



On The Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

July 2018

Welcome to the fourth edition of On The Line for the 2017/18 season.

Junior Club Information & Reports



Sam Jarman

After packing their water bottles, rackets and shoes, the players of the DKWay academy arrive weekly for lively training sessions, in which they turn Gosling Leisure Centre's sports hall into their home. From the moment they arrive, to when they leave, each of the players go through rigorous training where they hone their skills as well as learning new techniques, all under the expert guidance of the coaches. The sessions implement ideas from Denmark, leading to effective as well as fun learning, resulting in experiences you wouldn't otherwise receive, such as different types of training game, drill or technique to name a few. Furthermore, the Denmark style is recognised as one of the world's best seeing as it revolves around the individual and their ambition to improve. Ultimately, a DKWay training session leaves the players fulfilled, elated and inevitably tired after (under the coach's encouragement) they've pushed themselves to their limits. After asking some of the players what they thought of a DKWay session they said it 'helped me become the player I am today' and that they 'look forward to going and learning a new skill every session' and one said they were going to have to catch their breath first!

The success of the academy is evident through their tournaments, league matches and individuals' achievements. Each week just before the session begins the players are regularly congratulated on their successes in tournaments and matches over the previous weekend in front of the group and between all the members of the group (each player has an average of 13 medals). Within this not only are medal winners congratulated, but also the people who may have set a goal and achieved it- seeing as The DKWay focuses on individual ambition. To add there has also been plenty of league success too, with the mixed team winning their division last season and who are now currently in 2nd, like the men's team, and the women's team at the top of their table. The DKWay team have also been responsible for running some of their own badminton England tournaments too, and despite some snow days these have been very successful with additions to the norm like a scorer per court and a medal ceremony with a podium.

Finally, the DKWay also ran their annual summer trip to Middlefart Badminton Klub last year for the sixth time. In which they took 40 of some of the best players in Britain to Denmark so that they could drastically improve their game over a week as well as getting to know the Danish culture. During their time each player would live amongst badminton, eating Danish food, using their training techniques and experiencing their culture. In fact, players sleep and eat in the sports hall and visit a Danish school. Ultimately, the players become far superior by the end and have a far better understanding as to what training the DKWay feels like and everyone comes back wanting to go again.

All in all, from the training to the competitions and the trips, the DKWay has been successful in creating player success from its beginning and has been getting even better yearly, but at the same time they improve the players as people allowing them to always leave fulfilled and thrilled with themselves.

Stansted Abbots Badminton Club

Geoff Daniels (BE Level II)

The junior club during the 2017/18 season comprised of twenty two members, split 50/50 of boys and girls. The 90 minute sessions led by Graham Clarke, supported by Mel Clark and Dan Haymen started at 6.30pm. They comprised of fun warm up sessions, half court singles, and a technical session and then ended with fun round the world against the coaches. Geoff Daniels attended alternate weeks to provide additional coaching for different ability groups during the season.

There was a ladder competition run throughout the season and this was combined with an end of season league competition. The juniors played in mini leagues based on their ability.

The champion girl winning the Carol Woodley trophy was Mia Harvey Hill.

The champion boy winning the Ernie Pearce trophy was Chris Clark.

Junior of the year winning the Millennium trophy which is the coach's award and is based on the junior who has shown most improvement, good attendance and discipline was awarded to Owen Evison.

I would just like to say a massive thank you to Graham Clarke on behalf of the club, the junior club nights would not happen without Graham's commitment, whereby every week he arrives well before 6.30 to set up, runs the sessions as well as the competitions. I talked with Graham recently and he said he would continue for another season.

I have already received email enquiries for potential new junior members for the coming season and so do not envisage a drop in numbers.

John Stobo, newly appointed HSBA junior Rep has asked to attend one of our sessions in order to find out if there is any support HSBA can give us as well as whether the club would like to enter teams in a junior county league competition.

Swifts JBC

Has just completed its 34th year and is still going strong! It caters for young people aged 5 - 18+ (not all at the same time!) of any ability and emphasises fun with fair play and a commitment to improve. This is possible because of the dedication and commitment of the Coaches and young helpers. We meet every Friday in term time at Hatfield Leisure Centre.

Swifts was formed in September 1984. However it grew out of a Junior Club which ran from the late 1960s at Little Heath Parish Hall, Potters Bar. When the waiting list grew too long we decided we needed more space and so moved to Hatfield Leisure Centre. Swifts continued growing until we had over 100 members. This remained so until recently when our numbers began to drop and we still have over 50 members and we now run 3 sessions. The first 2 sessions have both coaching and play elements in them while the final session is mainly play although the coaches are on hand to offer advice and also stretch them by playing with them.

We celebrated the 2017/18 season with an end of term Presentation at which all the Coaches and Helpers were thanked and players received medals and trophies to acknowledge the progress that they had made. We also presented Trophies to a number of members who had been with us for 8 or more years.

We are very grateful that HSBA continues to support and coordinate junior badminton at all levels so efficiently in Hertfordshire. We encourage our players to make the most of these opportunities. Thank you.

Hertfordshire Junior League

Match day

John Stobo

This year the team from Watford re-joined the League, boosting the number of teams to six and making for a very demanding afternoon of badminton on Sunday 28th January, as each team played a match against each of the other five teams: St. Albans, Welwyn Hatfield, North Herts, East Herts and Hertsmere. Each team was made up of children in the Under 14 age group from outside the County squad, thus enabling young players to gain experience of competitive badminton, in many cases their first such experience.

Matches comprised a game in each of the five events: girls' singles and doubles, boys' singles and doubles and mixed doubles, and many games were closely contested, 5 ending with a score line of 21-19 and three at 21-20. In the match between Hertsmere and Welwyn Hatfield, Hertsmere squeaked the boy's singles by the narrowest possible margin, but Welwyn Hatfield then snatched the mixed doubles game by the same margin! As the afternoon's play progressed it became apparent that the teams from Watford and North Herts were each asserting themselves over their successive opponents until, in the last match of the afternoon, they faced each other for the right to take home the shield. Most remarkably, the last game of that matched ended with victory for North Herts by 21-20 in the mixed doubles. However, though the destination of the title had indeed depended on the result of the very last match, it did not in fact come down to that final mixed doubles games, as North Herts had already taken a stranglehold on the match and ran out the winners of it by 5 games to 0.

Thus, the shield and the title of Herts Junior League winners was taken for a second year in succession by the North Herts team – congratulations to them. The Watford team took the silver medals, and Welwyn Hatfield, with three wins from their five matches, took the bronze.

As winners, North Herts go forward to represent the Hertfordshire League at the national inter-league finals being held at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes over the weekend of May 13th -14th, and we wish them well at that event. As last year's national finals they took the bronze medals in the Under 14 age group, and we all hope for success for them this season.

The success of the event was due to a lot of effort by team managers Ken Winchester, Dan Glynn, Micky Mahbubani, Doug Clark, Phil Adams and Bob Green, to whom many thanks are due; likewise to Barbara Lewczynska and Beverley Stobo who collated the results during the afternoons' play and completed flawlessly the task of calculating the final positions.

<i>Results summary</i>	Watford	Herts- mere	St Albans	Welwyn Hatfield	East Herts	North Herts
Total matches won	4	1	0	3	2	5
Total matches lost	1	4	5	2	3	0
Total games won	13	8	6	12	13	23
Total games lost	12	17	19	13	12	2
Total points scored	420	366	309	406	415	510
Total points conceded	414	481	485	390	423	233

1st Place – North Herts



2nd Place - Watford



3rd Place – Welwyn & Hatfield



For the second successive season the North Hertfordshire district team had triumphed in the Hertfordshire Junior League and thus travelled to the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes on 20th May to represent the League in the Under 14 age group of the national inter-league finals. Three of the 2016/17 team were making their second finals appearance and they, with three new members, hoped to emulate the achievement of last season's team, the bronze medal winners.

Matches comprised rubbers in each of five events: boys' singles, girls' singles, boys' doubles, girls' doubles and mixed doubles, with each rubber played as the best of three games, the first two to 9 points and the third, if needed, played to just 5 points. This format modelled closely the senior National Badminton League, right down to the inclusion of "power-play" shuttles.

The format for competition between the eight finalists differed from that of last season: matches between four teams would determine a ranking order in each of two groups, and this would be followed by play-offs between the teams in corresponding positions in each group to determine the overall results.

In North Herts's group were Stowmarket JBC, Chalfont Eagles JBC and a team know just by the acronym "BJBA" – we didn't find out which part of the country they were from! First up were BJBA, and it was apparent from the outset that the overall standard of the finalist teams was markedly stronger than in 2016/17. Though North Herts picked up a game in the boys' singles, they could not match the all-round strength of their opponents, and the match was lost 0-5. Despite this reverse, the team bounced back strongly against Stowmarket and won 4-1, dropping just the boys' doubles rubber. The final match, against Chalfont Eagles for second place in the group, was extremely close, with three of the five rubbers going to a deciding game, but the North Herts team could not quite manage the win their determined play merited, and they lost 2-3.

Results in the two groups left the team to compete against Kesteven Superzone, third in the other group, for 5th/6th place overall. A very tight and tense match unfortunately resulted in another defeat by 2-3, the girls taking both singles and doubles rubbers, but the team not being able to find that elusive third rubber. The overall winner was the formidable BJBA team whom North Herts had played in their first match.

Sixth place was not a result to match the bronze medal of 2016/17, but the team had competed determinedly all day and its results had included some good performances from all the team members. Furthermore, it was very apparent from the team's own matches and from seeing the standard of play in some of the other matches that the level of skill on display was significantly above that of last season. Viewed from a national perspective this is an encouraging development, showing how Badminton England's initiative to promote the establishment of junior leagues across the country is contributing to an uplift in the strength of junior badminton below the County level, but of course it poses a challenge for the teams in next season's Hertfordshire Junior League to match the overall rising standard of play!

Team: Govind Singh Bains, Adele Bravi, Niamh Day, Rowan Grenyer, Holly Long, Akyo Morgan

Managers: Bob Green and John Stobo



County Squad News & Information

Hertfordshire under 16's take bronze medals at Shires League finals

John Stobo

The Under 16 Shires League team achieved excellent results over the 2017/18 season, finishing in top spot in the league out of 34 teams, so went into finals day at Stoke Mandeville Sports Centre on 6 May with high hopes for a strong performance. However, as all the top four teams in the league – Hertfordshire, Yorkshire, Berkshire and Warwickshire – had won every one of their matches during the season, it was unclear who the real favourites were, and we knew a tough day of competition was in prospect.

For the first round the top four teams were kept apart and from the other four, who had won through to the finals via the play-offs, Herts drew Essex, a familiar foe whom we had in fact beaten during the season. The format of the finals was the usual Shires League one of four rubbers in each of the five events (mixed doubles, girls' and boys' singles and doubles), but with each rubber played as just a single game to 21 points with no extended play. In this format Herts speedily built an unassailable 11-1 lead, taking all but one of the mixed doubles and singles rubbers. The final score was a convincing victory by 15-5.

The draw for the second round pitted Herts against Yorkshire, who had beaten Leicestershire by 14-6 in their first-round match. We had hopes of a close match, with the mixed doubles and the girls' singles both shared 2-2, but the Yorkshire boys proved particularly strong and gradually wore down the spirited opposition of the Herts boys. Though we picked up a rubber in each of the girls' and boys' doubles, it was apparent that Yorkshire had just too much strength overall, running out 14-6 winners, and would deservedly contest the gold medal match.

Despite the defeat, morale in the Herts team was still high, as everyone in the team had played well and recognised that they had been facing a very powerful outfit. Thus we were confident of a good performance in the bronze medal match against Surrey (losers to Warwickshire by 16-4 in their second round match). This match proved to be almost the mirror image of our experience against Yorkshire: 2-2 in mixed doubles, 2-2 in boys' singles this time, followed by a gradual assertion of superiority by the Herts team leading to an eventual 13-7 victory. I thought this was the most impressive team performance of the three matches. Besides great determination and commitment, everyone in the team also demonstrated a commendable level of stamina and fitness at the end of a tough day of competition, though we were pleased to be able to call on the fifth boy in our team for the last two doubles matches!

Throughout the day the team enjoyed tremendous support from a vociferous group of parents (and several grandparents too!), and Hitesh and I would like to thank them all for their commitment to the players' support and to the team, and also especially to Mandy Bobrowski for organising such a wonderful celebratory meal at a nearby Prezzo. Clearly there is no substitute for a bit of local knowledge when it comes to dining out!

All the five boys in the team will be moving to the Under 18 age group next season, and we wish them well for that experience. By contrast, four of the five girls will still be in the Under 16 age group, surely a strong basis for a good team next season too.

Team: Paankhuri Bhatia, Zack Bobrowski, Edward Chen, Holly Clayton, Toby Goddard, Harry Goode, Sydney Hall, Lavigne Leung, Lucy Savage, Thomas Sweetnam

Coaches: Adrian Leung, Hitesh Shah, John Stobo



Birchwood Summer Court Hire

From the 1st of May until the 31st August HSBA have reserved all courts on a Sunday from 9-6 for the use of all badminton players whether from schools, clubs, county or leisure. The cost will be £5.00 per court payable to HSBA.

Courts need to be booked via Steven Aitken – 07811 567148

Reports & Information for the next newsletter

Please send to Jackie Ward newsletter editor - publicity@hsba.org.uk by Friday 20th October 2018

Many Thanks

Jo