



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

October 2013

Center Parcs National Schools Championships 2012/13

Entries are now being accepted from schools right across England for the 2013/14 Center Parcs National Schools Badminton championships. Last season saw over 6,140 school badminton teams enter the Championships, with over 30,700 Key Stage 3 and 4 school children getting on court. It is no wonder that the Center Parcs National Schools Championships continues to be one of the biggest and most respected school badminton tournaments in the whole of Europe.

Entry is simple, and it's free! The only information schools need to provide is the number of teams being entered by age group and gender. The deadline for entry is Friday 25 October, and the entry form is available at:

<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1747257/1362035/?v=a>

Key competition dates for this season are:

Hertfordshire County round	Friday 28 February 2014
Eastern Regional round	Friday 21 March 2014
National finals, Center Parcs, Sherwood Forest	Friday 9 & Saturday 10 May 2014

Within Hertfordshire some districts may be holding a district round to determine qualification for the County round.

Hertfordshire schools delivered some fantastic performances in the 2012/13 competition, with Monks Walk, Welwyn Garden City, and St Clement Danes, Chorleywood, both figuring in the Under 14 national finals, so we hope for a strong entry from the County's schools in this year's competition.

HSBA tournaments

A full programme of 25 age-group tournaments is once again being offered by HSBA. Full details are below, and entry forms for all the tournaments listed can be downloaded from the HSBA web-site:

<http://www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk/downloads.html>

Note that B singles events are not open to members of the County Squads.
Venues for this season's tournaments are:

- Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, SG1 1LZ
- JFK School, Hollybush Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2PH
- Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield, AL10 0AN

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday October 20 th 2013	0930 hours	Under 11 Boys Singles	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 18 Boys singles	Year 13 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 11 Girls Singles	Year 6 and under	
		Under 18 Girls Singles	Year 13 and under	
	1430 hours	Under 18 Boys Doubles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 18 Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under	
Sunday November 10 th 2013	0930 hours	Under 13 Boys Singles	Year 8 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 10 Boys Singles	Year 5 and under	
		Under 10 Girls Singles	Year 5 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 13 Girls Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1430 hours	Under 13 Boys Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
Sunday Nov 24 th 2013	0930 hours	Under 15 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	JFK School Hemel H'std
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under	
Sunday February 2 nd 2014	0930 hours	Under 15 Boys Singles	Year 10 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	11.30 hours	Under 15 Girls Singles	Year 10 and under	
	1330 hours	Under 15 Boys Doubles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 15 Girls Doubles	Year 10 and under	
	1530 hours	Under13 - Under 18 Giant Mixed Handicap	Years 7 - 13	
Sunday March 2 nd 2014	0930 hours	Under 13 Boys B Singles	Year 8 and under	Birchwood Leisure Centre Hatfield
	1200 hours	Under 13 Girls B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 11 Boys Doubles	Year 6 and under	
		Under 11 Girls Doubles	Year 6 and under	
Sunday March 9 th 2014	11.00 hours**	Primary Schools Team Tournament	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre

**The Primary Schools Team Tournament will be preceded at 09.30 hours by a coaching session for all tournament entrants delivered by HSBA squad coaches and other qualified coaches.

New County squads for the 2013/14 season

Selections for this year's age-group squads were made following trials, and those selected are listed below. There may be scope for players who were unable to attend for trials on the correct days still to be assessed.

Development squad

Paankhuri Bhatia, Elizabeth Bratton, Keshitha De Silva, Tobias Goddard, Finley Goode, Harry Goode, Arin Hattrell, Owain Kimber, Alyssa Onnay Lee, Leona Lee, Shashank Madhukiran, Alex Pearson, Harry Searle, Max Shirvell, Toby Shirvell, Alex Smith, Thomas Sweetnam, Jack Teoh



Under 13 squad

Cameron Bannister, Eyshan Carpenter, Finlay Cattermole, Olivia Clark, Lillie Corke, Laura De Costa, Ashay Dhingra, Lia Di Gesaro, Amelia Dixon, Jamie Gall, Jack Glynn, Molly Goode, Jess Gray, Jason Haley, Khadijah Hasan, Kishan Hathi, Jessica Hawes, Samuel Jarman, Levin Matthew, Fiona McArdle, Rohan Nistali, Jananathan Pradeep, Namia Raby, Thomas Searle, Symran Shah, Lucas Siu, Abbie Smith, Michael Walden, Sonny Ward



Under 15 squad

Bethany Adams, Christopher Adey, Mark Amer, Laura Anderson, Max Ansell, Harriet Bell, Rees Clarke, Claudia Crowther, Zach Daniels, Daniel Davey, Matthew Harden, Jacob Harper, Brendan Ho, Daniel Lewis, Victoria Mangan, Monique Maisey, Eleanor McArdle, Luke Meehan, April Miller, Isobel Nendick, Keya Patani, Sanaya Patel, Benjamin Plunkett, Sebastian Plunkett, Max Titterton, Nathan Wooster



Under 17 squad

Andrew Baird, Greg Benson, Freddie Clark, Emily Clarke, Victoria Clayton, Jonathan de Costa, Renu Dhall Chopra, Daniel Fox, Jack Goode, Francesca Farlie, Heidi De Sousa, Brett Maisey, Aaron Miller, Shaun McKnight, Samuel Newlove, William Pickworth, Edgar Titterton, Duncan Williams, Sophie Vernon, Amy Willetts, Lia Willis, Reuben Woolley

Editor's note: At the time of going to press, no photo of the Under 17 squad was available. We hope to include one in the January 2014 On the Line!

BE Hertfordshire Under 15 Bronze tournament, Saturday 21 September

On the Line!'s correspondents were despatched to each event of this exciting tournament, and their reports follow.

Under 15 Girls

Monique Maisey

32 girls appeared at the tournament in Stevenage, 7 of whom were from Hertfordshire: April Miller, Victoria Mangan, Sanaya Patel, Eleanor McArdle, Isobel Nendick, Laura Anderson, Monique Maisey

The girls were placed into 8 boxes, each box consisting of 4 players. The games were tough and presented some unquestionably close scores, such as my own game against the Sussex player Katie Grubb whom unfortunately I lost to 21-19. Victoria Mangan played some great badminton, defeating one opponent, Wendi Fan from Middlesex 21-5. Sanaya Patel also played well, winning one out of three games in her box against Eleanor Knapman, the score was 21-15. April Miller was also on top form as she defeated one of the girls in her box, Katie Bartholomew 21-2! April then came across a girl named Natasha Lado, a Hampshire girl, they both

played some skilful badminton throughout the match, and at the end of the game the Hampshire girl came out on top, winning 21-15, April near missing a place in the quarter finals. Laura Anderson played some outstanding badminton, winning all the games in her box, which therefore got her through into the quarterfinals, the only Hertfordshire girl to do so. Laura continued fine form as she came across Gemma Atkins in the Semi-finals, it was a nail biting match to watch, they both fought to the end and Laura claimed victory 22-20. Laura entered the final against her opponent, a girl from Surry, names Lydia Ip. It was a great match to watch, both girls played some exceptional badminton but in the end it was Lydia who came out on top, securing a gold medal, with a score of 21-12.

Then came the doubles. Altogether there were 13 pairs, including 5 Hertfordshire girls. All Herts pairs won at least one game in their box. On the day the top pairs were Gemma Atkins partnering Lydia Ip and April Miller and her partner Louise Atkins who played in the final, April Miller and Louse Atkins winning with a fantastic score of 21-17.

Overall the day portrayed excellent Badminton and was a great way to kick off the season.

Under 15 Boys

Nathan Wooster

The boys' event was a great tournament this year. Over fifty boys turned up to the vibrant Stevenage LC Hall. The tournament was well run, with some excellent matches played. There were five box matches that ended with a nail-biting score of 21-20. The boxes were extremely close on scores, especially group M which had a Herts player, Mark Amer who was so close to getting into the knockout stages. An extraordinary match that Mark played against a boy called Tom Barton-Clapp ended with a 21-20 win for the Herts player. However Mark came across Zhi Ping Lim, who beat him 21-15. Tom then played an excellent match, beating Zhi 21-14. This resulted in all three players winning two matches each. Tom was put through by a difference of five points! He then later went on to come second place in the overall tournament. The final was also a very close match, with Leon Griffiths winning the tense match 21-19.

I played the singles, and managed to win two out of three matches in my box. Other Herts players were Matthew Harden, Brendan Ho, Leon O'Connor, Daniel Lewis, Rees Clarke, Max Titterton, Daniel Davey, Max Ansell, Jacob Harper, Ryan Forth, Mark Amer, Sebastian Plunkett, and Benjamin Plunkett. Unfortunately no Herts players made it through to the knockouts.

I also played in the doubles. My doubles partner, Mathew Harden, and I played a great first two games, winning 21-18 and 21-13. However in our final match we came across a challenging Warwickshire pair. We were down 20-18, but managed to pull back. Sadly we lost the last point and lost this match 21-20 allowing the other pair to proceed to the knockout stages. The doubles knockout stages were as exciting as the singles, with one semi-final ending 23-21. The pair to win the tournament 21-16 was Leon Griffiths and Gareth O'Brien. Gareth O'Brien, was the player I happened to lose to in singles 21-17, earlier that day.

The tournament was a great day, and I really enjoyed starting the season with it.

The DK Way 2013

April Miller

From 26 to 30 August, 18 first rate badminton players and I went on the second DK Way trip to Middelfart Badminton Klub, Denmark. The other Hertfordshire players were Mark Amer, Nathan Wooster, Lia Willis, James Penver and Christopher Adey. This being my first time, I was incredibly nervous and had no idea what to expect. Unlike me, many of the other players had been on the trip the year before. They all assured me how amazing and worthwhile my next few days would be.

When we arrived in Denmark we were greeted by Carsten and the parents of the Danish badminton players. They then took us to the 'hulen' where we put down our bags and got settled in. After lunch we began our first Danish training session. I am not sure if it was the plane journey or the incredibly early start, but I found the first training session the hardest. It was interesting to see from the beginning how the Danish sessions varied from the English ones.

The next few days were incredibly busy starting with an early morning walk. We got to see the lovely town of Middelfart and the beautiful countryside. We had the honour of being coached by Michael Christensen and

Thomas Engholm. I felt so lucky to have been coached by them and found it very interesting to have such different coaching techniques back to back. It was a lot of hard work, and sweat, but dramatically it improved all of our shots and foot work. In the afternoons we also got a chance to play with the Danish players. We played games, did drills, and at the end of the week competed in a tournament with them. We all became good friends and they were all very good players.

Even with all that hard work (6 hours of it each day), they still managed to arrange fun things for us to do. We went whale watching, shopping and visited a few Danish schools. It was so interesting and a little bit depressing to see how different and laid back the schools were. Everyone was so nice and all of us became friends with the Danish school children.

Steve, Carsten, Mark and Liz worked very hard to make it such a special week for us, with amazing organisation, coaching and pictures of the trip on the website. I had a wonderful time in Denmark, and was very grateful to be announced player of the camp at the end of the week, and I hope the opportunity comes for me to go again.



Participants in the August 2013 DK Way trip (Spot the Herts players!)

Revised Badminton England grading system

BE has revised its grading system again for the new season. Re-grading continues to be based on results achieved in BE-sanctioned tournaments within each qualifying period, but each period is now three months rather than two.

To adjust your singles grading, you must first play a minimum of four qualifying matches in each period. A qualifying match is:

1. A win against a player of the same grade
2. A win against a player of a higher grade
3. A loss against a player of a lower grade

Players achieving a 70%+ win ratio in the period will move up a grade. Players achieving a 10% or less win ratio will move down a grade. The same criteria apply to doubles grades, though it is the opponents' doubles grade as a pair, rather than their individual grades as singles players, which counts when determining whether a match is a qualifying match.

The first grading list to use the new system was published in July 2013. Congratulations to Edgar Titterton and Tobias Goddard who were promoted to grade H in this list. On the Line! will report the progression of squad players as each new list is published.

Some levels of tournament are not open to players of certain grades, as shown below.

	<i>Excluded grades</i>		
	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Gold</i>
<i>Under 13</i>	A-F		None
<i>Under 15</i>	A-F	A-E	None
<i>Under 17</i>	A-E	A-D	None

Full details of the grading system are provided on the BE web-site at:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=2956§ionTitle=National+Gradings#.Uk1apL5wY6Y>

and the list of tournament on the junior circuit for 2013/14 is at:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=2544§ionTitle=Junior+Circuit#.Uk1a7L5wY6Y>

Badminton England junior tournament results

When HSBA squad members reach the knock-out stage of events played initially in boxes or the quarter finals of events played in straight knock-out format or a medal position in an event played in round robin format, On the Line! will report their achievements.

Under 17 Silver, Warwickshire

GS	Semi final	Lia Willis lost to Grace Taylor: 8-15, 7-15
GD	Final	Lia Willis & Sophie Kelly lost to Emma Chan & Helen Kelly: 5-15, 8-15

Under 17 Bronze, SE Essex

BS	Quarter final	Duncan Williams lost to Tom Owen: 15-21
GS	Final	Keya Patani lost to Stephanie Pipe: 14-21

Under 15 Bronze, Hertfordshire

GS	Final	Laura Anderson lost to Lydia Ip: 12-21
GD	Final	April Miller & Louise Atkins won the event!!

BS = Boys Singles BS* = Boys Singles Gold Star BSx = Boys Singles Extra BD = Boys doubles
 GS = Girls Singles GSx = Girls Singles Extra GD = Girls Doubles MX = Mixed Doubles

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of On the Line! The deadline for contributions to the January 2014 newsletter is Friday December 27, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:

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