
HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Printed by courtesy of the
Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School



March 2009



H.S.B.A. COUNTY TRIALS for U11 / U13 Squads

U11 - players born in **1999 and later**; U13 - players born in **1997/1998** -
Wednesday, April 22.

Time: **U11 - 5.30 - 7.30 pm**; **U13 - 6 - 8 pm** at the Herts Sports Village.

Please be there to sign in 15 minutes beforehand.

Players will be selected for the squad during the evening. Some players may be asked to return another week for further consideration.

U11 Contact: Sangeeta Dhall 01462 684804

e-mail: sangeeta.d@ntlworld.com

U13 Contact: Duncan or Marion Conway 01707 652061

e-mail: mconway2@sky.com

OR Graham Hall on 07939 105478 (outside office hours only)

e-mail: graham.hall@talk21.com

To be considered for the County Squads ALL PLAYERS MUST ATTEND THE TRIALS FOR THEIR OWN AGE GROUPS

U15 Team Challenge - Regional Round

Alex English (U15 Squad/Queenswood School)

On Saturday November 22, Herts played against five other counties – Essex, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Northamptonshire – to try and qualify for the Team Challenge Final. Herts put out the strongest possible team: Conor Bambrick, Dan Hatt, Howard Stobo, Alex English, Hannah McLaren, Georgia Pittson and Kirsty Southey. (Unfortunately, Mark Sadler had to pull out due to injury). Throughout the day, the team were very supportive of each other and it was very successful.

The format was three mixed doubles, one boys singles, one boys doubles, one girls singles and one girls doubles. Our first match was against Northants, and we won 5-2. We won all three mixed, (1st pair Dan Hatt/Georgia Pittson, 2nd pair Conor Bambrick/Alex English, 3rd pair Howard Stobo/Hannah McLaren) and also the girls singles (Alex English) and the boys doubles (Dan Hatt/Conor Bambrick). Unfortunately, Howard lost his singles, but it was a very close game, and Howard played so well. In the middle of the game, he threw up on court, and still carried on playing afterwards!! He narrowly lost 21-17.

Our second match was against Suffolk which we won comfortably 6-1. Their number 1 boy was George Isherwood, who is a very good player. Conor lost 21-15, which was a very good result and he played really well.

The next match, against Beds, was one of the hardest and if we lost, we probably wouldn't go through, so there was quite a lot of pressure. Dan/Georgia lost very narrowly to their number one mixed pair, 21-20, which was a very good result as their number one boy is really good. Conor & I won ours, but unfortunately, Howard/Kirsty lost theirs. This made the score 2-1 to Beds. We then played the doubles. Dan/Howard won quite comfortably, which took the score to 2-2. The girls doubles was a very close game, but Kirsty/Georgia finally won, taking the score to 3-2 in Herts favour. Conor was most probably not going to win his singles against one of the top players in the country, so it was down to me to win the girls singles so that we could win the match. In the Shires League Match against Beds, I lost to this girl in three sets, so I really hoped I could win this for the county. The final score in our game was 21-8 to me, and I was really pleased with the result, and the rest of the team were very supportive while I was playing. The final score in the match was 4-3 to Herts, which was a great result.

Our fourth match was against Norfolk, and we won 6-1. Hannah played in the girls singles, and played really well, but the Norfolk girl was too good. The final score was 21-10.

Our last match was against Essex. Herts and Essex had won all their games, so this match would decide between first and second place. We played the mixed first, and we won two out of the three, Howard/Kirsty losing in a very

close game. Dan/Conor won their doubles quite comfortably, but unfortunately Georgia & I lost ours 21-19, which wasn't a bad result. Their number one girl is an England player, and Kirsty played really well, but lost 21-3. The score was now 3-3, and it could go either way. Now all the pressure was on Howard to win his singles. He did so well and won the match for us! This meant that Herts had won all their games, and therefore won the qualifying round!

Now, we go through to the Team Challenge Final in February, having won our group, which means we will get a good draw. Well done to all the team, everyone played so well and we all supported each other. Thank you to Hitesh, John and Tony for supporting us on the day and being really great coaches.

U15 Team Challenge Final

Hitesh Shah (U15 Team Manager)

In the regional round way back in November 2008 at Brandon in Suffolk, Herts U15 team took first place and qualified to get into the final of the Team Challenge. Normally the Team Challenge takes place at Luton Regional Sports Centre, but this time, on Saturday February 28, it took place at our home ground, the Herts Sports Village in Hatfield.

The twelve best teams from the qualifying rounds were split into two groups and we were in the A group with Warwickshire, Avon, Yorkshire, Surrey and Ulster. The format of play was three mixed doubles, one boys and girls singles and one boys and girls doubles, making a total of seven games.

The Herts team was: Conor Bambrick, Daniel Hatt, Dale Maddox, Howard Stobo, Alex English, Hannah McLaren, Georgia Pittson and Kirsty Southey.

In the first match we were up against Yorkshire and thought that we would lose against them. But yes we beat them 5-2. The second match was against the Ulster team. We did not know much about their players, but we tried hard against them - and lost 2-5. The third game was against Avon and we won very easily 6-1. The fourth game, against Surrey, was very close. It was all down to the final game and we lost 3-4 overall. The last county we played was Warwickshire, by far the strongest county and they thrashed us 6-1.

As we came fourth in the group, we ended up in group 2 playing for places 5 - 8. Surrey was also in our group as they finished third. We did not have to play them again as their match against us was carried forward. The other counties in this second group were Buckinghamshire and Essex.

We played Bucks first and beat them 4-3. Next we were against Essex and we lost 2-5. We thought that we were in seventh place at least, but Bucks, Essex and Surrey were ahead in games and we had to take eighth place.

John and I thoroughly enjoyed the day as team managers. Looking at the players from other counties, we are not far off. Well done to all the players who worked very hard.

The Rio Tournament

Pat Walker (U17 Assistant Manager)

The weekend of January 17/18 was the U17s annual trip to RIO. This is the invitation tournament hosted by Yorkshire and held at the Railway Institute in York.

It was an early start on Saturday morning, meeting at Stevenage in time for the 6.50 am train. In true Westwood tradition, Emily was the last to arrive and we were on our way, enjoying the relaxing two hour train journey.

We arrived at the sports hall in plenty of time for a good warm up in preparation for a long day's play. It was about this time that Elliott remembered his shorts were on the radiator at home.

Three matches later and the team were enjoying the early evening fresh air on the walk to the Wheatlands Lodge Hotel for a roast beef dinner. Then it was disco time, where the heat proved too much for Elliott's shirt. Ryan's hot moves impressed Sophie from Yorkshire and Emily from Bucks, but that may be just rumour. While most of us settled down for a good night's sleep, Ryan helped Andrei reconstruct his collapsed bed.

Sunday morning and up at 7.30 when Dan and Elliott had to shower in the dark and Ying took the fast and unorthodox descent from the top bunk. Isabelle displayed accuracy in throwing involving tissues, milk, an open window and Lothian.

Back to the sports hall for 2 more matches and Scott led the team in some new chanting compositions: 'Faaaarsiani', 'Yingyitee, Yingyitee', 'Dan, Dan, Superdan. If he can't do it no-one can', 'He's big, he's red, his feet stick out the bed – McCarthy!' and the classic 'Tony - the tiger' to name but a few.

After the badminton came the presentations when Elliott received a nomination for the 'style' award (or was it lack of) and both Elliott and Andrei received nominations for good sportsmanship.

Then it was time for showers and the team waited patiently for Laura to eventually emerge from the changing rooms with the scars on her finger from an unfortunate encounter with her hair straighteners.

All too soon we were on the train heading back to Stevenage. While Matt tried in vain to quietly enjoy some highly dubious reading material, Dan practiced his on phone heavy breathing. This may or may not have impressed Helena.

And Daniella? Thank goodness for some sanity in the team. Or did I miss something?

And now the badminton.

The Herts team:

Matt McCloskey (capt), Andrei Donko, Dan Hatt, Ryan McCarthy, Elliott Miles and Scott Williams

Ying Yi Tee (capt), Laura Bygrave, Daniella Farsiani, Helena Lewczynska, Isabelle Sadler and Emily Westwood

There were eight strong counties taking part in RIO and the Herts team had to play some very hard games. They all rose to the occasion.

Our first match was against Lancashire which was a nail-biting 8-7 win to Herts; then another win for Herts 11-4 against Bucks. The 3rd match on the Saturday was against the number 1 seeds Yorkshire who won 10-5. Herts games won were 2 boys singles, 2 girls singles and one boys doubles and those 5 games gave Herts the best score of the tournament against Yorks. The end of the first day's play and Herts were in the top 4. Sunday morning's match was against the number 2 seeds Surrey, where the Herts girls managed a clean sweep with all 3 singles and all 3 doubles but the Surrey boys were too strong and Surrey won the match 9-6. Sunday afternoon and Herts beat Notts 10-5.

The final result: 1 -Yorks; 2 - Surrey; 3 - Herts

Tony, Colin and I would like to thank each and every member of the team for making our weekend so enjoyable.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U11 Girls Doubles

**Ellie Makewell (Lodge Farm Junior School) /
Aimee Hodgkinson (Sherrardswood School)**

Eight pairs that took part in the U11 girls doubles. It was a hard day filled with fun. There were two boxes of four, me (Ellie)/Lia Willis came first in our box. Jessica Marshall/Madeline Powell came second in the box. Keya Patani/Sophie Vernon won the other box and Paige Taylor/Leah Tomlin came second.

In the final we played against Keya Patani/Sophie Vernon and won.

In the plate Emily Clarke/me (Ames) played Emma Cole/Alice Ashbrook and we won.

Thank you to the helpers who organized the tournaments.

Final: **Ellie Makewell/Lia Willis** beat Keya Patani/Sophie Vernon 21-15
Semi-finalists were Paige Taylor/Leah Tomlin and Jessica Marshall/Madeline Powell

Plate Final: Emily Clarke/Aimee Hodgkinson beat Alice Ashbrook/Emma Cole 21-9

U11 Boys Doubles

Barbara Lewczynska

The U11 boys doubles saw twelve pairs battle it out for the 08/09 title. There was a fine turn out from Norton St Nicholas and Westbury Schools, with Knebworth, Boxmoor, Purwell, Lochinver, Green Lanes, Duncombe, Ladbrooke, and The Ryde school also fielding entrants. In the main event Andrew Baird/Mathew Livesey survived a heart stoppingly close semi-final, 22-20, against Henry Wood/Kavit Borkhataria, after which the final proved to be one bridge too far, and they were narrowly defeated by Sam Newlove/Zach Daniels, who are the 2008/2009 champions.

In the plate event William Butler/Max Titterton had a fairly easy run through to the final where they played Jamie Willis/Matthew Harden and getting a comfortable win.

Final: **Zach Daniels/Sam Newlove** beat Andrew Baird/Matthew Livesey 21-18
Semi-finalists were Kavit Borkhataria/Henry Wood and Rajan Lal/Joseph Pridmore
Plate final: William Butler/Max Titterton beat Matthew Harden/Jamie Willis 21-9

U15 Girls Singles

**Hannah McLaren, Georgia Pittson, Alex English
(U15 Squad - various schools)**

On the January 25, the girls participated in the U15 Girls singles tournament. Unfortunately the entry was small, with only eight girls divided between two boxes. The girls were Alex English, Reena Tarkhala, Pui Yi Tam, Sarah Morley, Georgia Pittson, Hannah McLaren, Eleanor Oakley, and Renu Dhall-Chopra. One of the closest games in the boxes was between Hannah and Georgia, with Georgia narrowly winning 21-17, however both still got through to the main event, along with Alex and Pui Yi.

The first game played was Alex and Hannah in the semi-finals. Next game to be played in the main was Georgia and Pui Yi. Alex and Hannah played a fantastic game, and the final score was Alex winning 21-8. Georgia and Pui Yi had a tough game with Georgia winning 21-14.

In the plate event, both semis were close with Reena and Renu through to the final which Renu won.

In the final of the main event, the two best friends battled for the title, and it was a close, tough and tiring match. But Alex came out on top with a very narrow win.

Everyone played to the best of their ability and enjoyed the day.

Final: **Alex English** beat Georgia Pittson 21-19
Semi-finalists were Hannah McLaren and Pui Yi Tam
Plate Final: Renu Dhall-Chopra beat Reena Tarkhala 21-15

U15 Boys Singles

Barbara Lewczynska

In the U15 boys singles, there were 35 boys in eight boxes from a good spread of schools. There were no real surprises in the main event, with most of the county squad getting through but congratulations must go to Louis Walpole and Marcus Katsantonis, from St Albans School who also won a place in the main event. In the semi finals Conor Bambrick beat Junsong Clarke in a close 21-18 match, and even closer the other semi final which saw Mark Sadler just pipping Dale Maddox 22-20.

It wasn't going to get any easier in the final either, where Mark won a very close match.

In the Plate event, Oliver Ng, Christian Farrugia, Vincent Chan and George Dobson, made it to the semis, but it was Oliver and Vincent in the final, with Oliver beating his fellow pupil from St Albans School.

Final: **Mark Sadler** beat Conor Bambrick 22-20
Semi-finalists were Dale Maddox and Junsong Clarke
Plate Final: Oliver Ng beat Vincent Chan 21-12

U17 News Round Up

Kent Bronze U17 - Tom Dion-Fehily reached the singles semi finals

Bedfordshire Bronze U17 - Heather Myers/Claire Widdicombe reached the doubles semi finals.

Nottinghamshire Silver U17 - Andrei Donko and Elliott Miles both reached the singles semi finals.
Isabelle Sadler/Elliott Miles and Daniella Farsiani/Andrei Donko reached the mixed semi finals

Wycombe Silver U17 - Scott Williams/Matt McCloskey finished runners up in the doubles

Bristol Gold U17 - Helena Lewczynska won the singles and reached the semi finals in the mixed
Emily Westwood was runner up in the singles, won the doubles and reached the quarter finals in the mixed

U17 Gold - Ryan McCarthy reached the quarter finals in the singles, but where was the tournament, Ryan?

York Gold U17 - Emily Westwood was runner up in the doubles and reached the semi finals in both the singles and the mixed

Milton Keynes Gold U17 - Emily Westwood won the singles, finished runner up in the doubles and reached the semi finals in the mixed

Carlton International Youth Tournament, Hoensbroek, Holland - Helena reached the quarter finals of both the ladies doubles and the mixed

U17 Quad International (Loughborough) - Emily Westwood was runner up in the singles and reached the semi finals in the doubles and the mixed.

ICC Premier A - Emily Westwood has been playing in Herts Senior County first team

ICC Premier B - Helena Lewczynska and Ryan McCarthy have both been playing for the Herts Senior County 2nd team.

U17 Team Events

Shires League matches: Herts 20 Norfolk 0 Herts 18 Suffolk 2
Herts 18 Northants 2 Herts 8 Bucks 12

Congratulations to all the U17 players who have achieved good results for themselves in the tournaments and matches

U15 Shires League Matches: Herts 13 Lincolnshire 7 Herts 18 Suffolk 2
Herts 18 Northants 2

Friendly Matches: Herts B 9 Surrey B 18 Herts B 34 Oxfordshire 2
Herts v Northants cancelled due to bad weather conditions

International Badminton Tournament - Biarritz

February saw the International Youth Tournament hosted in Biarritz, South of France, in which HSBA competed for the first time. Young players from France and neighbouring Spain were joined by a small group representing Hertfordshire comprising just five players – John Elms, Howard Stobo, Renu Dhall-Chopra, Laura Bygrave, and Ying Yi Tee.

The tournament was staged at the Haitz Sports Centre in the Anglet area of Biarritz. Altogether there were 78 players from 15 different clubs and more than 62 hours of play over two long days.

Despite the small representation, a handful of trophies were won in both the singles and doubles matches by the HSBA team: singles and doubles triumphs for John in the U17 event, singles for Laura and doubles for her and Ying, again in U17's. One match was particularly tough and lasted 59 minutes, thanks to Howard and Enrique

This is the first time that HSBA has been invited to play in this tournament and members of the opposing teams made us all very welcome. A Saturday night out at a local Pizzeria was enjoyed by 35 people from the different nationalities and was followed by a tour of the area, including the lighthouse

A special thank you to John Stobo and his counterpart, Denis Marqué, for getting together and making this happen – well done.

Hopefully this could become a regular event on the HSBA calendar.

Hatfield Bronze Badminton Festival

Paul Widdicombe

Held at Birchwood Leisure Centre in Hatfield from Monday 18 to Friday 20 February and part of the Badminton England bronze junior calendar, this pilot event attracted 230 competitors over the week from all over England, including ninety players from Hertfordshire.

“We were highly delighted with the support for this new event and the quality of players it attracted with over six hundred matches being played over the week,” said Tournament Secretary Alison Widdicombe.

Herts players contested in the later stages of several of the events but only one local player, Cayleigh Bambrick, won her event. Cayleigh, from Stevenage, won the under 13 girls singles defeating Frances Penney from Berkshire in the final. Cayleigh also reached the girls doubles final with Ellie Makewell, also from Stevenage, but went down 21-16 in a fiercely contested match against Harriett Brecknock/Laura Pickard from Cambridgeshire.

In the under 17 boys singles event Conor Bambrick, brother of Cayleigh, came through his group and right through to the semi-finals before going out 21-17 to eventual winner Alex Munns from Northamptonshire. Only one other Herts player made it to the knockout stages - Matthew Widdicombe (age 12) from Great Amwell. In the doubles event, Ross Barnes, Watford, and partner Ian Robinson, Bayford, progressed to the semi-finals.

The largest of all the events was the under 15 boys singles, with a quality entry of 48 boys. Under 15 county squad player Steven Barnes from Stevenage showed just how much he has improved in the last year making it all the way through to the final. With six tough matches under his belt the final was, perhaps, one game too far. Nevertheless, he must be very proud of his achievement going down to Ronak Shah from Middlesex. a very talented player.

The under 13 boys singles saw Hatfield's Thomas Latter come through his group before losing to eventual winner, Henry Skinner from Kent, in the knock-out stages.

The under 11 boys and girls events attracted a quality entry from all corners of the country, giving the local players a real feel of what to expect in future years on the badminton circuit. Holly Garret from Bucks took the girls singles and Adam Lam, Sussex, the boys' event.

The under 15 and under 17 girls events were also dominated by players from outside the county. Although they all battled well, no player came through to the knock-out stages in either the singles of doubles.

Center Parks National Schools Championships

The first round of this competition was played early in December, with 94 teams from 33 different schools competing in 6 areas of Hertfordshire. The area winners went on to play in the county round in Stevenage in January, where Hitchin Boys and Chancellor's girls won the younger age group competition. The older age group was won by Chancellor's boys and Queenswood girls. These teams went on to play in the regional round in Cambridge in February.

The Chancellor's Year 10/11 team of Nick Barnett, Ben Lau, Ryan McCarthy and Daniel Regan, played teams from Bedford Modern (Beds), Taverham (Norfolk), Thomas Deacon (Cambridgeshire) and Colchester (Essex). They finished in 2nd place behind Colchester, just missing out on a place in the final. Hitchin Boys finished 3rd in their group and Queenswood finished 4th in theirs.

Chancellor's Year 9 girls team of Chloe Bungey, Olivia van der Maat, Jessie Northen and Georgia Pittson played against Davenant (Essex), Thorpe (Norfolk), Van Dyke Upper (Beds), Thomas Deacon (Cambridgeshire) and Lothingland (Suffolk). The Year 9 girls finished in first place and go through to the finals for the second year in succession. Last year they finished equal 3rd - this year, who knows?!

Hertfordshire win U12 Eastern Region Team Tournament

Graham Hall

Herts team successfully defended the Eastern Region U12 team challenge which they won a year ago at Manningtree in Essex.

The day went like this...

This year's tournament was held in Herts, at Wodson Park (Ware). There were only 4 teams – Bedfordshire had failed to field a team, as, uncharacteristically, so had Essex.

Consequently the tournament was extended to 2 games to 21 in each rubber. Whilst this may seem odd, (it can produce a drawn rubber) it does have the benefit of encouraging players to concentrate on starting well – losing the first game means the best they can get is a draw. Everyone plays a singles to make 6 rubbers, and then there is a boys doubles, a girls doubles and a mixed – 9 rubbers in total.

The established pairing of Jack Goode and William Pickworth played doubles together all day, whilst the mixed and girls pairs were rotated through the event to evaluate partnerships for next season. Hertfordshire won easily against Cambridgeshire in the first match, 8-0 plus a walkover. Norfolk were a stronger side, drawing a couple of rubbers, but the result 8 – 1 never really looked in doubt. Suffolk therefore was effectively the final – this was quite a tight match with 2 draws. However, Herts had strength in depth and came through to win 7 – 2 overall, and thus the championship.

Everybody played well to win the event, and notable performances included:

Mohammed Khaku and Ellie Makewell played consistently well all day and won all their games

Isabel Hatt's cool head throughout, demolishing all but one singles opponents and adapting to various doubles partners to deliver a near 100% record.

William Pickworth's use of height and power to control his singles matches.

Jack Goode's fight back to rescue a draw, after losing the first game against a tough Suffolk opponent in the singles.

Eleanor Fitton's fight against a silver graded Suffolk singles opponent in the best game of the day - giving the opponent a big fright by almost taking the first game, and then holding on for a large part of the second game.

Our 2009 team was – Isabel Hatt, (a veteran from the victorious 2008 team) Eleanor Fitton, Ellie Makewell, Mohammed Khaku, Jack Goode and William Pickworth.

Last HSBA Tournaments

Barbara Lewczynska

One hundred and thirty two entrants competed in the last HSBA tournament of the season at Stevenage Leisure Centre. It was a long day, especially for the under 10's, but they showed great staying power.

U10 tournament

A bumper entry for the U10 boys singles saw a large main event competition, with Lochinver House providing us with two semi-finalists (Joshua Radin-Grant & Freddie Morris). But it was Zach Daniels in a tightly contested final, who came out on top beating Austin Ephgrave in the final. In an equally full plate event, Charlie Hall just pipped Jack Kelly to the winners spot.

Final: Zach Daniels beat Austin Ephgrave 21-19

Semi-finalists were Joshua Radin-Grant and Freddie Morris

Plate final: Charlie Hall beat Jack Kelly 21-18

In the girls competition three boxes of five saw a smaller but no less exiting event with Sophie Vernon coming up trumps as the U10 2008/2009 champion, and Jessica Marshall winning the Plate competition.

Final: Sophie Vernon beat Keya Patani 21-17
Semi-finalists were Ellen Jennings and Leah Tomlin
Plate final: Jessica Marshall beat Georgina Sear 21-11

Then apparently all the boys must have gone home!!! Because the U10 boys doubles was down to nine pairs. However some very close scores in the first part of the event saw them all kept on their toes, and with some extremely strong competition from schools such as Norton St Nicholas, Sherrardswood and Aston St Mary's, the main event was won by Austin Ephgrave (Wilbury) and Max Titterton (Purwell) and the Plate by Jack Kelly and Lucas Martingdale (Aston St Mary's)

Final: Austin Ephgrave/Max Titterton beat James Cubin/Freddie Morris 21-8
Semi-finalists were Zach Daniels/Rees Clarke and Haani Hussain/Charlie Hall
Plate final: Jack Kelly/Lucas Martingdale beat Alex Bull/Elliot Powell 22-20

The girls waited patiently for their doubles event to get started, not quite as scheduled, but the U13's had just finished and the games then started to whiz by. Another impressive girls entry from Norton St Nicholas and Sherrardswood, saw two NSN girls win the plate event (Bethan Hill/Madeline Powell), and Sophie Vernon take home yet another pice of silverware in the form of the U10 trophy which she won with partner Ellen Jennings.

Final: Sophie Vernon/Ellen Jennings beat Leah Tomlin/Paige Taylor 21-14
Semi finalists were Ellen King/Melissa Drake and Hope Cracknell/Lauren Wilson
Plate final: Bethan Hill/Madeline Powell beat Andi Mawson/Kathryn Evans 21-11

U13 Tournament

The U13 Boys singles saw a major increase in numbers from last year, a great success. In the main event four county players won a place in the semis with Matthew Widdicombe coming out as the eventual winner over Lyall Daniels, and in the plate Daniel Sweetnam beat Alasdair De Costa.

Final: Matthew Widdicombe beat Lyall Daniels 21-14
Semi-finalists were James Sweetnam and David Maughan
Plate final: Daniel Sweetnam beat Alasdair De Costa 21-16

The girls event with six boxes saw a bumper entry from Sherrardswood and a welcome return by Queenswood as well as all of the usual suspects. Isabel Hatt and Renu Dhall-Chopra battled it out in the main event final, with Isabel taking home the silverware, and in the plate Zoe Taylor beat Libby Jennings.

Final: Isabel Hatt beat Renu Dhall-Chopra 21-11
Semi finalists were Cayleigh Bambrick and Ellie Makewell
Plate final: Zoe Taylor beat Libby Jennings 21-14.

Many many thanks once again to all of our volunteer helpers who, instead of enjoying the wonderful (nearly summer like) weather outside, chose to stay in a badminton hall all day (sounds familiar anyone??) - Ash, Nicky and Neil Bambrick, Sanjay, Alison, Kim (and Kim's mum Margaret) , Geoff and Caz Daniels, Cayleigh and Conor (great raffle ticket sellers) and all our raffle donators. Thanks a million. Enjoy the summer!!!

Senior Schools Competition

With the end of the tournaments comes the end of the senior schools competition. The points have been added up and positions decided. At U13 there was no real contest in the boys - Haberdashers' Aske's with 29 players were obviously going to gain lots of points and they amassed a huge total of 202. St Albans were second and Sherrardswood, with a late run, very nearly overtook them. St Albans Girls High had a thirty point lead over their nearest rivals, Ralph Sadler, who took the runner-up trophy for the first time.

At U15 St Albans were the runaway winners in the boys competition with Chancellor's in 2nd place and Sherrardswood again in 3rd. The girls competition was won by Chancellor's - having been in the lead right from the start - with St Francis College in 2nd place. It is only schools that are affiliated to HSBA that count in this competition, but if other schools were in the equation, some of the results would be somewhat different. Maybe next year

The winners and runners-up will receive trophies for the schools and certificates for the players.

The final tables are as follows:

U15 Boys

1	St Albans	199
2	Chancellor's	72
3	Sherrardswood	57
4	Hitchin Boys	37
5	Richard Hale	33
6	Haberdashers' Aske's	31
7	Mount Grace	11
8	Parmiters	5

U15 Girls

1	Chancellor's	99
2	St Francis College	73
3	Queenswood	51
4	St Albans Girls High	38
5	Mount Grace	24
6	Watford Girls Grammar	13
7	Presdales	12

U13 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	202
2	St Albans	99
3	Sherrardswood	92
4	Lochinver House	75
5	Richard Hale	63
6	Hitchin Boys	52
7	Parmiters	25
8	Ralph Sadler	20
9	Chancellor's	9

U13 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	89
2	Ralph Sadler	59
3	Watford Girls Grammar	46
4	Sherrardswood	37
5	Mount Grace	25
6	Queenswood	22
7	Chancellor's	8

U14 Eastern Region Tournament

Hitesh Shah (U15 Team Manager)

The U14 Eastern Region Tournament took place in January at St Neots in Cambridgeshire, the same day as an U15 Shires league match and the Avon U15 Invitation doubles. The team of mainly U13 players was: Lyall Daniels, David Maughan, Matthew Widdicombe, Anna Collis, Isabel Hatt and Pui Yi Tam. We were up against teams from Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex. Bedfordshire did not turn up so the format was changed to three mixed doubles, three boys and girls singles and three boys and girls doubles - a total of 15 games per match.

First we played Suffolk. The whole team performed so well that we beat them 15-0. Next it was Cambridge - we won two mixed, one boys singles and 2 girls singles. We were ahead by 1 game, but the team played so well in the doubles - winning all 6 games - that we won 11-4.

The last county was Essex and the games are always close. This time we lost two mixed, but took two boys and two girls singles which put us ahead by 1 game. The doubles were all very close and hard fought. The boys scores were: won 23-21, lost 27-29, won 21-14; the girls lost the first two games 17 21 and 15-21 and it all depended on the last game which Herts won 23-21. So we came home with the gold medals. Well done Herts U13 team.

Primary Schools Team Tournament

Megan Lumb

Having thought that I had totally retired from anything to do with tournaments, I found myself at Stevenage Leisure Centre on Sunday, March 1 standing in for Graham Hall, who was otherwise engaged with the U13 squad at the National Team Challenge final at the Herts Sports Village. Luckily I didn't have to be there for the coaching at 9.30 am - that would have been a definite no - no! But 10.30 am was just about right. The paperwork was all done so all I had to do was make sure all the players had checked in via their teachers/coaches and leave Barbara Lewczynska to get play under way.

Quite a number of children had turned up for the coaching session taking place before the tournament and when I arrived there seemed to be hundreds of them (bit of an exaggeration) both on court and around the hall. However, they all sorted themselves out, the few that hadn't been to the coaching arrived and the tournament got under way.

There were teams from 7 schools, plus one team from 2 schools and an invitation team from Rally Point Academy. After the withdrawal of 1 boys team from Lochinver, there were a total of 14 boys teams and 7 girls teams. The girls played in one big group and the winners were Rally Point Academy with girls from 3 different schools. Little Heath were in 2nd place and took the school trophy.

The boys played the first round in two groups of five and one group of four. Knebworth School were unlucky to be on the wrong end of a 3-way tie with Lochinver and Little Heath. The team beat Lochinver but lost to Little Heath and it was all down to points, with Ladbrooke 2 and St Andrews 2 in 4th and 5th places.

Norton St Nicholas 1 won the first group decisively against opposition from Ladbrooke 3, Rally Point Academy, St Andrews 1 and Wilbury/Westbury 2. The third group was won by Ladbrooke 1 (not bad after just 5 weeks of badminton) against Norton St Nicholas 2, Aston St Mary's and Wilbury/Westbury 1.

In the second round, the winners of these groups played each other for positions 1-3. The runners-up played for positions 5-8 and so on. Ladbrooke 1 were unable to cope with the strong opposition and finished in 3rd place, with Lochinver in first place and Norton St Nicholas 1 in 2nd. Knebworth finished in 4th place and were unlucky to be out of the medals.

The combined positions of schools with both boys and girls teams were added together giving the combined championship to Norton St Nicholas 1.

A fairly hectic day, but thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. And, yes, I was tired and have gone back into retirement again!!

Results

	<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>
1	Lochinver House	1	Rally Point Academy
2	Norton St Nicholas 1	2	Little Heath
3	Ladbrooke 1	3	Norton St Nicholas 1
4	Knebworth	4	Wilbury/Westbury
5	Wilbury/Westbury 2	5	Norton St Nicholas 2
6	Norton St Nicholas 2	6	Ladbrooke 2
7	Rally Point Academy	7	Ladbrooke 1
8	Little Heath		
9	St Andrews Much Hadham 1		
10	Westbury / Wilbury 1		
11	Ladbrooke 2		
12	St Andrews Much Hadham 2		
13	Aston St Mary's		
14	Ladbrooke 3		

Combined

1	Norton St Nicholas 1
2)	Rally Point Academy
2)	Little Heath
4	Ladbrooke 1
5	Norton St Nicholas 2
6	Wilbury / Westbury 1
7	Ladbrooke 2

Silver Medals at National Team Challenge Final

Graham Hall

Sunday, March 1 2009

Hertfordshire U13s achieved their strongest Team Challenge result for many years when they came 2nd in the National finals, held at Herts Sports Village this year.

The story went like this:

The team had qualified with a clean sweep of the eastern section at Mildenhall in November, which gives a small advantage as one of the 6 regional winners.

Herts won the first match 6-0 against Durham. Derbyshire were tougher, and used their best players tactically to take two rubbers, but Herts won the others in straight sets.

Leicestershire were next - a tough opponent recently in the Shires League, but this time Herts were on top, with only a closely fought boys doubles going against us.

At this point, Herts had won all 3 matches. So too had Dorset - now it was crunch time – Herts v Dorset. All 4 singles were epic contests with Anna Collis taking the first girls, beating Lynlette Aung 15-14, 15-14.

Matthew Widdicombe had three long and noisily supported sets against John Spawton, eventually winning the third 15-14. Philippa English won a close first game, and very nearly closed it out in the second against Ciara Lindsay, an opponent well above her in the national rankings.

In the third game, however, experience and more economical footwork gave Ciara an edge, but she had to work for every single point all the same. Meanwhile, David Maughan recovered from a disastrous first game, and determinedly fought through the next two to win the rubber 15-13 in the third. So 2-2 after the singles...

Herts then prevailed in straight sets in both the boys and girls doubles, to seal the victory. Phew!

The neutral spectators enjoyed that Dorset match, but for parents, players and coaches alike, it was exhausting!

In the final group match against Sussex, four of the six rubbers also went to three sets. Despite advice to conserve energy for matches in the next round, our players' pride and determination over-rode this, and the team won out 6-0!

First stage

Hertfordshire 6 Durham 0

Hertfordshire 4 Derbyshire 2

Hertfordshire 5 Leicestershire 1

Hertfordshire 4 Dorset 2

Hertfordshire 6 Sussex 0

Herts had thus won their first stage group (with Dorset second), so went through to play off for places 1 to 4 in the second stage. Ulster and Yorkshire qualified from the other half.

There was a hiccup at this point – Ulster had booked a flight home which was too early, and so had to leave without completing their matches. This gave Herts a walkover victory, but it was a shame not to play that match. Hertfordshire's result against Dorset was carried forward from the first stage, making that win even more significant.

Meanwhile Yorkshire beat Dorset, leaving Herts and Yorkshire unbeaten all day, and now facing each other for the first place play-off.

The girls went first, led by Anna Collis, unbeaten so far, who took on England number 1 Natalie Chan-Lam. Unfortunately Natalie proved too strong and won that rubber. Philippa English again played a girl way above her in the rankings, and lost, but with unrelenting determination.

At the far end of the hall there was another epic match – Izzy Hatt and Cayleigh Bambrick played the best doubles of the day, taking a tight first game 15-14, and then rebounding from Yorkshire's fightback in the second to win the third by a big margin and take what turned out to be Hertfordshire's only rubber.

Matt Widdicombe took his opponent to 3 games, all of them close, but couldn't quite clinch the third. Yorkshire boys then proved too strong for us in the last two matches, finally winning the tie 5-1, and thoroughly deserving their gold medals.

There was great support from mums, dads and others throughout – many thanks from the team and the coaches.

There was great support from mums, dads and others throughout – many thanks from the team and the coaches.

The 2009 Badminton England U13 Team Challenge Silver Medallists are:

Cayleigh Bambrick, Anna Collis, Renu Dhall-Chopra, Philippa English, Isabel Hatt

Lyll Daniels, Mohammed Khaku, David Maughan, James Sweetnam, Matthew Widdicombe

An excellent and characterful performance from Herts all day. Watch Out for this team!

Tournament Results

U19 Derby/Nottinghamshire

Girls Singles

Semi-final: **Helena Lewczynska** lost to L Smith (Cu)

Girls Doubles

Final: **Helena Lewczynska**/Alison Pulford (Nm) lost to L Smith/Alex Langley (Cu/Nm)

Mixed Doubles

Semi-final: Matthew Nottingham (Ch)/**Helena Lewczynska** lost to Gary Fox/Alex Langley (La/Nm)

U19 Nationals

Girls Doubles

Semi-final **Helena Lewczynska**/Hayley Rogers (Ch) lost to L Smith/Alex Langley (Cu/Nm)

U17 Silver - Buckinghamshire

Boys Singles

Semi-final: **Howard Stobo** lost to Joe Skornia (Ex) 12-15, 15-12,

18-16

U17 Bronze - Buckinghamshire

Girls Singles

Semi-final: **Anna Collis** lost to Natalie Ng (Ox) 22-24

U17 Bronze - Bedfordshire

Girls Singles

Semi-final: **Anna Collis** lost to Serena Verney (Nk) 15-21
Ying Yi Tee lost to Evie Hamar (Wo) 15-21

Girls Doubles

Final: Cassie Hall (Bk)/**Ying Yi Tee** beat Leigha Knight/
Natalie Hassall (Li) 21-18

U17 Bronze - Hertfordshire

Boys Singles

Quarter final:**Conor Bambrick** lost to Steven Cross (Ha) 15-21

Boys Doubles

Runner-up **Conor Bambrick/Dale Maddox** lost to Matt Allum/
James Hookway (Ex) 18-21

U17 Bronze - Worcester

Boys Singles

Quarter final:**Conor Bambrick** lost to James Hendy (Wo) 19-21

U17 Bronze - Hatfield

Boys Singles

Semi-final: **Conor Bambrick** lost to Alex Munns (Nh) 17-21

U17 National Championships

Boys Singles

Quarter final: **Ryan McCarthy** lost to Chris Coles (Av)

Girls Singles

Semi-final: **Emily Westwood** lost to Sarah Milne (Yo)

Final: **Helena Lewczynska** lost to Sarah Milne

Girls Doubles

Semi-final: Lauren Bromley (St)/**Emily Westwood** lost to Jessica Fletcher/Sarah Milne (Yo)

Jessica

Final: Hayley Rogers (Ch)/**Helena Lewczynska** lost to Jessica Fletcher/Sarah Milne

U15 Silver - Leicestershire

Boys Doubles

Winner: **Conor Bambrick/Dale Maddox** beat Matthew Olney/Daniel Hong (Db) 15-7, 15-7

U15 Silver - Wiltshire

Boys Doubles

Semi-final: **Conor Bambrick/Rory Kitchen (Mx)** lost to Robert Booth/Jonathan Osborne (Do) 15-12, 13-15, 14-16

U15 Bronze - Lancashire

Boys Singles

Semi-final: **Junsong Clarke** lost to Duy Tran (La) 19=21

U15 Bronze - Surrey

Boys Singles

Final: **Junsong Clarke** beat Toby Harland (Sy) 22-20

U15 Bronze - Hatfield

Boys Singles

Final: **Steven Barnes** lost to Ronak Shah (Ms) 10-21

Boys Doubles

Semi-final: **Steven Barnes/Edmar Thompson** lost to Eric Richardson/Sean Richardson (Sx) 11-21

U14 Gloucester Invitation Doubles

Boys

Final: **Conor Bambrick/Mark Sadler** lost to Matthew Close/Sam Parsons (Wk) 9-15, 15-12, 12-15

U13 Bronze - Hertfordshire

Girls Doubles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick/Philippa English** beat **Eleanor Fitton/Zoe Taylor** 21-15

U13 Bronze - Essex

Girls Singles

Quarter final: **Cayleigh Bambrick** lost to Devon Minnis (Nf) 18-21

U13 Bronze - Warwickshire

Girls Doubles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick/Ellie Makewell** beat Amy Spring/Rhianna White (Ke) 21-15

U13 Bronze - Bedfordshire

Girls Singles

Semi-final: **Cayleigh Bambrick** lost to Devon Minnis (Nf) 16-21

Girls Doubles

Runner-up **Cayleigh Bambrick/Amy Spring (Ke)** lost to Devon Minnis (Nf)/Georgia Cattermole (Sf) 20-22

U13 Bronze - East Newham

Girls Doubles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick**/Amy Spring (Ke) lost to Megan Barnes-Rolf/Rhianna White (Ke) 14-21

U13 Bronze - Hatfield

Girls Singles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick** beat Frances Penney (Bk) 21-17

Girls Doubles

Runners-up **Cayleigh Bambrick/Ellie Makewell** lost to Harriet Brecknock/Laura Pickard (Ca) 20-22

U13 Bronze - Surrey

Girls Singles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick** beat Amy Spring (Ke) 21-18

Girls Doubles

Final: **Cayleigh Bambrick**/Amy Spring (Ke) beat Pranavi Agarwal/Victoria Kilcran (Sy) 21-13

U13 Oxfordshire Open

Mixed Doubles

Final: **Matthew Widdicombe/Isabel Hatt** beat Lip Seen Liew / Tsui Yee Lau 25-18

From the Editor: Thanks to all who contributed this time and also all those who sent in results at the last minute. It would be appreciated if, in future, you could send results in on a regular basis, with all the appropriate details (see results above). The amount of very last minute work was horrendous - not good for the eyes or the temper! Also an occasional account of a tournament would be very welcome.

Details of the U15 and U17 trials are not yet available, but they will be on the website - www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk - in due course.

Closing date for items for the next newsletter is Friday June 26.

Don't forget the AGM on June 18. Happy Easter to everyone.

Megan Lumb
16 Strafford Gate
Potters Bar
Herts
EN6 1PN

Tel: 01707653812

e-mail: megan@mischief16.co.uk