

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U13 Mixed Doubles

Phil Westwood

Mixed Doubles is, perhaps understandably amongst the younger age groups, more of a 'Cinderella' event. It must be appropriate that the HSBA Mixed Doubles traditionally is held at Christmas-time. But it's not pantomime. 'Billed' as a less serious event, encouraging regular and 'scratch' pairings alike to give it a go in the festive spirit, it is no less competitive for all that. The starting grid for the U13 event saw twelve pairs arrayed in three boxes. They included, most encouragingly, a number of U11s, and, probably, much to their relief, for once, no large 'late-birthday' U14s playing down.

When competition began, there were no upsets as the box games went with form. So on to the main event semis, where Richard Wilson/Helena Lewczynska overcame Matthew Fitt/Rebecca Cousins 15-9, whilst a battle-royal ensued between Arjun Shah/Hannah Warnes and Akash Jhunjunwala/Emily Westwood. Hannah's power and Arjun's speed initially had Akash/Emily in disarray, and their focus as a pair carried them quickly to an 8-1 lead. Akash/Emily had won their box games to 0, 0 and 2, and seemed unready for the change of pace. But at the turn-round, they dug-in, and began to climb back into contention, and under pressure it was Arjun/Hannah who now began to make the errors. Agony for the spectators continued as the scores converged and we were into setting at 14-all. Even then serve changed hands many times, but in the end it was the momentum built up by Akash/Emily, coming from behind, that carried them over the line at 17-14. And in the final it looked like history would repeat itself. Richard/Helena were ahead at the turn. Then, once again, Akash/Emily ignited the afterburners and pulled out to lead 18-12. But Richard/Helena weren't about to give in, and fought back, just as they had done at Rickmansworth JC where they went on to win. There was quality play on both sides, and some long rallies. They levelled at 18-all. But this time it was Akash/Emily, with renewed purpose, who drove on to win. The plate competition was won by Scott Williams/Laura Bygrave beating Rory Harcourt/Kate Herring.

This tournament is seen as a nice way to wind-down for Christmas and, although for involved parents it must have been more of a wind-UP at times, it was clearly played in the intended spirit and thanks to the superb organisation, which we in Herts too often take for granted, a good time was had by all.

At this point some of the U13s, who had signed up for the U15 version, donned fresh shirts ready to begin all over again

Final Akash Jhunjunwala / Emily Westwood beat Richard Wilson / Helena Lewczynska 21-19
Semi-finalists were Matthew Fitt / Rebecca Cousins and Arjun Shah / Hannah Warnes

Plate Final Scott Williams / Laura Bygrave beat Rory Harcourt / Kate Herring 21-11

U15 Mixed Doubles

Victoria Stokes (Freman College/U17 Squad)

There was a good turnout considering it was the Monday before Christmas, and everyone taking part was in good spirits!! There were two boxes of 4 pairs. The seeds were James Reynolds/Laura Cousins in the first box and Victor Liew/Katie Comras in the second. Both of the seeded pairs won their boxes and went through to the knock out accompanied by Kamran Haq/Victoria Stokes and Daniel Fitt/Rachel Warnes as runners-up.

In a surprise result, James/Laura lost to Kamran/Victoria in the semi-final and Victor/Katie beat Daniel/ Rachel. Kamran/Victoria lost to Victor/Katie in the final.

The other pairs went through to the plate event, also a knock out. Arjun Shah/Hannah Warnes lost in the final to Stephen Barnard/Rhian Blowers in a close fought match.

Final Victor Liew / Katie Comras beat Kamran Haq / Victoria Stokes 21-15
Semi-finalists were James Reynolds / Laura Cousins and Daniel Fitt / Rachel Warnes

Plate Final Stephen Barnard / Rhian Blowers beat Arjun Shah / Hannah Warnes 21-14

U18 Mixed Doubles

David Westwood (Roundwood Park School)

(A personal reflection by 'Coach' David)

My last ever HSBA tournament before I disappear off the junior map, so one last report for good measure. A chilly afternoon brought Herts' best to Hatfield Leisure Centre for the mixed doubles.

With only nine pairs entering it was a small affair, reflected in the draw that left many a friend facing each other on opposite sides of the net.

The first group left the U15 finalists Victor Liew/Katie Comras and Kamran Haq/Victoria Stokes drawn against David Westwood/Frankie Edelmann and the less experienced Chris Tranter/Naomi Brook. The repeat of the U15 final saw Kamran/Victoria lose once more the Victor/Katie. No other hiccups in the group left David/Frankie to go through to the semis with Victor/Katie. The other group was a different matter. Arguably, four of the best were drawn with each other here, the fifth and youngest pairing of Daniel Fitt/Rachel Warnes really up against it. Holders, Anthony Moye/Emma Stokes made steady progress despatching Paul Monk/Nicola Farr and Daniel/Rachel. Joe Webb/Kate Lester, however, made life difficult for the champions, only just losing 13-15. William Westwood/Laura Cousins also sailed through to set up the group decided with Anthony/Emma, the bigger pair taking it 15-12. The other positions were not given up without a fight though, Paul/Nicola losing 14-15 to Joe/Kate.

Semi-final time. The plate was just as competitive as the main event, although an injury to Naomi reduced

the number of pairs to four. This left a small predicament in that two pairs from the second group would have to play each other again. The unfortunate situation fell to Daniel/Rachel and Joe/Kate, who thumped the youngsters 15-2. The other semi was not dissimilar, the experienced Paul/Nicola beating Kamran/Victoria 15-7. On to the plate final then, which was won by Paul/Nicola, avenging their group defeat to Joe/Kate.

The first semi in the main event was between David/Frankie and William/Laura. For those that don't know the result/were not there, I shall leave you in suspense a little longer. The second semi proved nothing short of a walk in the park for Anthony/Emma, beating Victor/Katie 15-3. Back to the other game, and David/Frankie had taken a commanding 12-6 lead, much to the disgust of William. A long pause for a shuttle change then seemed to turn the game on its head (I'm not accusing him of anything!). Will/Laura fought back hard to take the game out to setting and had the audience biting their nails for the next five minutes. Both pairs edged closer and in the dying moments Will/Laura took it 17-16 from under the noses of David/Frankie, making it 2-1 to Will in the HSBA tournament stakes in the process.

Could the final be even closer? It seemed so, the score reaching 14-all after a change of ends. However it wasn't to be for Will/Laura, as Anthony/Emma ran away to win 21-15 and retain their title.

Many thanks to Megan and Shân Lumb and Marion and Duncan Conway for running the tournament (I hope I didn't miss anyone) and congratulations to Anthony and Emma. I hope I speak for all those leaving the junior set up in saying thank you to all the managers and helpers for taking us through the last goodness knows how many years and that it's all (or nearly all) been highly enjoyable. As I/we disappear off to bigger and (hopefully) better things, all that is left for me to say is to wish a fond farewell to coaches, parents and players alike.

Final **Anthony Moye / Emma Stokes** beat William Westwood / Laura Cousins 21-15
Semi-finalists were David Westwood / Frankie Edelmann and Victor Liew / Katie Comras

Plate Final Paul Monk / Nicola Farr beat Joe Webb / Kate Lester 21-14

Leicestershire v Herts U13 (Friendly)

Bob Green

On Sunday January 18, an U13 team travelled to Leicester to play a friendly match. With no Grade 2 players allowed, it gave some of the others in the squad a chance to prove their worth and gain experience.

The match started well with Herts leading 3-1 on completion of the mixed doubles. Alex Gomar/Laura Bygrave, Scott Williams/Charlotte Gawley Green and Alex Regan/Kate Herring all starting off with wins, with Rory Harcourt/Frances Dickson losing out in their opener.

The boys singles was a shared event. Alex G and Scott notching up wins, Alex R and Rory both losing out in very close 3 setters, Rory being on the wrong end of several dubious line calls in his. So Herts were

5-3 ahead at the halfway point.

The girls singles did not go so well. Laura won a see-saw rubber 11-4, 5-11, 11-4, but the others all lost. This left the match score at 6-6.

On to the boys doubles. Scott/Rory could not match the Leicestershire pair, however the two Alex's won their rubber, leaving the mach at 7-7, with just the two girls doubles to play.

Laura/Kate played in the first against a regular Leicestershire pairing. They almost pulled off a great win but eventually lost out 13-15, 15-11, 12-15. Charlotte/Frances had the responsibility of trying to salvage a draw for the county. The first game went to 14-14 and they held their nerve to win it 17-16. However, they could not maintain the level of play needed to overcome the more consistent Leicestershire pair and lost the next two games 9-15, 6-15.

So, after a very hard fought match, Herts came away with a 7-9 loss, but it could have so easily have been a 9-7 win, with half of the 16 rubbers being played to three games.

At two stages during the afternoon, the hall was plunged into darkness. Apparently someone in the room where the refreshments were laid out wanted to see what was on offer and switched the master lighting circuit off by mistake. This caused all sorts of confusion on court, with claims for winners and lets but they were all resolved with good humour.

Shires League Match Results

U13 v Berkshire

Herts won 15-5. Team was: Matthew Fitt, Akash Jhunjunwala, Arjun Shah, Richard Wilson, Rebecca Cousins, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Emily Westwood.

On paper this was one of the Herts U13s easier fixtures. It was not only a 'must win' but a 'must win well' match. But fate can play games too. It is not unusual to have a player off form, but when our No 1 AND your No 2 boys 'choose' the same moment, damage limitation becomes the order of the day. Akash and Richard will be the first to admit that they each had one of those days where, no matter how many times you try, the toast always falls jam-side down. In the end the rest of the team came up trumps, the girls winning all their doubles and losing just one singles, and Matthew and Arjun both won all their games. So, considering that at one point even the win was by no means certain, Herts 'got out of jail' relatively unscathed. 15-5 was an excellent result on the day.

U17 v Berkshire

Herts won 20-0. Team was: Emile Doran, Paul Monk, Anthony Moye, William Westwood, Frankie Edelmann, Nicola Farr, Kate Lester and Emma Stokes.

U13 v Sussex

Herts won 14-6. Team was: Matthew Fitt, Akash Jhunjunwala, Arjun Shah, Richard Wilson, Rebecca Cousins, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Emily Westwood.

U17 v Sussex

Herts won 19-1. Team was: Kamran Haq, Anthony Moye, Nigel Tao, William Westwood, Katie Comras, Nicola Farr, Kate Lester and Victoria Stokes.

The matches against Sussex were somewhat chaotic at the start. Marion and Duncan Conway sat in a traffic jam near Haywards Heath for about 15 minutes, but still arrived at the venue in good time. At 12 o'clock - start time for the match - not a single Herts player had put in an appearance, and only a few Sussex players were ready for the fray. Reason - more and more traffic had built up and there was difficulty getting through. Players arrived as and when they could, the final one getting there about one hour late.

At U17, Sussex put out a weaker team than we could have expected and, whilst Herts were not at full strength either, with back-up available in depth the result was never in doubt from the start. With only Essex and Kent now to play, Herts has not lost a match. Our nearest rivals have all dropped two, except Hampshire who have lost one (to us) but who have a far worse 'goal difference'.

At U13, having lost the opening game of the season against the outstanding Hampshire side, the team could not afford another defeat. There were some very close games here, but they all went our way, so that the scoreline does not reflect a really hard fought match. So, an excellent result against our nearest rivals for the runner-up place, and a berth in the finals. With just Kent and Essex to play, qualification is back in our hands.

U13 v Kent

Herts won 13-7. Team was: Matthew Fitt, Alex Gomar, Akash Jhunjunwala, Richard Wilson, Laura Bygrave, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Emily Westwood.

U17 v Kent

Herts won 16-4. Team was: Simon Barson, Emile Doran, Kamran Haq, Nigel Tao, Katie Comras, Nicola Farr, Kate Lester and Victoria Stokes.

Herts U11 Match

Hazel Levins (U11 Team Manager)

On Sunday January 11, the U11 squad travelled to Crowborough for their first county match, which was a quadrangular match with Sussex, Essex and Berkshire. The team was: Ewan Berry, Gareth Lumb, Andrew Maughan, Elliott Miles, Isabelle Sadler, Olivia van der Maat, Kate Sellars and Claire Widdicombe.

The girls gave an excellent performance, winning 19 out of a total of 24 games. This was a brilliant start for the girls who were all representing Hertfordshire for the first time. The boys found the going much tougher, winning just 3 doubles during the course of the day - one against Sussex and 2 against Essex. The closest match was against Berkshire. Although the boys didn't win any of their games, we had several very close contests with some excellent play during which the score could have easily been reversed. The overall result was: 1st Sussex, 2nd Essex, equal 3rd Herts and Berkshire.

Our next match will be another quadrangular with Middlesex, Hampshire and Buckingham-shire. This will be a home match and with the experience gained in Sussex, our young players hope to do well.

Senior Schools

The U18s have finished their part in the tournaments for this year. Roundwood Park School affiliated just in time to be considered in the calculations and so the final tables are as follows:

U18 Boys

1	St Albans	60
2	Haberdashers' Aske's	53
3	Chancellor's	8
4	Lochinver House	5
5	Simon Balle	4
6	Westfield Community Technology College	2

U18 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	105
2	Freman College	61
3	Queenswood	45
4	Princess Helena College	36
5	Chauncy	20

Trophies and certificates have been sent to the 1st 3 schools in each table. The U13s and U15s have now played three of their four events, with just the 'A' singles to come in March and the points to date are as follows:

U13 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	234
2	Lochinver House	163
3	Chancellor's	57
4	Roundwood Park	54
5	Watford Boys Grammar	35
6	St Albans	26
7	Simon Balle	15
8	Ralph Sadleir	1

U13 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	127
2	Queenswood	69
3	Presdales	29
4	Hitchin Girls	21
5	Chancellor's	20
6	Ralph Sadleir	3

U15 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	156
2	St Albans	116
3	Watford Boys	108
4	Turnford	44
5	Roundwood Park	41
6	Hitchin Boys	40
7	Simon Balle	36
8	Chancellor's	27
9	Lochinver House	22
10	Onslow St Audrey's	21
11	Thomas Alleyne	19
12	Bishops Stortford High	3

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	203
2	Freman College	52
3	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	45
4	Queenswood	30
5	Roundwood Park	27
6	Presdales	9

More Match Results - U13 'B' Quadrangular

Herts Hobbits beat Herts Eagles 9-1, Surrey, 6-4 and Suffolk 10-0.

Team was: Rory Harcourt, James Head, Stephen Hibberd, Harry Sandford, Abigail Bursack, Laura Bygrave, Daniella Farsiani and Charlotte Gawley Green.

Herts Eagles beat Surrey 7-3 and Suffolk 10-0.

Team was: Tim Angus, Chris Belfield, Matthew McCloskey, Matthew Sellars, Alice Bloomfield, Frances Dickson, Kate Herring and Ying Yi Tee.

Everybody in the U13 Squad has now played in at least 1 match.

BAofE JC Home Counties U11**Megan Lumb**

Not having been to an 'Open' Junior tournament since the 1994/95 season to watch a family member playing, this year the circle has begun again. I went to Rickmansworth to the SE U11 and on Saturday, 24th January I went to Bracknell to the Home Counties U11 tournament. I'm not so sure that this is a good idea - early morning starts never did go down very well!! However, by 11 am, nearly all the boys had arrived and were ready to play. One or two (including Herts's Elliott Miles) were stuck on the M4 in a traffic jam going nowhere. Forty seven small (and some not so small) boys competed in the singles. Harry Angus and Ewan Berry, competing in their first 'open' had a fairly tough time, Harry coming up against Tom Stanford (Bucks) and Ewan meeting Philip Fenner (Sussex). Both played very hard but didn't quite manage to win any games, although both lost one game to 13. Andrei Donko and Freddie Kenison both played well and won 1 game in their groups. Elliott Miles was moved from the group which included Jack Thomson (Sussex) to the one which contained Jason Lai (Cambridge) - not much of an improvement I'd guess! He lost that particular game, but won the other two to become runner-up in his group. Gareth Lumb, in the meantime, had lost his first game to Kieron Gibbons (Avon), and was 12-2 down in his second game, when he finally decided to stage a come-back and went on to win that one 15-12. He then won the third and also

ended up as runner-up in his group. After the quarters and semis, the final was won convincingly by Daniel van Hooijdonk of Wales.

The girls singles started at 2 pm. Herts's one entry was Kate Sellars who was in a group of 6 and had the eventual winner (Anna Showan of Hants) in her group. Kate won only 1 game, but finished 4th in her group - not bad for a first tournament.

The boys doubles was interspersed with the girls singles. Harry/Ewan were in a tough group and were more or less annihilated. Andrei/Freddie equally didn't manage to win a game, although they came close with 13-15. Gareth/Elliott did their usual slow start, losing the first game, but then got themselves going and won the next. The final game against Max Westcott/Oscar Hackett (Ex) was a real battle, the Essex pair going 7-2 up and the Herts pair fighting back, then going up side by side to 14-14. The final point went to the Herts pair (having glanced away at that moment, I knew they'd won when I heard the yell!!!) which made them runners-up in the group.

So a reasonably satisfactory day all round. The Lumb/Miles contingent ended the day with a meal at the Harvester near the sports centre which, I suppose, made the early start and the long day worth while.

U14 Eastern Region Team Tournament

Phil Westwood

Herts' finest arrived in Tiptree, Essex, for the Eastern Region U14 Team Tournament only to find that Cambridge and Bedfordshire had withdrawn and Norfolk and Suffolk had reduced numbers. Only Essex and Herts had the full complement. The organiser had been forewarned and presented the team managers with options for a reduced tournament. All agreed that the best compromise was teams of two boys/two girls. This allowed Essex and Herts to field two teams each, Norfolk one team and Suffolk one, rotating their players. Matches would consist five games: girls and boys singles, girls and boys doubles and a mixed, each player allowed no more than two disciplines.

The only problem for Herts was splitting into first and second teams. Happily the players, used to certain pairings, agreed that James Reynolds and Matthew Westwood, Charlotte Willis and Rachel Warnes would play as 'one', with Luke Donnelly and Oliver Crabb, Hannah Warnes and Rebecca Cousins as 'two'.

The first round saw Herts 1 defeat Essex 2, then Suffolk without dropping a game. Meanwhile, Herts 2 took on Essex 1. With Rosie Hutton providing stern opposition for the girls, it was down to Oliver and Rebecca to win the mixed for a 3-2 win, which they did. Herts 2 then beat Norfolk 4-1.

In the cross-over semi-finals, Herts 1 defeated Essex 1 and Herts 2 defeated Suffolk, neither dropping a game, to set up an all-Herts final. In the final, Hannah and Rebecca beat Charlotte and Rachel, avenging their recent defeat in the HSBA U15 final. The boys doubles produced the best game of the day. The boys have reached the stage where power alone is not enough. This, and their friendly but determined rivalry, ensured absorbing, high quality cat-and-mouse rallies, cheered by those who stayed to watch. The result was on a knife-edge until the very last point, which saw Herts 1 take it 15-14, and, with the following mixed, the match 4-1, and with it the tournament, for what it was worth. But really, there was little between the two Herts teams, and as there were no medals or presentations, no one lost out.

Certainly the performance must be seen in the context of the opposition. Nevertheless, in the shadow of the success of our current U15s, we have here a very strong U14 squad, which few counties can match.

On the next page is another version sent in by 'Seymour Badders' of 'Goosefeathers, 3 Shuttlecock Way, Shortserve, Herts'. E-mail address: ima.useless@badminton.com

WE'RE IN CHARGE

We're going to Tiptree, Phil and me,
Cos we're in charge of the match you see.
Our leader, John, has another appointment,
So we're off to Tiptree, armed with
embrocation and ointment.

Norfolk, Suffolk, (but not Wessex),
We're all travelling to do battle in Essex.
We'll do it for nothing, there'll be no fee,
Our only objective is to bring back the trophy.

So ladies first, as is generally the manner:
Rachel, Rebecca, Charlotte and Hannah.
And now for the boys, a list of their names:
Luke, Matthew, Oliver and James.

So once at the venue, some planning to do
Who should be play? we haven't a clue!
What is our strategy? What are our plans?
Sitting in the corner, with our heads in our hands.

We were to play in two teams, Herts A and Herts B,
So who should play in which was our problem, you see.
Should we field our strongest and go for gold
Or two equal teams and be less bold?

And then a moment of inspiration
That had us both filled with great elation -
Let's ask the team. With their experience it's true
I'm sure that they would know what to do.

Who will play singles? Who will play doubles?
They would soon resolve all of our troubles.
And in no time at all, as fast as you can,
We were the proud owners of a cunning plan.

And so to the match - Herts were so strong.
We were soon in the lead, up where we belong.
And, as was confirmed by the organiser, Lionel,
Herts A and B would meet in the final.

What a cracking final!! I could write a tome -
By the time we had finished, everyone had gone home!
But with silver and gold in our sights
We tidied up and switched off the light.

(Any comments on this to be sent directly to Seymour Badders!! if anyone can discover the correct name of the clever poet - Ed)

Avon U13 Invitation Doubles

Barbara Lewczynska

Four doubles pairs from Herts were entered for this event with two boxes of seven each for the boys and the girls. Alex Regan/Matthew Fitt, who were in a tough box, had some very close games, entertained us all with some great acrobatics on court, but unfortunately did not get out of their box. Akash Jhunjhunwala/Richard Wilson came runners-up in their box and went on to meet Nick Ward/Ben Muir (Hampshire) in the semis, which they won 21-13. In the final they met Chris Coles/Andrew Craig (Avon), beating them 15-7, 15-2 to bring the boys cup back to Herts for the second year running. Well done, Akash and Richard.

In the girls competition, both pairs came out of their boxes to the semis, Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood as runners-up having lost to the eventual champions Olivia Payne/Jessica Shotton (Hampshire) 10-15. Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes won all their games in the box, to meet Helena/Emily in the all Herts semi. After a hard fought match Rebecca/Hannah came through to win 21-7 and so meet Olivia/Jessica in the final. This they took to three, in an exciting game, but Olivia/Jessica came out on top 11-15, 15-5, 15-9.

(The Avon U15 Doubles was played the previous day and Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly were the winners).

U13 Team Challenge - Regional Round

Marion Conway

The Regional round of the Team Challenge for the U13 squad is the first major event of the season for the U13 squad. As has become usual, it was played at Mildenhall. The teams in the Eastern region change slightly each year and this year included Bedfordshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Our team members - Matthew Fitt, Alex Gomar, Akash Jhunjhunwala, Arjun Shah, Richard Wilson, Laura Bygrave, Rebecca Cousins, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Rebecca Cousins - were all fit to play and most played both singles and doubles during the day. Apart from the odd slow start, every one played very well and kept concentrating even in the easy games. The team beat Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Suffolk 6-0 and conceded only 69 points. The final match was against Essex, which we knew would be our hardest. However, our results in the singles were impressive and we only conceded 19 points in the four games. Essex had put their strongest players into the doubles and our players had to fight very hard. Eventually the girls lost 18-21 and the boys won 21-19. The results were a credit to the fighting spirit of our players.

So the final result was Herts first with 23 games won, Essex 2nd (13 games), Norfolk 3rd, Bedfordshire 4th and Suffolk 5th. Herts and Essex now go through to the finals on April 3 at Luton, along with the winners and runners-up from the other 5 regions.

BISI Club Accreditation

Congratulations to the three junior clubs that have informed us that they have received their BISI Club accreditation certificates from the BAofE. These are: Comets at Herts Sports Village, SCOBÉ at Shephal Sports Centre, Stevenage and Swifts at Hatfield Leisure Centre. All are for the first 'registered' level of accreditation and they have to meet the criteria in the areas of:

Duty of Care and Child Protection, Coaching and Competition, Sports Equity and Ethics, Club Management.

Several other clubs, including senior clubs with junior sections, are also believed to be progressing towards this status.

The benefits to clubs include identification of their accreditation in our and Herts Sports Partnership documents (including websites), local authorities and schools being notified and clubs' coaches being able to use the Herts Coaches Resource Centre in Hatfield. For more information see the website www.hertsbadminton.net or contact Richard Doling or Dave Bartlett.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U11 Girls Singles

**Abigail Bursack (U13 Squad/
Little Heath Primary School)**

The tournament was held on Sunday January 18 at Stevenage Leisure Centre. The girls were split up into 6 boxes and all games were played to 11 points. From each box, the winner and runner-up went into the main event, and the other girls into plate event. Emily Westwood, Isabelle Sadler, Olivia van der Maat, Kate Sellars, Daniella Farsiani and Abigail Bursack all went through top of their boxes. In the quarter finals of the main event Emily and Abigail won their games without dropping a point. In the semi-finals, Emily and Isabelle played an exciting game with Emily winning. Abigail and Daniella played a very close game with Abigail winning through to meet Emily in the final. Abigail put up a strong fight, but Emily came through on top.

The semi-finals of the plate event were contested by Jessica Barnes, Nitika Patel, Andrianna Dyer and Temi Fajobi. Jessica and Andrianna won through to the final and played a very close game with Andrianna just winning.

Final Emily Westwood beat Abigail Bursack 15-1
Semi-finalists were Isabelle Sadler and Daniella Farsiani
Plate Final Andrianna Dyer beat Jessica Barnes 17-15

U11 Boys Singles

**Daniel Regan (U13 Squad/
Lochinver House School)**

As is becoming a habit with many of these HSBA tournaments at Stevenage, it was a bright, crisp, sunny day outside and cold and dark inside when 58 boys turned up for the U11 singles tournament. This was going on at the same time as the girls U11 and the boys and girls U15 doubles. From 14 boxes, 28 boys went through to the main event with 4 boys - Harry Sandford, Daniel Regan, Andrei Donko and Elliott Miles - getting byes in the first round of the main event. These same boys ended up in the semi-final play offs, with Daniel beating Elliott in a hard fought match and Harry beating Andrei in quite a tough game too. Harry finally went on to beat Daniel in the final. In the plate event, 2 Lochinver School boys fought it out in the final, with Rahul Amin defeating Louis Walpole.

Final Harry Sandford beat Daniel Regan 15-6
Semi-finalists were Elliott Miles and Andrei Donko
Plate Final Rahul Amin beat Louis Walpole 15-3

U15 Boys Doubles

Ben Goodson (U15 Squad/Chancellor's School)

It was an icy morning when we set off for the U15 boys doubles, where I was going to play for the first time with my new partner, Hao Choi. We arrived early at the familiar Stevenage Leisure Centre, which was already crowded. There seemed to be lots of people with six boxes being made later on. As we knocked up, many of the more 'familiar faces' arrived and our hopes began to fade.

There were no surprises in the box stages with most strong teams qualifying for the main event. After losing one game in our box we, too, were through to the main but, coming up against eventual finalists, James Reynolds/Gregg Roantree, this is as far as we got.

In the closest of the quarter finals, Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly had a tight match against Stephen Barnard/Adam Monk who, despite a valiant effort, were beaten 15-12.

Next the semis and a tougher match for Crabb/Donnelly who, being drawn against favourites Kamran Haq/ Nigel Tao, went down 4-15. In the other semi-final, Reynolds/Roantree came up against Victor Liew/ Matthew Westwood. Everyone expected another close one and after a long, hard fought match, James/ Gregg scraped through 17-16.

The final loomed with Haq/Tao against Reynolds/Roantree and even though the scores weren't exactly close (Haq/Tao winning) it was still an entertaining match to watch.

Next to the plate event where some more tight matches took place. The highlight was probably the first semi where Daniel Crean/Mark Ford took on Matthew Adamson/Oscar Lam. Crean/Ford eventually won 17-14 and went on to beat other finalists Brian Roantree/Jack Sandford to win the plate.

Final Kamran Haq/Nigel Tao beat James Reynolds/Gregg Roantree 15-5, 15-5
Semi-finalists were Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly and Victor Liew/Matthew Westwood
Plate Final Daniel Crean/Mark Ford beat Brian Roantree/Jack Sandford 21-8

U15 Girls Doubles

**Hannah Warnes (U13 Squad/
St Albans High School for Girls)**

The U15 girls doubles took place on Sunday January 18 at the Stevenage Leisure Centre. It all began with the 13 pairs being split into 2 boxes of 4 and one of 5. There was some great quality badminton being played which made the day really enjoyable.

Coming out of the three boxes in to the main event was Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis who had a bye to the semi-final, as did Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes. In the two quarter final play-offs, Miranda Atkins/Rebecca Sellars beat Katy Mackenzie/Hannah Watts 15-10 and Joanna Manser/Victoria Stokes beat Katherine Belfield/Nicola Price 15-1. The semi-final matches saw Rachel/Charlotte come from behind to beat Miranda/Rebecca 15-10, while Rebecca/Hannah managed to hold off Joanna/Victoria to win 15-6. The final was really close with younger pair Rebecca/Hannah managing to reach match point at 20-17, but after some very intense moments Rachel/Charlotte fought back to eventually win 23-20.

Going into the plate with a bye were Claire Kerry/Angela Law who were knocked out by Alice Bloomfield/ Melanie Harcourt in the semi-finals 15-10. In the quarter finals Alice/Melanie played Natalie Babuniak-Glover/Rosie Furze winning 15-6. Also winning in the quarter finals were Jennifer Marshall/Alex Rowell in a close game of 15-10 against Victoria Last/Emma Nichols. Jennifer/Alex went on to beat Lauren Crichton/Georgina Horlock in the semi-final 15-6, after Lauren/Georgina had beaten Nisha Karnani/Abi Sheridan-Toombs 15-10 in a close quarter final. So the plate final was between Alice/Melanie and Jennifer/Alex. Both pairs played exceedingly well, but Jennifer/Alex came out on top winning 21-8.

Well played everyone who took part.

Final Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis beat Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes 23-20
Semi-finalists were Miranda Atkins/Rebecca Sellars and Joanna Manser/Victoria

Stokes

Plate Final Jennifer Marshall/Alex Rowell beat Alice Bloomfield/Melanie Harcourt 21-8

U11 Quadrangular Match

Hazel Levins (U11 Team Manager)

On Sunday February 1, the U11 team - Andrei Donko, Freddie Kenison, Gareth Lumb, Daniel Regan, Isabelle Sadler, Olivia van der Maat, Kate Sellars and Claire Widdicombe - met at St Albans for a quadrangular match with Essex, Middlesex and Hampshire. Essex had stepped in at the last minute due to the withdrawal of Buckinghamshire, who had several players unable to take part.

Middlesex were the strongest team on the afternoon, winning 38 games overall. We beat Hampshire 9-7 and had some very close games against Essex with a number of 11-10 (10-11) scores.

Unfortunately we were unable to claim vital points in several of the games against Hampshire which would have given us a greater game differential. In several of the games against Essex we were ahead, but our young players were unable to sustain the lead and win the game which, had they done so, would have made the final score very different and given us second place on the day.

Herts gave a good performance with some exciting games to watch and with a bit more experience under their belts, the team will do well in the future.

More HSBA Tournaments

Not having asked anyone, and not having had any volunteers, I thought I'd better give this a go myself. At the last tournament in Stevenage, a total of 203 children played badminton during the day. It was particularly busy in the morning with the U11 doubles and the U13 'B' singles. All the older boys went into the bowls hall and the rest stayed in the main hall. Looking at the results of the **U13 'B' boys singles**, there were several close games in the boxes, with several 15-14 results. As we have to be out of the bowls hall by 1.30 pm the games were pushed on as quickly as possible and, thanks to good organisation, by 1.30 only the two finals were left to play. In the quarters Oscar Lam, Joshua Cooper, Nishal Shah and Prakash Rajani triumphed over Dipesh Borkhataria, Stuart Berry, Jonathan Morris and Ryan O'Leary (Ryan, partnerless for the U11 doubles, had a go at the U13 singles and did extremely well to reach the quarters). Joshua won his semi against Oscar (it went on forever!) 15-14 and Prakash had a much easier win against Nishal 15-3. The final also went quite convincingly Prakash's way. The plate semis saw Ben Cawood have a hard time beating Jack Fernandez 15-11 and Ravin Mehta having an even harder time beating Joshua Manasseh 15-14. The final was also hard fought with Ben coming out the winner.

Final **Prakash Rajani** beat Joshua Cooper 21-5
Semi-finalists were Oscar Lam and Nishal Shah
Plate Final Ben Cawood beat Ravin Mehta 15-13

There were just a few really close games amongst the 22 players in the **U13 girls 'B' singles**. With 10 players in the main event, Eleanor Golland and Hannah Cameron battled their way through to the semi-finals at the expense of Charlotte Ziff and Danielle McNiven, where they met Sarah Clarke and Anita Kandiah who had beaten Jenny Barnard and Sonali Patel respectively. Sarah and Anita won through to the final with scores of 15-11 and 15-12, where Anita proved decidedly too strong for Sarah, winning with comparative ease. The plate semis were very nearly a total St Albans High School affair, April Thomas from Queenswood being the only interloper. However, she lost to Lauren Smith-Squire in the semi 2-15, while in the other half Laurie Paton had quite a struggle to overcome Seraphina Sheridan-Toombs 15-12. Lauren won a hard fought final against her school friend.

Final **Anita Kandiah** beat Sarah Clarke 21-5
Semi-finalists were Eleanor Golland and Hannah Cameron
Plate Final Lauren Smith-Squire beat Laurie Paton 21-13

The **U11 boys and girls doubles** groups were interspersed with the older girls. The **U11 boys** played in 7 groups. Andrew Maughan/Dominic Welch were beaten 15-14 to be runners-up in their group and Harry Angus/Ewan Berry, although losing one game 15-14, came through as group winners on points. Daniel Regan/Harry Sandford and Gareth Lumb/Elliott Miles gained byes into the quarters. Daniel/Harry had two easy wins against Rahul Amin/Raj Borkhataria 15-2 and Andrew Maughan/Dominic Welch 15-3 to reach the final. In the other half, Gareth/Elliott were made to work a little harder in beating Nicholas Barnett/Daniel Hatt 15-6 and George Lewis/Louis Walpole 15-10. One felt this final was also going to be a bit - sided, and Daniel/Harry got away to a flying start. Gareth/Elliott started slowly - as usual - and not until Daniel/Harry were at match point did they decide to try and stage a come back. They picked up a run of 5 or 6 points but ended being defeated with a fairly respectable score of 21-11.

The plate event had several hard games, with Joe Graham/James Gray getting to the final with a 15-10 win over Joe Lewthwaite/Iain Robinson and Chris Eke/Dominic Elves reaching the final at the expense of Bobby Kitchener/Matthew Patch. The final was hard fought, Joe/James coming out winners.

(This is a trial run for photographs - sorry, none of the girls)
Available from the website www.hertsbadminton.net

Final **Daniel Regan/Harry Sandford** beat Gareth Lumb/Elliott Miles 21-11
Semi-finalists were Andrew Maughan/Dominic Welch and George Lewis/Louis Walpole
Plate Final Joe Graham/James Gray beat Chris Eke/Dominic Elves 21-18

The **U11 girls** had 12 pairs and Isabelle Sadler/Claire Widdicombe, Jessica Barnes/Andrianna Dyer and Abigail Bursack/Daniella Farsiani came through as easy winners. In the quarters, Jessica/Andrianna were beaten by Swifts players Jo En Choi/Sarah Wilder, who then lost to Isabelle/Claire in the semi. In the other half Holly Marshall/Leah Mealing beat Nitika Patel/Poonam Shah before losing to Abigail/Daniella. The final was a very one sided affair, Abigail/Daniella winning easily. In the plate the scratch pairing of Hemali Patel/ Kate Sellars had a bye to the semi-final and an easy win over Naomi Hanson/Katherine Head to the final. In the other half, Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi fought hard in the quarter to gain a semi-final place against Jessica Bishton/Helena Marsh, whom they beat to reach the final. There they lost to the stronger pairing of Hemali/Kate.

Final **Abigail Bursack/Daniella Farsiani** beat Isabelle Sadler/Claire Widdicombe 21-0
Semi-finalists were Jo En Choi/Sarah Wilder and Holly Marshall/Leah Mealing
Plate Final Hemali Patel/Kate Sellars beat Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi 21-9

By 2.00 pm, the U15s were champing at the bit to get on court (they had to wait a little while but not too long). Fifteen girls (7 from St Albans High School) contested the **U15 girls 'B' singles** with Nisha Karnani, Hannah Watts, Claire Kerry and Caty Mackenzie winning their groups comparatively easily. All four reached the semi-finals beating Meera Lakhani, Georgina Horlock, Melanie Harcourt and Emma Nichols respectively. Hannah and Caty proved too strong from Nisha and Claire and Caty won the final very easily. In the plate semis, Wendy Ip beat Abigail Sheridan-Toombs and Angela Law beat Sonali Shah to reach the final which Angela won again very easily.

Final **Caty Mackenzie** beat Hannah Watts 21-1
Semi-finalists were Nisha Karnani and Claire Kerry
Plate Final Angela Law beat Wendy Ip 15-0

There were 36 players in the **U15 boys 'B' singles**. As with the younger age group, there were several very tight games going to 15-14 or 15-13. Jack Sandford, having won his first two games quite easily then began a marathon. He lost his 3rd game in the group to Basil Walpole 15-14.. The first knock-out game he won 15-13 against Hishaam Junaideen and the next game against Edwin Hurst, he won 15-14 to reach the quarter finals. By this time, he was so weary it was hardly surprising that he lost the game to Robert Bagshaw 4-15. In the other quarters, Suraj Pabari beat Joshua Chan, Jonathan Hagan beat Matthew Adamson and Mark Ford beat Harry Beeson. Robert and Mark progressed to the final where they played a hard game, Robert coming out the winner. In the plate the semi-finalists were Sachin Sheth, Oliver Marcuse, Adam White and Nishal Patel, Oliver and Adam reaching the final which Adam won.

Final **Robert Bagshaw** beat Mark Ford 21-7
Semi-finalists were Suraj Pabari and Jonathan Hagan
Plate Final Adam White beat Oliver Marcuse 21-17

Junior Leagues

At the time of going to press, Gazelles JBC is in first place in the U12 boys, U12 girls and U15 Boys A leagues, with Swifts JBC close behind in the U12s and leading the U15 Boys B and U15 girls leagues. Queenswood head the U18 girls league, while Harpenden lead the U15 medley. Hitchin U12 girls, Queenswood U15 girls and Hemel Hempstead U15 medley teams have not yet played any of their matches.

Open Tournament Results

A number of Herts players are getting through to quarters, semis and finals as listed below:

BAofE Junior Challenger - U17 East

Grade 2 Girls Singles	Frankie Edelmann	Winner
Girls Doubles	Frankie Edelmann/Kate Lester	Winner
	Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes	Runner-up
Grade 2 Boys Singles	William Westwood	Runner-up
Grade 3 Boys Singles	Paul Monk	Semi-final
Boys Alternate Doubles	Emile Doran/Paul Monk	Quarter final
Mixed Doubles	Anthony Moye/Emma Stokes	Runners-up
	Miles McBain (Ex)/Frankie Edelmann	Semi-final
	William Westwood/Kate Lester	Quarter final

BAofE Junior Challenger - U17 South

Grade 3 Boys Singles	Victor Liew	Winner
	Damian Bruce-Hickman	Semi-final
Boys Main Doubles	Victor Liew/Jamie Guntert (Bu)	Winner
	Anthony Moye/William Westwood	Runner-up

BAofE Junior Challenger - U17 East Midlands

Grade 2 Girls Singles	Frankie Edelmann	Semi-final
	Katie Comras	Quarter final
Girls Main Doubles	Frankie Edelmann/Kate Lester	Winner
Grade 2 Boys Singles	William Westwood	Runner-up
	Anthony Moye	Quarter final
	Nigel Tao	Quarter final
Boys Main Doubles	Anthony Moye/William Westwood	Runner-up

BAofE U17 Nationals

Girls Singles	Laura Cousins	Quarter final
Girls Doubles	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex)	Quarter final
Boys Doubles	Anthony Moye/William Westwood	Quarter final

BAofE U17 National Challenge

Girls Singles	Emma Stokes	Runner-up
Girls Doubles	Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes	Winner

BAofE Junior Challenger - 15 Sussex

Girls Singles	Victoria Stokes	Runner-up
Girls Doubles	Victoria Stokes/Gemma Whiting (Ke)	Winner
Grade 2 Boys Singles	Kamran Haq	Winner
Boys Main Doubles	James Reynolds/Chris Tustian (Ox)	Semi-final
Boys Alternate Doubles	Stephen Barnard/Gregg Roantree	Semi-final

BAofE Junior Challenger - U15 Select

Girls Singles	Laura Cousins	Winner
	Katie Comras	Semi-final
Girls Doubles	Laura Cousins/Sam Ward (Sy)	Winner
	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex)	Runner-up
Boys Singles	Nigel Tao	Runner-up
	Victor Liew	Semi-final
Boys Doubles	Victor Liew/Arthur Cheung (Bu)	Runner-up
	Nigel Tao/Robert Hird (Bu)	Semi-final

BAofE Junior Challenger - U15 South East

Girls Singles	Victoria Stokes	Winner
Girls Main Doubles	Victoria Stokes/Gemma Whiting (Ke)	Winner
Girls Alternate Doubles	Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis	Winner
Grade 2 Boys Singles	James Reynolds	Quarter final
	Luke Donnelly	Quarter final

RIO 2004

Tony Clarke (U17 Squad Manager)

Early on a Saturday morning the U17 team - Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, Frankie Edlmann, Nicola Farr, Kate Lester, Emma Stokes, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, Paul Monk, Anthony Moye, Nigel Tao and Will Westwood - met at Stevenage station together with the management team of Tony Clarke, Pat Walker and Roy Cousins, as well as several parents, to catch to 8.17 to York. The train was on time (good old British Rail!) and it was just a short walk to the Railway Institute for our first match with Leicester at 10.30. This proved to be a gentle warm-up with Herts running out easy winners 15-0.

Next came Surrey - this would be more difficult as we had a close match previously (12-8) in the Shires league. I needn't have worried, Herts winning 11-4.

The final game in the first group was against Yorkshire. After a very close and exciting match Yorkshire ran out winners 9-6. With hindsight, the team manager could have perhaps selected a slightly different team, which might have just given us the edge. With back to back matches, you have to select the team for the next match whilst still playing the previous one. Not easy! Still, what we learnt could prove valuable for this year's Inter Counties Tournament.

The top group were Yorkshire and Herts together with the winners and runners-up of the other group, Lothian and Nottinghamshire. So, it's off to the hotel for dinner followed by a disco for the players and a quiet drink in the bar for the managers and parents.

After breakfast, it was a shortish walk to the Railway Institute for a 9.30 start against Lothian who had beaten Notts on the previous day, which meant they had very strong boys. We got off to a great start, taking all three mixed and one of the boys singles. The girls took all 3 singles to give us a commanding 7-2 lead. We shared the boys and girls doubles 3-3 for Herts to finish 10-5 winners. We duly went on to beat Notts 10-5 to finish second to Yorkshire yet again. For the second year running, there has been no proper final as the 1st and 2nd teams came from the same group. Perhaps next year, the organisers might get the seeding right!

All things said, however, second place was a great result. Well done, team!

From the editor: Thanks to all the writers - 'Seymour Badders', Abigail Bursack, Tony Clarke, Marion Conway, Ben Goodson, Bob Green, Hazel Levins, Barbara Lewczynska, Daniel Regan, Victoria Stokes, Hannah Warnes, David Westwood and Phil Westwood - for making this issue a bumper one. Nice to see a few more people contributing - I'm sure Phil is jumping up and down for joy!! I wonder if 'Seymour Badders' could be persuaded to put pen to paper again - a talent like that should not go to waste!!!

Including photographs is a bit of an experiment. I'm beginning to get the hang of it and with a bit more practise at changing the size and finding out how to copy the photos across, maybe next time I'll manage one or two more. Thanks to Christopher Sadler and Jeffrey Regan for sending them to me.

There has been quite a bit of publicity in the Welwyn Hatfield Times recently - thanks to Sports Editor Alan Davies, who does a great job on the information he's given, with different versions to suit the Potters Bar, Hatfield and Hertford areas respectively.

Closing date for the next newsletter is **Friday, April 12.**

Megan Lumb
Strafford Gate
Potters Bar
Herts
EN6 1PN

Tel: 01707 653812

E-mail: megan@mischief16.demon.co.uk