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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

February 2005

H.S.B.A. Tournaments 2004/2005

The final HSBA tournaments for this season are on Sunday, March 6. They are the U10 Boys and Girls Singles and U13 Boys and Girls Doubles. Entries must be in by Friday, February 25 and definitely not later than Sunday, February 27th. These tournaments will be held at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Signing in time is 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start. Entries to: Megan Lumb, 16 Strafford Gate, Potters Bar, EN6 1PN. Tel: 01707 653812.

International Selections

Katie Comras and Laura Cousins represented England in the U17 Home Countries Quadrangular in January. (see tournament results)

James Reynolds was selected to represent England in the U15 age group in the Eight Nations competition in Stockholm in February.

Children in Need 2004

Marion Conway

Swifts JBC raised £414.40 for this good cause. To do this, each player was challenged to reach, or exceed, a target number of hits with a partner. The targets were set according to ability. The players entered into the spirit of this most enthusiastically and some very high scores were attained. Particular congratulations go to Alex Deeble who raised £52 and Iain Robinson who raised £60. Well done, Swifts.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

Christmas Mixed Doubles Tournament - U13 Matthew McCloskey (U13 Squad/Fearnhill School)

On a very cold Tuesday morning shortly after we had broken up from school, we set off to Hatfield Leisure Centre for the Christmas Fun Mixed Doubles Competition. My partner was Charlotte Gawley Green and we had some practice at Hitchin Junior Badminton Club before the event. There was a wide range of experience amongst the players and evenly spread between the boxes - half the players coming from junior schools. Some of them found the going hard, but battled on bravely. As is usual with Herts events, the top two pairs in each box go through to the main event and the others go through to the plate. Charlotte and I lost to Scott Williams/Laura Bygrave, ending up as runners-up in our box. Sadly we were beaten in the quarter-final by Elliott Miles/Isabelle Sadler 21-19. In the other quarter final Daniel Regan/Abigail Bursack beat Andrew Barnes/Daniella Farsiani 21-8. In the semi-finals Daniel/Abigail created an upset by beating Scott/Laura 21-16; in the other half Richard Wilson/Helena Lewczynska beat Elliott/Isabelle 21-0, going on to beat Daniel/Abigail convincingly in the final. In the plate Gareth Lumb/Olivia van der Maat had an easy semi-final win to reach the final where Harry Angus/Kate Sellars gave away a 5-0 lead and let Gareth/Olivia overtake them and earn a convincing win. It was a fun competition and a good start to the Christmas holidays.

Herts U17 Match v Buckinghamshire

Pat Walker

On Sunday January 9 the U17s played a friendly match against Buckinghamshire at Wycombe Badminton Centre.

The Herts team was: Richard Billing, Hao Choi, Gary Edmonds, Sam Grant, Matthew Pocock, Nikhil Shah, Rhian Blowers and Rebecca Sellars.

The games were all played as the best of 3 to 15, with setting, which gave the team a long day with plenty of badminton.

The boys all played one game of singles with 5 out of the 6 going to a 3rd end and giving a match score of 3-3. The boys then went on to play 3 games of doubles each with 4 of the games going to a 3rd end, but with Herts winning 5.

The girls played 2 singles each, including an outstanding performance from Rebecca and one game of doubles. They then had 3 games of mixed each, with different partners and playing just one end to 15 points.

The whole team played well giving Herts a winning match score of 16-10.

To anyone who remembers Suzanne Hale from Potters Bar who was in the Herts Junior County Squads for a number of years (along with Natalie Munt and Jenny Hawkyard): Suzanne married Nikos Samaras in 2001 and has lived in Edessa in Northern Greece since then. The following is a rough translation of an article which appeared in the sports pages of the 31st December 2004 edition of EDESSAIKI, the local weekly newspaper in Edessa.

SUZANNE SAMARA

“ I love Badminton andEdessa”

This badminton champion, who was born in England, is helping to develop this little known sport in our town. Badminton has only been played in Greece for the last ten years. A national team member lives here in our town and coaches about twenty children who have taken up this new sport.

Suzanne Samara came to Greece with her husband and found herself in Edessa. She has talked to us about her great love of badminton and of her life here in Greece.

“I started playing badminton when I was eight years old and when I was about nine I began playing in local tournaments.”

She has been living in Edessa since 2001 and straight away tried to find out if there were any clubs where she could play.

“When I moved here I didn't know that there was a national team. After a while I found the telephone number of the Greek Badminton Federation and I called them. They told me that there weren't any organised clubs! Then I met Stavros Paschalidis, who works at the sports ground, he knew about badminton and suggested we organise our own team here in Edessa. Today we have about twenty children in our club. I personally adore the game. It is suitable for all ages. Apart from the fact that it exercises the whole body, it also brings inner balance. You also need to be very quick. One of the problems our team has is shortage of court time. The town has given us a few hours to coach the children but we need more. There is also a problem with the height of the sports hall - it is only five metres high which is too low for badminton. Now, about the team we have started. We have played in a few tournaments that have all been held in Thessaloniki where there are quite a lot of clubs. I am very pleased with our results as all the children tried very hard, from our youngest who is eight to our oldest who is sixteen. They all join in my coaching sessions and always listen to my advice. The tournaments for the children, except for the team event (which is any age) are in age groups:- U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19.”

From England to Greece:

“I moved to Greece in 2001 - before that I was living and working in London. I like living in Edessa very much. The only problem is that there aren't many jobs. In London I was working as a secretary. The reason I like living here so much is because you don't need a car to go out. You can walk to the shops/cafes/sports hall etc, whereas in London it's difficult to go anywhere without transport.

I had a problem when I first moved and that was the language. I had a few lessons in England before I came which helped me. In the beginning I couldn't communicate with people very well. Everybody accepted me and welcomed me into the community and after a while I got used to the way of life and I learnt the language. The only reason I would leave Edessa now is for work.”

She competes under Green colours:

“When I took part in a competition in Athens, I met the President of the Greek Badminton Federation, who also runs the Greek College Club in Thessaloniki and he asked me to join his club. I started training with them and now play once a year in the area games and once a year in the National Championships, which

were a few weeks ago. At these championships in Athens, I won the ladies doubles (with Chrisa Georgali). I was third in the singles and in the mixed."

Apart from her role as an athlete, she also has the children that she coaches in Edessa. "I haven't got a coaching certificate yet but I am going to England in January where I will complete a course to become a qualified coach."

In the time that she will be in England, she will miss the next games which are in Cyprus. She will, however, be able to go to the training camp which will be held in Siderokastro from 2-10 January.

The Greek Badminton Federation has secured a training ground in Northern Greece, which is at the exhibition centre in the middle of Thessaloniki. The national team trains there as well as the teams from Thessaloniki. The national team consists of four men and four women. "It was a very important occasion for me when I took part in the Olympic test event in Athens, where I won a bronze medal in the mixed doubles (with Georgos Charalambidis). *[We lost in the semi-finals to Nathan Robertson and Natalie Munt(!) - whom I last met when we were both in the HSBA U16 squad.]* I also played this year in the Balkan games which were held in Turkey. Finally, it's very satisfying as well as a great honour to be part of the national team."

[not in the original translation]

H.S.B.A. Junior Leagues

Pat Walker (League Secretary)

There have been several changes to the league since the start of the season. Harpenden, Hemel Hempstead and Beaumont School have all withdrawn. This has left the U15 Medley as one group of 4 teams instead of 2 groups of 3, the U18 boys with 3 teams, but only All Saints remain in the U18 Medley. They will now be looking for friendly matches in this age group.

The latest league table is shown below, based on results received up to February 8.

	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>		<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
<u>U12 Boys</u>				<u>U12 Girls</u>			
Gazelles	2	2	0	Gazelles	2	2	0
Swifts	2	2	0	Comets	1	0	1
Comets	4	2	2	Queenswood	0	0	0
Much Hadham	4	1	3	Swifts	1	0	1
All Saints	2	0	2				
<u>U15 Boys A</u>				<u>U15 Boys B</u>			
Gazelles	3	3	0	Hitchin	1	1	0
S Abbotts	3	1	2	Swifts	1	1	0
Much Hadham	2	0	2	Comets	2	0	2
<u>U15 Girls</u>				<u>U15 Medley</u>			
Swifts	1	1	0	Much Hadham	1	1	0
Queenswood	0	0	0	Comets	1	0	1
S Abbotts	1	0	1	Hitchin	0	0	0
				Swifts	0	0	0
<u>U18 Boys</u>				<u>U18 Girls</u>			
Swifts	1	1	0	Swifts	1	1	0
Comets	1	0	1	All Saints	1	0	1
Hitchin	0	0	0	Queenswood	0	0	0

HBA Celebration Reception

Pat Walker

Thank you, HBA, for hosting the Celebration Reception on Friday, January 7 at Roe Hill Hall in Hatfield. It was a great opportunity to meet and congratulate Gail Emms and Natalie Munt on their Olympic achievements.

We were also able to show our appreciation to Bill Goode and Tony Clarke for the hard work they continue to put into Herts badminton.

The guests included club players, coaches, HSBA representatives as well as Senior County players, both past and present, giving a clear indication of the strength and depth of badminton within Hertfordshire.

So, well done to all the HBA committee who worked so hard to make the evening the success it was. The treasurer even managed to turn one free glass of wine each into free-flowing wine throughout the evening. Let's hope we have more reasons to celebrate in the very near future.

More H.S.B.A Tournaments (16th January)

U10 Girls Doubles

Lucy Wheeler (Ladbrooke JMI School)

Every tournament I wake up at 7.00 am like usual, looking forward to the tournament but feeling nervous with lots of butterflies. Today Chloe Bungey and I played in the under 10 doubles tournament. The first match was against Isabel Hatt/Shayna Godin which we won 11-4. Our second game was against Natalie Farsiani/Hannah Last which we won 11-2. Our third game was against Olivia Breeze/Shannan Hickey which we won quite easily 11-3. Chloe and I were very happy for ourselves as we got through to the main competition. Our semi-final was against our school friend Jessie Northen and her partner Kirsty Southey. The match was very terrifying and hard but we won 15-12 and were exhausted but enjoyed it. In the final we played Lizzy Airey/Lexy Richards - unfortunately we lost, but we got silver and were very happy and had a great time.

Results: Final **Lizzy Airey/Lexy Richards** beat Chloe Bungey/Lucy Wheeler 15-3
Semi-finalists were Jessie Northen/Kirsty Southey and Shayna Godin/Isabel Hatt
Plate Final Amy George/Katherine Head beat Natalie Farsiani/Hannah Last 15-1

U10 Boys Doubles

Mark Sadler (Lochinver House School)

The U10 boys doubles tournament was held at Stevenage Leisure Centre on Sunday January 16 2005. A total of 15 pairs of boys entered the competition with high hopes of performing well on the day. For the boxes, players were drawn in 3 groups of 5 doubles pairs with the top two pairs qualifying for the main event and the other 3 pairs entering the plate competition. In the quarter finals of the main event the regular doubles pairing of Edward Byrne/Paul Earle (winner box 2) beat Jaimon Patel/Mark Sadler (runner-up box 1), winning 11-7. Arjun Aujla/Matthew Hare (runner-up box 2) defeated Isaac Bedi/Oliver Gomar (runner-up box 3) 11-04 in the other quarter final. In the semis Arjun/Matthew easily overcame box 1 winners Lyall Daniels/Max Hodgkinson 15-2 but Edward/Paul met their match in a close game with box 3 winners David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe, narrowly losing a tense game 15-12. In the final both pairs played a good game but David/Matthew used all their experience of playing together and proved too strong for Arjun/Matthew, winning 15-8 to take gold. The Plate event was won by the same score, Lucas Campbell-Gumb/George Skone taking the honours against Adam Kayani/Paras Maroo.

Results: Final **David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe** beat Arjun Aujla/Matthew Hare 15-8
Semi-finalists were Lyall Daniels/Max Hodgkinson and Edward Byrne/Paul Earle
Plate Final Lucas Campbell-Gumb/George Skone beat Adam Kayani/Paras Maroo 15-8

U13 Girls Singles

Isabelle Sadler (U13 Squad/St Albans High School for Girls)

On January 16 2005, the HSBA U13 girls singles tournament took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Overall 19 girls, all eager to win, turned up and were split into four groups of four and one group of three. After a tiring morning the knockout stages began. To qualify for the quarter finals, Isabelle Sadler played Kate Herring and Daniella Farsiani played Abigail Bursack. Kate and Daniella succeeded 15-9 and 15-2 respectively. In the quarter finals Kate narrowly lost to Laura Bygrave 13-15 and Daniella was well beaten by Ying Yi Tee 15-3. Helena Lewczynska easily defeated Charlotte Gawley Green 15-1 and Emily Westwood won with the same score against Kate Sellars. In the semi-finals Helena proved too strong for Laura, winning 15-1 and Emily overcame Ying 15-5. A very hard fought final between Emily and Helena ended with Emily being victorious and collecting the shield. In the plate semi-finals, Abbi Hughes was beaten 15-5 by Claire Widdicombe and Jo En Choi beat Marigold Keane 15-10. Jo En played a strong game to take the plate against Claire.

Results: Final **Emily Westwood** beat Helena Lewczynska 21-15
 Semi-finalists were Laura Bygrave and Ying Yi Tee
Plate Final Jo En Choi beat Claire Widdicombe 21-10

U13 Boys Singles

At the same time the boys were playing their singles in the bowls hall. Twenty four boys competed in the event in 6 groups. There were several hard fought games in the groups, the closest being Scott Williams beating off Andrei Donko 15-11 and ten year old Gareth Lumb pulling back from 0-9 down to defeat Ross Barnes 15-14. Group winners were Richard Wilson, James Head, Harry Sandford, Scott Williams, Daniel Regan and Matthew Fitt, who all went through to the main event with the runners-up. In the knock-out first round James lost a very close game to Andrei, 14-15, who then lost to Richard in the quarters final. Ryan McCarthy beat Gareth easily and then caused a slight hiccup by beating Harry in the quarters. Daniel also had an easy win against Alex Lee but Matthew McCloskey just lost out to Joshua Cooper 14-15. In the quarters, Matthew beat Daniel and Scott defeated Joshua. Richard and Matthew won their semis to reach the final, where Richard won convincingly. In the plate, 10 year old Daniel Hatt (standing in for a last minute drop out) came through to the final beating Ewan Berry and Chris Belfield on the way. In the other half, Andrew Barnes beat Andrew Maughan, Iain Robinson and Ross Barnes to reach the final, which was a hard fought game with Daniel coming out the winner.

Results: Final **Richard Wilson** beat Matthew Fitt 21-4
 Semi-finalists were Ryan McCarthy and Scott Williams
Plate Final Daniel Hatt beat Andrew Barnes 21-15

U15 Boys 'B' Singles

It was the turn of the U15s in the afternoon. Twenty eight boys turned up (one or two didn't) and there were several long, hard fought games in the seven groups. Group winners were Matthew Adamson, Rahul Mehta, Hishaam Junaideen, Stuart Berry, Mark Ford, Suraj Pabari and Oscar Lam. In the main event Matthew progressed to the final at the expense of Dipesh Borkhataria 15-6 in the quarter final and Hishaam 15-9 in the semi. In the other half Mark beat school mate Chris Gritty in the first round and Stuart in the quarters to meet Suraj in the other semi. This was a very long game, which Suraj finally won 15-13. The final was also a long hard game which which went Suraj's way in the end. In the plate Thomas Byrne beat Fred Wonnacott, Paul Hinwood and Jack Calvert on his way to the final where he met his friend Sam Wheeler who had beaten Danny Hennessey, Alex Steed and Jonathan Willis in his half of the draw. The pair were very evenly matched and the final went on for a very long time, with Thomas coming out the winner this time, and both boys absolutely shattered!

Results: Final Suraj Pabari beat Matthew Adamson 21-12
 Semi-finalists were Hishaam Junaideen and Mark Ford
 Plate Final Thomas Byrne beat Sam Wheeler 21-18

U15 Girls 'B' Singles

For once there were more girls than boys -must be some sort of a record! In fact there were twenty-nine girls, but at least 4 didn't turn up and a couple had cried off with illness. The group games went through fairly quickly with group winners being Rosie Furze, Danielle McNiven, Rosanna Grimwood, Angela Law, Eleanor Golland, Melanie Harcourt and Sonali Patel. In the main event, Rosie had a tough game in the first round beating Elizabeth Ward 15-13, but then getting easier wins against Rosie Botfield and Meera Lakhani to reach the final. In the other half, Melanie found just the opposite, winning her first games against Maria Fisher and Sonali easily and finding the semi-final against Angela a much tougher proposition, finally winning it 15-13. The final was hard fought, with Melanie coming out the winner. In the plate, Yvette Cook beat Jasmine Lassouarn, Sian Woolcott and Andrianna Dyer on her way to her first final. In the other half Nisha Karnani came through against Elinor Perks, Jessica Barnes and Florence Brown and went on to win the final against Yvette.

Results: Final Melanie Harcourt beat Rosie Furze 21-9
 Semi-finalists were Meera Lakhani and Angela Law
 Plate Final Nisha Karnani beat Yvette Cook 21-12

Senior Schools

The U18 and U15 competitions for affiliated schools are now completed. These are run within the HSBA tournaments with players gaining points for positions reached in the knock-out events. This year, at the request of the committee, only winner and runner-up trophies have been presented to the schools, with certificates for the players. The points gained by each school are listed below:

U18 Boys

1	Roundwood Park	75
2	St Albans	62
3	Haberdashers' Aske's	60
4	John Warner	53
5	Hitchin Boys	41
6	Chancellor's	37
7	Dame Alice Owen	22
8	Heathcote	13
9	Richard Hale	11
10	Onslow St Audrey's	2

U18 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	117
2	Queenswood	75
3	Roundwood Park	45
4	Heathcote	40
5	Dame Alice Owen	38
6	Freman College	36

U15 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	102
2	Chancellor's	81
3	John Warner	47
4	Hitchin Boys	46
5	Onslow St Audrey's	37
6	Roundwood Park	29
7	Dame Alice Owen	28
8	Beaumont	21
9	Heathcote	15
10	Sandringham	6
11	Lochinver House	2

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	250
2	Queenswood	81
3	Roundwood Park	59
4	Chancellor's	51
5	Presdales	36
6	Dame Alice Owen	30
7	Heathcote	18
8	Freman College	16

The U13s have one more tournament to go, but it seems that first place has already been decided. However, there is still time for the second place to change.

U13 Boys

1	Lochinver House	165
2	St Albans	49
3	Chancellor's	29
4	Dame Alice Owen	22
5	Ralph Sadleir	24
6	Heathcote	17
7	Roundwood Park	4
8*	Hitchin Boys	2
8*	Richard Hale	2
8*	Sherrardswood	2

U13 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	108
2	Queenswood	30
3	Dame Alice Owen	28
4	Hitchin Girls	26
5*	Chancellor's	25
5*	Roundwood Park	25
7	Heathcote	18
8	Chauncy	6

York RIO 2005

Tony Clarke (U17 Squad Manager)

The U17 team of Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, James Reynolds, Matt Westwood, Stephen Barnard, Laura Cousins, Frankie Edelmann, Katie Comras, Kate Lester, Victoria Stokes and Charlotte Willis, together with the Management Team of Tony Clarke, Pat Walker and Mike Barnard, met at Stevenage station to catch the 7.45 am to York. However, there was no 7.45 to York, only a coach to Peterborough at 7.35!!! - and then train to York. Someone had to be late, didn't they? This time it was Matt. Fortunately B. R. held the coach as he sprinted from the Leisure Centre on the other side of the road.

We finally arrived at York, amazingly on time at 10.00 am and walked to the Railway Institute, arriving just as John Foster was giving his welcome chat.

We were seeded to win our box and hopefully contest the final with Yorkshire. Our first match was against Lancashire which we duly won 12-3, followed by 10-5 wins over Surrey and Lothian respectively. Job well done. So it was off to the hotel for dinner, a disco for the players and one or two drinks in the bar and a chat with old friends for the managers and parents.

Next morning, after breakfast it was back to the Railway Institute to play the runners-up of the other group, Nottinghamshire. We beat Notts comfortably 10-5, a different story possibly if Chris Adcock and Peter Mills had been fit.

The final was against York, who had beaten Lothian in the other semi-final. It should be a close match. We can take all the girls singles but not if we need the top girls for mixed. So the plan was to take two boys singles and 3 girls singles to be 5-4 up with the boys and girls doubles to play. Unfortunately, everything didn't go quite to plan. We lost the 3 mixed as expected but also lost all 3 boys singles - 6-0 down! The 3 wins in the girls singles made the score a more respectable 6-3 but we needed to win 5 of the 6 doubles - a very tall order. In two closely contested boys doubles we came out second best losing 21-15 and 21-18 to give Yorkshire an unassailable 8-3 lead. We managed to win two of the girls doubles to make the final score 19-5 to Yorks, with Notts third. If the tournament had a different order of play, say girls before boys, we might have put some pressure on Yorkshire. As it was, with stronger boys they were never under any pressure.

The journey home was OK: train to Peterborough and coach to Stevenage, except for a long wait at Peterborough to transfer to the coaches. Despite the cold the team were in good spirits and looking forward to going one better at the ICT.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments (6th February)

the U11 doubles and the U15 singles were played at Stevenage Leisure Centre on February 6. It was a very busy morning so the editor didn't have time to find any victims to write tournament reports (do I hear a mutter of 'thank goodness for that?!') So, as there were no volunteers either, I suppose I'd better do it myself!!

U11 Girls Doubles

Thirteen pairs played in this event, with 4 pairs coming from Grange JM School and 2 from Wilbury JM. They played in three groups with favourites Olivia van der Maat/Kate Sellars winning their group easily. Second favourites Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi also won easily, but the third group was somewhat harder. The eventual winners in the group, by one point, were Amy George/Katherine Head who lost 14-15 to Jessie Northen/Kirsty Southey who had previously lost 13-15 to Hannah Last/Hemali Patel. In the main event Jessie/Kirsty lost in the quarter final to Lizzy Airey /Lexy Richards, who then lost to Olivia/Kate in the semi. In the other half Amy/Katherine defeated Naomi Hanson/Alex Murphy before losing to Simi/Temi. The final was a very convincing win for Olivia/Kate. In the plate event Hannah/Hemali won through to the final beating Amy Chambers/Rebecca Wright and Amy Phillips/Shara Thomas enroute. In the top half Nikola Crockford/Gina Long beat fellow Grange pupils Laura Preston/Lauren Watson and Shayna Godin/Isabel Hatt to reach the final where they lost in a hard fought game to Hannah/Hemali.

Results: Final Olivia van der Maat/Kate Sellars beat Simi Aujla/Temi Fajobi 21-6
Semi-finalists were Lizzy Airey/Lexy Richards and Amy George/Katherine Head
Plate Final Hannah Last/Hemali Patel beat Nikola Crockford/Gina Long 21-14

U11 Boys Doubles

Twenty seven pairs of boys played in this competition, playing in six groups. The games went more or less to form, the only unexpected result being Andrew Maughan/Joseph Samuels losing a game 15-13 and being relegated to the plate event. Group winners were Nick Barnett/Gareth Lumb, Rafe Hawkins-Hill/Harry Williams, George Lewis/Louis Walpole, Harry Angus/Daniel Hatt, Steven George/Michael Peak and Daniel Regan/Mark Sadler. They, along with the runners-up went into the main knockout event. In the main event, the top two seeds Nick/Gareth and Daniel/Mark had easy runs to the final. Jack Garretty/Howard Stobo defeated Rafe Hawkins-Hill/Harry Williams in the first round 15-6 only to lose to Nick/Gareth in the quarters. Arjun Aujla/Kasun Kodituwakku upset David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe in the first round 15-12 before losing to George Lewis/Louis Walpole in the quarters; George/Louis were then whitewashed by Nick/Gareth in the semi. In the bottom half, Edward Byrne/Paul Earle beat Sam Fitzell/Ravi Shah 15-8 before losing to Harry Angus/Daniel Hatt. Steven George/Michael Peak beat Paul Abdullah/Ben Lau 15-12 before losing to Daniel/ Mark in the quarters, the latter pair then going on to beat Harry/Daniel easily in the semis. The final was very hard fought, with several long rallies, but the Lochinver pairing of Daniel/Mark triumphed. In the plate, Andrew/Joseph fought their way through to the final with wins over Andrew Huntley/Nicholas Adcock 15-2, Alex Culliford/Ryan Walker 15-7 and Jonathan Gateson/Matthew Hare 15-0). In the other half Lyall Daniels /Max Hodgkinson came through with wins over Ben Connolly/Christian Grindal 15-8, Alex Deeble/John Whittaker 15-7 and William Moss/Kieran Redburn 15-10. Again it was a hard fought final with Andrew/Joseph coming out winners.

Results: Final Daniel Regan/Mark Sadler beat Nick Barnett/Gareth Lumb 21-11
Semi-finalists were George Lewis/Louis Walpole and Harry Angus/Daniel Hatt
Plate Final Andrew Maughan/Joseph Samuels beat Lyall Daniels/Max Hodgkinson 21-11

U15 Girls Singles

Fifteen girls played in this event with three others having dropped out through illness and injury. They played in three groups of 4 and one group of 3, the latter playing games to 21 instead of 15. Group winners were Charlotte Willis, Abigail Bursack, Alice Bloomfield and Jennifer Marshall, who went through to the main event with the runners-up. In the main event Charlotte had an easy run to the final beating Rosie Furze in the quarters and Lauren Crichton, who had beaten Abigail in the other quarter, in the semi. In the other half there were harder games with Jennifer defeating Bethany Harriss and Alice winning over Rhiannon Moore in the quarters. The semi was very hard fought with Alice coming out on top to reach the final, where Charlotte, the defending champion, had an easy win. In the plate event Angela Law beat Rosanna Grimwood 15-3 before facing a long hard battle against Nisha Karnani. Angela finally won this game 17-14 to meet Anita Kandiah in the final. Anita reached the final beating Frances Dickson in the quarter 15-6 and Sonali Patel 15-3, Sonali having beaten school mate Rosie Botfield in the quarter. The final was hard fought but went to Anita in the end.

Results: Final Charlotte Willis beat Alice Bloomfield 21-2
 Semi-finalists were Lauren Crichton and Jennifer Marshall
 Plate Final Anita Kandiah beat Angela Law 21-11

U15 Boys Singles

With just one withdrawal, a total of 29 boys competed in this event. As the majority were county squad players, the standard was high and there were several close games in the groups. Interestingly, all 4 semi-finalists from the 'B' singles played and two of them - Hishaam Junaideen and Mark Ford - made it into the main event. Group winners were Gregg Roantree, Matthew Fitt, Adam Monk, Stephen Barnard, Matthew Westwood, Arjun Shah and Oliver Crabb. In the main event, Gregg reached the final with wins over Ben Goodson and Matthew Trott, who unexpectedly beat Adam in a very tight quarter final. At the other end, Oliver beat Arjun in the quarter, but equally unexpectedly lost to Stephen Barnard in the semi in a very hard fought game, Stephen having previously defeated Matthew W in the quarter in another very long hard game. The final, which was the last match of the day was equally hard, with the scoring very even the whole way through. They finally reached 20-20 and decided to set. Gregg then managed to get the lead and held out for a win.

In the plate Gary Carter came through to the final with wins over Philip Adams 15-5, Matthew Sellars 15-14 and Tim Angus 15-12. In the other half Suraj Pabari, going on from his win in the 'B' singles, made his way to the final at the expense of Oliver Gregg 15-10, Alex Regan 15-7 and George Moss 15-7. The final was another very long game with Suraj coming out the winner.

Results: Final Gregg Roantree beat Stephen Barnard 23-21
 Semi-finalists were Matthew Trott and Oliver Crabb
 Plate Final Suraj Pabari beat Gary Carter 21-17

A Busy and Successful Weekend

BAofE South East U15 Tournament

Carla Regan

The BAofE South East U15 tournament was held in Ware, so at least, for once, it wasn't too far away. Four Hertfordshire boys entered the Alternative singles and doubles tournament - Alex Regan, Ben Goodson, Tim Angus and Matthew Trott. The doubles were played first with 32 pairs being pitted against each other in 8 boxes of 4. After a slow start, Ben/Alex ended up 3rd in their box of 4, having two very close games. They were in the same group as Matthew and his non-Herts partner, beating them 15-6. None of the Herts boys got through to the knock-out rounds. The doubles was followed by singles where Ben made a spectacular recovery to end up in the final against Daniel Groom of Kent, just losing by an impressive 13-15. Only tiredness prevented him from winning the gold. It was Ben's very first silver BAofE medal. Well done, Ben!

The Kathy Wood U14 Invitation Doubles Tournament

Carla Regan

This tournament took place on Sunday February 13 at the Stratford Park Leisure Centre in Stroud, Gloucestershire. Hertfordshire were represented by 2 boy's pairs - Alex Regan/Rory Harcourt and Richard Wilson/Alex Gomar. There were 20 pairs altogether split into 2 boxes of 7 and 1 box of 6. Alex/Rory improved as the day went on and came 5th in their box of 7. Richard/Alex, despite losing a game to George Hargreaves/Will Hall (Yo) 4-21, progressed through to the knock-out rounds as runners-up of their group. They then went on to win all their games, meeting their Yorkshire opponents once again in the final and eventually losing to them 11-21 to take home the runner-up cup. This was a great result, particularly as one of our Herts girls pairs - Laura Bygrave/Ying Yi Tee - also got through to the final and lost in a hard fought match against - you guessed it - a Yorkshire pair!! Well done to all who played.

The Kathy Wood U12 Invitation Doubles Tournament

Jeff Regan

Herts Schoolboys Triumph in Gloucestershire

Local schoolboys Ryan McCarthy, a pupil at Chancellor's School, and Daniel Regan from Lochinver House School excelled in the Kathy Wood U12 doubles tournament held in Gloucestershire on Saturday February 12.

Although both are members of the Herts County U13 Squad, it was the first time that they had played together competitively and they were the only boy's team representing the county.

With six teams in each box, qualification to the latter stages looked as if it would be difficult. Ryan/Dan quickly developed a good understanding, winning four out of their five box games without too much trouble, defeating teams from Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Devon and Avon along the way. A defeat of 21-15 by the strong Yorkshire pairing of Oliver Cohen/Scott Thompson appeared ominous however. Subsequent comments by neutral observers described it as the 'match of the day'.for the quarter-finals, Ryan/Dan moved up a gear with Ryan playing almost faultlessly and Dan seemingly unbeatable anywhere near the net. A 21-12 victory secured a semi-final place, but not against the much-fancied Yorkshire pair who were surprisingly beaten in their quarter final. The semi-final was a very one-sided affair with the Herts duo quickly emerging victorious with a 21-2 win against another Gloucestershire pairing. The stage was set for a thrilling final with Ryan/Dan playing the vanquishers of the favourites from Yorkshire. The final against William Hollis/Kieran Gibbons from Avon ebbed and flowed in the early stages. However, at 9-8 up, Ryan/Dan upped the tempo once again and secured a thrilling and well-deserved victory 21-12.

Match Results

U17 Shires League v Essex

Herts won 17-3

Team was: Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, Nigel Tao, Matthew Westwood, Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Kate Lester and Charlotte Willis

U15 Shires League v Kent

Herts lost 8-12

Team was: Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, Arjun Shah, Matthew Westwood, Rhian Blowers, Hannah Warnes, Rachel Warnes and Charlotte Willis

U13 Shires League v Sussex

Herts won 11-9

Team was: James Head, Daniel Regan, Harry Sandford, Richard Wilson, Laura Bygrave, Helena Lewczynska, Ying Yi Tee and Emily Westwood

U13 Shires League v Essex

Herts won 13-7

Team was: Andrei Donko, Daniel Regan, Harry Sandford, Scott Williams, Richard Wilson, Laura Bygrave, Helena Lewczynska, Ying Yi Tee and Emily Westwood

U11 Shires League v Essex

Herts lost 13-17

Team was: Harry Angus, Steven George, Daniel Hatt, Gareth Lumb, Michael Peak, Howard Stobo, Amy George, Katherine Head, Jessie Northen, Kate Sellars, Kirsty Southey and Olivia van der Maat

Tournament Results

Home Countries International

Girls Singles	Semi-finalist	Katie Comras
	Winner	Laura Cousins
Girls Doubles	Runner-up	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex)
Mixed Doubles	Semi-finalist	Katie Comras/Chris Hotchen (Gl)

U19 National Championships

Women's Singles	Quarter final	Katie Comras lost to Michelle Cheung (Bu) 3-11, 1-11 Laura Cousins lost to Heather Olver (Sx) 9-11, 11-9, 6-11
Women's Doubles	Quarter final	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex) lost to Ruth Coleman (Nm)/Helen Ward (Yo) 10-15, 9-15 Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy) lost to Mariana Agathangelou (Jy)/Vicki Ingram (St) 9-15, 6-15
Mixed Doubles	Quarter final	Peter Mills (Nm)/ Katie Comras lost to Robert Adcock (Nm)/Jenny Wallwork (Yo) 15-8, 1-15, 2-15

U18 Buckinghamshire

Men's Doubles	Semi-final	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Victor Liew Handal Suryaputra (Wk)/ Nigel Tao
Ladies Singles	Semi-final	Frankie Edelman
	Final	Laura Cousins lost to Sarah Walker (Ex)
Ladies Doubles	Final	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex) beat Frankie Edelman/Kate Lester

U17 BAofE Junior Challenger - East

Girls Singles (Grade 2)	Final	Kate Lester lost to Sarah Danzelmann (Bd) 2-11, 11-9, 8-11
Girls Singles (Grade 3)	Final	Charlotte Willis lost to Bethany Wong (Wk) 12-21
Girls Doubles (Main)	Final	Kate Lester/Gemma Whiting (Ke) beat Jenny Crump/Natalie Gilders (Bu) 15-6, 15-10
Boys Singles (Grade 2)	Quarter Final	Victor Liew lost to Paul Schuller (Nm) 9-15, 5-15
Boys Singles (Grade 2)	Final	Nigel Tao beat Jack Molyneux (Sy) 15-7, 15-12
Boys Singles (Grade 4)	Final	Gregg Roantree beat Stefan Kostynowicz (Mx) 15-9
Boys Doubles (Main)	Final	Kamran Haq/Nigel Tao beat Jack Molyneux (Sy)/Paul Schuller (Nm) 12-15, 15-4, 15-2

Boys Doubles (Alternate)	Quarter Final	Stephen Barnard/Gregg Roantree lost to Jamie Ashton (Ha)/Raodi Liu (Ox) 15-17
	Final	Luke Donnelly/Matthew Westwood beat Chris Farrin/Ricky Kanabar (Le) 15-13
Mixed Doubles	Semi-final	Jack Molyneux (Sy)/ Kate Lester lost to Victor Liew /Bethany Wong (Wk) 15-10, 8-15, 8-15
	Final	Kamran Haq /Anna van Piggelen (Sy) beat Victor Liew /Bethany Wong

U17 Junior Challenger Select - Milton Keynes (December)

Boys Singles	Semi-final	Kamran Haq lost to Bruce Peake (Ha) 3-15, 2-15
Girls Singles 11	Semi-final	Laura Cousins lost to Sarah Walker (Ex) 9-11, 7-11
	Final	Frankie Edelmann lost to Sarah Walker 1-11, 6-11
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Katie Comras /Sarah Walker (Ex) lost to Mariana Agathangelou (Jy)/Vicki Ingram (St) 15-5, 12-15, 7-15 Laura Cousins /Samantha Ward (Sy) beat Frankie Edelmann/Kate Lester 4-15, 1-15
	Final	Laura Cousins /Samantha Ward lost to Mariana Agathangelou/Vicki Ingram 4-15, 15-11, 6-15
Mixed Doubles	Semi-final	Arthur Cheung (bu)/ Katie Comras lost to Peter Mills (Nm)/Mariana Agathangelou (Jy) 10-15, 11-15

U17 Junior Challenger Select - Milton Keynes (January)

Girls Singles	Quarter final	Frankie Edelmann lost to Hannah Littlecott (Ha) 2-11, 3-11
	Final	Laura Cousins beat Hannah Littlecott 13-10, 11-9
Girls Doubles	Final	Laura Cousins /Samantha Ward (Sy) lost to Mariana Agathangelou (Jy)/Vicki Ingram (St) 10-15, 9-15
Boys Doubles	Final	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Victor Liew lost to Max Gardner (Sy)/Peter Mills (Nm) 15-9, 9-15, 6-15
Mixed Doubles	Final	Miles McBain (Ex)? Frankie Edelmann lost to Chris Hotchen (Gl)/Samantha Ward (Sy) 15-12, 5-15, 14-17

Anglia U15

Boys Singles (Grade 2)	Semi-final	Matthew Westwood beat Luke Donnelly 15-12, 15-13
15,	Final	Oliver Crabb beat Matthew Westwood 15-3, 10-15-10
Boys Singles (Grade 4)	Quarter Final	Matthew Trott lost to James Le Moigan (Jy) 4-15

Boys Doubles (Main)	Final	Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly lost to Avinash Chandarana/Nayan Patel (Le) 3-15, 12-15
Mixed Doubles	Quarter Final	Luke Donnelly /Lauren Birch (Yo) lost to James Buffham/Rebecca Greenstreet (Ke) 11-15, 7-15
	Semi-final	Oliver Crabb /Philippa Rodgers (Ch) lost to Nayan Patel/Vinita Bhakta (Le) 12-15, 9-15
<u>Sussex U15</u>		
Boys Singles (Grade 2)	Final	Matthew Westwood lost to Mark Cappleman (Ha) 8-15, 13-15
Boys Doubles (Main)	Final	Stuart Rowlands (So)/ Matthew Westwood lost to Nayan Patel/Avinash Chandarana (Le) 15-11, 12-15, 6-15
Girls Singles (Grade 3)	Final	Emily Westwood beat Helena Lewczynska 21-14
Girls Doubles (Alternate)	Final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood lost to Emma Smethurst/Jodie Butler (Ke) 19-21
<u>U13 BAofE Junior Challenger - East</u>		
Girls Singles (Grade 2)	Quarter final	Laura Bygrave lost to Amber Gregory (St) 1-11, 5-11
Girls Singles (Grade 4)	Final	Ying Yi Tee lost to Felicity Boyce (Sx) 13-15
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Abigail Bursack /Holly Bowen (Nf) lost to Amber Gregory (St)/Leah Kellogg (Db) 5-21
Boys Doubles (Main)	Quarter Final	James Head/Daniel Regan lost to Keval Morjaria/Sachin Premji (Mx) 11-21
<u>U13 BAofE Junior Challenger - South East</u>		
Girls Singles (Grade 2)	Final	Helena Lewczynska lost to Panuga Riou (Ha) 1-11, 0-11
Girls Singles (Grade 4)	Final	Ying Yi Tee lost to Georgina Colgate (Ex) 4-15
Girls Doubles (Main)	Final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood lost to Emma Hollis/Harriet Mortimer (Av) 18-21
Girls Doubles (Alternate)	Final	Kate Herring/Ying Yi Tee lost to Bryony Morris /Felicity Boyce (Sx) 13-21
Boys Singles (Grade 2) 11	Final	Richard Wilson lost to Chris Coles (Av) 10-13, 5-11
<u>Anglia U13</u>		
Girls Singles (Grade 2)	2nd	Emily Westwood
Girls Doubles	Final	Laura Baker (Ha)/ Emily Westwood lost to Hayley Rogers (Ch)/Jessica Tandy (Nm) 10-15

Sussex U13

Boys Singles (Grade 4)	Final	Ryan McCarthy lost to Oliver Baczala (Do) 3-15
Boys Doubles (Alternate)	Semi-final	Ryan McCarthy/Matthew McCloskey lost to Philip Fenner (Sx)/Jason Lai (Ca) 10-21
	Final	James Head/Daniel Regan beat Philip Fenner/ Jason Lai 21-17
Girls Singles (Grade 2)	Semi-final	Emily Westwood lost to Hayley Rogers (Ch) 5-11, 5-11
Girls Doubles (Main)	Runner-up	Laura Baker (Ha)/ Emily Westwood
Girls Doubles (Alternate)	Semi-final	Kate Herring/Ying Yi Tee lost to Abigail Scarlet (Du).Cassie Hall (Bk) 7-21

From the editor: Thanks to Marion Conway, Lucy Wheeler, Mark and Isabelle Sadler, Pat Walker, Tony Clarke, Matthew McCloskey, Jeff and Carla Regan for their contributions. Thanks too, to Carla Regan and Chris Sadler for the photographs. As space is a little short in the newsletters these days -and time is also at a premium - I hope, at the end of the season, to do a few separate pages of photographs as a reminder (and keepsake for scrapbooks!) of who won what!!

Closing date for items for the next newsletter is **Thursday, April 14** .

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