) The results are as follows:

U18 Boys

1	Roundwood Park	100
2	Dame Alice Owen	68
3	Haberdashers' Aske's	51
4	John Warner	48
5	St Albans	33
6	Simon Balle	14

U18 Girls

1	Queenswood	139
2	St Albans Girls High	99
3	Dame Alice Owen	45
4	Freman College	25
5	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	20
6	Chauncy	8
7	Roundwood Park	4

U15 Boys

1	Hitchin Boys	172
2	Haberdashers' Aske's	121
3	St Albans	99
4	Roundwood Park	62
5*	Chancellor's	51
5*	Watford Boys	51
7	Dame Alice Owen	43
8	Simon Balle	29
9*	John Henry Newman	13
9*	John Warner	13
11*	Chauncy	11
11*	Lochinver House	11

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	130
2	Queenswood	122
3	Dame Alice Owen	57
4	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	38
5	Freman College	32
6	Roundwood Park	21
7	Chancellor's	20
8	Chauncy	16
9	Presdales	7

13	Thomas Alleyne	8
14	Highfield	4
15	Richard Hale	1

U13 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	190
2	Chancellor's	114
3	Watford Boys	98
4	Turnford	78
5	Lochinver House	72
6*	Roundwood Park	57
6*	Simon Balle	57
8	Dame Alice Owen	40
9	Hitchin Boys	39
10	John Warner	29
11	Fearnhill	13
12	St Albans	11
13	Richard Hale	1

U13 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	150
2	Chancellor's	95
3	Queenswood	60
4	Roundwood Park	37
5	Presdales	19

Nottinghamshire Junior Open U13

Anne Donnelly

We left (the Donnelly's and the Crabb's) at 6.30 am, headed toward Nottingham's Mansfield Leisure Centre to rendezvous with James Reynolds (who had gone up the night before). The tournament was split into A and B (Premier and Standard) for the singles, and one main event for doubles and mixed. The premier section was played in two groups of four. This time Oliver Crabb had Luke Thomson in his box, along with Chris Tustion and Luke Hutchinson. Luke Donnelly and James Reynolds found themselves in the same box alongside Ben Stawski and Matthew Tissington. The top two from each box went through to the semi-finals. The group games were two games to 11. Both Luke D and James beat Ben Stawski and both went on the beat Matthew. This meant they met each other to decide group position, James being the victor. Oliver, unfortunately, did not get out of his box.

Luke D then had to play Luke T in the semi-finals and James had to play Chris Tustion. Both games were exceptionally good and both were very close; it could well have ended in an all Herts final. However, this time, it was not to be! Luke T beat Luke D and Chris beat James. The final, between Luke and Chris was played in the evening, Chris winning 21-15.

In the level doubles, all three Herts boys won their groups easily. James/Luke T had a bye to the semi-finals while Oliver/Luke D played Luke Carthy (St)/Nicholas Shoreman (La), the Herts boys winning. This meant all three Herts boys were in the semi-finals. Oliver/Luke D played Ben Stawski (Wk)/Chris Tustion (Ox) - again a very good and close match, going to setting, with Stawski/Tustion winning. James/Luke T beat Luke Hutchinson (Yo)/Luke Swannack (Nm) but the final, scheduled to be played in the evening, was conceded because Ben pulled out of the tournament feeling unwell, the gold thus going to James/Luke T.

Now to the mixed doubles. This was really quite exciting to watch, with some very close games/battles! Oliver/Hayley Rogers (Ch) beat Luke Hutchinson (Yo)/Samantha Hutt (Li) for a place in the quarter finals, while Luke D/Samantha Reynolds (Nm) beat Robert Norris/Joanne White (St) and James/Thereza Oliver-Smith (Nm) beat Kabir Khan/Serena Khan (Nm). All three pairs won their quarters for places in the semis, where Oliver/Hayley had to face Luke T (Sx)/ Anna Louise Wilson (Li). This was a very close and good game, another one going to setting, with Luke T/Anna winning. Luke D/Samantha faced James/Thereza - again a good and hard game with Luke D/Samantha running out winners.

The mixed doubles final was the last game of the day. Another good game with some very tired players and Luke T/Anna beating Luke D/Samantha. A long but enjoyable day - start of play at 9.30 am and finish of play 10.00 pm. This was a particularly well-organized tournament. All the games had numbers relating to order of play which meant that players knew a rough time of their next match (printed out on the notice board). No player played back to back games (except at the very end of the day when time was running out). Impressive organisation Nottingham.

More H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U15 Girls Doubles

Emily Crabb (Bishops Hatfield Girls School/U17 Squad)

On January 19th, the U15 girls doubles took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre. We were all put into boxes. In total there were 4 boxes, two with four pairs and two with three pairs. When each pair had played everyone in their box, you either went into the main event of the plate event. In the semi-finals of the main event, Victoria Stokes and I played Frankie Edelman/Kate Lester and won 15-10 - this was a close game. The other semi-final was between Katie Comras/Laura Cousins and Emma Stokes/Nicola Farr. This also was close but in the end Katie/Laura won. The final was between Victoria/me (my first final) and Katie/Laura and they won convincingly.

Results **Final** **Katie Comras/Laura Cousins** beat Emily Crabb/Victoria Stokes 21-9
Semi-finalists were Frankie Edelman/Kate Lester and Nicola Farr/
Emma Stokes
Plate Final Joanna Smith/Sita Shah beat Rachel Ferguson/Rebecca
Sellars 21-6

U15 Boys Doubles

Oliver Crabb (Verulam School/U13 Squad)

After the box stages of the tournament came the quarter finals (where Luke Donnelly and I went out), then the semi-finals. These consisted of Kamran Haq/Arjun Mehta against Dominic Gomar/Jonathan Miller and Victor Liew/Nigel Tao against Simon Barson/Shamil Magecha. Dominic/Jonathan caused an upset to the seedings by winning their match 15-13 and Victor/Nigel won theirs 15-1. Both teams advanced to the final which Victor/Nigel won.

Results **Final** **Victor Liew/Nigel Tao** beat Dominic Gomar/Jonathan Miller 21-12
Semi-finalists were Kamran Haq/Arjun Mehta and Simon
Barson/Shamil Magecha
Plate Final Suraj Patel/Sean Song beat Arjun Shah/Nikhil Shah 21-10

U11 Girls Singles

Hannah Warnes (St Albans Girls High School/ U13 Squad)

The tournament was held on Sunday, January 19 at Stevenage Leisure Centre. The girls were split up into nine boxes and all games were played up to 11 points. From each box the winner and runner-up went into the main event and the other girls into the plate event.

In the quarter finals of the main event, Daniella Farsiani, Helena Lewczynska and Hannah Warnes all won their games without dropping a point. The remaining quarter final was much closer and ended with Abigail Bursack beating Natalie Swallow 11-6 in a very good match. In the semi-finals, Helena beat Daniella 11-4 and Hannah beat Abigail 11-2. Helena and Hannah played an exciting final with Hannah coming out on top.

The semi-finals of the plate event were contested by Rosie Kearns and Katy Johnson and Leanne Gateson and Lauren Austin and ended up with exactly the same scores as in the main event semi-final - Rosie beating Katy 11-4 and Leanne beating Lauren 11-2. In the final, Leanne and Rosie both played well, but Leanne managed to get ahead and win.

Results **Final** **Hannah Warnes** beat Helena Lewczynska 15-5
Semi-finalists were Abigail Bursack and Daniella Farsiani
Plate Final Leanne Gateson beat Rosie Kearns 15-6

U11 Boys Singles

Sixty seven boys contested the U11 boys singles, playing in 16 groups. Thirty two players went into the main event and the others went into the plate. There were a couple of upsets

with Andrew Barnes beating Harry Sandford in the 2nd round 11-7 and Satjivan Aujla beating Daniel Regan in the quarter finals, but the expected players Richard Wilson and Matthew Fitt reached the final, with Matthew taking the title.

Results Final **Matthew Fitt** beat Richard Wilson 15-7
Semi-finalists were Satjivan Aujla and Andrew Barnes
Plate Final Benjamin Roe beat Josh Parnell 11-7

A big thank you to Mrs Moody who spent quite a lot of her time mopping up one court of the constant drips coming from a leak in the roof. Without her help that court would have been unusable for most of the day and the tournament would have run on a lot longer than it did.

E.S.B.A. Midlands U17

David Westwood (Roundwood Park School / U17 Squad)

Our sports correspondent was away again for this tournament, making his presence felt elsewhere in the country. However, 9 Herts players managed to troop up to Kettering for what turned into one of the longest and largest tournaments of the season.

Boys Premier Singles - the largest premier boys entry that any of the tournaments had seen all season with 26 players vying for top spot. Upon opening the programme, William and I immediately had a few moans; there was a very unusual choice of seeding and, more notably, the fact that Mark James (England and Dorset) was not seeded and in my box! Some people have all the luck

The tournament went on though, with myself finishing 2nd of three to Mark James and William moving out of his box once more, this time to take on 2nd seed Neil Ryves (Nm). A hard fought battle left William shattered and very much annoyed, going down 15-13, 15-10 after placing a sitter of a smash, only a few feet from the net, out of the back of the court at match point down! As I said, some have all the luck!!

Boys Standard Singles - three Herts players here out of 74 - Damian Bruce-Hickman, Anthony Moye and Joe Webb. Unfortunately I didn't have the chance to view all the games as I had a late start time, but I shall do my best. Joe was looking to carry the form he experienced at Wycombe forward in this tournament but narrowly lost two of his games to twelve before he got started; a similar fate awaited Anthony losing his opener 8-15, though not entirely due to the early start time! Damian, on the other hand, got off to winning ways taking his first game to nine, but was unlucky to have drawn one of the eventual semi-finalists and lost just the one game 10-15.

Girls Standard Singles - another big entry here with 42 girls in total, with 4 from Herts. Unfortunately, neither of the Stokes sisters, Emma and Victoria, managed to advance from their boxes both ending up as runners-up. Kate Lester won her group, but an ongoing knee problem hampered her movement on a whole court and caused a premature exit. Frankie Edelmann, however, was lucky to win her group after a three-way tie saw her win on points. A huge turn round after getting out of her box saw her slaughter her next two opponents 15-2 and 15-3 to reach the final against Sam Ward (Sy). At a very late hour, by tournament standards anyway, Frankie emerged victor, taking home a gold medal and a premier upgrade.

Main Boys Doubles - yes, William and Anthony were back once again only to find themselves facing top seeds Luke Brudenell (Yo)/Nick Hodgson (La). In a truly epic game (48 minutes), the two pairs produced some of the highest quality doubles I've seen in all my 16 years and huge credit must be given to all the players. Oh, the score - after 48 minutes Will/Ant lost 13-15, 15-17.

I was partnering Geoffrey Ball (Ha) and was stuck with the fourth seeded pair of Andy Saunders (Gl)/Pete Wiley (Ex). A close first end against them led to confusion in the second and we lost 13-15, 4-15. We gained scant consolation in finishing second in the group.

Mixed Doubles - not much of a fight by the Herts pairs here - Joe Webb/Kate Lester won their first round match only to face the top seeds, Mark James (Do)/Trine Frederiksen (Sy), in the next round to

lost 4-15, 11-15; there was small consolation in the fact that the Herts pair took the seeds to 11 in the second end. At the opposite end of the draw, Frankie Edelmann and I had a walkover into the second round to face Luke Brudenell/Kim Stevens (Yo). A stupidly close first end saw several match points go to Herts, but we managed to lost 16-17. The second end was a minor affair, Frankie and I going down 10-15 at the end of a long, long day with Frankie still left to play her singles final (which she duly won!) By the end of the tournament it was almost 22:00 and Herts trudged back home with just one gold medal and several very, very tired players.

E.S.B.A. Home Counties U11/U13

Phil Westwood

A SLOUGH OF DESPOND!!

To call the ESBA Home Counties tournament a disaster would be too strong. The tragedy unfolding high in the atmosphere over Texas at roughly the same time - that was a disaster. But within its own terms of reference it was certainly a shambles. If you were not there and, like the rest of us, have come to take for granted the almost metronomic efficiency with which most of these events are carried off, you might not believe it. So I will come to the results and play separately, although at times they came to seem almost irrelevant, but first there is a context to be set.

As the routine gradually fell apart before our very eyes we were, at first, merely bemused. It took some time for astonishment and disbelief to turn to annoyance and then, in some cases, real anger, as successive blows sank in. Each time it could not get worse, it did. So much so that, even the simple things - late, and in some cases no, prior notification of entry or start times or list of competitors; the odd person properly entered but left out of the draw, whilst a withdrawal notified well in advance remained in - even these simple things, which through years of accumulated goodwill are normally 'written off', began to be added to people's lists of grievances.

Several draws included wide spreads of small boxes. People had set out early to beat the weather. Some had travelled half the length of the country. Many of these people, thankful to have arrived, expectantly scrutinising the draws, were to find their child in a box of three with possible only two games. But again the goodwill kicked-in and most shrugged and consoled themselves that there was at least the doubles too. No one knew then that the U11 boys and girls doubles would both be cancelled, but we'll come to that. Tannoy announcements calling players to the courts, virtually unintelligible from the balcony, and courts left empty, then children hustled to start - these are minor, forgivable hiccups. But they set the scene and compounded what was to come.

Some time before three, people's attention began to focus on sports centre staff in conversation with the organisers. Body language said something was up. But the moment passed and normal service was resumed. Until, that is, staff began to drag out hockey nets and place them beside the courts. Then consternation and disbelief. At three o'clock, they removed the badminton nets and posts from four courts, half the hall, leaving just three, and a local roller-hockey club began a training session. The roar from the skates, the crack of pucks being hit or the thump as they hit the walls, the impact of which could be felt on the balcony - the din was phenomenal. At a stroke the atmosphere and momentum of the tournament, both physical and mental, had been lost.

The first rumour was of a double booking - sports centre error. Later it came out that the badminton organisers had been somehow hoodwinked into 'signing away' the time to the hockey club. But there never was an official explanation. Either way it seems grown men took precedence over the 'softer target' of children.

Then the first and only announcement made during the entire day asked parents and children to vacate the on-court seating as this was to be folded away to allow play on the fourth court. Could it get worse? Oh yes! Rumour then had it that all games, including premier doubles and singles, some of which having already been played as best of three, would now be played one game to eleven, and oh, by the way, the U11 singles and doubles had been cancelled!! So the youngest players, least able to take it all in, some having come from far away places and waited hours to play (everything had already been well behind schedule before the major upheaval) trooped away, wondering why they had been sacrificed. There might have been a good reason - say, the selection of U13s for an upcoming international - but as with everything else, nothing was said. No apology. No mention of a refund. In fact no official announcement at all.

Amongst all this there was a brief fire alarm, to which no one reacted, which just added to the surreal atmosphere that was developing.

Because the programme was slipping all the time, some children waited hours between games. One pair in a box of three from which the third had been scratched, played and thought that was it - one game and over, which was bad enough, then heard, by word of mouth, some two-and-a-half hours later that someone else had been added to their box. And that person had been waiting four hours for a game.

In this fog of uncertainty, on having the temerity to ask questions, a number of children and adults alike reported, or were overheard, receiving terse irritated responses along the lines: 'wasting the organisers time'; 'wasting court time'; and 'we have put a lot effort into organising this'. The latter was not in doubt but missed the entire point. It was hardly the enquirers' fault. It was they, the paying customers, who were being let down. The whole day was falling apart and they needed information. It is particularly unforgivable to 'lash out' at the children for any reason, let alone those arising through unfortunate circumstance or bad management or both. A lot of people had travelled a lot of miles and committed a lot of their time, not to mention costs, to be there. Someone seems to have lost sight of for whom these events are run and, grateful as we are to them (normally) for their own time and commitment, that is not the organisers.

The tournament limped on, going through the motions with little enthusiasm. At six o'clock the hockey finished, giving blessed relief from the noise at least. Then, at quarter past, when centre staff re-erected the badminton posts and nets on all four courts, some more gullible spectators thought we were up and running again and might get home before midnight. But no! In fully three-quarters of an hour, apart from isolated children knocking-up, these four courts were used for just two doubles games. Then at seven they were cleared once more, this time for five-a-side football. And so the day dragged on, reduced to a soulless, mechanical exercise.

Even with the shortened games and cancelled events, the last game on court finished virtually on ten o'clock. The ESBA AGT Acceptance Letter states that no U13 player will be obliged to commence a match after 8 pm on a Saturday, but in practice, having reached the quarter - or semi - final by that stage, one can hardly walk out, depriving a child of a potential medal.

More than a few parents resolved, I'm afraid, that they could live without visiting future tournaments in Slough.

And of the tournament itself

Not a lot, either, on the field of play for the Herts contingent to cheer on this particular day, but no one can say that the Premier boys singles isn't becoming a fascinating event. Rather than settling, as the season progresses, it's becoming more and more unpredictable.

Luke Thomson (Sx), seeded one in the draw, was absent altogether. James Reynolds is going through a lean spell and lost box games to Chris Tustian (Ox) and an in-form Ben Tier (Ha). Luke Donnelly, with good wins over Xavier Bramley (Dv) and Gary Fox (GM), was the only Herts player to survive the first round, but went down to Daniel Shiels (Yo) in a quarter-final. Oliver Crabb waited so long for his first game against Andrew Brunning (Ex), who hours earlier had had a close win over Jamie van Hooijdonk (Wales), that he could be forgiven for losing the first game to love. Unfortunately, because of the chaotic state of the tournament, by that time there was only the one game, so that was that.

Earlier Akash Jhunjhunwala had lived to fight another day, overwhelmed by Ben Ferrao (Dv) and Mark Middleton. And, after a withdrawal, Matthew Westwood had lost his single box game against Mark Newbery. Actually there was another game. A couple of hours later it transpired that Chris Coles had been added to Matthew's box, but by then it was, for him, a meaningless and dead game.

Other Herts players taking part were Jonathan Morris, Matthew Fitt, Alex Gomar and Michael Ashworth.

In the Standard girls singles Rebecca Cousins lost out in the box to Justine Thomson (Sx), as did Hannah Warnes to Rebecca Greenstreet (Ke). In the alternate girls doubles, Rebecca/Hannah beat Emily Westwood / Nicole Walker (Ex) - yes, they were in the same box again! - but failed to win the group.

Herts only success of the day came late on - very late on! At about 9.40 pm Matthew Westwood/Jamie van Hooijdonk (Wales) came on court to face James Reynolds, playing with Chris Tustian (Ox) in the final of the boys premier doubles. Earlier an out of sorts Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly had lost badly to Surrey pair Jack Duffy/James Wilde, but had a close win over Andrew Brunning/Blair Pusey (Ex), losing the three-way tie on points. James/Chris won their group and beat Brunning/Pusey in the semi. With the withdrawal of the seeded Yorkshire pair, Matthew/Jamie took their chances, winning the two box games to go straight into the final. Mainly due to James' anticipation and speed in intercepting and killing poor returns, Matthew/Jamie were 0-7 down before they knew it. But when they finally got a score on the board they began the fight-back, and errors crept into James' and Chris' play. Closing all the time they pulled level, 10-10, but, as so often happens when parity is achieved, they relaxed a fraction, lost concentration and the initiative, and James/Chris sped through to a 15-11 win. A good game, which went a little way to salvaging, at least for the Herts boys, a day memorable for all the wrong reasons. Then, at a little after 10 o'clock, we 'put out the lights and the cat, and locked up' and went home!!

U11 - In amongst, and somewhat swamped by the U13 events and the day's calamities, was the U11 competition. Helena Lewczynska had two good wins in her group coming second to Jessica Fletcher (Yo). Laura Bygrave made little headway in her group, won by Harriet Shillito (Yo), whilst Emily Westwood fared little better in a group of only three, which included Laura Baker (Ha) who had beaten her in her group at Stroud only two weeks earlier. Boring! There were no Herts entries in the boys singles for which later results were not put up. And, for the record, the boys and girls doubles were cancelled.

PS Subsequent to the above, Eric Brown, Chairman of the Schools and Youth Board of the BA of E, has written to the U11 contestants, offering an unreserved apology - which I, as one involved, am pleased to see and happy to accept - and refunded their fees. The matter will be discussed at the next S&YB meeting in March and the findings reported in ESBA news.

Junior League Match Results and Positions at 29/01/03

U12 Boys

Gazelles

4

Swifts

8

U12 Girls

Much Hadham

0

Gazelles

12

Harpenden	8	Much Hadham	4
Harpenden	2	Swifts	10
Much Hadham	0	Gazelles	12
Much Hadham	2	Harpenden	10
Much Hadham	9	Hemel Hempstead	3

Positions

1 - Swifts	2 - Gazelles	3 - Harpenden	1 - Gazelles	2 - Much Hadham
4 - Much Hadham	5 - Hemel Hempstead		3 - Hitchin	4 - Swifts

U15 Boys

All Saints	2	Swifts	10
Stanstead Abbots	11	All Saints	1
Stanstead Abbots	4	Swifts	8

U15 Medley

Much Hadham	0	Hemel Hempstead	10
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Positions

1 - Swifts	2 - Stanstead Abbots	1 - Hemel Hempstead	2 - Much Hadham
3 - All Saints		3 - Swifts	

Tournament Results

ESBA East U17

<u>Boys Singles</u> (Standard)	Quarter final	Paul Monk lost to Andrew Thomas (Sx) 4-15
	Semi-final	Anthony Moye lost to Gary Davies (Wi) 8-15
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Alternate)	Quarter final	Emile Doran/Paul Monk lost to Chris Hotchen (GI) /Robert Kettle (Mx) 18-21
	Semi-final	Chris Armstrong/Joe Webb lost to Charlie Kenward (Sx)/Andrew Thomas (Db) 8-21
<u>Girls Singles</u> (Standard)	Final	Laura Cousins lost to Samantha Ward (Sy) 8-15
<u>Girls Doubles</u> (Main)	Final	Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy) lost to Anna Smith/Jacqueline Smith (Be) 8-21
<u>Girls Doubles</u> (Alternate)	Final	Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes lost to Natalie Howes/Louise Lester (Le) 11-21
<u>Mixed Doubles</u>	Quarter final	David Westwood/Erika Whittingham (St) beat Paul Monk/Nicola Farr 15-11, 15-10 Luke Jones (Sx)/ Katie Comras lost to Gary Davies/Emma Davies (Wi) 12/15, 11-15 Anthony Moye/Emma Stokes lost to David Askey/Joanne Millward (Sx) 9-15, 4-15
	Final	David Westwood/Erika Whittingham beat David Askey/Joanne Millward 15-6, 15-6

E.S.B.A. South U17

<u>Boys Singles</u> (Premier)	Final	William Westwood beat Ben Beckman 10-15, 15-10, 17-15
<u>Boys Singles</u> (Standard)	Semi-final	Joe Webb lost to Robert Hird ((Bu) 11-15
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Main)	Final	Anthony Moye/William Westwood beat David Westwood/Adam Francis (Bu) 15-13, 15-9
<u>Girls Singles</u>	Quarter final	Frankie Edelmann beat Emma Stokes 21-14
	Semi-final	Laura Cousins beat Frankie Edelmann 21-14

	Final	Laura Cousins beat Karen Hird (Bu)
<u>Girls Doubles</u>	Semi-final	Frankie Edelman /Kathleen Mulcahy (Av) lost to Anna Smith/Jacqueline Smith (Be) 6-21
<u>Mixed Doubles</u>	Final	Bruce Peake (Ha)/ Laura Cousins beat Miles McBain / Frankie Edelman 15-8, 10-15, 15-10
<u>E.S.B.A. Midlands U17</u>		
<u>Boys Singles</u> (Premier)	Quarter final	William Westwood lost to Neil Ryves (Nm) 13-15, 10-15
<u>Girls Singles</u> (Standard)	Quarter final	Kate Lester lost to Charlotte Owen (Yo)
	Final	Frankie Edelman beat Samantha Ward (Sy)
<u>Girls Doubles</u> (Alternate)	Semi-final	Frankie Edelman/Kate Lester lost to Kathleen Mulcahy (Av)/Samantha Ward (Sy) 11-15 Emma Stokes/Victoria Stokes lost to Charlotte de Carle/Holly Mee (Le) 12-15
<u>E.S.B.A. East U13</u>		
<u>Boys Singles</u> (Premier)	Semi-final	James Reynolds lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 7-11, 11-13
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Main)	Final	James Reynolds /Luke Thomson (Sx) beat Simon Foster/Mark Newbery (Ha) 11-2, 11-9
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Alternate)	Quarter final	Alex Regan/Arjun Shah lost to William Green/ Jonathan Campbell (Ox) 3-15
<u>Girls Doubles</u> (Alternate)	Final	Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes beat Rhian Blowers /Sarah Lewin (Nf) 17-15
<u>E.S.B.A. Sussex U13</u>		
<u>Boys Singles</u> (Premier)	Semi-final	Luke Donnelly lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 11-15, 10-15 James Reynolds lost to Mark Newbery (Ha) 10-15, 6-15
<u>Boys Singles</u> (Standard)	Final	Matthew Westwood beat Daniel Boxall (Wi) 15-8
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Main)	Final	Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly beat James Reynolds /Luke Thomson (Sx) 15-11, 15-17, 15-8
<u>Nottinghamshire Junior Open U13</u>		
<u>Boys A Singles</u>	Semi-final	Luke Donnelly lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 18-21 Chris Reynolds lost to Chris Tustion (Ox) 17-21
<u>Boys Doubles</u> (Main)	Semi-final	Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly lost to Ben Stawski (Wk)/Chris Tustion (Ox) 20-23
	Final	James Reynolds /Luke Thomson (Sx) beat Ben Stawski/Chris Tustion (conceded)
<u>Mixed Doubles</u>	Semi-final	Oliver Crabb /Hayley Rogers (Ch) lost to Luke Thomson (Sx)/Anna Louise Wilson (Li) 21-23 Luke Donnelly /Samantha Reynolds (Nm) beat James Reynolds /Thereza Oliver-Smith (Nm) 21-17

Final

Luke Donnelly/Samantha Reynolds lost to Luke Thomson/Anna Louise Wilson 16-21

From the editor:

Thanks to Phil and David Westwood yet again - what would I do without my regular tournament reporters? (I did offer Phil the job of editor, but he didn't seem very keen on the idea!!) Thanks also to Angela Blowers, Anne Donnelly, Marion Conway, Emily and Oliver Crabb and Hannah Warnes for their contributions.

With regard to Phil's article on the tournament at Slough, I felt it ought to be published. As tournament secretary for HSBA I know how much work goes into organising any event, but I hope that if we ever did have a catastrophe of the nature of Slough, we would make an announcement immediately so that parents - and particularly players - would know exactly what was going on. I think we would have many irate visitors to the desk if we did not!!

Some items have been held over until next time as space is becoming a little short! It has been suggested that an extra newsletter be published in about 4 weeks time, so maybe....

My apologies for any errors - typed under the stress of a chest infection and a definite lack of concentration.

Closing date for the next issue of the main newsletter is **Monday, April 28**.

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