

Printed by courtesy of the Headteacher  
of Ladbrooke J.M.I. School

April 2002

**AGM** - THE HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on **Tuesday, June 18** at Campus  
West, Welwyn Garden City

Time: 8.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Entry will be via either the Theatre or Library door and there will be  
signs inside to direct you to the correct room

Car park free

Please come and meet the committee - ask questions - and find out just  
what is happening in Herts junior badminton.

### **Herts Youth Games for Under 13s**

If you were under 13 on 1st September 2001 (Yr 7/8) and might like to play  
for your District in the Herts Youth Games, then contact your club who will  
either guide you to the appropriate event/s or the local Sports Development  
Officer. There are likely to be coaching sessions in each District leading up to  
the final tournament on Sunday, May 12 at Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn  
Garden City - with some 10 sports and thousands of juniors participating - a  
really great occasion. Any queries contact Dave Bartlett 01438 715374.

### **Lottery Grant**

Frances Morrison at Berkhamsted Badminton Club has been given a Lottery award of  
£5,000 to expand junior badminton for the club and in schools in the area. For further  
information contact Frances on 01494 433522.

### **Lost Property**

One wrist watch - square face - 'Limit' written on it - chain strap

Adidas sweatshirt - navy, with hood - small logo - front pocket - size 32/34

Adidas sweatshirt - navy - large logo - white piping on sleeves - size 32/34

Grey jacket with zip - buttons on sleeves - size 12/14 (at a rough guess!)

If anyone is missing any of these items, please contact Marion Conway on 01707  
652061

### **North Herts U13 and U11 Tournament**

**Dave and Gill Bartlett**

This is the second year we have run a junior tournament in North Herts. As it had been postponed from December, we were rather concerned as to how many would turn up. We need not have worried too much as there were 60 in all and we filled the 4 Knights Templar (Baldock) courts for nearly 4 hours. Many entrants came from Wilbury and The Grange schools but there were also many from a variety of other schools and clubs. First there was half court singles with 10 to each half court. But so that everyone played several games without too much waiting, instead of the usual 'box' format, we played 'Winner stays on up to 3 times' to 7 points. Then there was a play-off between 3 times winners. Each half-court winner played the winner of the other half court to create a court winner and finalist and then the two courts of boys singles played off for a final winner and finalist. This went well in both the U11 boys and girls and U13 boys, but unfortunately there were only 3 girls in the U13s, so they played best of 3 up to 11. Then there were the boys and girls doubles in each age group and this too went well except in the U13 girls. Owing to too few U13 girls, Heather Tyrrell joined in to make a game.

Medals were given to winners and finalists, and certificates, free coaching offers and lollipops to everyone! We would like to thank the scorers/helpers without whom it would not have been possible: Jane and Jeff Gentry (The Grange and Wilbury), Hazel Levins, Victor Large, Bob Green (Hitchin BC and Saturday morning coach at Knights), Kevin Meakin (from Feathers - Baldock), Heather Tyrrell (U17 squad) - the latter three patiently scored the matches the whole afternoon without a break!

#### **Results:**

U11 Boys Singles	Winner: Scott Williams	Finalist: Harry Sandford
U11 Girls Singles	Winner: Laura Bygrave	Finalist: Melissa Waite
U13 Boys Singles	Winner: Lewis Fisher	Finalist: Jack Sandford
U13 Girls Singles	Winner: Natalie Greggs	Finalist: Sophie Greggs
U11 Boys Doubles	Winners: Ben Vincent / Sam Shulver Finalists: Scott Lawrence / Troy Miller	
U11 Girls Doubles	Winners: Melissa Waite / Natasha Jellis Finalists: Laura Bygrave / Lucy Dearn	
U13 Boys Doubles	Winners: Lewis Fisher / David Cooper Finalists: Alistair Southwood / Tom King	

### **H.S.B.A. Tournaments - 10/02/02**

#### **U15 Girls and Boys Doubles**

**Emily Crabb/Emma Roantree**

**(Bishops)**

#### **Hatfield Girls School/U15 Squad**

On Sunday February 10, the U15 doubles tournament was held. We arrived bright and early at Stevenage Leisure Centre. It was very busy as the U11s singles was being held the same day. When we were knocking up in the bowls hall, we noticed that there were a lot more boys than girls. The games commenced straight away as they wanted to get through them before 1.30. We started by playing all the people in our boxes and then went into either the main or the plate. From then on it was a knock-out. We lost in the quarter finals to Victoria Stokes/Rachel Warnes, who then lost to Katie Comras/Laura Cousins. Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes defeated Claire Allen/Kate Lester in their semi and had a hard fight against Katie/Laura before winning the final. The plate final was won by Rhian Blowers/Laura Roantree.

The boys semi-finals were Anthony Moye/William Westwood v Robert Bursack/Dominic Gomar and Emile Doran/Paul Monk v Arjun Mehta/Gregg Roantree with Anthony/William meeting Emile/Paul in the final and winning comfortably. The plate winners were Vikram Aggarwal/Rahil Vora.

At the end everyone was tired out but had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

#### **Girls Doubles**

**Final** Nicola Farr/Emma Stokes beat Katie Comras/Laura Cousins 10-15, 15-5, 15-11  
Semi-finalists were Claire Allen/Kate Lester and Victoria Stokes/Rachel Warnes  
**Plate Final** Rhian Blowers/Laura Roantree beat Elizabeth Clayton/Phoebe Hodges 21-6

#### **Boys Doubles**

**Final** Anthony Moye/William Westwood beat Emile Doran/Paul Monk 15-8, 15-4  
Semi-finalists were Robert Bursack/Dominic Gomar and Arjun Mehta /Gregg Roantree  
**Plate final** Vikram Aggarwal/Rahil Vora beat Lee Curran/Ben Webb 21-19

**U11 Girls and Boys Singles**

**Rebecca Cousins (U13 Squad)/Lauren Gregory  
(Little Heath JMI**

**School)**

On February 10 2002, the U11 singles tournament took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Everyone had at least 4 games throughout the day and the top 2 players went through to the main event - the others went into the plate.

Lauren was winning her last game when she tripped and sprained her ankle.

In the girls plate semi-final Lucy Dearn beat Sharni Bailey 15-1 and Daniella Farsiani beat Laura Harpur 15-8, before going on to beat Lucy in the final.

In the main quarter final Charlotte Willis beat Alice Bloomfield, Helena Lewczynska beat Natasha Jellis, Rebecca beat Laura Bygrave and Hannah Warnes beat little Emily Westwood. Charlotte and Hannah won their semis against Rebecca and Helena and Charlotte went on to win the final although with the score at 20-7 to Charlotte, Hannah pulled back 9 more points. There was some good play throughout the day.

There was a very large entry of 59 in the boys event. There were a few close games in the boxes and the games got a bit harder in the knock-outs. In the quarter finals Luke Donnelly beat Michael Ashworth, Matthew Westwood beat Harry Sandford, James Southgate beat Simon Tranter and Akash Jhunhunwala had a harder match before overcoming Alex Gomar. Luke beat Matthew comfortably in their semi, but James and Akash had real ding-dong game which went on a long time with a very hot James finally winning. The final (an all Swifts affair) was hard fought with Luke getting a lead, James catching up and then Luke getting ahead again to win.

The plate final was also an all Swifts match between 2 James's (Gray and Murch) with James M coming out the winner.

**Girls Singles      Final      Charlotte Willis beat Hannah Warnes 21-16**

Semi-finalists were Rebecca Cousins and Helena Lewczynska

**Plate Final    Daniella Farsiani beat Lucy Dearn 15-3**

**Boys Singles      Final      Luke Donnelly beat James Southgate 21-13**

Semi-finalists were Matthew Westwood and Akash Jhunhunwala

**Plate Final    James Murch beat James Gray 15-11**

### U13 National Team Challenge

**Angela Blowers**

On January 31, badminton players, coaches and families representing 34 counties from all over England travelled to one of the six centres (Mildenhall, York Railway Ins., Weston-Super-Mare, Ternhill, Warwick and Basingstoke) holding qualifying rounds for the under 13 National Team Challenge.

Hertfordshire travelled to Mildenhall where they competed against Buckinghamshire, Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Bedfordshire. We needed to finish in the top two to qualify for the final. We won all our matches except one - after a hard fought match we were placed second. Buckinghamshire had beaten us by *one point!*

Other teams qualifying were Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Greater Manchester, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Sussex and Hampshire.

### **National Final - Luton 09/03/02**

Herts had been waiting six weeks for this event and at 9.30 Saturday morning on March 9, the players, team managers, families and supporters were ready.

The team was: Kamran Haq, Laura Cousins (playing No. 1), Arjun Mehta, Nigel Tao, Katie Comras (playing No. 2), Gregg Roantree, Matthew Brown, Victoria Stokes, Rachel Warnes (playing doubles), Rhian Blowers - a patient reserve. (Rhian and Victor Liew played in the qualifying event).

We arrived at Luton to find the hall crowded with players and supporters - some teams had travelled to Luton during the early hours while others had stayed locally overnight. Our players managed to find courts where they could knock up; the parents found seats to sit and the supporters arranged the banners. Thanks to Charity Warnes, each player had their personal flash cards with 'Go, Kamran, Go' etc and these were put to good use throughout the day and were particularly useful later in the day when throats began to get sore!

We were placed in Group B with Greater Manchester, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Sussex and Warwickshire. Our first match against Warwickshire we won quite comfortably only dropping one game, the second and third rounds were similar, again just dropping one game. Then came Sussex - a harder match but again we won 5-1. Then it was Yorkshire and the pressure was on. They, like us, hadn't lost all morning. Win this and we would win Group B and more importantly avoid Nottinghamshire in the semi-finals. This was extremely tough and our team played so well (supporters did well too!) and we won, beating Yorkshire 4-2. It was so close; in reality we won the vital few points needed to win the games; it was so difficult being a 'supporter' when games are poised 14-14 - should we cheer, should we stay quiet? Anyway, we did it. We won Group B and avoided Nottinghamshire in the semis.

**The semi-final** - once all the cheering, hugging, photographs etc were over, it was time for serious thoughts, we were one match away from the final. The team that could prevent us reaching that final was Buckinghamshire; thoughts went back to the one point separating us in the qualifying event. It was time to get even!

This match was unbelievably close - we won by 4 points. Several times we thought we had lost, but our team battled on even though some games were not within our reach. The players fought and fought for each point and after 200 points had been played we were four points ahead - Herts 3 (102 points), Bucks 3 (98 points).

**The Final** - again our team battled and did extremely well, but as we knew, Nottinghamshire have very good players and we just missed out, losing 2-4.

Final positions were:

- |                          |                     |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Nottinghamshire      | 5 - Sussex          | 9 - Lincolnshire        |
| 2 - <b>Hertfordshire</b> | 6 - Hampshire       | 10 - Greater Manchester |
| 3 - Yorkshire            | 7 - Staffordshire   | 11 - Devon              |
| 4 - Buckinghamshire      | 8 - Gloucestershire | 12 - Warwickshire       |

## H.S.B.A. Tournaments - 03/03/02

### U11 Boys Doubles

**Gareth Lumb (Ladbroke JMI School)**  
**(with help from mum, Shân)**

It was Sunday March 3 2002 and time for my first ever badminton tournament - the U11 doubles. I didn't really want to get out of bed but finally we were on our way to Stevenage Leisure Centre. It was very exciting.

I found my partner, William Van Der Maat, and we started to knock up. Then it was time to start playing properly.

We lost our first game 11-0, our second game 11-2, our third game 11-5, but finally won our last game in the box 11-8. We were really happy. We went into the plate event where we lost in the 2nd round (we had a bye in the 1st round) to the semi-finalists Andrew Barnes/Chirag Khagram. The plate final was between Dipesh Borkhataria/Jack Prendergast and Alex Cummings/Oscar with Dipesh/Jack winning.

The main event had lots of good players and Luke Donnelly/James Southgate beat Akash Jhunjunwala/Matthew Westwood in the final.

It was a great day and a good learning experience.

(PS - I played in the U10 doubles the following week and won a bronze medal with my partner, Stephen Hibberd. Thanks, Stephen!)

-----  
Ed. - As I didn't get round to asking anyone to write up anything else, I'd better get busy. It was a hectic day with a total of 205 children playing in the various tournaments and there wasn't much time to think of anything other than getting the tournament running smoothly and getting the games under way.

### U11 Girls Doubles

There were 22 pairs in this event, in two groups of 5 and three groups of 4. In the main event knock-out, all the semi-finalists had easy wins with Hannah Warnes/Emily Westwood beating Natasha Jellis/Joanna Walton; Alice Bloomfield/Beth Siggers beating Laura Harpur/Natalie Smith; Nicola Black/Helena Lewczynska beating Laura Bygrave/Lucy Dearn; Rebecca Cousins/Charlotte Willis beating Abigail Bursack/Daniella Farsiani. Hannah/Emily and Rebecca/Charlotte won their semis comfortably to 4 and 5 respectively. The younger pairing of Hannah/Emily fought hard in the final but were unable to beat Rebecca/Charlotte.

In the plate, girls from Ladbroke played each other in the semis, with Charlotte Gates/Amy Rogers going through to the final where they lost to Rochelle Ellis/Becky Hope from Grange School.

Boys Doubles      Final      **Luke Donnelly/James Southgate** beat Akash Jhunjunwala/Matthew Westwood 21-17  
Semi-finalists were Michael Ashworth/Jonathan Morris and Tim Angus/Matthew Sellars  
Plate Final      Dipesh Borkhataria/Jack Prendergast beat Alex Cummings/Oscar Lam 15-9

Girls Doubles      Final      **Rebecca Cousins/Charlotte Willis** beat Hannah Warnes/Emily Westwood 21-8  
Semi-finalists were Alice Bloomfield/Beth Siggers and Nicole Black/Helena Lewczynska  
Plate Final      Rochelle Ellis/Becky Hope beat Charlotte Gates/Amy Rogers 15-4

### U13 Boys and Girls 'B' Singles

These events took place in the morning - the boys playing in the bowls hall, along with the U11 girls. The U13 events had to be finished by 1.30 before the U15s arrived to play in the afternoon - and Ceri, running the whole thing with her usual efficiency, kept the games going and was into the knock-out stages long before the rest of us in the main hall. There were 43 boys and several had very close games in the boxes. In the main event Oliver Marcuse reached the semis by beating first Martin Johnson 15-10, then Eddie Smith 15-3 before succumbing to Dean Taylor (who had an easier run). Basil Walpole worked hard to beat Lee Kemp 15-11 in the quarters, then went on to beat Nikhil Shah in the semi 15-11 again! Dean won the final comfortably. In the plate, James McCaig and Ajay Soni had easy runs to the final where James won a hard fought game.

Meantime the girls were battling it out in the main hall in three groups. Ceire Bhatti fought hard in the quarters to beat Anjali Majithia while Katie Bradshaw beat Zahra Kassamalli in the other. Caty Mackenzie and Jane Kynoch overcame these 2 in the semis, with Caty winning the final. The plate final was a duel between Melanie Harcourt and Nisha Karnani, both from St Albans Girls High School with Melanie running out the winner.

Boys 'B' Singles      Final      **Dean Taylor** beat Basil Walpole 21-7  
Semi-finalists were Oliver Marcuse and Nikhil Shah  
Plate Final      James McCaig beat Ajay Soni 21-15

**Girls 'B' Singles**      **Final**            **Caty Mackenzie** beat Jane Kynoch 21-6  
Semi-finalists were Ceire Bhatti and Katie Bradshaw  
**Plate Final**      **Melanie Harcourt** beat Nisha Karnani 21-17

### **U15 Boys and Girls 'B' Singles**

Played in the afternoon, 25 boys and 15 girls (8 from St Albans Girls High School) entered this event. We were allowed to use 2 courts in the bowls hall again in the afternoon and this helped to get the games played more quickly than would otherwise have been possible. In the main event, Ben Webb winning a very close quarter final against David Rose 15-14, lost in the semi to Daniel Fletcher, who had had a hard first game beating James Reiser 15-10. Tom Gilbert reached the semi with another close quarter final win 15-13 against Chris Tranter before losing to Ben Bream, Daniel going on to win the final. The plate was an all Swifts affair with Mark Wood defeating Graham Conway.

Four girls from St Albans High School reached the main event with the addition of Rachel Ferguson and Susie Brown. Rachel reached the final, beating Emma Watts in the semi 15-12, before losing the final to Phoebe Hodges, who had beaten Emma Fraser in the semi 15-3. Lucy Birtwhistle beat Sasha Rankin in the plate final - an all Queenswood final.

**Boys 'B' Singles**      **Final**            **Daniel Fletcher** beat Ben Bream 21-6  
Semi-finalists were Ben Webb and Tom Gilbert  
**Plate Final**      **Mark Wood** beat Graham Conway 21-5

**Girls 'B' Singles**      **Final**            **Phoebe Hodges** beat Rachel Ferguson 21-2  
Semi-finalists were Emma Fraser and Emma Watts  
**Plate Final**      **Lucy Birtwhistle** beat Sasha Rankin 21-12

### **U15 Team Challenge Finals 2002**

**John Smith (U15 Team Manager)**

On Sunday March 24 the top twelve teams in England met at Luton Regional Sports Centre to play off for the inter-counties trophy. Herts qualified as this year's Eastern Region champions, but not having any national squad players in our team meant that there was no way we could win the title. We did have an outside chance of a medal providing everyone played their best and the draw was not too unkind to us.

We got off to a nervous start against Staffs with victory depending on the very last game, but we escaped with a 4-3 win. (Time for a serious team talk!) The basic message was 'Wake up and sort yourselves out!' With Yorkshire and Sussex in our group we had to beat at least one of them to get in the top four. The team responded really well and we surprised everyone with a brilliant 5-2 win over Sussex.

All we had to do was keep playing like this and we could go through. (Did I say "all"?) In spite of our best efforts not to become complacent we made a mess of our next match against Warwickshire and we lost 3-4. What a disaster! We were in trouble now and had to beat Gloucester or there would be no medals this time. Everyone was determined to get back on track and the team worked hard to win 6-1.

In the meantime there were some very interesting scores from some of the other matches and it became clear that whoever went through in second place to the top four would do so on points advantage. This put us under pressure in our final group match against Yorkshire. Although not expecting to win, we had to take as many games as possible and every individual point mattered. Incredibly, we won both boys and girls doubles games which was enough to gain runners-up spot in the group. We lost the match 2-5 but with 3 of the games being 14-15, 13-15 and 12-15 we were so close to actually winning.

In the final play-offs we couldn't quite raise our game enough to beat a very strong Hampshire side and we were out-classed by Notts who beat us 7-0 and went on to become this year's National Champions. They are, without doubt, the best U15 team in England at the moment, BUT we got a bronze medal which was richly deserved by every single player because of their team spirit and their determination to work and support each other. Well done everyone; it was a result to be proud of.

### Senior Schools

Players from 22 affiliated schools entered the tournaments and gained points for their schools. Trophies and certificates should have reached the 1st 3 schools in each category by now - 'pupil post' is usually pretty reliable. If the schools concerned have not received the trophies, can they please let me know (01707 653812). The U18 results were published in the last newsletter. The U15 and U13 results are as follows:

#### U15 Boys

1	Roundwood Park	101
2	Haberdashers' Aske's	97
3	Hitchin Boys	70
4	St Albans	63
5*	Chancellor's	39
5*	Simon Balle	39
7	John Warner	37
8	Ashlyns	20
9	John Henry Newman	18
10	Chauncy	15
11	Lochinver House	8
12	Richard Hale	6

#### U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	161
2	Freman College	62
3	Queenswood	61
4	Chauncy	52
5*	Chancellor's	36
5*	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	36
7	Roundwood Park	18
8	Presdales	6

#### U13 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	235
2	Hitchin Boys	164
3	Lochinver House	95
4	Chancellor's	87
5	St Albans	43
6	Simon Balle	37
7	Chauncy	32
8	John Warner	19
9	Thomas Alleyne	15
10	Norton	13
11	Roundwood Park	11
12	Turnford	8
13	Onslow St Audrey's	4

#### U13 Girls

1.	St. Albans Girls High	146
2.	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls	99
3.	Presdales	66
4.	Chancellor's	62
5.	Roundwood Park	15
6.	Queenswood	6

### Leinster U13 Open Championships

**John Smith**

What better way can there possibly be to spend an Easter weekend than to visit the Emerald Isle? Mind you, a freezing cold badminton hall is not everyone's idea of good fun.

When I was asked to take the U13 team to Dublin this Easter I did not hesitate because over the last 10 or 12 years I have made many Irish friends; players, coaches and parents. Ever since the first U14 trip I have looked forward to visiting and renewing those friendships.

This year's team was Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, Kamran Haq and Arjun Mehta and I don't need to say too much about the trip myself because those four were busy writing an excellent report during the return flight.

All I will say is that it was an excellent trip. The attitude, the behaviour and the exceptional standard of the badminton made me feel proud to be a Hertfordshire coach. We received many

compliments and walked off with most of the medals - **5 Golds and 2 Silvers**. The highlight was an all Hertfordshire mixed doubles final of outstanding quality. It was the last match of the tournament and a wonderful finale to a great weekend.

I enjoyed every minute, even though there were some moments when our enthusiastic parent supporters found the pressure hard to handle and often I felt compelled to recommend a dose of good Irish cuisine and liquid refreshment in order to build up strength for the next day.

As always the players were hosted and well looked after by our Irish friends. Personally, I thought the electric blankets were a sneaky attempt to make our players too relaxed, but, as you can see by the results, they did wake up in time to claim most of the match points.

-----

#### **Dublin 4th - 7th April 2002**

#### **Kamran Haq/Arjun Mehta (U13 Squad)**

We all met at Stansted airport after an extremely early rise. We then proceeded to the check-in counter. We were all thankful that Arjun had been dropped on time and that everything was going smoothly.

Our illusions of the perfect check-in were soon *shattered* when we saw the size of Arjun's suitcase, only a *little* inappropriate! We then explained to him that we were only staying for 3 nights not weeks! Luckily, however, we were not stopped at the check-in counter. Our rackets were checked in at the *fragile* counter. There we were shocked to be questioned about rather ambiguous shapes lurking in the bottom of Kamran's (time to let Arjun off the hook) badminton bag. These were not bullet magazines but chocolates. John, however, was not convinced when he saw the abundance of confectionary and chocolates stuffed inside Kamran's backpack.

As the take off drew nearer, Katie and Laura's enthusiastic approach to the rather dull (according to most of us) experience of flying in a plane grew more on the hysterical side of things. As the plane took off, Laura's enthusiasm transformed into a 'calm' and meditative state of mind and she sat, fingers in ears, eyes closed and hoping that things wouldn't be too painful. During the rather uneventful flight the parents sat there, outwardly benevolent, but secretly plotting a 4 hour torture-sightseeing in Dublin! When the plane finally touched down and our baggage had been collected, we went to McDonalds (yes! even in Ireland!) for some regional delicacies. There, Laura enjoyed a tasty meal of tomato ketchup with some chips on the side. After the meal what we had been dreading finally commenced: the tour! - the less said about it the better!

Once the 'thrilling' tour had ended we went to the train station where Laura and Katie's dos and don'ts argument (involving only 2 words, no prize for guessing which) and Kamran's continuous need to roll his head showed how bored we were. At 5 pm we were met by the families that we were to stay with. After all the introductions were over, we all separated, parents to the hotel and children with their host families. After an evening of unpacking and relaxing we settled down to a good night's sleep. During the night, Katie 'unknowingly' enjoyed the warmth and comfort of the entire duvet whilst Laura had to cope with the cold!

The next morning an early rise left us tired. We were all keen to see what the Irish competition was going to be like. The tournament started at 10 am. Arjun had an easy first frame winning convincingly. Kamran, however, had to play the second seed and after a tough game, lost 14-21. During the game the 'psycho-parents' were in full force, cheering madly. This team consisted of Christine Comras, Vasim Haq and Roy Cousins, who at times were embarrassing to know. Although there was a very high embarrassment factor, we must thank all the supporters on behalf of the players for providing support when we needed it. Along with the parents, John Smith provided helpful tips to improve our game.

The singles continued, Arjun reaching the quarter finals where he lost to the No 1 seed 5-15, 12-15. Kamran had both the No 1 and 2 seeds in his group and so didn't manage to go through.

Katie and Laura arrived later and after winning their boxes easily went on to the quarter finals where once again they met with little difficulty. The semi-finals consisted of all England players with rivalry between Yorkshire and Hertfordshire. After a tough game, Katie, going into three sets, unfortunately lost to Helen Calverley. Laura won her game against Lauren Allinson, also in three sets. Finals were played on Saturday afternoon.

Singles were followed by doubles in which Kamran/Arjun reached the semi-finals. Katie/ Laura won their semi-final to play the Yorkshire pair in the final. After a long and tiring day we returned to the host families to rest and sleep.

The next day was the mixed competition and all the finals. The day started later. Laura played with Kamran and Katie played with Arjun. The first game was the easiest, both pairs giving away only 2 points. The next game was considerably tougher - both pairs playing against Yorkshire. Herts emerged victorious putting Yorkshire out of the mixed. The semi-finals were not as

challenging, although Katie/Arjun did have everyone holding their breath when they were 2-13 down. Fortunately they decided to wake up and play properly. Both semi-finals were won by Herts. The team was re-fuelled with the many bananas bought by the parents and Arjun had a record of 5 bananas over the 2 days!

The finals started soon after. With the cheering of the psycho-parents and other supporters, Laura won the singles against Helen from Yorkshire 11-5, 11-8. After a rest for Laura, the girls doubles began - Herts v Yorks once again. Another tough match in which the Yorkshire pair won the first game. However, Laura/Katie played better and won in three long close games.

The last game of the day was the all Herts mixed final. To make the match entirely Herts, John Smith was chosen to umpire the game. Arjun/Katie got off to a good start winning the first game 15-11. In the second set Laura/Kamran took the lead and held on to win 15-8 - one set all. The third game was very close, both teams playing very well - forcing each other to make mistakes. Laura/Kamran inched ahead to win the match 15-8. Unfortunately one pair had to lose, but we all enjoyed the game. At the presentation ceremony, Laura received 3 gold trophies, Katie gold and silver, Kamran gold and Arjun silver. After some team photos we went our different ways. Long and tiring days of badminton were over at last and everyone enjoyed the tournament. The rest of the day we just relaxed.

On the Sunday we woke up late and completed our packing ready to leave for London. At 1.30 we all met at the airport and checked in. Once again we ate lunch at McDonalds and then off to the boarding lounge. After a short flight we arrived safely back at Stansted after a great trip. We would like to thank all the parents and John Smith for helping to make the trip so much fun and for all their time and effort.

### **H.S.B.A. Tournaments - 10/03/02**

#### **U10 Boys and Girls Singles and Doubles**

**Hannah Warnes (U13 Squad)  
(Ghost writer - mum, Charity)**

The girls singles tournament started with 17 players all put into 4 boxes of 4 or 5. The top 2 players from each box went through to the main event. In the top half of the draw in the quarter finals I played Holly Leonard winning 11-0. Laura Bygrave played Daniella Farsiani winning 11-4, In the semi-final I beat Laura 11-0. In the bottom half of the draw Jessica Barnes played Emily Westwood who took the match 11-1. Abigail Bursack played Helena Lewczynska, Helena winning 11-3. Emily and Helena went on to play a very exciting semi-final where Emily battled through to beat Helena 11-9. In the final I met Emily, my doubles partner for the afternoon event! Emily played extremely well and pushed me hard, but I finally took the match.

In the first semi-final of the plate, Charlotte Baker played Laura Zaremba, who won 11-9. In the other semi-final Isabelle Sadler played Sophie Bottazzi and came through with a score of 11-6. They played a good final, the match going in favour of Isabelle.

In the boys main event the first quarter final was between Harry Sandford and Stephen Hibberd, Harry taking it 11-7. In the same half of the draw, Scott Williams beat Jack Prendergast 11-4. Scott went on to play Harry who took the semi-final 15-10. In the lower half of the draw Daniel Regan was beaten by Matthew Fitt 11-1 and Richard Wilson defeated Andrew Barnes 11-0. In their semi-final Matthew beat Richard 15-9. Matthew then met Harry in the final where he came through to take the title.

In the boys plate the first semi-final was between the two Ryans (Quinn and McQueen!), and McQueen took the match 11-0. In the other semi Alex Hunter won 11-2 against Craig Cunningham, and then went on to defeat Ryan in the final.

In the afternoon many of the players from the singles event went on to take part in the doubles. In the girls competition there were 2 boxes of 4. In the first box, Emily and I, this time both on the same side of the net, went through to the main event along with Daniella Farsiani/Holly Leonard. From the other box, Abigail Bursack/Helena Lewczynska went through, as did Laura Bygrave/Leanne Gateson. In the first semi-final, Emily and I had something of a struggle against Laura/Leanne, but went through with a score of 15-10. In the other semi-final Abigail/Helena had a slightly easier time winning 11-2. However, we seemed to recover our form for the final overcoming Abigail/Helena to take the title for the second year in a row.

In the plate Temi Fajobi/Melinder Sahota beat Simi Aujla/Carrie-Anne Dowset 11-1, and Jessica Barnes/Isabelle Sadler beat Charlotte Baker/Laura Zaremba by an extremely tight 15-14. Jessica/Isabelle, inspired by that game, went on to take the plate.

In the boys event there were 2 boxes - one of 5 and one of 6., with the top 2 from each group going

through to the main event and the rest going into the plate. In the main event the first semi-final took place between Matthew Fitt/Richard Wilson and Daniel Regan/Harry Sandford with Matthew/Richard winning 15-12. In the other semi-final Satjivan Aujla/Scott Williams were joined by Stephen Hibberd/ Gareth Lumb, much to the delight of Gareth's proud grandparents, with Satjivan/Scott taking the match 15-1. They went on to win a very tense and exciting final, just denying Matthew/Richard the title.

In the plate event, Andrew Barnes/Jack Prendergast came through their semi-final over Thomas Clarke/ Joshua Cooper by 15-7 and went on in the final to meet Jamie Davis/Douglas Furze, who had beaten Philip Bagshaw/Pavir Patel in the semi by 15-11. Andrew/Jack won the final.

The day was very successful and enjoyable and so I would like, on behalf of all the players, to thank all the organisers for their time and hard work.

**Girls Singles**      **Final**      **Hannah Warnes** beat Emily Westwood 11-6  
Semi-finalists were Laura Bygrave and Helen Lewczynska  
**Plate Final**      Isabelle Sadler beat Laura Zaremba 11-7

**Boys Singles**      **Final**      **Matthew Fitt** beat Harry Sandford 15-7  
Semi-finalists were Scott Williams and Richard Wilson  
**Plate Final**      Alex Hunter beat Ryan McQueen 15-0

**Girls Doubles**      **Final**      **Hannah Warnes/Emily Westwood** beat Abigail Bursack/Helena  
Lewczynska 15-3  
Semi-finalists were Laura Bygrave/Leanne Gates and Daniella Farsiani/Holly Leonard  
**Plate Final**      Jessica Barnes/Isabelle Sadler beat Temi Fajobi/Melinder Sahota 15-5

**Boys Doubles**      **Final**      **Satjivan Aujla/Scott Williams** beat Matthew Fitt/Richard Wilson  
15-14  
Semi-finalists were Daniel Regan/Harry Sandford and Stephen Hibberd/Gareth Lumb  
**Plate Final**      Andrew Barnes/Jack Prendergast beat Jamie Davis/Douglas Furze 15-8

#### **Girls and Boys 13 'A' Singles**

#### **Charity Warnes**

On Sunday March 10th we all appeared as usual at Stevenage Leisure Centre for another county tournament. However, for some of us the morning had a rather different feel in that many of us were exhausted even before the day had started! The reason for this was that on the previous day, ten of the top county U13 players had been in Luton battling for a medal in the U13 National Team Finals. This made for a rather interesting tournament on Sunday, as some of the players recovered better than others from the heavy demands of the previous day, and there was definitely some very tired badminton played! In spite of this, the standard remained high and there were some very exciting games played by both the girls and boys.

Prior to play beginning, Duncan and Marion made a presentation of certificates to all those who had been involved in the National Team Finals, and they also acknowledged the important role played by Victor Liew who helped us to qualify, but who we were unable to take with us to the finals due to the sheer numbers of strong boys in the squad.

In the girls tournament there was only a small entry of 11 (unfortunately a couple of potential players were involved in the U10s which took place at the same time). Play went pretty much as predicted, with the boxes being dominated by the top four girls from the previous day, Katie Comras, Victoria Stokes, Laura Cousins and Rachel Warnes. In the first of the semi-finals Laura beat Rachel 15-4 and looked as untouchable as ever. In the other semi-final Victoria seemed to overcome her tiredness of the previous day and found a sudden burst of adrenalin. A tired Katie was unable to respond, and Victoria took the match 15-12. In the final Victoria put up a good fight against Laura but was ultimately unable to cope with Laura's strong form of recent months.

In the plate semi-finals Claire Kerry came through against Rebecca Cousins 15-8 and Hannah Watts scraped through a very close match against Caty Mackenzie (winner of the previous week's 'B' singles) 15-14. In the final Hannah put up a good fight, but was beaten by Claire.

The boys tournament had a significantly larger entry than the girls, and some of the boys, perhaps sensing an opportunity, produced some very good scores against the top players. However, ultimately, the top players came through. In the semi-finals Kamran Haq beat Jonathan Miller 15-3 and Arjun Mehta beat Matthew Brown 15-4. The score line of the final between Kamran and Arjun was perhaps indicative in part of the superb effort that Kamran had put into his singles of the previous day, and, dogged by knee problems, he lost the match to Arjun, who played extremely

well. In the semi-finals of the boys plate James Reynolds beat the younger Akash Jhunjunwala by a convincing 15-2 and Chris Blow beat Adam Monk 15-6. James went on to play a strong final against Chris winning easily.

**Girls Singles**      **Final**      **Laura Cousins** beat Victoria Stokes 21-8  
Semi-finalists were Rachel Warnes and Katie Comras  
**Plate Final**      Claire Kerry beat Hannah Watts 21-17

**Boys Singles**      **Final**      **Arjun Mehta** beat Kamran Haq 21-5  
Semi-finalists were Jonathan Miller and Matthew Brown  
**Plate Final**      James Reynolds beat Chris Blow 21-6

### **U15 Girls and Boys 'A' Singles**

Played in the afternoon, we again had the use of extra courts in the bowls hall. There were 5 groups of girls and 6 groups of boys. Play was much as expected and the girls quarter finalists were Laura Cousins, Nicola Farr, Kate Lester, Emily Crabb, Katie Comras, Emma Stokes, Victoria Stokes and Frankie Edelmann. In the semis, Laura beat Kate 15-9 and Frankie beat Katie 15-12, with Laura taking the final and the championship. Two U13s, Rachel Warnes and Rhian Blowers played out the plate final with Rachel winning.

The boys play went more or less with seeding with the semi-finalists being Simon Maine (beat Stacy Chew 15-5), Anthony Moye (beat Dominic Gomar 15-5), Emile Doran (beat Robert Bursack 15-12) and William Westwood (beat James Reynolds 15-4). Simon and William reached the final beating Anthony and Emile respectively, and although Simon fought hard, William came out the winner. Damian Bruce-Hickman reached the plate final beating Tom Gilbert and Ben Bream enroute. In the other half Gregg Roantree beat Chris Blow and David Rose to reach the final and beat Damian in a very hard match.

**Girls Singles**      **Final**      **Laura Cousins** beat Frankie Edelmann 21-11  
Semi-finalists were Kate Lester and Katie Comras  
**Plate Final**      Rachel Warnes beat Rhian Blowers 15-3

**Boys Singles**      **Final**      **William Westwood** beat Simon Maine 21-13  
Semi-finalists were Anthony Moye and Emile Doran  
**Plate Final**      Gregg Roantree beat Damian Bruce-Hickman 23-30

### **Oxford Easter Badminton Festival**

**Phil Westwood**

**U12 Boys Doubles** - this was a large fairly evenly matched group of 7 pairs, so winning or losing would depend upon application and consistency on the day. No pair won all their games and second place lost two. Luke Donnelly/Alex Guntert (Bu) had one nightmare game against the eventual third place pair but lost only 20-21 to the eventual second placed pair. Ironically it was Matthew Westwood/Akash Jhunjunwala, beating them in the last game, which denied Luke/Alex fourth place. With two wins they finished sixth. Matthew/Akash didn't get out of bed until it was nearly all over. Having lost to 9, 12, 15 and 15, they finally came alive in the penultimate game against the eventual winners, only to lose 18-21. And they continued this form against Luke/Alex in the last game for their only win of the day, but it was too late. They finished in 7th place.

**U12 Mixed Doubles** - one group of 4 - Luke Donnelly/Charlotte Willis never stopped fighting but found the opposition too strong in this very small field.

**U14 Boys Doubles** - one group of 6. This group was dominated by three significantly stronger pairs. Amongst the remaining three, Kamran Haq/Matthew Brown won two games to finish fourth, whilst Nigel Tao/Jonathan Taylor (Ox), who did not look a comfortable pairing, failed to win a game.

**U14 Mixed Doubles** - 2 groups of 4 - Nigel Tao/Fontaine Chapman (Wk), in group 1 with the eventual winners, won 1 game. Kamran Haq/Tara Weir (Db) were runners-up in group 2, winning two games, to claim a semi-final place in which they went down with a creditable 15-21 to the eventual winners

U16 Boys Doubles - 1 group of 6 - another group with a fault line between three weaker and three stronger pairs. David and William Westwood were runners-up in the group, having beaten the third pair 21-15, but themselves lost to the winners 15-21.

U16 Mixed Doubles - 1 group of 4, 1 group of 5 - this was a blind date for both David and William Westwood. Neither had entered. David agreed to step in after a phone call from the organiser before the event and William was 'called-up' on the day, unfortunately in the same group.

In the first group game, David/Erika Whittingham (St) beat William/Joanna Theyer (Gl) [who would finish 3rd in the group], 21-15. Next game they lost 13-21 to the eventual group winners, Grant Weir/Vikki Jones, but they went on to finish as group runners-up and claim a semi-final place against the winners of the other group, Alexander Ewins/Jodie Lane.

As a scratch pairing David/Erika had been improving with each game, but in the semi they turned round 6-11 down and it looked as if Ewins' power would win the day. From this low point, however, they dragged themselves back into the game and once under pressure the Ewins/Lane game began to fall apart, David/Erika winning 21-16.

In the best-of-three final they faced Weir/Jones, who had beaten them in the group, but they had improved steadily since then. The first game was very tense and very tight, David/Erika edging it 15-13. But, as is 'traditional', they then lost the second 8-15. But they didn't panic. The final set was a nail-biter. With short runs of points going with serve on each side, the game arrived at 11-all. By now both sides were feeling the pace but three consecutive 'unforced errors' from their opponents gave David/Erika the mental upper hand, and they served through to a memorable and wholly unexpected 15-11 win. \_\_\_\_\_

### Aros Cup 2002 - Denmark - March 28 - 31

**Christine Comras/Joan Cousins**

It was a very early start as we were expected to meet at Stansted airport at 6 am. In the Comras household alarms were set for 4.45 to be at the Cousins house down the road at 5.15. Joan however was testing out Tesco's claim to be open 24 hours and went shopping at 3.30 in the morning!!! Beware of road works on the M11 which continued all the way in to the airport, but we were still on time. Our party consisted of Katie and Laura and us four accompanying adults. There was great excitement in the car even at such an early hour. Joan had the flag safely packed in her case. Our flag was flying behind the team throughout, held up by Laura's racket strings.

On arrival the team were whisked away to begin the team event. The children were still playing at 7.30 pm. We narrowly lost 7-9 but there were some fantastic performances along the way from some very tired children.

Friday and Saturday saw the start of the mixed, singles and doubles events. Laura, playing with Matthew Johnson (Nm), won two games to reach the quarters. Katie, playing with Robert Hird (Bu), lost in the 2nd round to a seeded pair, but the games were close. Chris Adcock/Michelle Cheung safely reached the semis.

All singles matches were played in the format of best of five games to seven points, which was new for Katie and Laura. Laura was given a seeding and therefore didn't need to qualify through preliminary rounds, but Katie did. She won her group and in the evening about 7 pm, played her first round in the main event. She won the game but needed six match points to do it.

Laura won her first round easily but then had to face the number two seed. Katie needed to beat a seeded player to earn a place in the quarters, which she managed 3 games to 1. Of the six girls in the team, four of them had reached the quarter finals. Michelle went on to reach the final, but sadly the other girls all went out to very tough opposition.

In doubles, Laura and Sam Ward won their first round and unfortunately lost to the eventual winners. Katie and Michelle reached the final having knocked out their team mates, Gabby White/Helen Calverley, in the semis. Another late finish for us all. Finals day for U17s, U15s and U13s began early. No easy days for any of us! In the U17s, Rachel Howard and Sam Alexander were also representing England. Sam lost in her singles final and Rachel won her doubles (with Sarah Bok) but lost the mixed final (with Chris Langridge who was very patriotic with a shaved head and the English flag dyed on!) Flags were flying!!

Michelle/Katie won the first end convincingly but failed to maintain the pressure and lost in the third end.

Still, lots of pictures of Herts players on the podium with red roses, t-shirts and medals. Importantly as a team we won the AROS CUP 2002!!!

They were all treated with a break from badminton and went bowling. Back on Sunday at midnight, Katie and Laura had three days to rest before flying to Dublin for the Leinster Open on Thursday.

**'A Tale of the Missing Shorts' OR I.C.T. 2002**

**Tony Clarke (U17 Team Manager)**

The U17 team for this year's Inter Counties Tournament set off on the Thursday after Easter from Birchwood Sports Centre (on time at 9.00 am!) with high hopes of another good result. The team was Jack Lipyeat, Simon Maine, David Westwood, William Westwood, Fraser Wikner, Sam Alexander, Rachel Howard, Fiona Perry, Emma Stokes, Jenna Tye and reserve, Nicola Farr. Team managers Tony Clarke and Pat Walker set off with the team in the mini-bus, whilst Len Tye took most of the players' bags in his Volvo estate (it's a good job he had a cavernous boot!)

We arrived at Nottingham University in good time to settle into our rooms in Sherwood Hall, have our team photo taken in the sports hall before going on to Sandiacre to play Northants and Lincolnshire.

We started well with wins over both teams by 9-1. It was back to the University for dinner and a late match with Merseyside. If we beat Merseyside, we ended in a group with Yorkshire (not a good draw) or Notts if we lost (not much better), but we had beaten Notts 8-7 at RIO, so we had a chance.

We had an excellent match with Merseyside which ended 5-5 with Merseyside winning by just one point, so it was to be Notts - still an outside chance of a medal. The first match in the new group was against Leinster. It was 3-2 to Leinster with both girls singles on. Rachel won her singles and Sam was comfortably in front in her game when she turned her ankle over and had to be carried off the court. As they carried Sam out of the hall to the physio, our chances of a medal disappeared. We had to concede Sam's singles and although we were able to play a substitute we lost the second girls doubles and with it the match. Without Sam, who had reached the singles final in Denmark the previous week, it would be difficult to win any more games at this level. We lost to Notts 3-7 before drawing with Surrey 5-5, only to lost by 10 points. This meant we would be playing off for positions 13 - 16 on Saturday and Sunday.

Our first match in our group was against Greater Manchester and this produced the highlight of the tournament. Simon was just about to play Tom Dunlop at singles when he started to remove his track suit bottom only to reveal to all present in the hall and the watching gallery that he had forgotten his shorts. A slightly embarrassed Simon took on Tom in his track suit bottoms, whilst Nicola raced back to Simon's room for his shorts.

The team played well and beat Greater Manchester 7-3 and went to beat Ulster by the same score. Our matches finished in plenty of time for the girls to get ready for the Disco on Saturday evening. Everyone was back after the disco by 11.30 and after hot chocolate, some midnight nibbles and chat over the day's events with Simon's antics still causing lost of laughter, it was off to bed.

Unfortunately, the schedule for the final day was changed and we were to play at 2.15 pm and so miss the final. After consulting the referee and agreement with Hampshire's team manager, Nicola would play in the final match. Nicola and Rachel won their doubles but the team went down 4-6 to finish 14th out of the 37 counties contesting the event. The emphatic winners were Yorkshire with Notts second, Middlesex third and Leiestershire fourth. Leinster, who we probably would have beaten, had fate not been unkind to us, finished fifth overall.

Many thanks to Pat Walker and Len Tye for all their help in an enjoyable but frustrating event (for the team managers).

**H.S.B.A. Junior League**

**Pat Walker**

There are still a few matches outstanding in the league, but the leaders of each group at the present time are:

U12 Boys - SCOBE

U15 Boys 'A' - Swifts

U15 Girls - SCOBE

U12 Girls - Swifts

U15 Boys 'B' - Gazelles

U15 Medley - Gazelles

## Tournament Results

### U13 Nationals

Boys Singles:	Quarter Final	<b>Nigel Tao</b> lost to Chris Adcock (Nm) 2-15, 1-15
Girls Singles:	Quarter Final	<b>Katie Comras</b> lost to Helen Calverley (Yo) 5-11, 6-11
	Final	<b>Laura Cousins</b> lost to Michelle Cheung (Bu) 3-11, 2-11
Girls Doubles:	Semi-final	<b>Katie Comras/Victoria Stokes</b> lost to Michelle Cheung / Karen Hird (Bu) 15-10, 6-15, 12-15
		<b>Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy)</b> lost to Lauren Allinson/Gabby White (Yo) 16-17, 15-13, 10-15

### U13 Standard Challenge

Boys Singles:	Quarter Final	<b>Nigel Tao</b> beat <b>Victor Liew</b> 15-2
	Semi-final	<b>Nigel Tao</b> beat <b>James Reynolds</b> 15-3
	Final	<b>Nigel Tao</b> beat <b>Oliver Crichton (So)</b> 15-9
Boys Doubles:	Semi-final	<b>Victor Liew/Nigel Tao</b> lost to Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Daryl Jacobs (Mx) 11-15
	Final	<b>Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly</b> lost to Arthur Cheung/ Daryl Jacobs 8-15

### Oxford U15

Boys Singles:	Final	<b>William Westwood</b> beat <b>Craig Spooner (Ke)</b> 21-13
Boys Doubles:	Final	<b>Anthony Moye/William Westwood</b> lost to <b>Craig Spooner(Ke)/Alex Felton (Ex)</b> 19-21
Girls Singles:	Quarter final	<b>Emma Stokes</b> lost to <b>Krissy Koslicki (Nm)</b> 3-21
Mixed Doubles:	Final	<b>William Westwood/Emma Stokes</b> beat <b>Paul Monk/ Nicola Farr</b> 21-17

### U17 Standard Challenge

Boys Doubles:	Final	<b>Jack Lipyeat/David Westwood</b> lost to <b>Simon Canning /Angus Grieve (Wk)</b> 12-15
---------------	-------	--

**From the editor:** Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. **Please don't forget the AGM - it really is important that parents (teachers and coaches too) should attend if they are interested in what goes on in Herts badminton.**

Closing date for the next issue of the Newsletter is **Friday June 21.**

Megan Lumb  
16 Trafford Gate  
Potters Bar EN6 1PN  
Tel: 01707 653812