

forced to retire shortly afterwards. A determined and characterful performance which impressed all who saw it.

The final round of matches was the level doubles, and again all 4 boys' matches were very close three

setters, but a slightly more experienced Sussex team was able to convert 3 of them. Dale and Michael picked up Herts' only victory. In the girls doubles, the results were more one-sided in Sussex's favour, but Kirsty Southey and Alex again put up a good early fight against stronger and taller opponents.

Overall 15-5 to Sussex means Herts certainly have room to improve, but with 7 narrow defeats in that scoreline, the focus for the future is on grabbing opportunities more than on any lack of competitiveness.

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H.S.B.A. Tournament Reports

U13 Mixed Doubles

Renu Dhall-Chopra (Lordship Farm Primary School)

On December 21st, 28 players from all over Hertfordshire came to the Hertfordshire Sports Village to compete for the gold medal in the U13 Mixed Doubles. There were 14 pairs in two boxes of five and one of four.

When I arrived, I was frightened to play because there were so many people there, but when I met my partner, William Moss, I felt much better and when we started playing, we won our first game.

There were lots of very hard and close games with Matthew Widdicombe/Isabel Hatt eventually winning our box. The other box winners were Daniel Hatt/Kate Sellars and Steven George/Amy George.

In one semi final Steven/Amy were pushed all the way by Mark Sadler/Lizzie Airey before winning 23-21.

In the other semi final Dan Regan/Georgia Pittson beat Daniel/Kate Sellars

21-18. The winners in the final were Dan/Georgia.

In the plate competition Dale Maddox/Anna Collis proved too strong for all of us and beat Oliver /Rachel Ng in the final.

Results

Final Daniel Regan/Georgia Pittson beat Steven George/Amy George 21-16

Semi-finalists were Mark Sadler/Lizzie Airey and Daniel Hatt/Kate Sellars

Plate Final Dale Maddox/Anna Collis beat Oliver Ng/Rachel Ng 21-16

Under 15 Mixed Doubles

Laura Bygrave (U15 Squad/Fearnhill School)

On a rainy December 21st, fourteen eager under 15s arrived at Hertfordshire Sports Village waiting to find out, who they were going to play. There was a surprise when we arrived; nearly half the pairs had pulled out, meaning that the seven pairs that turned up would all have to play each other in a single box. As there was no plate event and with each match being one game up to 21, we knew that it was do or die and winner take all.

The pairings were as follows: Ryan McCarthy/Isabelle Sadler, Daniel Hatt/Kate Sellars, Mark Sadler/Daniella Farsiani, Edmar Thompson/Grace Moore, Andrei Donko/Charlotte Green, Elliot Miles/Laura Bygrave and Gareth Lumb/Olivia van der Maat.

The games were well fought with some being very close. These included the game between Mark/Daniella and Daniel/Kate which had some great play, with Daniel/Kate just winning 21-18.

Also the game between Edmar/Grace and Gareth/Olivia was a great game to watch - they were neck and neck all the way, until finally Gareth/Olivia just ran out as winners by 21-18.

The final result was in doubt right up until the last game where Ryan/Isabelle overcame Elliott/ Laura 21-10.

This result meant that Ryan/Isabelle were overall winners, having won all of their games, with Elliott/Laura in the runners up spot and third place going to Andrei/Charlotte.

Overall, it was a great day; everyone played well and had lots of fun.

Results

Winners

Ryan McCarthy / Isabelle Sadler

Runners-up	Elliott Miles / Laura McCarthy
3rd	Andrei Donko / Charlotte Gawley Green
4th	Daniel Hatt / Kate Sellars
5th	Mark Sadler / Daniella Farsiani
6th	Gareth Lumb / Olivia van der Maat
7th	Edmar Thompson / Grace Moore

U18 Mixed Doubles

Lauren Crichton (U17 Squad/Queenswood School)

2006's U18 Mixed Doubles tournament may have been small, with an entry of only 11 pairs, but that by no means heeded the positive atmosphere which was certainly full of Christmas spirit, due to the adornments of tinsel on trainers and winter hats on court!

In Box A, Charlotte Willis/James Reynolds won all their five matches, going through as the first pair into the main draw. Close behind were partners Arjun Shah/Laura Bygrave winning four of their five matches, narrowly missing out against Charlotte/James, with a close score of 21-16.

Matthew Westwood/Rachel Warnes came through as the top pair in Box B and were involved in some exciting matches along the way, beating Alex Regan/Cat MacKenzie 21-18 and Ben Vranjkovic/Lauren Crichton 21-15.

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As there were only two boxes the main event moved straight to the semi-finals, where James/ Charlotte beat Ben/Lauren 21-14, securing a place in the final. Their final competition was to be Arjun/Laura, who beat Matt/Rachel in a tense match, ending 21-12.

The plate event provided equal entertainment, with Ryan McCarthy/Isabelle Sadler beating Ben Goodson/Eleanor Golland in the semis with an impressive score of 21-2. George Moss/Rosie Furze then narrowly beat Alex Regan/Cat MacKenzie with a very close score of 21-19, to secure their place in the plate final. However, Ryan/Isabelle went on to win the plate convincingly.

The main event certainly did not disappoint spectators, as some impressive mixed doubles was played between Arjun/Laura and James/Charlotte in a tense final. The match ended with James/ Charlotte winning the title; congratulations!

Results

Final James Reynolds/Charlotte Willis beat Arjun Shah/Laura Bygrave 21-17
Semi-finalists were Ben Vranjkovic/Lauren Crichton and Matthew Westwood/Rachel Warnes

Plate Final Ryan McCarthy/Isabelle Sadler beat George Moss/Rosie Furze 21-6

Senior Schools Competition

The U18 Mixed Doubles signalled the final round of the U18 section. At this stage, the U15 competition has also finished and the U13s have one more round to go. The results are below:

U18 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	100
2	Chancellor's	91
3	Hitchin Boys	64
4	St Albans	54
5	John Henry Newman	42
6	Dame Alice Owen	21
7	Freman College	16
7	Heathcote	16
9	Richard Hale	6

U18 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	181
2	Presdales	51
3	Fearnhill	49
4	Heathcote	32
4	Royal Masonic	32
5	Queenswood	29
6	Dame Alice Owen	27
7	Chancellor's	6

U15 Boys

1	Chancellor's	125
2	St Albans	109
3	Haberdashers' Aske's	91
4	Fearnhill	76
5	Freman College	61
6	Richard Hale	43
7	John Henry Newman	17
8	Lochinver House	11
9	Knights Templar	6
10	Heathcote	5

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	160
2	Chancellor's	73
3	Fearnhill	70
4	Royal Masonic	45
5	Dame Alice Owen	39
6	Chauncy	24
7	Hitchin Girls	16

U13 Boys (After 3 events)

1	Lochinver House	131
2	Haberdashers' Aske's	112
3	Chancellor's	76
4	St Albans	62
5	Fearnhill	21
5	John Henry Newman	21
7	Dame Alice Owen	20
8	Richard Hale	13
9	Ralph Sadleir	7
10	Knights Templar	3

U13 Girls (After 3 events)

1	Chancellor's	100
2	Dame Alice Owen	75
3	Fearnhill	25
4	St Albans Girls High	4

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Badminton Victory for Herts in Sussex**Angie George**

On Sunday 7th January seven boys and two girls from Hertfordshire took part in the Under 13 Silver Junior Challenge in West Sussex and dominated the event by bringing home gold, silver and bronze in both the singles and doubles events.

In the semi finals Daniel Hatt came head to head with Howard Stobo, beating him to reach the final and leaving Howard with the bronze medal. Daniel then found himself battling with Steven George in the final, the result being gold for Daniel and the silver for Steve. Mark Sadler, Max Hodgkinson, Matthew Widdicombe and David Maughan also took part in the boy's singles event.

In the doubles event Steven/Howard teamed up to take the gold medal in the final against Max/Mark, who had met and beaten the younger third Herts pair, Matthew/David in the semi-final.

The two Hertfordshire girls Amy George and Isabel Hatt played in both the girls singles and doubles events and achieved well considering they are both under 10 players.

The tournament was attended by players from Herts, Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Dorset, Middlesex, Oxford, Kent, Suffolk, Bucks, Berks and West Glamorgan.

Well done everyone an outstanding achievement. You all done Herts proud!!!

Three Rivers and Watford SSP Rackets Festival**Tom Burton**

On Thursday 18th (boys only) and 25th (girls only) January, rackets festivals were held at The Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth for students in school years 7, 8 and 9. The festivals were organised by Partnership Development Manager Chris Hambleton with the help of local teachers and BDO Tom Burton. All students were given the chance to try their hand at both badminton and table tennis, with some great games being played. In all, around 70 students took part with everyone having fun. Flyers detailing local clubs were handed out to all students with the hope that some will continue playing in their leisure time.

More H.S.B.A. Tournaments**U13 Boys 'B' Singles School)****Waz Godin (Dame Alice Owen)**

I arrived to find a very long queue which, by the time I was registered, was out the door. The tournament had nine boxes of five so there were over forty boys. There was a very long time between games but the tournament was very well organised with printed stickers, so there was no trying to read people's hand writing. The tournament went with out stopping, but there weren't enough courts as there were other tournaments going on at the same time and we had only four

courts. Despite that the tournament went really well and was a good event. As normal you played every one in your group, then the top two players went in to the main event and the bottom three players went into the plate. I won 2 games and went into the plate where I lost in the 1st round. Louis Walpole beat James Richardson and William Belfield beat Toby Cooper to get to the semi-final; Conor Bambrick beat Paul Taylor and Marcos Katsantonis beat Oliver Gomar to get to the other semi-finals. The winner of the main event was Marcos who beat Louis. In the plate event the winner was Paul Earle who beat Luke Short with Alex Deeble and Rory McEwan as semi-finalists.

Well done to every one who played and it was a very enjoyable day. And thank you for organising it and I hope all tournaments go like that one did.

Results

Final **Marcos Katsantonis** beat Louis Walpole 21-19
Semi-finalists were William Belfield and Conor Bambrick
Plate Final Paul Earle beat Luke Short 21-16

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U13s Girls 'B' Singles

Shayna Godin (St Giles CE Primary School)

It was a great tournament with some very good players in. There were only 2 boxes but some good games. In the plate event the semi-final games were Summer Winkworth v Ellen Eales and Rabia Warraich v Katie Rowlands. The final was Ellen v Katie which Ellen won.

In the main event we went straight into the semi-final games which were Shayna Godin v Hannah Last and Charlotte Barton v Temi Fajobi. Hannah beat me and Temi beat Charlotte, then went on to beat Hannah in the final. Overall it was an excellent tournament. I had a fun day and met some old friends.

Results

Final **Temi Fajobi** beat Hannah Last 21-9
Semi-finalists were Shayna Godin and Charlotte Barton
Plate Final Ellen Eales beat Katie Rowlands 21-10

U10 Girls and Boys Doubles

Barbara Lewczynska

After having to be cancelled last season due to lack of entries, we were pleased to have one box of seven in the U10 girls competition. All the games were played in great spirit, and many of the results were very close, which gave us some very exiting games. Many thanks to Liz and Gordon who once again organised the bowls hall so well.

Results

Winners

Amy George / Isabel Hatt

Runners-up	Philippa English / Eleanor Fitton
3rd	Hiral Mistry / Henna Warraich
4th	Katie Kirkbride / Hope Tolliday
5th	Megan Bunting / Bethany Inglis
6th	Sophie Duncan / Bethany Kirby
7th	Millie Denman / Poppie Ephgrave

The U10 boys doubles was awash with very excited boys in red shirts, a very impressive entry once again from Wilbury school. Thank you very much Mr Gentry!!!!

With 12 pairs entered, they played in 3 groups of 4, with winners and runners-up going into the main event. In the Plate semi-final Rory Briars and Wesley Chan beat Riley Tolliday/Daniel Wassing to reach the final, while in the other half Timothy Le Couilliard and Stavros Drakou beat Liam Bishton/Austin Ephgrave. Rory/Wesley had an easy win in the final.

In the main event an edge of seat semi between Rishav Shah/Sai Raj Kondan and Corran Goodson/Yash Kejriwal saw the latter pair just squeezing through at 22-20 and, in the other semi, Jack Goode/William Pickworth beat Niklas Freitag/Michael Tomlinson 21-14. A focussed but very friendly final was enjoyed by all spectators, with Corran/Yash getting revenge for their box defeat and taking home the trophy.

Results

Final **Corran Goodson/Yash Kejriwal** beat Jack Goode/William Pickworth 21-17
Semi-finalists were Rishav Shah/Sai Raj Kondan and Niklas Freitag/Michael Tomlinson
Plate Final Rory Briars/Wesley Chan beat Timothy Le Couilliard/Stavros Drakou 21-4

U15 Girls Singles

Ying Yi Tee (U15 Squad/ Royal Masonic School)

The U15 Girls Singles was held on 28th January at Stevenage. Strangely, there were only 8 participants and so, there were only two boxes. In the end, the group winners were Laura Bygrave and myself, and the runners-up were Daniella Farsiani and Isabelle Sadler. The other four girls (Claire Widdicombe, Georgia Pittson, Hayley Ladd, and Hemali Patel) went through to the plate event.

The next round was the semis and Laura played Isabelle while I played Daniella. In the end, it was Laura and I who won and it turned out that we were to play each other, a repeat of last year's final.

It was a hard-fought game and both of us played really well. Eventually, it was Laura who came out on top, with me losing 18-21.

As for the plate event, in the semis Claire beat Hemali, while Georgia narrowly beat Hayley 23-21. In the final, Claire turned out to be the winner.

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Results

Final

Laura Bygrave beat Ying Yi Tee 21-18

Semi-finalists were Isabelle Sadler and Daniella Farsiani

Plate Final

Claire Widdicombe beat Georgia Pittson 21-13

U15 Boys Singles

Matthew McCloskey (U15 squad/Fearnhill School)

This year 28 players turned up at 2 pm on Sunday 28th January for the singles. Split into 6 boxes of 4, the top two from each box would go into the main event and the bottom two into the plate. Within the groups there were some very close games with there being three 21-20 victories but some boxes were more clear cut with both Ryan McCarthy in Box A and Scott Williams in Box F only giving away 13 points. In the plate event semi-finals Richard Gentle won 21-19 against Josh Cooper and Chris Belfield won 21-8 against Chris Pollitt. In the final Richard and Chris played for the second time that day after Richard had narrowly beaten Chris in the group stage but the final wasn't so close, Richard winning comfortably.

In the main event I faced Ryan McCarthy in the semi-final after I had beaten Daniel Hatt and Sahil Shah and Ryan had beaten Iain Robinson. Unfortunately I was outplayed by Ryan who won 21-14. Scott Williams and Elliot Miles, who had both won their other games quite clearly, faced each other in the other semi-final, which Scott won 21-14. The final looked to be a good match and the few spectators that were left weren't disappointed with Ryan beating Scott to become champion.

Results

Final **Ryan McCarthy** beat Scott Williams 21-14

Semi-finalists were Matthew McCloskey and Elliott Miles

Plate Final

Richard Gentle beat Chris Belfield 21-12

U11 Quadrangular Match

Liz Hatt

The first match for the U11 squad was a quadrangular match against Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Essex on 21st January at the Sports Village. The team members were: Anna Collis, Isabel Hatt, Amy George, Laura Monk, Kit Akin, Lyall Daniels, David Maughan and Matthew Widdicombe.

The match against Berkshire saw some conclusive victories for Herts in both boys and girls singles and doubles, with the home team conceding only two games. Despite closer scores in the games against Essex, Herts lost only three games, all of which were very exciting. Against Bucks, there was stronger competition for the boys in the singles. However, the tables were turned in the boys doubles with David/Matthew winning a very exciting game against the Bucks number one pair. Overall, Herts conceded only four games.

After such a fine performance by the home team against all three counties, Herts came first overall, with Bucks second, Essex third and Berkshire fourth. The Herts players are to be congratulated for the strength of their play and great team spirit.

U15 Gold - York

Phil

Westwood

The BE U15 Gold at York was not in Emily's and Helena's early season's plan, but circumstances change. So it was that, after a rough drive up in gale force winds the night before, Saturday morning found us in the calm of the Railway Institute, venue of the famed RIO tournament.

In the absence of the four highest ranked girls, Emily and Helena found themselves seeded one and two in the singles. Sadly, Helena was unable to capitalise, losing in her box in three sets to Durham's rapidly improving Holly Smith, but the remainder of the draw saw the others seeds duly into Sunday's semi-finals: Vikki Primmer(Bk) winning a tight game with Amber Gregory, 22-20, 21-16; Lauren Bromley(St) beating Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour in three sets; Emily with a bye.

In the semis, Emily overcame Lauren, 21-7, 18-21, 21-13, and Holly comfortably beat Vikki in two, setting-up an intriguing final, between a focussed, determined and very much in form Holly and an Emily who usually gives the appearance of trying to do just enough, thereby encouraging her opponent and ensuring the shredding of her supporters nerves. And so it proved. A long first game with hardly a point between them crept agonisingly to resolution. A game point to Emily went begging - and on it went

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teetering to and fro until Emily took it 25-23. And until about half-way through the second, it was the same story. Then Emily pulled ahead to lead by six points, and, although Holly never gave-up, from this point she visibly seemed to accept her chance had gone: Emily winning 21-17.

In the doubles there were close games in all three boxes. Emily/Helena, seeded one, emerged for a place in the final, whilst Amber Gregory (St)/Leah Kellogg (Db) and Harriet Shillito (Yo)/Jess Tandy (Nm) came through to play a semi, the latter winning a long and extremely close three-setter.

The final on Sunday produced another nail-biter, but it was Emily/Helena eventually who took the gold, 21-16, 15-21, 21-18.

The outstanding game of the box rounds in the mixed saw Mark Harrison/Pia Sachdeva (Nm) playing 'out of their skins' to beat 3rd seeds Matthew Nottingham (La)/Harriet Shillito (Yo), 10-21, 21-19, 21-18. They had already survived an epic encounter with Kilgariff/Gilders (Bu) 21-23, 21-19, 21-19, so their progression to Sunday's semi-final was well earned. Helena and Yorkshire's Michael Trusswell won their box and a quarter final against Fowler/Jones (Yo) to set-up a semi against No 1 seeds Emily/Chris Coles (Av). In a tense encounter the established pair, Chris and Emily, just had the edge, winning 21-17, 21-18. Meanwhile, Mark and Pia could not repeat their heroics of the previous day, losing their semi to Edward Thomas (Sy)/Amber Gregory (St).

The final was yet another thriller. Emily/Chris took the first, 21-18, and had match point in the second, but Chris missed an open goal, blasting the 'winning' sitter smash out of the back of the court. Edward/Amber seized the lifeline and took the set 22-20. By now Chris and Emily had each played semi-finals, and three finals, all close games, so it was understandable that they just could not raise themselves for a final push, losing the third 17-21. But the game had been well appreciated by the dedicated few spectators remaining in the hall.

There were no Herts boys. Chris Coles (Av) took the singles title beating Matthew Nottingham (La), and the two paired-up to beat Surrey's Thomas/Daw in the Doubles.

A great venue, friendly company and some truly absorbing play more than made-up for the extended travelling.

U17 Shires League v Notts

Phil Westwood

Sheer drama! Or perhaps Shire drama. A script along the lines would have been rejected as too implausible, right up to the sting in the tail.

The U17 Shires League match versus Nottinghamshire was the clash of the Group B heavyweights. Two traditional big-hitter counties, each perhaps going slightly off-the-boil after some momentous years, eager to show they've 'still got it'. And coming a week after their meeting at the RIO York tournament where Notts edged the tie 8-7, the rematch, in a different format, was always going to be tight. Oh, and the winners would probably win the Group and avoid the possibility of meeting Yorkshire in the first round of the finals, so there was a lot at stake.

On paper, Herts had to be considered the weaker side, and had already suffered a setback, with the withdrawal, from the original line-up, of Helena Lewczynska with an ankle injury.

Under way, then, with the mixed. Charlotte Willis/James Reynolds raised hopes with a sterling win over the Notts No 1 pair. But second pair Emily/Matthew Westwood lost 17-21 in the third; Rhian

Blowers/Oliver Crabb lost 20-22 in the third; and Rachel Warnes/Arjun Shah lost in two, the second being 20-22. It could so easily have been the reverse, but Herts were 3-1 down already: a poor start. And things did not improve with the singles. James suffered a rare defeat, against the Notts No 1, James Biggs, 17-21 in the third, and Luke Donnelly fell, 19-21, 18-21, to George Brook. However Oliver Crabb, playing No 3, ground out a win over Gary Lau and Arjun Shah performed heroics winning a protracted three-setter against Luke Swannack, lifting Herts' hopes again. A pattern was emerging of incredibly close results. But the match score was now 3-5.

Then it was the girls' turn. Charlotte, playing No 2, had a brilliant win over Sam Reynolds, but Emily, giving away three years, lost to Alison Pulford, whilst Rhian Blowers and Laura Bygrave could not match their respective opponents either. Herts were 4-8 down.

So, with the eight doubles to come, Notts needed just another three matches to win the tie and, after dominating the singles, they were beginning to look pretty pleased with the world. The boys 'kicked-off' and Herts perked-up a little as our firsts beat their firsts and our seconds beat their seconds, clawing the match back to 6-8. Then, wonder of wonders, they each won their reverse matches too. Almost unbelievably James/Matthew, Luke/Oliver had brought Herts right back into it. The match was tied, 8-apiece. It was now up to the girls.

Charlotte/Emily lost the first end against Sam Reynolds/Alison Pulford 19-21, and most thought their chance had gone. But they came back to win the second 21-15, and amid shrieks and cheers and exhortations from both sides' supporters, astonishingly they ran away with the third

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21-14. Manager Tony Clarke later said they had beaten "one of the best U17 county pairs in England". Match score 9-8; Herts ahead for the first time.

Not to be outdone in the heroine stakes, second pair Rachel Warnes/Rhian Blowers laid-in to Therese Oliver-Smith/Jess Tandy. They, too, lost the first 19-21 and, based on rankings, this should have been no contest, but the Herts pair played a blinder, coming back to win the next two, 26-24!! 21-18. Herts now held a 10-8 lead, and were assured of at least a draw. Two to go.

Against the Notts first pair, Rachel/Rhian were unable to repeat their feat. So with the match at 10-9 Emily/Charlotte just had to beat the Notts second pair to win the match. But there is no 'just' in matches like this. They scrapped and scrapped, these two pairs, to the very last. With whoops and applause the supporters were going crazy, living every point with them, but with a score-line of 19-21, 21-19 19-21, the Herts duo lost and the match was shared 10-10.

A tremendous all-round team performance from Herts. It says something that at 4-8 down we would have gladly accepted the draw, but in the end it was Herts the more disappointed at losing.

This must have been one of the closest Shires League games on record. Of 46 sets played, only 9 were less than 21-15, and 19 were in fact 21-18 or closer. And in spite of the closeness of the scores and what was at stake, the match was played in the best of spirits on both sides. A privilege to watch.

The Surrey U11 Team Tournament

Hazel Levins (U11 Squad

Manager)

Wednesday 14th February 2007

We set off on a very wet Wednesday morning during half term to take part in the U11 Surrey Team Tournament in Epsom, Surrey. In addition to our Herts team, teams came from Surrey, Essex, Sussex, Kent to take part in the tournament. Each match consisted of 12 games in total - 4 boy's and girl's singles and two boy's and girl's doubles. Our players produced some excellent and exciting games. The boys played well together in the doubles considering that they had very little pre-match practise.

We had a very successful day; the tournament ran fluently and gave little time for the players to sit out in between games.

We played our first match against Essex, which resulted in some very closely contested games and we were pleased to finish the match at 6 games all. Although thanks to some swift addition of points by Jeff Monk, he calculated that in fact we had won by 5 points!!

We continued with a convincing victory over Kent who only managed to take 3 games from us, and we beat Surrey's first and second teams too.

Sussex proved to be a harder challenge. We managed to gain an overall victory, when our girls Isabel and Amy kept us on the edge of our seats before they won the final game of the match with a very close result of 15-14.

Thanks to the excellent team result against a tough Sussex team, we beat them by just one game and thereby won the tournament overall taking the gold medals.

Our thanks must go to Jackie and Alan Cunningham, who organised a thoroughly enjoyable day in Surrey and with hopes that they are able to run the event again next year when we can defend our title.

Match Results

U17 Shires League v Notts - Herts drew with Notts 10-10. The team was: Rhian Blowers, Laura Bygrave, Rachel Warnes, Emily Westwood, Charlotte Willis, Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, James Reynolds, Arjun Shah and Matthew Westwood

U17 Shires League v Norfolk - Herts beat Norfolk 19-1. The team was: Rhian Blowers, Laura Bygrave, Rachel Warnes, Emily Westwood, Charlotte Willis, Ryan McCarthy, James Reynolds, Arjun Shah and Matthew Westwood

U13 Shires League v Cambridgeshire - Herts beat Cambs 19-1. The team was: Lizzie Airey, Jessie Northen, Lexy Richards, Kate Sellars, Mitch Chapman, Steven George, Daniel Hatt, Gareth Lumb and Howard Stobo

U13 Shires League v Norfolk - Herts beat Norfolk 19-1. The team was: Lizzie Airey, Lexy Richards, Kate Sellars, Kirsty Southey, Steven George, Daniel Hatt, Mark Sadler and Howard Stobo

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Tournament Results

U17 Nottinghamshire Open

Girls Doubles Semi-final Steffi Clarke (Yo)/**Helena Lewczynska** lost to Jessica Fletcher/Sarah Milne (Yo) 31-26

U17 Gold - Bristol

Boys Doubles Quarter final **Luke Donnelly**/Adam Rickenbach (Ha) lost to Christ Allen (Yo)/Gary Fox (La) 16-21, 12-21

U17 Silver - East

Girls Singles Semi-final **Charlotte Willis** beat **Helena Lewczynska** 15-4, 10-15, 15-11
Emily Westwood beat Bryony Morris (St) 15-9, 15-3

Final **Charlotte Willis** beat **Emily Westwood** 15-10, 15-9

Girls Doubles Final Rebecca Greenstreet (Ke)/**Charlotte Willis** beat **Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood** 15-10, 15-9

Boys Doubles Final Michael Spencer-Smith (Mx)/**Matthew Westwood** lost to James Collis/Joe Stapleton (Bu) 13-15, 20-21

U15 Nottinghamshire Open

Girls Singles Final **Helena Lewczynska** beat Amber Gregory (St) 31-27

U15 Gold - Milton Keynes

Girls Singles Quarter final **Emily Westwood** lost to Sarah Milne (Yo) 7-21, 15-21

Girls Doubles	Final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood lost to Jess Fletcher/Sarah Milne (Yo) 19-21, 11-21
Mixed Doubles	Quarter final	Kamrun Robinson (Ex)/ Helena Lewczynska lost to Josh Green (IM)/Hayley Rogers (Ch) 18-21, 8-21
	Final	Chris Coles (Av)/ Emily Westwood lost to Philip Aspinall (La)/Jess Fletcher (Yo) 13-21, 22-24
<u>U15 Gold - York</u>		
Girls Singles	Final	Emily Westwood beat Holly Smith (Du) 25-23, 21-17
Girls Doubles	Final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood beat Harriet Shillito (Yo)/Amber Gregory (St) 21-16, 15-21, 21-18
Mixed Doubles	Semi-final	Chris Coles (Av)/ Emily Westwood beat Michael Trusswell (Yo)/ Helena Lewczynska 21-17, 21-18
	Final	Chris Coles/ Emily Westwood lost to Edward Thomas (Sy) /Amber Gregory (St) 21-18, 20-22, 21-17
<u>U15 Silver - East</u>		
Girls Singles	Quarter final	Laura Bygrave lost to Georgia Bland (Sy) 4-15, 3-15
Girls Doubles	Final	Laura Bygrave/Ying Yi Tee lost to Nicola Trafford (Ke)/Cassie Hall (Bk) 13-15, 12-15
Boys Singles	Final	Ryan McCarthy beat Sachin Premji (Mx) w/o
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<u>U15 Bronze - East</u>		
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Kirsten Amey (Sy)/ Claire Widdicombe lost to Rosie McEwing/Jennifer Shelley (Sy) 19-21
<u>U13 Silver - East</u>		
Boys Singles	Final	Daniel Hatt beat Rory McGrane (Dv) 15-7, 15-9
<u>U13 Bronze - East</u>		
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Amy George/Isabel Hatt lost to Rachel Adams/Chelsea Borrow (Sx) 16-21
Boys Singles	Quarter final	Mark Sadler lost to Gavin Lau (Bk) 17-21
Boys Doubles	Semi-final	Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler lost to Gregory Fung/ Kieran Kilgariff (Bu) 18-21
<u>U13 Silver - Sussex</u>		
Boys Singles	Semi-final	Steven George beat Toby Harland (Sy) 21-15, 18-21, 21-12 Daniel Hatt beat Howard Stobo 21-16, 22-20
	Final	Daniel Hatt beat Steven George 21-6, 21-15
Boys Doubles	Semi-final	Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler beat David Maughan/ Matthew Widdicombe 21-11, 21-9 Steven George/Howard Stobo bt Toby Harland (Sy)/ Adam Khimji (Ox) 21-12, 21-12

Final

Steven George/Howard Stobo beat Max Hodgkinson/
Mark Sadler 21-16, 21-10

From the editor:

Thanks to all everyone who contributed articles for this newsletter (aren't e-mails useful on occasion?!) - Tom Burton, Laura Bygrave, Lauren Crichton, Renu Dhall-Chopra, Angie George, Shayna Godin, Waz Godin, Graham Hall, Liz Hatt, Hazel Levins, Barbara Lewczynska, Matthew McCloskey, Ying Yi Tee and Phil Westwood. It's great to see such a long list of names. Please keep sending reports in and persuade others to do so as well. Closing date for items for the next newsletter is **Tuesday, April 17th** .

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Stop press!! Herts U17s beat Suffolk 12-8.

Now that might not look too impressive, but we had FIVE regular team members missing - duty calling elsewhere - and a defeat would have ensured we could not beat Notts to first place. In fact, it would have left a highly unlikely, but very slight, chance of missing out on second, too, and thus a place in the finals. And, as with the Notts game two weeks ago, at one stage even a draw was not assured.

It was 3-1 to Herts after the mixed, and looking good; then 'the wheels fell off'. The boys picked-up just two singles and the girls one. 'All of a sudden' the scores were level: 6-apiece. Going into the doubles then, the team assessment was that a draw was the most likely result, but by no means certain. Oh ye of little faith!!

After the first girls' and first boys' doubles, we were up to 8-6 and more confident of the draw. Now special mention must go to Ben Goodson/Matthew Trott, playing second, who came back from a game down against Suffolk's second pair to give Herts the 'extra' game that not only ensured at least a draw, but made an 11-9 win possible. A short time later, they capped that by beating Suffolk's first pair, 23-21 in the third, and that, together with two further team wins, lifted Herts' overall score to 12-8, and a valuable extra game to weigh in our 'goal difference' trade-off with Notts. Well done team! - Rhian Blowers, Lauren Crichton, Rachel Warnes, Charlotte Willis, Ben Goodson, Arjun Shah, Matthew Trott and Matthew Westwood.