



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

October 2014

Center Parcs National Schools Championships 2014/15

Entries are now being accepted from schools right across England for the 2014/15 Center Parcs National Schools Badminton championships. Girls' and boys' events are being run for Key Stage 3 and 4 schoolchildren.

Entry is simple: 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 17 October**, and the entry form is available at:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=4694§ionTitle=Entry#.VCvWdWctCzm>

The Hertfordshire county round for this season's championships will be held on Tuesday 2 December at Hertfordshire Sports Village. Before this date, districts will hold their own tournaments as necessary to identify the boys' and the girls' teams to represent them at KS3 and KS4 in the county round.

Winners of the county round in each event of the championships will then contest the regional round. The regional round will be held between 28 February and 26 March 2015, and further information about it will be provided at the County round.

The culmination of the championships is the national finals which will be held at Center Parcs, Sherwood Forest on dates in May 2015 which are shortly to be confirmed.

Hertfordshire schools delivered some fantastic performances in the 2013/14 competition, the highlight being the performance of the Monks Walk, Welwyn Garden City boys' KS3 team in winning the bronze medal at the national finals, so we hope for a strong entry from the County's schools in this year's competition.

HSBA tournaments

The programme of 25 age-group tournaments got off to an early start this season, with Under 11 and Under 15 events on September 20th, and you can read the tournament organiser's report on that day's badminton on Page 3. This season's other tournaments are:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday Nov 9 th 2014	1000 hours	Under 15 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	Birchwood LC
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under	
Sunday November 16 th 2014	1000 hours	Under 18 Boys Singles	Year 13 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 13 Boys B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 18 Girls Singles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 13 Girls B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 18 Boys Doubles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 18 Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 10 Boys Singles	Year 5 and under	
1600 hours	Under 10 Girls Singles	Year 5 and under		
1600 hours	Under 18 Mixed Doubles	Year 13 and under		
Sunday February 8 th 2015	1130 hours**	Primary Schools Team Tournament	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday March 8 th 2015	1000 hours	Under 13 Boys Singles	Year 8 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	1200 hours	Under 13 Girls Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
	1600 hours	Under 13 Mixed Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 11 Boys Doubles	Year 6 and under	
		Under 11 Girls Doubles	Year 6 and under	

**The Primary Schools Team Tournament will be preceded at 1000 hours by a coaching session for all tournament entrants delivered by HSBA squad coaches and other qualified coaches.

Venues for these tournaments are:

- Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, SG1 1LZ
- Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield, AL10 0AN

Note that B singles events are not open to members of the County Squads. Members of County squads are asked not to wear their County shirts at their events.

Entry forms for all the tournaments listed can be downloaded from the HSBA web-site:

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

Herts Youth Games 2014

Barbara Lewczynska

This year's Games were held at Wodson Park, Ware, on July 6th. With the continuing difficulties in funding for some local authorities, the tally of teams had shrunk to eight instead of ten, with Three Rivers and Welwyn Hatfield having to withdraw from the event. However there was still a great turnout with lots of parental support for all the teams, so the hall seemed as busy as it had been last year.

Accolades must go to the coaches who (from the standard of play) had clearly been working very hard with all their team members. They were:

Broxbourne – Geoff & Caz Daniels
Dacorum – James Sweetnam
East Herts – Doug Clarke & Vic Large
Hertsmere – Alan Overy
North Herts – Mathew Pocock
St Albans – Keith Burns & Ben Chai
Stevenage – Ben Vranjkovic
Watford – Phil Adams

The tournament followed the same round robin format as last year, with all teams playing each other and each match consisting of a boys' and girls' singles, a boys' and girls' doubles and a mixed doubles. Games were five minutes each (or the first to win), and there was the usual swap around of courts after each match.

During the first two rounds things were pretty evens Stevens, but by the third round it was becoming apparent that one team, Watford, was doing particularly well and was out in front whilst there was a bit of a tussle going on between those teams in second third and fourth positions, and it was like that for the rest of the tournament. Since the final placings were calculated on points difference, it was important for every team to score the maximum number of points, even in the games they were losing.

After a very enjoyable few hours, in which I witnessed great sportsmanship and team spirit, the final placings were as follows:-

1. Watford
2. North Herts
3. Broxbourne
4. Stevenage
5. East Herts
6. Hertsmere
7. St. Albans
8. Dacorum

Some statistics: out of a maximum possible score of 525 points, all teams achieved over half, with the winners Watford managing to achieve a whopping 497. There was only a 32 points difference between Broxbourne, Stevenage and East Herts, so their placings could have been very different. Dacorum, who had to forfeit a game in every match because of a missing player, still managed to notch up 261 points – a great result.

HSBA September 20th 2014

Barbara Lewczynska

A tip-top one hundred entrants graced the first HSBA tournament of the season. It was probably a little too early in the season to catch the schools' entrants, but Badminton England had pronounced this a 'junior county restricted weekend' somewhat late in last season and we had to postpone our proposed Under 15 open tournament, and so were left with a Stevenage booking which we had to honour. However it turned out to be a well-supported tournament, and my thanks go to Mike Newlove, Helena Lewczynska, Sue Clarke, Ronni Goode and all the other parents who so kindly took to the courts to referee when asked.

The Under 15 and Under 11 boys' singles were the first to take to the floor. There were seven boxes in the Under 15 event, all of which were closely fought. Steven Elliott took the singles title in the main event, with a victory over Luke Meehan by 21-13, and in the plate Harry Goode claimed a victory over Sonny Ward. Whilst there were fewer entrants in the Under 11 singles, we still managed to squeeze out a main and plate event. Jack Teoh had an excellent run to the final with an eventual win over Harry Searle, and in the plate, Finley Goode kept the family name way up on the badminton agenda with a victory over Fred Constantine. Mention must be made of Jaxon Clarke, who barely reached the bottom of the badminton net and yet managed to win a game in his box to qualify for the semi-finals of the plate. I think we may well be seeing a lot more of this young man. Well done Jaxon!!

The girls were lucky to have a lie-in, unless of course they had a brother competing earlier on. The Under 15 girl's singles played in three boxes, with Laura Anderson coming out tops in the main event and Olivia Clarke just pipping Amelia Dixon to the post in a tightly fought plate final by 21-19.

The Under 11 girls' singles, with ten participants, was also played in three boxes. There was a great display of badminton from these girls, some of them still in Year 4. The Lee sisters Leona and Alyssa fought it out in a very tight main event final, with Alyssa just swinging in at 21-19 (sister Leona won the title last year), and in the plate final, Pranathi Koneru pipped Maia Di Gesaro to the post by 21-14.

Doubles events started at about 13.30 hours, as most people playing in the singles were also playing in the doubles and we were able to get a head start on these events. The girls' doubles consisted of one box of five. The outright winners were Molly Goode and Abbie Smith and runners-up were Harriet Bell and Olivia Clarke; however there was a three way tie for third place, all three pairs having won two games apiece, and we had to

take points won as the next criteria. There were only five points between all three pairs, but there can only be one set of bronze medallists and the winning pair proved to be Amelia Dixon and Eleanor McArdle.

In the boys event there were enough pairs for a main and plate event. Chris Adey and Brendan Ho beat Rees Clarke and Luke Meehan in the main event final, whilst the plate event was won by Toby Goddard and Harry Goode, with a victory over Sam Jarman and Levin Mathew.

The Under 15 Mixed doubles event was resurrected after a three year sabbatical, and attracted five pairs. A special mention must go to Pranathi Koneru who at nine years old very kindly agreed to partner Shashank Madhukiran in the mixed event (and they didn't do badly either!!)

- 1st Place – Molly Goode and Chris Adey
- 2nd place – Harriet Bell and Daniel Lewis
- 3rd Place – Abbie Smith and Cameron Bannister

New County squads for the 2014/15 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.

Under 11 and Development squads

Julia Broda, Jaxon Clarke, Holly Clayton, Maia Di Gesaro, Sherwin Elliott, Finley Goode, Sydney Hall, Arin Hattrell, Benjamin Herbert, Deborah James, James Joseph, Owain Kimber, Pranathi Koneru, Leona Lee, Lavigne Leung, Harrison Priestnall, Alec Wooster, Darcy James McBride, Mabel Reid, Nithin Santosh, Harry Searle, Tanvi Sofat, Veronika Vasileva



Under 13 squad

Adam Amer, Taroun Kumar Balasubramanian, Cameron Bannister, Paankhuri Bhatia, Elizabeth Bratton, Finlay Cattermole, Edward Chen, Lillie Corke, Hugh Craig, Laura De Costa, Keshita De Silva, Ashay Dhingra, Toby Goddard, Harry Goode, Samuel Hancock, Khadijah Hasan, Ghaja Jeevananthan, Alyssa Onnay Lee, Shashank Madhukiran, Ishita Mann, Alexander Pearson, Vihini Ragalaga, Finlay Reynolds, Thomas Searle, Lucas Siu, Thomas Sweetnam, Michael Walden



Under 15 squad

Christopher Adey, Laura Anderson, Harriet Bell, Olivia Clark, Rees Clarke, Charlie Corke, Tomas Corteen, Lia Di Gesaro, Amelia Dixon, Steven Elliott, Jack Glynn, Molly Goode, Jason Haley, Matthew Harden, Kyle Hoyte, Samuel Jarman, Daniel Lewis, Monique Maisey, Levin Mathew, Luke Meehan, Isobel Nendick, Keya Patani, Benjamin Plunkett, Namia Raby, Symran Shah, Sonny Ward



Under 17 squad

Mark Amer, Andrew Baird, Freddie Clark, Emily Clarke, Victoria Clayton, Claudia Crowther, Zach Daniels, Daniel Davey, Jacob Harper, Vladimir Hriblan, Brendan Ho, Jack Kimber, Karlii Leung, Martin Lui, Brett Maisey, Victoria Mangan, Shaun McKnight, Samuel Newlove, Sebastian Plunkett, Max Titterton, Sophie Vernon, Amy Willetts

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 2015 On the Line!

Club News

Marshalls Junior Badminton Club

Marshalls Junior Badminton Club for 8 to 16 year-olds has moved to Sandringham School, The Ridgeway, St Albans, AL4 9NX where it meets on Tuesdays from 18.00-19.30 hours. The cost is £6 per session with a reduced rate of £5.00 per session when payment is made termly in advance. Contact Gill, Tel: 01438 715374 Email: gill@bartlett1.plus.com

New Smash-Up Badminton Sessions

These new sessions for 8 to 16 year-olds have started at Woolmer Green Village Hall, Hall Lane, Woolmer Green, SG3 6XA on Wednesdays from 18.00-19.45 hours. The cost is £2 per session, and though they are well-attended, places are still available. Contact Gill, Tel: 01438 715374 Email: gill@bartlett1.plus.com

Editor's note: On the Line! is always happy to print short reports from organisers about developments in their clubs. Please submit your reports by the deadline for the next edition, which is Friday 26 December 2014.

Entry fees to tournaments sanctioned by Badminton England

John Stobo

For this season BE have made some changes to the pricing of tournaments. Mike Newlove, the HSBA Tournament Manager, explains: "Previously the payment tournament managers made to BE was entirely hidden in an overall fee for tournament entry, but now BE have asked for their additional fee of £2.50 to be shown separately on entry forms. Most counties are complying with this request, but if you find a tournament whose entry form does not show the £2.50 surcharge, it doesn't mean you're not paying it – just that the tournament manager has chosen to hide it in their overall entry fee."

BE have also stopped prescribing the entry fee for their Gold, Silver and Bronze events. Mike comments: "You may see some variation in the entry fees now; for instance, a county which owns the venue for its tournament, as Middlesex BA owns the Hounslow Dome, may be able to charge less than those which have to book courts in public sports centres, as the majority do."

Even with this scope for variability, a quick trawl through a sample of this season's entry forms by your correspondent reveals that the fees for most have risen significantly, but maybe using on-line entry instead of posting a letter to a tournament organiser (sometimes with a self-addressed stamped envelope for the reply as well!) makes it all worthwhile for those who are used to doing their banking electronically.

Badminton England junior tournaments

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, Bournemouth

BS	Round 2	Daniel Davey lost to Jack Macgregor: 11-15, 10-15
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Under 13 Bronze, Winchester

BS	Quarter final	Tobias Goddard lost to Finn Saunders: 16-21
GS	Semi-final	Alyssa Onnay Lee lost to Charlotte Atkins: 12-21
BD	Final	Tobias Goddard & Reuben Bodman won the event!!

Under 15 Bronze, South East Essex

BS	Quarter final	Daniel Lewis lost to Patrick Arundel: 16-21
GS	Final	Laura Anderson won the event!!

Under 17 Bronze, Winchester

BD	Semi-final	Daniel Davey & Joseph Hulbert lost to Benjamin Hudson & Thomas Long: 13-21
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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 2015 newsletter is Friday December 26, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:

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