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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

September 2008

Badminton Herts Communication: Performance Centre on Hold

The Acting Executive - Malcolm Fraser (Chairman), Angela Blowers (Deputy Chairman), Colin Walker, Gill Bartlett, Duncan Conway, Marion Conway, Pat Walker, Bob Green, Philip Gray, Brian Jackson and Dave Bartlett - have issued the following statement with regard to the Performance Centre:

Many of you have heard that HBA, HSBA and several Premier Clubs (Baldock, Comets and Swifts JBCs, and Knebworth BC and JBC), have been working hard for the last twelve months to set up a Performance Centre in Hertfordshire. This is an initiative proposed by BE to improve the level of badminton, and in particular singles, across England. One of the advantages would be funding to pay specialist coaches for the next three years, although the Centre would have to be self-funding thereafter.

In June 2008 Badminton England approved our application in principle, and a Head Coach was duly appointed.

Unfortunately, unexpected difficulties have since arisen in interpreting Badminton England's requirements regarding our Performance Centre. The resulting discrepancies between their expectations and our ability to achieve them quickly have created a situation contributing, at least in part, to the resignation of the Head Coach. □ As the new season has already started, we decided to review the situation rather than just appoint a new Head Coach. The Performance Centre is therefore on hold until we are sure we are acting in the best interests of all our young players and for the general good of badminton in Hertfordshire. □ We will be evaluating Badminton England's response to our situation and reviewing the way forward in the coming months.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments 2008/2009

Sunday, 19th October	U15 (Yr 10 and under) Boys & Girls 'B' Singles	9.30 am
	U13 (Yr 8 and under) Boys & Girls Doubles	9.30 am
	U13 (Yr 8 and under) Mixed Doubles	2.00 pm
Sunday, 9th November	U13 (Yr 8 and under) Boys and Girls 'B' Singles	9.30 am
	U15 (Yr 10 and under) Boys & Girls Doubles	9.30 am
	U15 (Yr 10 and under) Mixed Doubles	2.00 pm
Sunday, 23rd November	U11 (Yr 6 and under) Boys & Girls Singles	9.30 am
	U18 (Yr 13 and under) Boys Singles	9.30 am
	U18 (Yr 13 and under) Girls Singles	11.30am
	U18 (Yr 13 and under) Boys & Girls Doubles	2.00 pm
	U18 (Yr 13 and under) Mixed Doubles	5.00 pm
Sunday, 25th January	U11 (Yr 6 and under) Boys & Girls Doubles	9.30 am
	U15 (Yr 10 and under) Boys & Girls 'A' Singles	9.30 am
Sunday, 15th March	U13 (Yr 8 and under) Boys & Girls 'A' Singles	9.30 am
	U10 (Yr 5 and under) Boys Singles	9.30 am
	U10 (Yr 5 and under) Girls Singles	11.30 am
	U10 (Yr 5 and under) Boys & Girls Doubles	2.00 pm
Sunday, 1st March	Primary Schools Team Tournament	

All the above tournaments will take place at Stevenage Leisure Centre.
Entries should be sent to Roz Hodgkinson, Boonwood, 24 Turpins Chase, Welwyn, Herts AL6 0RA.
Tel: 01438 715231. e-mail: hsba@srpltd.com

(Entry forms for all squad members, schools and club organisers are attached)

H.S.B.A. AGM

The AGM was held in June, attended mainly by the committee and a few others. Below are extracts from the reports of the chairman and squad managers.

Chairman's Report - Ken Winchester

It is once again a pleasure to report that your Association has concluded a successful season. Such an outcome has only been possible because of the enormous amounts of time, energy and outright skill contributed by squad managers, committee members and helpers. In addition, gratitude is owed for the valuable efforts of others, who continue to lend their support to junior badminton around the county.

After serving as the Association's treasurer for the last decade, it is with regret that we must bid farewell to Malcolm Lumb. On your behalf I would like to thank him for the considerable amount of work he has undertaken in protecting and administering our funds for such a long period of time. I hope that Megan Lumb will still continue to produce our invaluable newsletter along with the many other generous roles she enacts.

Special mention this year goes to Sangeeta Dhall who has successfully completed her first year in charge of our younger squad.

Uniquely this season HSBA has been able to put on a number of highly praised coaching and playing opportunities while providing important squad fitness training sessions. We should thank Angela Blowers for her hard work in enabling this program, having achieved the necessary funding through the Awards for All lottery grants scheme.

Angela together with Joan and Russell Walters has also helped provide us with vital extra financial help through the successful annual Open Tournament.

Taking care of our junior closed tournaments, we have to thank Barbara Lewczynska and Roz Hodgkinson with invaluable help from others. Barbara also deserves recognition for her continuing work as our Child Welfare Officer.

On a personal level, may I acknowledge the efforts of both Mary Wikner and Kevin Maughan who lend their valuable secretarial support to facilitate the efficient running of this Association. Kevin has also found time to set up and operate our own dedicated web site which adds a further important dimension to our various activities.

Also working tirelessly behind the scenes is Phil Westwood who enacts the highly difficult role of Fixtures Secretary so competently. We hope that he will continue to provide this service which is greatly appreciated by us all. In thanking Dave Bartlett for the great assistance he continues to provide, I would also like to include Gill Bartlett who has worked so hard to progress our combined application to become a Performance Centre. Finally, may I pay tribute to the personal sacrifices and valuable support of parents and teachers who underpin the existence of our Association. We very much hope to receive your ongoing assistance and support during the coming season.

U11 Report - Sangeeta Dhall, Squad Manager

It was a very successful first year. There was a squad of 7 boys and 4 girls and a development group. Thanks to the exceptional help of Liz Hatt, some friendly matches were arranged with other counties, winning some and losing some.

I would like to thank all the coaches and parents who supported me. All the players were wonderful and I really enjoyed having them in my group. I hope we can win more matches this season, although I do believe that in this U11 age group it is participation and enjoying competitive play that is more important.

U13 Squad - Duncan Conway, Squad Manager

At the trials in September we offered places in the squad to 27 players with 2 other boys training with the squad and later gaining full membership. A number of players were graded at the start of the season with 4 more upgraded later in the year. We played inter-county matches in four competitive areas: - the Team Challenge - 9th in the National final, Shires League - reached the top four, Eastern Region - 2 competitions - won one and just lost one - and friendlies.

We have had the benefit of regular assistance from Graham Hall with both the coaching and the matches. We are very grateful for his time, expertise and experience.

U15 Squad - Hitesh Shah, Squad Manager

At the trials in September a squad of 33 was selected. We reached the finals of the Team Challenge finishing in 5th place and also the finals of the Shires League where we finished 8th.

We played several friendly matches, losing to Surrey and Sussex and winning against Northants, Buckinghamshire and Essex. In the Eastern Region U14 competition we finished 5th and in the Eastern Region Single Sex tournament the boys were 4th and 12th and the girls were 3rd and 6th.

The boys were runners-up in the Gloucestershire Invitation U14 doubles and winners in the Avon Invitation U15 doubles. A ten pin bowling social was arranged at Christmastime, with prizes given out at the end of the competition.

Four Fitness sessions were arranged - before and after Christmas. Steve Willis delivered full work outs for the squad members and I had to hear lots of moaning and complaining!

The season went very quickly - we achieved very good results but we can do better.

I would like to thank John Stobo for his valuable time and effort and also Ken Winchester for his help at squad nights. I would also like to thank all the parents who chauffeured their children to squad practices, Shires League matches, friendlies or tournaments.

U17 Squad - Tony Clarke, Squad Manager

The trials were in September and we ended up with a bigger squad than intended. With the Shires League, RIO, ICT, several friendly matches and Eastern Region team tournament, every member of the squad got a chance to play for the county.

In the Eastern Region U17 Single Sex Tournament, the boys 1st team won gold, the 2nd team finished 4th and the girls team 6th. In the Shires League we finished in 4th place and in the RIO tournament we finished 3rd behind Yorkshire and Notts. No medal at ICT this year, but we will be back!

Many thanks to Pat Walker for all her hard work throughout the year. Also thanks to Hitesh Shah for his help at RIO and to Colin Walker, Kelly Matthews and Bob Welsh at ICT.

Shires League Final

Scott Williams (U17 Squad)

After finishing top of the Shires League regional group table, the U17 Hertfordshire squad arrived in Leicester at the Shires League Finals on Sunday 13th April in buoyant mood. Yorkshire and Hampshire would be difficult opponents but we were likely to avoid them early on as they had also won their regional group.

We were drawn against Lancashire, who would be tough competitors, but the team was quietly confident we could win this game and, therefore guarantee ourselves a top four finish, even with two key players - Ryan McCarthy and Emily Westwood - missing.

Our confidence shone through as Lancashire were no match for a rampant Hertfordshire team who were keen to make up for the disappointment of our performance at the ICT. A convincing 15 - 5 victory left us in a fantastic position with nothing to lose going into the semi final.

Next up were Hampshire. This proved to be one hurdle too many for the team and Hampshire completed a deserved and forceful 17-3 win. A special mention must go to Helena Lewczynka, who was involved in all 3 wins to save our blushes.

It was then time for the highly predictable fight for third place against Avon. After a fiercely competitive match with the scores ebbing and flowing, it would have been a brave man to bet against either team. Every game was going down to the wire and our parents' nails were quickly disappearing with every shot played! The scores ended level with 10 games each. Unfortunately, a not so close 35 point deficit on count back meant we took fourth position.

A special thanks must go to Pat and Tony for their support and encouragement throughout the day!

Swifts Presentation Evening

Presentation evening was on the last club night in June. Many players and parents attended. The evening was presided over by Angela Blowers and the awards presented by Ken Winchester, as Marion and Duncen Canway were unable to attend. There were certificates for badge work and medals for year winners, session winners and for the doubles challenge winners. Rhian Blowers was presented (for the second time) with the Young Coach of the Year Award and Oscar Lam received a long service to Swifts award.

	Winners	Runners-up
Year 3	Jamie Willis	
Year 4	Alistair Fitton	James Cummings
Year 5	Lia Willis / Sam Newlove	Aimee Hodgkinson / Laurence Lee
Year 6	Philippa English / Corran Goodson	Eleanor Fitton / Yash Kejriwal
Year 7	Rachel Hibberd / Justin Chan	Shayna Godin / Oliver Strachan
Year 8	Alex English / Gareth Lumb	Kirsty Southey / Edward Byrne / Mitch Chapman
Year 9	Juliet Radmall / Alex Deeble	Tamsyn Radmall / Christopher Hamilton
Year 10	Jo En Choi / Alex Lee	Oliver Simpson
Year 11	Jonathan Radmall	Yazid Lallmahomed
Year 12	James Gan	Josh Chapman
Year 13	Andrew Clark	James Hunt

Session 1	Aimee Hodgkinson	James Cummings
Session 2	Corran Goodson	Yash Kejriwal
Session 3	Christopher Hamilton	John Whittaker
Session 4	Alex Lee	Gareth Lumb
Doubles		
Session 3	Alex Gibson / Christopher Hamilton	Shana Godin / Alex Stokoe
Session 4	Alex Lee / Michael Peak	Jo En Choi / Andrew Clark
Junior Champions		
	Amy George / Corran Goodson	Philippa English / Yash Kejriwal
Senior Champions		
	Jo En Choi / Alex Lee	Alex English / Andrew Clark

U15 Squad for 2008/2009 season

Conor Bambrick	Nobel	Chloe Bungey	Chancellor's
Steven Barnes	Nobel	Alex English	Queenswood
Nick Barnett	Chancellor's	Katherine Head	Bushey Hall
William Belfield	Roundwood Park	Hannah McLaren	St Francis College
Edward Byrne	St Columba's College	Jessie Northen	Chancellor's
Mitch Chapman	Verulam	Georgia Pittson	Chancellor's
Steven George	Mount Grace	Kate Sellars	Sir John Lawes
Daniel Hatt	Nicholas Breakspear	Kirsty Southey	Stopsley High
Max Hodgkinson	Verulam	Pui Yi Tam	Bishops Hatfield
Gareth Lumb	Chancellor's	Reena Tarkhala	St Albans Girls High
Dale Maddox	Fearnhill		
William Moss	Bishops Stortford High		
Mark Sadler	St Albans		
Ben Smith	Hitchin Boys		
Howard Stobo	Townsend		
Edmar Thompson	Mount Grace		
Oliver White	Hitchin Boys		

There are 4 additional boys on a fortnightly training programme:

George Dobson	Bishops Stortford High
Michael Peak	Goffs
Kieran Redburn	Bishops Stortford High
Luke Short	Dame Alice Owen

U17 Squad for 2008/2009 season

Conor Barford	Longdean	Laura Bygrave	Fearnhill
Ross Barnes	Marlborough	Alison Cannon	Queenswood
Christopher Belfield	Roundwood Park	Jo En Choi	Dame Alice Owen
Jonathan Benson	St Michael's	Daniella Farsiani	St Albans Girls High
Thomas Dion-Fehily	John Henry Newman	Bethan Griffith	St Albans Girls High
Andrei Donko	Queen Elizabeth Boys	Helena Lewczynska	Northwood College
John Elms	Barnwell	Heather Myers	Nicholas Breakspear
Richard Gentle	Stanborough	Isabelle Sadler	St Albans Girls High
Daniel Hatt	Nicholas Breakspear	Ying Yi Tee	Royal Masonic
Alex Lee	Dame Alice Owen	Emily Westwood	Roundwood Park
Ryan McCarthy	Chancellor's	Stephanie White	Priory
Matthew McCloskey	Fearnhill	Claire Widdicombe	Chauncy
Andrew Maughan	Sherrardswood		

Elliott Miles	Freman College
Guiliano Morreale	Nicholas Breakspear
Daniel Regan	Chancellor's
Iain Robinson	Richard Hale
Sahil Shah	Haberdashers'Aske's
Joseph Tam	Stanborough
Scott Williams	Fearnhill

An addition to the U13 squad is James Sweetnam (Hemel Hempstead School) who was injured and could not attend the trials.

Herts Youth Games May 2008

Barbara Lewczynska (Tournament Organiser)

If you have never heard of the Herts Youth Games, let me tell you it is a fantastic event showcasing sports participation across the county, where the badminton was one of twelve sports, in which teams of players compete on a district by district basis.

The Badminton event, which saw nine out of ten districts fielding a team of a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls (maximum 5), each playing each other at boys and girls singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Gill Bartlett ably manned the computer (with special thanks to Bob Green for the programme) which gave timed spoken instructions, about start times, and warnings to "get on court".

Each game was timed, in order to fit into a tight schedule, and the players, playing in a round robin format, certainly seemed to have great time, making lots of new friends, supporting their district (very vocally), and generally making a lot of noise. (They played some good badminton too!!)

Many thanks to our raft of helpers and scorers, especially Brian Jackson, Dave Bartlett, Diane Godin, Sabina Ng and many more, and especially to the managers and coaches who had worked so hard with the children.

They were Chris Fisher (Welwyn Hatfield), Carol Gahan (Dacorum), Phil Grey (North Herts), Dick Large (East Herts), Jay Marshall (Watford), Kelly Matthews (St Albans), Jeff Monk (Broxbourne), Frances Morrison (Three Rivers), and Diane Rogers (Hertsmere).

Medals were presented by Gobi Ranganathan (international wheelchair badminton gold medallist) and Colin Jackson (British and world record holder 110m hurdles).

The final positions were:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | - | North Herts |
| 2 | - | Hertsmere |
| 3 | - | East Herts |
| 4 | - | Three Rivers |
| 5 | - | Dacorum |
| 6 | - | Watford |
| 7 | - | Broxbourne |
| 8 | - | Welwyn Hatfield |
| 9 | - | St Albans |

If you are interested in representing your district at this event next year, and have not played with or trained in the county or development squads, please contact me, Barbara Lewczynska on 01923 856539. You need to be in Year 6 or 7 next academic year, and be prepared to train from about Easter onwards (the event is usually in May).

The Road to the Nationals

Tony Clarke

Last season I finally managed to get Ben and Arjun to enter Open Tournaments. They played in two or three with some success in doubles. I still had faith, particularly as a doubles pair and we made a deal for the 07/08 season. They would play the South East at Harlow, the East at Stevenage, the South at High Wycombe and, hopefully, the

Nationals at Stoke-on-Trent. Ben and Arjun looked at the calendar and found that the Harlow tournament was the same weekend as the HSBA U18 and they preferred to play in the U18 at Stevenage. When will these players learn!! I agreed this was OK as long as they played in another tournament to qualify for the Nationals. The nearest one was the Sussex U17 Silver at Haywards Heath. All agreed!

The first tournament was the Sussex in November. Singles were OK but nothing special. And so to the doubles. Typical draw for non-tournament players, not only in the same box as the No 1 seeds, Furze and Wrigley who, of course, they play first. Ben and Arjun take out the No 1 seeds in two straight games. Oops! This is not in the script. What do you say you are ranked? - 439 and 425!! After winning the box they beat the No 3 seeds in the semi-final before losing to the No 2 seeds in the final. Ben and Arjun were still graded bronze and I'd spoken earlier in the season, about the pair, to Malcolm Smith, who said he would look into upgrading them. He came back and said he could find no evidence to upgrade them. He was probably right, based on singles results.

The next tournament was on home ground at Stevenage, which definitely appeared to be an advantage. Ben and Arjun played in the bronze singles and played each other in the final, Arjun winning convincingly 21-10, which gave them both silver status. So far, so good - now for the silver doubles. They won their box to reach the quarter finals and went on to win the final beating 3rd seeds Hutchings and Southgate.

The last of the three agreed tournaments was at High Wycombe, the South.. They lost in the semi-final to Staden and Fenner - still a good result. In the three tournaments Ben and Arjun collected 3 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

In the Nationals Ben and Arjun played good singles, both winning one of the two games in their respective boxes. In the doubles they won their box fairly comfortably after being given 'a kick up the backside' by their coach (me!) after losing one end in one of the three matches. In the round of the last 16 they beat Wyatt and Briggs, ranked 9th and 12th respectively, to reach the quarter finals where they met seeded players Daw and Thomas. Despite having a game point in the first end, Ben and Arjun lost both games in setting - so close yet so far!

There was only one other Herts gold ranked player, Helena, at the Nationals; both Ryan and Emily were injured. In the singles Helena won her box and then went out to Sarah Milne in 3 close sets. In the doubles Helena was playing with Emily, but due to Emily's injury, Helena had no partner. Panuga Riou, the No 1 singles player, doesn't normally play doubles, but this time she stepped in to play with Helena. They made a great scratch pair, losing 16-21, 17-21 in the final to Milne and Fletcher from Yorkshire. A great day for the Herts players, even if there were only three!

It would have been nice for Ben and Arjun to get a medal. More people might appreciate the failings of the ranking system. I believed that the increase in the number of age group tournaments and the qualification requirement of 3 tournaments to play in the Nationals meant that you could play 3 Open Tournaments and win all three, you would have qualified for the Nationals - and probably be seeded!, - keeping down the costs and freeing weekends for training in Elite groups near to home. What is wrong with dividing the ranking points by the number of tournaments entered, rather than this random number 8 which encourages players and parents to waste time and money.

U15 Bronze Tournament, Nottingham

I Won Gold!!

Alex English (U15 Squad)

On August 31st, I played in my first tournament of the season, a Badminton England U15 Bronze Tournament in Nottingham.

Girls doubles was played first, and I had requested a partner. I was paired with Holly Page from Nottingham, a girl who I knew from previous tournaments, and we got on really well. Our first game was against a pair from Worcester, who we beat to 7. Our next game was against twins from Bedfordshire. This game was really close for the first 7 points, but eventually, Holly and I broke away and beat them to 10. The last pair in our box were supposedly the worst pair; we didn't play very well but we still beat them to 13. We were straight through to the final, as there were only two

boxes. We had to play a pair from Nottingham/Lincoln. It was a close game, but unfortunately, we lost to 19.

Afterwards, we played the singles. My first game was against Amy Attewell from Nottingham, who had beaten us in the doubles final. I beat her to 11. I was surprised to win, as she is graded bronze, whereas I am not. Secondly I played Abigail Kennedy who I beat to 13. Then I played Katie Ellithorn, from Worcester and beat her to 9. The last match in my box was against Zoe Hallam; she had also won all her games, so this match decided who went through from our box. At 11, I was down about 6 points. When she was ahead 15 – 10, I started to win back some points, and ended up beating her 21 – 15. I was so pleased, as I would now be graded. My semi-final was against Chloe Dove from Durham. I ended up winning 21 – 15 and I really started to believe I could win. In the final, I played Chloe Sidwell from Lincoln, who had beaten us in the doubles. I beat her 21 – 15 and was so surprised, I couldn't believe I'd won. My mum came running downstairs from the viewing area and we both started crying. Neither of us could believe it!

School / Club Affiliations

Affiliations have been fairly slow in coming in this year. So far we have 13 clubs - several of them are new to the association - and some which were affiliated last year have not returned as yet.

Affiliated clubs this season are:

Bishops Stortford	Chauncy	Chiltern Three Rivers
Comets	Dane End	Eagles
Gadebridge	Harpenden	Knebworth
Letchworth Garden City	SCOBE	Stanstead Abbots
Swifts.		

Seventeen senior schools have affiliated and only three junior/middle schools. They are:

Chancellor's	Haberdashers' Aske's	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls,
Hitchin Boys	Mount Grace	Parmiters
Presdales	Queenswood	Ralph Sadleir
Richard Hale	St Albans	St Albans Girls
St Francis College	Sherrardswood	Thomas Alleyne
Turnford	Watford Girls Grammar	
Abel Smith	Ladbroke JMI	Lochinver House

BE Gold, Silver and Bronze Tournaments - please see the BE Website for information and entry forms for these tournaments.

www.badmintonengland.co.uk

From the Editor: Thanks to Barbara Lewczynska, Tony Clarke, Scott Williams and Alex English for their contributions. Well done, Alex - a brilliant start to the season.

The newsletter will appear 4 times during the year (maybe with an extra one sometime if I have enough copy to make it worthwhile printing) - in December, February/March and May/June. **Please will parents and coaches encourage their children to send in reports of tournaments, matches etc. - or even write something themselves if they are at a match or tournament and think it worth a report.**

Closing date for items for the next newsletter is Monday, 1st December.

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