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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Hertfordshire Schools Badminton
Association
Wednesday, June 15
at the
Wellfield Room
Birchwood Leisure Centre
Longmead, Hatfield
Time: 7.45 for 8.00 pm**

NEWSLETTER

As yet no one has come forward with an offer to take over as editor of this newsletter. Only one person has shown any interest at all, and she admits that she is far too busy to cope with it. I believe the committee has had some discussion on the subject but has not managed to find a solution as yet.

If anyone is interested in being the new editor - if only for a very short time - please contact me, Megan Lumb on 01707 653812 or e-mail: megan@mischief16.co.uk or talk to any committee member.

Please, please, somebody, come forward or the June newsletter is likely to be the last!

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE NOW!!!

U17 County Trials - will be held on **Sunday, June 5** (players born in 1995/1996). Further details on

www.hertschoolsbadminton.co.uk

HSBA Tournaments

U15 Girls Doubles

Held at Stevenage Leisure Centre, only seven pairs contested this event - where was everyone else? They all played in one group with Renu Dhall-Chopra/Isabel Hatt the runaway winners, their hardest game being against runners-up Cayleigh Bambrick/Philippa English - the score was 21-16. Laura Monk/Ying Cen Tee, in 3rd place - losing only to the winners and runners-up - kept all their other opponents' points to single figures. Only 3 pairs were not members of the county squad, the best of whom were Alex Crowther/Sophie Day who fought hard to take 17 points from Heidi De Souza/Francesca Farlie. Alex/Sophie defeated May Curd/Karishma Lal 21-13 and Megan Burr/Rupa Carpenter 21-12 to finish in 5th place.

Result	1	Renu Dhall-Chopra / Isabel Hatt
	2	Cayleigh Bambrick / Philippa English
	3	Laura Monk / Ying Cen Tee
	4	Heidi de Souza / Francesca Farlie
	5	Alex Crowther / Sophie Day
	6	May Curd / Karishma Lal
	7	Megan Burr / Rupa Carpenter

U15 Boys Doubles

Matthew Widdicombe (U15 Squad/Chauncy School)

The under 15 boys doubles was held on Sunday January 23 at Stevenage Leisure Centre.

Six pairs competed playing in one box. Only one pair was not in the county squad and they had a hard time against strong opposition. Many of the matches were very close, in particular the match for 3rd place that eventually went to Daniel Fox/Sam Newlove.

Runners-up were James Sweetnam/Hugo Weaver, being just edged out of top spot by winners Lyall Daniels/Matthew Widdicombe.

I would like to thank all the helpers and committee who made it a successful day.

Result	1	Lyall Daniels / Matthew Widdicombe
	2	James Sweetnam / Hugo Weaver
	3	Daniel Fox / Sam Newlove
	4	Jack Goode / William Pickworth
	5	Nathan Scofield / Duncan Williams
	6	James Dearden / Daniel Taylor

U15 Mixed Doubles

Philippa English (U15 Squad/Dame Alice Owen School)

On January 30 the HSBA U15 Mixed Doubles took place at Stevenage. Six pairs participated and they were all put into one box. Unfortunately, the previous day Amy George was injured in an U15 Gold BE tournament and she and her partner, Lyall Daniels, had to pull out. The first match that took place was between favourites Matt Widdicombe/Isabel Hatt and a newly formed partnership Duncan Williams/Ying Cen Tee, which the top seeds won comfortably 21-4.

Established partnerships Hugo Weaver/Philippa English and James Sweetnam/Cayleigh Bambrick had both won their first matches and then went on to play each other. James/Cayleigh pulled through to win 21-14. Hugo/Philippa then took on Matt/Isabel and were defeated 21-15, then Matt/Isabel won convincingly against James/Cayleigh 21-13!

The winners were Matt/Isabel as predicted, with runners-up James/Cayleigh and Hugo/Philippa in 3rd place.

Result	1	Matthew Widdicombe / Isabel Hatt
	2	James Sweetnam / Cayleigh Bambrick
	3	Hugo Weaver / Philippa English
	4	Nathan Scofield / Francesca Farlie
	5	Jack Goode / Renu Dhall-Chopra
	6	Duncan Williams / Ying Cen Tee

U13 Girls 'B' Singles

Played alongside the U15 doubles, eleven girls competed in the U13 'B' singles, 7 of whom came from Ralph Sadleir School. They played in 2 groups, one of 6 and one of 5. Group winners Madeleine Powell and Skye Wilkinson, with runners-up Nitika Dhingra and Bethany Garrod went straight to the semi-finals of the main event. Madeleine (still at Primary School) had a struggle to defeat Nitika but scraped through with a 21-20 win, while Bethany came through comfortably 21-13 against Skye, only to lose to the younger Madeleine in the final.

The other girls played in the plate event where Alice Liptrot, with a bye to the semi-final, beat fellow Ralph Sadleir pupil Molly Watson 21-10. In the other half Primrose Farenden had a 21-12 win against Eleanor Slater of St Albans Girls High. The final between the two Ralph Sadleir pupils was won by Alice.

Result	Madeleine Powell beat Bethany Garrod 21-11
	Semi-finalists were Nitika Dhingra and Skye Wilkinson
Plate	Alice Liptrot beat Primrose Farenden 21-16

U13 Boys 'B' Singles

The boys 'B' Singles had a considerably bigger entry of 36 players. They played in 4 groups of 5 and 4 groups of 4. The games were very competitive with several close scores. Group winners Owen Pearce, Oliver Cohen, Siddarth Sheth, Nathan Wooster, Brett Massey, Jack Dobson, Dylan Saunders and Kavit Borkhataria all played in the main event with the runners-up. The rest played in the plate event.

In the main event Owen Pearce won the first round against Frankie Levin 21-12 and the quarter final against Douglas Stewart 21-4 to reach the semi-final where he encountered Siddarth Sheth who had beaten Theo Ching 21-7 and King-Ting Liu 21-10. The semi-final was hard fought but Siddarth came out on top 21-16. In the other half Kavit Borkhataria had some hard games, first beating Dillan Devram 21-17, followed by a win over Dylan Saunders 21-16 and then a semi-final against Brett Massey which Kavit won 21-20. The final was another hard game with Kavit eventually emerging as the winner against Siddarth.

The plate event had 2 preliminary rounds and Sahil Panera, Shirom Kapur, Jonathan Cattermole, Shanil Panera, Sean Kelleher, Christopher Rouse, Ollie Barnett and Ben England made it to the quarter finals. In the top half Shirom beat Sahil 21-17 and Jonathan beat Shanil 21-10, Jonathan going on to the final with a 21-12 win over Shirom. In the bottom half, Ben defeated Ollie 21-5 and Sean 21-10 to reach the final where, after a hard game, he lost to Jonathan.

Result **Kavit Borkhataria** beat Siddarth Sheth 21-17
 Semi-finalists were Owen Pearce and Brett Massey
Plate Jonathan Cattermole beat Ben England 21-14

RIO 2011

Pat Walker (U17 Squad Manager)

York Railway Institute, Saturday and Sunday, 15/16 January

The team: Howard Stobo (captain), Conor Bambrick, Steven George, Dan Hatt, Dale Maddox, Mark Sadler

Georgia Pittson (captain), Cayleigh Bambrick, Anna Collis, Philippa English, Isabel Hatt, Hannah McLaren

Congratulations to each and every player in the Herts RIO team. The team spirit was second to none. The support for each other, the readiness for the next game on court, or to score, the commitment and focus on court and the sense of fair play shown to all opponents made Chris, Angela and me extremely proud to be representing Herts.

The RIO weekend got off early Saturday morning to an exciting start but not perhaps for the lady stuck in the toilet on the train from London onwards. She was eventually freed by a railway engineer at Doncaster when she was given a warm reception by the Herts team. We all decided to wait until we got to the sports hall to use the loo!

Our captains, Howard and Georgia, led the team to a very commendable 4th position at the end of the tournament.

Steve was presented with the Good Sportsmanship Award by the tournament organisers, which was very well deserved. He has probably still not put the trophy down or wiped the smile from his face. Also receiving well earned nominations for their good sportsmanship were Howard, Philippa and Anna.

Conor and Izzy managed to maintain a 100% record at mixed together. Both Dan at doubles and mixed, and Mark at singles and doubles, won all their games in the first 4 matches until it finally fell apart for the whole team against Lancs. Anna's singles win against Raveesha Fernando of Bucks had us spellbound. And this was first thing Sunday morning! Cayleigh nearly ruined everything when she expected Chris to be able to coach without his hat! And was Hannah really dancing on the chair in the disco?

And now for the more technical stuff. Our first match on Saturday was against Yorkshire which we lost 7-8. This was followed by a good win for the Herts team against Warwickshire 8-7 and a more convincing 13-2 against Surrey. This now meant we were in the top 4 on Sunday.

So a win against Bucks of 8-7 got us off to a good Sunday morning start. With all 4 teams in the top 4 having one win things started to get complicated. If we could beat Lancashire we could win the tournament. But things just didn't go our way and, despite a gallant effort from the whole team, Lancs won 11-4 and were the overall winners. The final positions were decided on a count up of games. Bucks were 2nd and Yorks 3rd.

Thanks to the parents who travelled to support the event, to our sponsors Ashaway for the shirts, to Angela for keeping a grip on the scores for us and especially to Chris for calmly offering advice to all the players during the 75 games that were played in the 5 matches. And they all listened!

U13 Silver Home Counties Tournament

Mike Newlove/David Baird
(combined effort!)

Andrew Baird and Sam Newlove rose early on Saturday February 12 to go to Reading for the U13 Silver Home Counties tournament, where games started at 9.00 am. Small boxes in the singles led to a won one, lost one situation for both boys, the losses both close matches to previous Silver finalists.

After a long break the doubles was in two boxes of 5. Andrew/Sam won their box, defeating the 1st seeds Sam Lyle/Ben Richards (Sy) and 4th seeds Morrison Ayley (Ke)/Daniel Hatton (Sx). All but one match went to 3 sets. The final was against the winners of the other box, the Devon/Surrey pairing of Charlie Otto/William Saunders and ended typically with 15-12 to Andrew/Sam in the final set. The final against the Devon/Surrey pairing of Charlie Otto and William Sanders again went to three sets, ending 15-13 to the Herts pair in the final set. Andrew/Sam were very pleased to bring the bigger than bronze tournaments Gold medal home, arriving back in Hatfield at 8.15 pm, happy but very tired.

Congratulations to Andrew Baird on being the only Herts U13 player to be accepted to play in the U13 Nationals Championships.

More HSBA Tournaments

U15 Girls Singles

Twelve girls entered this competition, played at Stevenage Leisure Centre. They played in two groups of 6. All but one, Stacy Charlton, were county squad players and Stacy found herself playing against very tough opponents. The top three from each group went into the main event where Cayleigh Bambrick defeated Ying Cen Tee 21-12 and Libby Jennings beat Renu Dhall-Chopra in the quarter finals. Cayleigh then lost to Philippa English 15-21 and Libby fell to Isabel Hatt 8-21. The final was hard fought with Philippa winning to become U15 champion.

In the plate Stacey Charlton and Heidi de Souza lost the quarter finals to Krishni Thayaparan and Francesca Farlie respectively. Krishni then lost to Laura Monk 5-21 but Francesca beat Lia Willis 21-14 to play Laura in the final, which Laura won fairly convincingly.

Result **Philippa English** beat Isabel Hatt 21-18
 Semi-finalists were Cayleigh Bambrick and Libby Jennings
Plate Laura Monk beat Francesca Farlie 21-8

U15 Boys Singles

Eighteen boys competed for the U15 Boys Singles title, 5 of whom were not squad players. They played in 2 groups of 4 and 2 groups of 5. Some box games were over very quickly but some went the distance with some close scores. Box winners were Matthew Widdicombe, David Maughan, Hugo Weaver and Lyall Daniels and they, and the runners-up went into the main event. The four box winners came through to the semi-finals with Matthew beating Jack Goode 21-9, David beating William Pickworth 21-14, Hugo getting a win over his doubles partner Daniel Sweetnam 21-16 and Lyall defeating Nathan Scofield 21-3. Matthew had a comfortable 21-10 win over David in one semi, but Lyall had to fight a little harder to overcome Hugo 21-17. The final was hard fought with Matthew improving on last year's runner-up spot and becoming champion.

group runners-up where, in the first round, Alex lost to Jacob 20-21 and Ashay lost to Jack Kimber 21-13. The other quarter finalists were James, Rees, Rian Devram and Matthew.. James reached the semi at the expense of Luke 21-18, while Rees defeated Max 21-15. In the other half Jack beat Jacob 21-12 while Matthew won easily against Rian 21-6. The semi-finals were hard fought with James overcoming Rees 21-12 and Jack beating Matthew 21-14 before going on to beat James in the final and become U11 champion.

In the plate Sean Wright fought his way to the final beating William Astley 21-2, John Bamigboye 21-7 and Jake Reynolds 21-4. In the bottom half Christopher Rouse came through at the expense of Michael Stocker 21-13, Joseph Moore 21-12 and Jamie Gall 21-19. The final was an easy win for Sean.

Fourteen pairs went on to play doubles in the afternoon. with Chris Adey (more or less restored to health)/Matthew Harden, Rees Clarke/Max Titterton and James Jarman/Jack Kimber winning the three groups. The main event quarter saw Jacob Harper/Luke Meehan beating Jess Tiplady/Christian Turner 21-8 and Rees/Max beating Jamie Gall/Azaan Iqbal 21-11. Chris/Matthew made no mistake in the semis, beating Jacob/Luke 21-10, but the other semi went to the wire with Jack/James just scraping through to the final 21-20. Chris/Matthew wrapped up the final easily to retain the U11 boys doubles championship.

The plate quarters included 4 pairs from Swifts with Charlie Corke/David Wade beating Ethan Hugman/Callum Latter 21-8 and Ben Quarrington-Carter/Sean Wright beating William Astley/Lewis Gellard 21-6. The other semi-finalists were James Davis/Rian Devram who defeated Charlie/David 21-7 and John Bamigboye/Jake Reynolds who lost to Ben/Sean. The final was hard fought with the Swifts pair of Ben/Sean coming out as winners.

Result	Singles	Jack Kimber beat James Jarman 21-8 Semi-finalists were Rees Clarke and Matthew Harden
	Plate	Sean Wright beat Christopher Rouse 21-3
	Doubles	Chris Adey/Matthew Harden beat James Jarman/Jack Kimber 21-5 Semi-finalists were Jacob Harper/Luke Meehan and Rees Clarke/Max Titterton
	Plate	Ben Quarrington-Carter/Sean Wright beat James Davis/Rian Devram 21-18

Senior Schools Competition

The U15 tournaments are now completed and the points for the affiliated schools have been added up. Trophies and certificates have been sent to the winning and runner-up schools (thanks to those pupils who played the part of postmen). The table is as follows:

<u>U15 Boys</u>			<u>U15 Girls</u>		
1	St Christopher	52	1	Dame Alice Owen	86
2	John Warner	45	2	Royal Masonic	71
3	St Albans	44	3	St Albans Girls High	39
4	Stanborough	37	4	John Warner	24
	Richard Hale	37	5	Queenswood	20
6	Haberdashers' Aske's	34	6	Presdales	4
	Hitchin Boys	34		Tring	4

The U13s still have one tournament to play as this newsletter goes to print, but the positions at present are:

U13 Boys

1	St Albans	94
2	Hitchin Boys	62
3	Haberdashers' Aske's	52
4	Lochinver House	38
5	John Warner	31
6	Dame Alice Owen	27
7	Stanborough	22
8	Ralph Sadleir	7
9	Onslow St Audrey's	2
	Richard Hale	2

U13 Girls

1	Ralph Sadleir	74
2	St Albans Girls High	40
3	Dame Alice Owen	34
4	Royal Masonic	32
5	St George's	6

Hatfield Bronze Festival

Paul Widdicombe (Referee)

The 3rd Hatfield Bronze Festival will be remembered not only for record breaking numbers, but part of the south east road network called the M25.

Despite the event running during the February school half term from Monday 21 to Friday 25 when traffic conditions are normally light, this excuse for an orbital road gave many a headache to our match controller, Alison.

Play started with the under 13 boys singles with Essex dominating the event with both finalists, Prashan Clare overcoming Dillon Malde 23-21. In the doubles Herts pair Christopher Adey/Matthew Harden made it to the semis just losing out 20-22. Bucks took the title with Ethan van Leeuwen, son of ex international Jo Davis, and his partner Gregory Saunders.

In the under 13 girls, Sophie Vernon got to the semis losing to eventual winner Maya Raichoor from Middlesex 19-21. In the doubles Lia Willis (Herts) and her partner, Megan English from Leicestershire, got through to the final losing to Raichoor and Divya Mistry.

The U17 girls was the highlight of the week for Herts with Georgia Pittson and Hannah McLaren claiming gold in the doubles. Georgia and Cayleigh Bambrick won singles boxes but found the opposition very strong after that.

The under 15 boys on the Wednesday saw Jack Goode win his box in an exceptionally high standard entry, 60 boys competed in two singles events with the doubles squeezed in between.

The under 15 girls was very tough for the Herts girls. Laura Monk, Heidi de Souza, Francesca Farlie and Ying Cen Tee battled hard but found the Performance Centre players from Kent and Oxon difficult to handle.

The under 17 boys saw a mini invasion from Kent who had both doubles finalists. Singles titles went to Ben Hunt from Middlesex and Lewys Morley from Warwickshire.

With almost 300 entrants and over 600 matches, the organisation was tested with the M25, but thanks must go to Young Officials Philippa English and Shayna Godin for assisting IT recorder Claire Widdicombe and Tournament Secretary Alison Widdicombe.

Primary Schools Team Tournament 2010/2011

Barbara Lewczynska

This year's team tournament was once again preceded by a thoroughly enjoyable (according to the children I spoke to) coaching session. Sangeeta brought her 'bag of tricks' fitness kit and proceeded to organise a mini-fitness circuit. Doug and his group were having fun and games with a fishing rod (a target to you and me) and the children swapped activities every fifteen minutes. Thank you so much to all of the coaches who made this such a fun session for the children - John Stobo, Salam Choudhury, Dick Large, Dave Bartlett, Sangeeta Dhall, Doug Clarke and Ken Winchester.

Then on to the tournament which started at 11 am. Our twelve boys teams were in two boxes of six for the first round. All the teams played really well and we had some particularly close matches especially in group A. A special mention should go to Tewin Cowper and Morgans B who had, I believe, some year three/four and five boys in their teams, everyone else must have seemed like giants to them.

In the second round the teams were reconfigured into three groups of four, the top two teams in each of the first round boxes playing for positions 1-4, the 3rd/4th teams playing going into box B to play for positions 5-8 and the other 4 teams playing for positions 9-12.

Little Heath came out as the winners and the next three positions, whilst dependent on matches won were, in fact, extremely close in the number of points won. Second place could have been anybody's. In fact Ladbroke A secured the place, with Morgans A in 3rd and Aldenham Prep in 4th.

The girls teams, in one box of four, played each other twice and were an extremely patient bunch, having to wait their turn as we tried to get through the bulk of the boys matches. Norton St Nicholas B unfortunately had a last minute dropout, which meant that they had to forfeit their third position, but were compensated by the fact that their first team won the girls team trophy.

The final positions were:

<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>	
1	Little Heath	1	Norton St Nicholas A
2	Ladbroke A	2	Little Heath
3	Morgans A	3	Ladbroke
4	Aldenham Prep	4	Norton St Nicholas B
5	St Helen's		
6	Lochinver A		
7	The Mighty Hadhams		
8	Lochinver B		
9	Norton St Nicholas		
10	Ladbroke B		
11	Morgans B		
12	Tewin Cowper		

In the combined team tournament, three schools were in contention and, with rankings added together and the lowest added ranking being the winner, the positions were:

<u>Combined team</u>	
1	Little Heath
2	Ladbroke A
3	Norton St Nicholas A

Last but definitely by no means least, can I say an absolutely HUGE thank you to the trio of young volunteers that Doug Clark so kindly brought along. Katy Rixon, Kelly Stacey and Kieran Redburn perhaps came along thinking they might help a bit with the coaching. As it was, they took over the organisation of the desk for the entire event and managed to squeeze in a bit of umpiring too. I was incredibly impressed with the way they simply got on with the job. I have nothing but praise for them - thank you very very much!!

A Message from Herts New Badminton Development Officer - Jenni Crisp

For the past year I have been working in Essex as a Sports Development Officer for a local council. Here I have run projects focused on increasing activity levels of children through to adults and promoting clubs to increase their membership numbers through Open Days and taster sessions.

I have always had a keen interest in sport. I achieved an A Grade at A level in PE and I am currently completing a part time Degree with the Open University in Sport, Fitness and Management. I have played badminton for 7 years and I have played at county level as a junior and senior and currently coach at Redbridge Sports Centre Performance Centre in Essex. I am also currently completing my Level 3 coaching qualification.

In my spare time I am involved as a volunteer at my local running club and badminton club, where I am captains, raise money and attend development meetings.

The nation's interest in badminton is phenomenal and the results that Hertfordshire obtain should be celebrated and encourage us to continue pushing forward and raising the profile of our fantastic sport. With the World Championships this year and the Olympic Games next year, both being held in London, this is a very exciting time for us all and I am thrilled to be involved with developing badminton in Hertfordshire.

My contact details are below and I welcome you to contact me with ideas and suggestions of how we can work together.

JenniCrisp@BadmintonEngland.co.uk

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From the Editor: Thanks to everyone who contributed this time - Philippa English, Matthew Widdicombe, Pat Walker, Mike Newlove, David Baird, Paul Widdicombe and Barbara Lewczynska. Don't forget - we are still looking for a new editor and the next newsletter will be my last. Hopefully it will be a bumper edition - please keep reports and results coming in.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, 17th June.

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