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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

April 2004

As you can see from the attached sheet, the Herts Schools Badminton Association Annual General Meeting is on June 22.

A Note from Chairman, Ken Winchester, regarding HSBA funding

Each year members of your committee work diligently to put on regular tournaments for our own junior badminton players. Additionally we host the BAofE Junior Challenger Tournament which attracts top players throughout the country.

Our planning for these events commences the previous year and involves decisions based around considerable collective experience. Not only does your committee seek to ensure the smooth running of our tournaments, it must concern itself with the protection of your funds.

Without this generous donation of your committee's time and expertise, squad fees would need to be raised very substantially. In addition, our present scope to provide so many playing and coaching opportunities for juniors of all abilities would prove impossible to sustain.

I am delighted to report that this year's tournaments have again yielded considerable revenue. For such a successful outcome, may I particularly pay tribute to Joan and Russell Walters, Duncan and Marion Conway and the Lumbs. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of many others who have helped make our events so enjoyable.

Sad News

Ken Winchester

I am deeply sorry to record the recent passing of Sally Stokes.

For those of us privileged to know Sally, we have felt humbled by the manner in which she bravely battled against her illness. Her overriding concern has always been for the well-being of her family, a fact which many of you will have also seen demonstrated throughout this long period.

On behalf of everybody involved with HSBA, I wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to John, Emma and Victoria at this very sad time.

England Selection - Four players from Herts - Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Kamran Haq (replacing an injured Nigel Tao) and Victor Liew - represented England at the Aros Cup in Denmark and had a successful time. In the mixed doubles, Katie/Arthur Cheung (Bu) and Kamran/Sarah Walker (Ex) reached the quarter finals. In the girls singles Katie got to the quarter finals and Laura reached the final, losing to Camilla Overgaard 11-5, 11-7. In the boys doubles, Kamran/Robert (Bu) and Victor/Arthur Cheung (Bu) again reached the quarter finals and in the girls doubles Katie/Sarah Walker (Ex) got to the semi-finals, but Laura/Samantha Ward (Sy) were crowned girls doubles champions.

Also on England duty will be James Reynolds - selected to play in the Home Countries Quadrangular at the end of April.

North Herts U11 and U13 Tournaments

Bob Green

The entries for the U13 tournament was higher than the previous year. This was entirely down to the boys event going up from 15 to 38; the girls remained the same as last year with just 6 entries.

There were several changes this year. The venue switched to Knights Templar Sports Centre in Baldock; the format and scoring changed and the organisation was mainly computerised, with an extra screen available for players to see their progress.

The winners of the four boys singles groups were Scott Williams, Matthew McCloskey, Miles Owen and Sam Berry, with only Matthew losing a game. The semi-finals saw Scott beat Sam Berry 15-4 and Matthew beat Miles Owen 15-6. In the final Scott beat Matthew 15-11.

For the girls singles, everyone played everyone else. The deciding game was between Laura Bygrave and Charlotte Gawley Green, Laura coming out on top 11-3 to win gold, leaving Charlotte to take the silver.

In the boys doubles, the four group winners were Scott Williams/Matthew McCloskey, James Stannard/David Condron, Craig Brown/Adam Drake and Lewis Wareham/Michael Payne. The big question was 'who would be drawn to play Scott/Matthew?' It was Craig/Adam who lost 15-0. In the other semi-final Lewis/ Michael beat James/David. In the final Scott/Matthew were easy winners 15-4.

In the girls doubles, the three pairs played each other in the best of two games. This resulted in a tight finish, with a points count back being needed to establish that Laura/Emily Browning took the gold by 4 points from Charlotte/Bethany Harris who took the silver.

The U11 tournament had slightly fewer entries than last year but there were still 32 youngsters intent on winning a medal.

In the boys singles semi-finals, Dominic Elves lost to Sam Berry and Arjun Aujla lost to Rafe Hawkins-Hill. In the final Rafe was the easy winner 15-3.

The finalists for the girls singles were Temi Fajobi, who beat Helena Marsh 15-7, and Simi Aujla who beat Lucy Skone 15-5. The final was a tight affair with Simi coming out on top 15-13.

In the boys doubles semi-finals, Sam Berry/Roshan Aujla lost to Rafe Hawkins-Hill/ Harry Williams and Jordan Grindal/Naendeep Dhaliwal lost to Arjun Aujla/Matthew Hare. The final saw Rafe/Harry take the gold and Arjun/Matthew had to settle for the silver.

The girls doubles was played in a single group with all pairs playing each other. The gold was taken by Simi/Temi and the silver was won by Jessica Bishton/Naomi Hanson.

Both tournaments were played in a great atmosphere and it was a pleasure to be involved with so many keen youngsters.

An evening with Richard Doling

Pat Walker

On Thursday February 26, Stanstead Abbots Junior BC enjoyed a visit from Herts Badminton Development Officer, Richard Doling.

The evening started with twelve players on three courts with three coaches, but we knew that was too easy and wouldn't last long. With four players each, Richard set Jeff Monk and my self up with suggested footwork and movement routines. As more and more young players arrived over the next half hour, we gradually found ourselves drifting into the organised chaos which is Stanstead Abbots Juniors!

The second half of the session saw the older players using one court for doubles play while Richard gave some one to one coaching on the 2nd court with players taken in turn. This left Jeff occupying the remaining fifteen or so players on the 3rd court - and with his usual success.

On behalf of the players, parents and the Stanstead Abbots committee, Jeff and I would like to thank Richard for both his support and encouragement to us as coaches and for his useful ideas and tips passed on to the players.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we hope Richard will come and see us again soon.

We appear to have another budding poet in the Herts ranks. This time the poem is from **Mr Ivan O'Idea** (and neither have I actually). His address is 3 Raquet Court, Tipping Shuttle, Herts. He thinks his poem is definitely better than the one from Mr Seymour Badders published in the last issue. Any correspondence from anyone, including Mr Badders, can go direct to Mr O'Idea!!

The Eighth Wonder of the World

There are seven wonders of the world;
But number eight is about to be unfurled
And, I trust that you will not mock
When I reveal it is the shuttlecock.

For something that we all take for granted,
As a mystery, it will not be supplanted.
Much more than cork and feathers so swell
It seems to have a brain as well!

With your racket you hit it with a resounding 'smack'
To your opponent, who tries to hit it back.
But on its trajectory, it's a bit of a wheeze,
It has to turn through one hundred and eighty degrees.

How does it do it? How does it know
When to turn and when to go?
And what is the mechanism for this amazing feat?
If we were to understand it, it would be a treat.

Within the cork tip is a mini-computer,
A microchip and a programme transputer,
Retro-rockets and a gyroscope
All enable the feathered projectile to cope.

So when you're next playing your favourite sport,
Admire that shuttle as it flies across the court.
And when it twists in mid-air, as is its intention,
Just think - what a marvellous invention!

Regional U11 Doubles Challenge

The first ever regional U11 Doubles Challenge was played on the weekend of March 27/28. Herts was regional host to the Essex, Sussex and Herts teams. Each team consisted of 2 boys pairs and two girls pairs, and all points went towards the team total. Counties could also play extra individual pairs if they wished. The Herts team was Emily Westwood/Isabelle Sadler, Claire Widdicombe/Penny Elsom, Elliott Miles/ Gareth Lumb and Andrei Donko/Ewan Berry. We also fielded extra pairs in Kate Sellars/Simi Aujla and Freddie Kenison/Andrew Maughan. Essex also had extra individual pairs, so there was a total of 8 pairs of girls and 8 pairs of boys. The girls all played each other in one big group as did the boys. Emily/Isabelle won all their games becoming the individual champions and the Sussex pairing of Jack Thomson/ Philip Fenner did likewise becoming the boys champions. The team victory went to Essex, with Sussex just pipping Herts by one point for second place.

Primary Schools Team Tournament

Eighteen boys teams and ten girls teams from nine schools, plus an invitation boys - Herts Hedgehogs - and girls - Herts Harts - team, took part in the Primary Schools Team Tournament at Stevenage Leisure Centre. The tournament was preceded by a coaching session. The Lady Mayor of Stevenage, together with her husband, visited the training and stayed for some time to watch the early part of the tournament. The Lady Mayor was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Penny Elsom (St John the Baptist School) and Harry Williams (Wilbury School).

The girls first round was played in two groups of four and one of five. Stormont, Herts Harts and Grange JM won the boxes and were joined by the best runner-up Wilbury 1 for the top group in the second round. The Stormont girls - Andrianna Dyer, Daniella Farsiani and Isabelle Sadler - won all their games for the loss of just 16 points all day to win the gold medals and school trophy. The Herts Harts team - Olivia van der Maat (Ladbroke JMI), Kate Sellars (Crabtree JMI) and Claire Widdicombe (Morgans JMI) - tied for 2nd place and silver medals with Grange JM - Rebecca Aldridge. Zoe Buchanon, Holly Marshall and Leah Mealing. As Herts Harts were not a single school team, third place and bronze medals went to Wilbury 1 - Simi Aujla, Temi Fajobi and Helena Marsh.

The boys played their first round in five groups of three and one of four, with the six winners - Lochinver 1, Lochinver 2, Ladbroke 1, St Giles 1, Grange 1 and Herts Hedgehogs - with Wilbury 1 and Wilbury 2 as best runners-up making up the top two groups in round two. At the end of the second round, the two fourth placed teams, Ladbroke 1 and Wilbury 2, played for positions 7/8 and ended up with a draw. St Giles defeated Grange 1 in the match for position 5/6. The first and second teams in the groups played crossover semi-finals with Lochinver 1 beating Lochinver 2 and Herts Hedgehogs defeating Wilbury 1 for the second time in the day. Lochinver 2 - Rahul Amin, Raj Borkhataria and Ryan O'Leary - came out on top in the battle for 3rd place with Wilbury 1 - Arjun Aujla, Rafe Hawkins-Hill and Harry Williams.

The final between the Herts Hedgehogs - Gareth Lumb (Ladbroke JMI), Elliott Miles (Little Hadham Primary) and Harry Sandford (Trotts Hill Primary) and Lochinver 1 - Daniel Regan, George Lewis and Louis Walpole - was the hardest match of the day for the invitation team, but they went on to become overall winners, with Lochinver 1 also getting gold medals as well as the trophy for the top school team.

Combining points for the schools with both boys and girls teams gave Wilbury 1 the gold; silver went to Grange 1 (girls plus Chris Eke, Dominic Elves, Bobby Kitchener) and bronze to Ladbroke JMI (Helen Ford, Hannah Norfolk, Katie Norfolk, David Bidmead, James Bowman, Josh Smith).

Results

Boys	1) Herts Hedgehogs	Girls	1 Stormont
	1) Lochinver 1		2) Herts Harts
	2 Lochinver 2		2) Grange
	3 Wilbury 1		3 Wilbury 1
	4 St Giles 1		4 Ladbroke
	5 Grange 1		5 Knebworth
	6) Wilbury 2		6 Wilbury 2
	6) Ladbroke 1		7 Abel Smith 1
	8 St John's		8 St Giles
	9 Wilbury 3		9 St John's
	10 Ladbroke 2		10 Abel Smith 2
	11 Abel Smith		
	12 Bridgewater Yr 6		
	13 Grange 2		
	14 Wilbury 4	Combined	1 Wilbury 1
	15 Bridgewater Yr 5		2 Grange 1
	16 Knebworth 1		3 Ladbroke 1
	17 Knebworth 2		4) Wilbury 2
	18 St Giles 2		4) St Giles 1
			6 St John's
			7 Abel Smith 1
			8 Knebworth 1

BAofE Carlton U14 Top Schools Team Tournament Finals **Christine Fletcher**

This event took place at Luton Regional Sports Centre on Saturday, March 27. Chancellor's School team had done very well to get to the finals day of this tournament and, although our top player Luke Donnelly was unable to play (he was taking part in a previously arranged under 14 open tournament, which he subsequently won - a fantastic achievement), they set off full of enthusiasm and raring to have a go.

The team consisted of Ben Goodson, Alex Regan, Michael Ashworth, James Murch and Jack Fernandez. Unfortunately Ben, who was now the No1 player, had not been feeling well the night before. Although he won both of his games in the first group against Gravesend (15-2, 15-12) he found that the gruelling matches with almost no breaks in between took their toll., so that he had to pull out against Bournemouth School. Alex and James played a very well fought game against this team.

Jack Fernandez and Michael Ashworth had an extremely close game against a doubles side from Gravesend Grammar School, as did Alex and Jack.

The team carried on playing impressively well against some hard opposition, with Alex winning his singles game against Cowbridge School. Ben was able to join the last set of games against Colchester RGS School and won his singles 15-6 in convincing style. Michael/James played an excellent game in this match only losing 5 points and Alex and Michael finished off with two good matches only just being beaten by one point.

This meant that out of 75 schools that took part in this tournament, Chancellor's School team managed to gain 18th place, a considerable achievement for a relatively young team, without their top player and having only played together for a short time.

(As an ex-Chancellor's parent - well done, boys - here's to next year! - Ed.)

U15 National Team Challenge Finals **John Smith (U15 Team Manager)**

The finals of the U15 National Team Challenge were held at Luton Regional Sports Centre on Sunday April 4. Herts had already won the regional event and with the strength of our squad (providing everyone played their best) we could well have finished the season as National Champions.

Sadly this was not to be; our No 1 boy was unable to play because of a serious shoulder injury and, although we still had a chance of getting into the medals, it was unlikely we could beat Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire without a fully fit team.

In spite of this setback the team played really well with wins over Devon 6-1, Staffordshire 7-0, Lincolnshire 7-0, Hampshire 7-0 and Buckinghamshire 4-3. Against Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, although everyone tried hard, we just lacked that little bit of extra firepower and we lost 3-4 in each case after some very exciting games. The Yorkshire team manager sportingly acknowledged that we would have won the Gold if we had been at full strength.

I hope Nigel makes a full recovery in time for the start of next season. Sadly, he also missed playing for England in Denmark.

Congratulations to the team: Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Victoria Stokes, Charlotte Willis, Stephen Barnard, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew and James Reynolds.

It was a great achievement under the circumstances to win the bronze medal for the third year running.

Junior Leagues

Pat Walker (League Secretary)

This has been a successful season for the HSBA Junior League as most of the matches have now been played. There is still time for the outstanding fixtures to be arranged and I know that some are due to be played up to the end of April.

There have been 6 matches so far this season which have drawn on games, resulting in a points win. In particular, in the U15 Medley match between Hemel Hempstead and Harpenden, the games total was 5-5 with Harpenden winning the match by 1 point, 118 to 117.

Congratulations to Gazelles U12 boys and Swifts U15 boys for winning their divisions.

The final league table with certificates for all winners and runners-up will be available at the HSBA AGM on June 22.

U12 Boys	Played	Won	Lost
Gazelles	6	5	1
Swifts	6	4	2
Much Hadham	6	3	3
Harpenden	6	0	6

U12 Girls			
Swifts	6	6	6
Gazelles	6	4	2
Stanstead Abbots	5	2	3
Much Hadham	7	1	6
Hitchin	4	1	3

U15 Boys A			
Gazelles	5	4	1
Hitchin	4	4	0
Comets	5	1	4
All Saints	6	1	5

U15 Boys B			
Swifts	4	4	0
Stanstead Abbots	4	2	2
Much Hadham	4	0	4

U15 Girls			
Swifts	3	2	1
Gazelles	2	0	2
Queenswood	1	0	1

U15 Medley			
Harpenden	3	3	0
All Saints	2	1	1
Hemel Hempstead	3	0	3

U18 Girls			
Queenswood	1	1	0
All Saints	1	0	1

ICT 2004

Tony Clarke (U17 Squad Manager)

The Herts U17 team left Birchwood Leisure Centre on the Thursday after Easter earlier than planned (due to the team manager - me - not reading the start time correctly) to contest the U17 Inter-Counties tournament at Nottingham University. The team Will Westwood, Anthony Moye, Victor Liew, Kamran Haq, Paul Monk, Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, Frankie Edelmann, Emma Stokes and Nicola Farr, travelled in the minibus with Pat Walker and myself, whilst Colin Walker followed in convoy with all the luggage. The other member of the management, Mike Barnard, arrived on Friday morning to help share the driving with Pat.

We arrived at the University in good time to settle in and have a team photo before the first of the three matches against Glamorgan at 12.00, quickly followed by Durham and Norfolk. We won all three matches comfortably. It was back to Sherwood Hall for dinner before a trip to Sandiacre to play Warwicks at 18.15. Four matches in one day is very tough. The team played well and overcame a competent Warwicks 7-3. It was back to the hall for cake and hot chocolate and a good night's rest - the matches only got harder from now on.

Our first match on Friday was at Chilwell. Mike Barnard arrived with several parents to support. We got off to a poor start against Cheshire, losing the mixed and the two boys singles to go 0-4 down - not good for the old ticker!! I needn't have worried with our strength to come. We duly won both girls singles, all four boys and girls doubles to win 6-4. Having had a scare, we went on to beat Leinster 9-1 before playing the No 6 seeds, Lincolnshire back at the university. Lincs had three very good boys and two good girls - this match could be difficult! We started with the mixed as usual. Ant/Emma played brilliantly to win 21-18 and this was quickly followed by a win for Will/Frankie: 2-0 to Herts. We lost both boys singles as expected but Laura and Katie comfortably took both girls singles: 4-2 to Herts with just the doubles to play. Will/Ant and Victor/Kamran both won to give us an unassailable 6-2 lead. Wins for the pairing of Frankie/Katie and Laura/Nicola completed a resounding 8-2 win and a place in the final against Yorks, Notts and Hants, who had beaten 4th seeds Bucks.

The first match on Saturday was against Notts. We had to win at least one of the mixed doubles to have any chance. It did not go our way - Ant/Emma just lost to Chris Adcock/Kate Goodall 17-21 and Will/ Frankie lost 14-21. After the boys singles it was 4-0 to Notts. This time there was no way back and Notts went on to win 7-3. Next came Yorks - a very tough match. The team played much better than against Notts but still lost 2-8 to a very good Yorks team.

Play was over for the day. It was the disco for the players and a quiet drink in the bar for the management and friends. Tomorrow is finals day when we play Hants for the 3rd place silver salver. The final started at 2.00 pm with Herts playing Hants and Yorks playing Notts for 1st/2nd places. Against Hants we took both mixed 21-16 to give us a great start, followed by two defeats in the boys singles:

2-2. Katie won 21-1, but Laura was struggling 15-20, but she hung in to win 21-20. A win for Will/Ant and it was 5-2 to Herts. Victor/Kamran provided the coup-de-grace by coming from behind to 21-20 and an unbeatable 6-2 lead. Herts won both girls doubles to complete an 8-2 win, 3rd place, our 5th medal winning position in 10 years and the silver salver. Yorks beat Notts 8-2 to win the title for the sixth year in a row. A great four days of badminton and a great result. Well done, team!!

And the ICT from a player's point of view

Pandemonium (ICT) 2004

William Westwood (U17 Squad/ Roundwood Park School)

There were high hopes for this year's team, consisting of Will 'T.C.' Westwood, Anthony Moye, Kamran Haq, Victor 'Vicky' Liew, Paul 'Monky' Monk, Emma Stokes, Nicola Farr, Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, and Frankie Edelmann. We were seeded 3rd, so there was a potential top four finish on offer.

There was loud music from the off, with some of the vocals being provided by Kam, Victor, and Frankie, with the occasional burst from Katie!! (They're not just talented badminton players you know!).

Before we knew it, we had arrived and, with our first match at 12:00, had little time to unpack and get ready. However, this didn't seem to affect any of the players, as we beat Glamorgan 9-1, with Kam and I picking up the much coveted prize of a Crème egg for our 21-0 score in 2nd boys doubles. Next, we had back-to-back matches against Durham and Norfolk. We despatched both teams 10-0 with relative ease. Katie had a chance to win a Crème egg against Durham in her singles, but managed to bottle it on 19-0!! However, she and Frankie made up for this, beating a Norfolk pair 21-0. It was then back to the Uni for 'din dins', with Frankie paying particular attention to the buttering of her roll!! Afterwards, it was off to Sandiacre for our toughest match of the day against Warwickshire, which started at 8:15 pm!!

After taking all four doubles, we were in a very strong position to take the match. This proved to be the case, as we went on to win 8-2. We had 4 courts available for use, so thankfully the match didn't drag on too long and we were able to get back to the Uni at a reasonable time. After showering, eating cakes, and drinking plenty of hot chocolate, it was off to bed.

The 2nd day started with an unusually late wake up call at 8 o'clock. The boys were up and ready for breakfast in no time, with the girls not far behind. After a bit of pool, table tennis, and table football, it was off to Chilwell to play Cheshire and Leinster. A shaky start against Cheshire saw us go 4-1 down, but the team pulled together with Ant and I taking the decisive game to clinch the match 6-4. This match included the 'presentation' of another Crème egg, which went to Laura Cousins. After going 19-0 up, Laura was faced with a 'hostile' crowd (which consisted of myself and a few others), but managed to hold her nerve to take the game 21-0. Next up was Leinster. News of an injury to their number 1 player filtered through, which helped to calm the nerves. We took the match 9-1, which was more comfortable than expected.

Team morale was high as we headed back to the University, with a few hours to relax before our most important game so far. There was plenty of time for 'corridor cards' (cards played in a corridor - the name courtesy of Katie), pool, and a kick around with the football outside. Our final game of the day was against Lincolnshire, who were seeded 6th. Frankie and I comfortably won our mixed to get off to a winning start. However, the highlight of the match was yet to come. Ant and Emma, playing number 1 mixed, were faced with Jason Marshall (England) and Susan Perry. If I was to be honest, I didn't think they had too much of a chance. I came off court with the score poised at 20-18 to Herts. On match point, Ant had a mid-court smash, which, under normal circumstances, he would have floored. However, on this occasion, the light got in the way and forced him to clear out of the back. After showing a little bit of frustration to the crowd, he had a few strong words to say to the light!! How this helped matters, I don't know, but he and Emma went on to win the game 21-18. Victor then put up a brave fight against Jason Marshall in his singles, occasionally getting the crowd on their feet with some awesome deception at the net and, after the boys and girls singles, the score was 4-2. This meant we only needed to take two of the remaining four games to guarantee the team a place in the top four. In the end we took all 4 doubles, leaving us with a final score of 8-2. We headed back to our rooms for the usual hot chocolates, cakes, and 'corridor cards'. That night, there were some classic jokes from Paul, and the discovery of a strange eating habit belonging to one of the team members, showing the rest of the team that food should not be wasted, whatever its condition. After all the laughing and joking had been brought to a halt, it was time for lights out and some much needed sleep.

Day 3, and a lie-in was in order after the previous night's performances. A whole 15 minutes extra was allowed and, believe it or not, the girls were tucking into their cooked breakfasts (and coco pops- Frankie!!) before the boys had even entered the dining area. We only had 2 matches to play, so after breakfast, we lazed around playing 'corridor cards', and relaxing in the TV room. Our first match was against Notts. If we won this, we could be playing against Yorkshire on the 'finals' court, so there was plenty of incentive for both teams. We didn't get off to a good start, losing both mixed and 2 boys singles, so we were already 4-0 down. Not for the first time the girls came through, with Katie and Laura taking both singles. With the match at 4-2, we needed some heroics in the doubles. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be, as we only took one out of the four doubles- 1st girls. Kamran was so annoyed at himself for apparently not playing very well in his doubles, that he gave his racquet a 'light tap' on his foot, but through some extreme coincidence, managed to find the weak point on the shaft. One broken racquet and an unhappy player -not to mention an overall score of 7-3! Something had to be done to pick up the spirits, and, after another of Tony's inspirational team talks, the team went out all guns blazing against Yorkshire. Our 'aim of the game' was to get John Foster to roll his trousers up. For those of you who don't know him, he does this when he is getting worried and nervous about a match, or particular game. Back to the badminton, and it was 1-1 after the mixed, Frankie and I beating the Yorkshire 2nd pair, 21-7, after some confidence boosting 'jump smash' cheers from the crowd (thanks Katie!!) And even better - there were John Foster's trousers already up at shin height!! We lost both singles, with Kam putting up a superb fight against Danny Adams, only just losing 21-19. Our only other win in the match came from the girls 2nd doubles. However, Kam and I narrowly lost our doubles 21-19.

After losing the match 8-2, it was time to get ready for the disco, Pandemonium 2004 (or Pando' '04 as we later named it). Two of the girls, not mentioning any names, were wearing surprisingly little considering the weather, but they were made to regret this afterwards, as they had to run back to their rooms in the rain!! Tony made it back in one piece, after holding back in the bar!! The highlight was probably Ant sitting on chewing gum, and then trying to wipe it off on the wall - picture that if u will!! There were plenty of other 'incidents', none of which I shall go into great detail about. The only safe thing I can say is that we all had a great time and it will be remembered for a long time to come. After hot chocolate and some more 'corridor cards', it was time for bed.

The final day started with another 8:15 wake up call. After breakfast, it was time to pack, play more cards, and relax before our last game against Hampshire. As we were playing for a top four position, we got to 'parade' into the main hall in front of the watching spectators, family, and friends. I'm sure all would agree, it

was a truly memorable experience. The finals got under way with the mixed, with Herts taking both to go 2-0 up. This was duly followed by 2 girls singles. Both matches were exciting, but in contrasting ways. Laura, playing Hannah Littlecott, was about 20-15 down, but managed to pull back to 20-20. The service changed hands several times, before Laura finally took the match 21-20, receiving deserved applause from everyone. Katie, on the other hand, had a chance for a 2nd Crème egg - a feat that no other Herts player had managed to achieve. As it was the finals, this one would have been extra special. She was going smoothly, playing some 'vintage Comras' shots in the process, and turned at 11-0. At 15-0, the realisation of a 2nd egg set in and, as the nerves got the better of her, she hit one out of the back!! You could see the distress on her face!! However, she went on to win the game comfortably. After both boys singles, the score was 4-2 to Herts, but the match still having the potential to go in either team's favour. No need to worry, though. All four doubles were taken, with the best win coming from Kam and Victor, after being about 20-15 down. This left the final score at 8-2, which meant Herts had beaten both the fifth and sixth seeds, 8-2 (an under strength Bucks could not realise their fourth seeding) to take a well deserved 3rd place. After the medals had been collected, and the photos taken, it was time to go, and for Ant, Paul, Emma, Nicola, and me, that was that. Amazingly, there were no trips to see the physio this year, so well done to the team for staying fit throughout.

All that's left for me to say is a big thank you to Tony, Colin, Pat, and Mike for putting up with us!! Thanks to Paul (number 1 fan!), for sticking around even though he didn't play during the final 2 days, and to the travelling army of fans who made plenty of noise throughout, and lastly to the rest of the players - I couldn't have chosen a better group of people to spend my last ICT with.

HSBA Tournaments - March 14

U13 Boys and Girls Singles

The boy's competition had six boxes of four and one of five. There were several very close games in most of the groups, which made for good watching. In the main event, Matthew Sellars just pipped Matthew McCloskey 15-14 before losing to Matthew Westwood 1-15 (so many Matthews!) who then had a struggle against Arjun Shah, finally winning 15-13. Ben Goodson beat Scott Williams 15-13 before losing to Akash Jhunjhunwala 6-15 and Matthew Fitt (another one!) overcame first Rory Harcourt 15-13 then Tim Angus 15-13 before losing in a hard game to Akash 10-15. In the final Matthew W proved an easy winner. The plate games were nowhere near as hard and in the semis Douglas Furze beat Oscar Lam 15-9 and Elliott Miles overcame James Head with a bit more of a struggle 15-12. Douglas beat Elliott in a very long final game.

Final **Matthew Westwood** beat Akash Jhunjhunwala 21-5

Semi-finalists were Arjun Shah and Matthew Fitt

Plate Final Douglas Furze beat Elliott Miles 15-9

As usual there were not as many girls. But eighteen contestants played in four boxes of four and two of three, the latter playing to 21. There were one or two close games, but no surprises. In the main event, Charlotte Willis beat Abigail Bursack and Rebecca Cousins on her way to the final, while in the other half Hannah Warnes overcame Anita Kandiah and Laura Bygrave very easily. Charlotte won the final after a very hard fought game. There was one very close game in the plate semi-final with Rosie Grimwood just pipping Sonali Patel 15-14. In the other half, Frances Dickson beat Claire Widdicombe and Lauren Smith-Squire before going on to win the final very easily.

Final **Charlotte Willis** beat Hannah Warnes 21-16

Semi-finalists were Rebecca Cousins and Laura Bygrave

Plate Final Frances Dickson beat Rosie Grimwood 15-0

U10 Girls and Boys Singles

Thirteen girls entered the girl's singles, playing in three groups, which were won by Olivia van der Maat, Simi Aujla and Kate Sellars. In the knockouts Olivia and Kate had byes to the semi-finals and Simi beat school friend Temi Fajobi 11-8 to join them, then losing to Kate. Katherine Head beat Naomi Hanson 11-5 to reach the semi, before losing to Olivia. In the final Olivia and Kate fought long and hard, but Olivia proved the stronger and becoming champion. In the plate twin sisters Tamsyn and Juliet Radmall played each other in one semi with Juliet winning and in the other semi Lexy Richards easily overcame Frances Berry, before defeating Juliet in the final.

Final **Olivia van der Maat** beat Kate Sellars 15-13
Semi-finalists were Katherine Head and Simi Aujla
Plate Final Lexy Richards beat Juliet Radmall 15-4

It seems there was an overabundance of small boys. Thirty five played in the singles tournament, with known players getting through to the main knock-out. A slight hiccup in the second round with the defeat of the second seed opened up the draw for Louis Walpole who beat Harry Angus 11-2 in the quarters finals and Daniel Hatt 15-11 in the semi after a hard fight. In the other half Freddie Kenison just pipped Nicholas Barnett 11-10 in the quarters, while top seed Daniel Regan sailed through comfortably beating George Lewis 11-2 and Freddie Kenison 15-2 to reach the final where he defeated fellow Lochinver pupil, Louis, very easily. The plate saw some hard fought games with Paul Taylor beating Michael Peak 11-6 and Max Hodgkinson 15-5 to reach the final. In the other half Jack Garrety had an easy 11-0 win against Jonathan Wright then a much harder win, 11-10, against Howard Strobo before being defeated by Paul.

Final **Daniel Regan** beat Louis Walpole 15-1
Semi-finalists were Freddie Kenison and Daniel Hatt
Plate Final Paul Taylor beat Jack Garrety 11-4

U10 Girls and Boys Doubles

The morning and the singles over, the doubles began. Four pairs played in the girls event the winners, Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi, having a very easy run.

1st **Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi**
2nd Naomi Hanson/Katherine Head
3rd Juliet Radmall/Tamsyn Radmall
4th Ella Basra/Olivia Breeze

The boys, on the other hand, had twenty pairs. Top seeds Gareth Lumb/Daniel Regan won their box easily as did second seeds Freddie Kenison/Andrew Maughan. They, with other box winners Harry Angus/Daniel Hatt, Rafe Hawkins-Hill/Harry Williams and George Lewis/Louis Walpole moved into the main event along with the group runners-up. Gareth/Daniel easily beat Steven George/Michael Peak 11-0 in the quarters, followed by a 15-2 win over Rafe/Harry in the semis. In the other half Freddie/Andrew had an easy win over Max Hodgkinson/Jack Garrety, but then met their fate in the shape of Lochinver pair George/Louis who won 15-11 after a very hard fought game.

The final was contested by three Lochinver pupils and one from Ladbroke and Gareth/Daniel ran out convincing winners. In the plate Mark Sadler/ Ravi Shah had a couple of good wins to reach the semi-final where they beat David Hirst/Ben Willey to get to the final. In the other half semi, Arjun Aujla/ Matthew Hare had a slight struggle to overcome Edward Byrne/ Paul Earle before beating Mark/Ravi in the final.

Final **Gareth Lumb/Daniel Regan** beat George Lewis/Louis Walpole 15-6
Semi-finalists were Rafe Hawkins-Hill/Harry Williams and Freddie Kenison/Andrew Maughan
Plate Final Arjun Aujla/Matthew Hare beat Mark Sadler/Ravi Shah 15-2

U15 Boys and Girls Singles

As if the day were not busy enough, the U15s came along in the afternoon too. Some of the morning U13 players also kept going and played again. Twenty nine boys played in this event. There were several hard fought, close games ending in 15-14. Matthew Westwood beat Daniel Fitt and Jonathan Miller before losing to Damian Bruce-Hickman in the semi. In the other half Gregg Roantree defeated Nikhil Shah and Adam Monk to meet Stephen Barnard in the semi. In a very hard fought game, Gregg came out the winner 17-15 to meet and be defeated by Damian in the final. In the plate, Akash Jhunjhunwala and Alex Regan met in one semi and Richard Billing and Matthew Fitt in the other, Akash and Richard moving on to the final, where Richard was victorious.

Final **Damian Bruce-Hickman** beat Gregg Roantree 15-3
Semi-finalists were Matthew Westwood and Stephen Barnard
Plate Final Richard Billing beat Akash Jhunjhunwala 15-9

Again there were fewer girls - just fourteen, playing in three groups. Rachel Warnes, Charlotte Warnes were group winners, with Rebecca Sellars, Rebecca Cousins and Alex Rowell joining them in the main event. Rebecca S Beat Alex 15-12, then lost to Rachel 5-15 in the semi. Hannah and Rebecca C played a very long hard game, which Hannah won 15-10 to play Charlotte in a replica of the U13 final with the same result, Charlotte moving on to the final against Rachel. In the plate meanwhile, Caty Mackenzie had a hard battle to beat Hannah Watts 15-14 to reach the semi where she defeated Jennifer Marshall easily. Miranda Atkins first beat Melanie Harcourt, then Rosie Furze to reach the final, but Caty proved too strong and won the game. The last match of the day was the final between Rachel and Charlotte, and there were very few people there to see a really good game which Charlotte went on to win.

Final **Charlotte Willis** beat Rachel Warnes 15-11
Semi-finalists were Rebecca Sellars and Hannah Warnes
Plate Final Caty Mackenzie beat Miranda Atkins 15-7

U13 Team Challenge Final

Jean Fitt

Twelve county teams had reached the finals of the U13 Challenge, so Luton Regional Sports Centre was a busy venue on 3rd April. This was like no other county match we'd attended – whistles were being blown, horns sounded and once the matches got underway much cheering was to be heard. The noise was deafening and spirits were high.

The Herts team members were Matthew Fitt, Alex Gomar, Akash Jhunjhunwala, Arjun Shah, Richard Wilson, Rebecca Cousins, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Emily Westwood. The teams had been split into 2 boxes and we were to face Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Berkshire, Avon and Lancashire. Each match consisted of 2 of the boys playing singles and 2 playing as a doubles pair and the same for the girls. Mostly, our singles players were Akash, Richard, Hannah and Rebecca.

Our first opponents were Berks and we had a stroke of luck to start the day as they were a player short! The boys won comfortably. Hannah had a hard battle in her singles but came through as winner, while Helena/Emily lost in a close game. Overall a good start with a 5-1 win. The tables were turned in the next match against a strong Lancashire team where, despite close games for Helena/Emily in the girls doubles and Richard in the boys singles we lost 1-5, Rebecca being our only winner.

With spirits down a bit and a change of formation for the boys, the next opponents were Lincolnshire. Arjun and Matthew both lost their singles but scored valuable points. Rebecca and Hannah won their singles to level the match, leaving all to play for in the doubles. Akash/Richard won while Helena/Emily put in a great performance against very strong opposition but finally lost out 19-21. The result was 3 all but we won on points.

Avon were next and we proved too strong for them, winning 5-1 – unfortunately, Akash had to face Chris Coles. Our final opponents in the box were Hampshire who got the better of us winning 5-1. Arjun/ Matthew took a good victory in the doubles to save us from a whitewash.

We ended third in the box behind Hampshire and Lancashire, which meant in the final round we joined Lincolnshire from our box and Cheshire and Sussex from the other box in the play off for positions 5-8. The teams battling out the top 4 places were Hampshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Leicestershire. with Hampshire finishing in 1st place and Yorkshire being runners-up.

Richard and Rebecca had niggling injuries, but there was more competition to come.

Next on were Sussex where the boys lost their singles, but the girls won to even up the score going into the doubles. Helena and Emily won their match fairly easily but Matthew and Arjun had a hard battle just coming through 21-20. It was a 4-2 victory!

The last team to face were Cheshire – our score against Lincolnshire carrying over from the first round. Emily and Helena played singles but both lost out while Hannah/Rebecca, taking a turn at doubles, scored a good victory. It was a similar story for the boys, and the match went to Cheshire 4-2.

Overall we finished in 6th place behind Cheshire in our group. It was a great team effort.

Tournament Results

U15 Nationals

Girls Singles	Quarter final	Katie Comras lost to Samantha Ward (Sy) 11-4, 1-11, 3-11
	Semi-final	Laura Cousins lost to Sarah Walker (Ex) 7-11, 11-8, 5-11
Girls Doubles	Final	Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy) beat Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex) 15-1, 15-3
Boys Singles	Semi-final	Nigel Tao lost to Chris Hotchen (GI) 10-15, 9-15

Boys Doubles	Quarter final	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Victor Liew beat Kamran Haq / Richard Woolgar (Db) 13-15, 15-2, 15-13
	Semi-final	Arthur Cheung/ Victor Liew lost to Chris Adcock/ Paul Schuller (Nm) 6-15, 13-15 Robert Hird (Bu)/ Nigel Tao lost to Marcus Ellis (Yo)/ Chris Hotchen (Gl) 2-15, 2-15
Mixed Doubles	Quarter final	Kamran Haq /Helen Calverley (Yo) lost to Chris Hotchen (Gl)/Samantha Ward (Sy) 3-15, 16-17
	Semi-final	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Katie Comras lost to Marcus Ellis (Yo)/Karen Hird (Bu) 10-15, 15-7, 17-14
<u>Hampshire U16</u>		
Girls Singles	Semi-final	Katie Comras lost to Hannah Littlecott (Ha) 8-11, 10-13
Girls Doubles	Final	Katie Comras /Samantha Ward (Sy) beat Kathryn Gittins/Hannah Littlecott (Ha) 15-11, 15-4

From the editor: Thanks to all those who contributed to this newsletter - Tony Clarke, Jean Fitt, Christine Fletcher, Bob Green, 'Ivan O'Ida', John Smith, Pat Walker, William Westwood (following in Dad's footsteps - I hope) and Ken Winchester. Thanks also to Carla Regan for being such a good photographer. The season is basically at an end and some players are now involved in other sports such as cricket and tennis. Hopefully they will return to badminton in September much refreshed and ready for another good season.
Closing date for the next newsletter is **Friday, June 25.**

DON'T FORGET THE AGM!!

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