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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

April 2006

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given for the HSBA Annual General Meeting - details are on the attached sheet.

A NOTE TO ALL PLAYERS

Please will you make sure that you give your copy of the Newsletter to your parents so that they can read it and make a note of information needed, such as tournament dates and any future events.

TO ALL COACHES AND CLUBS

After Easter there will be a few spaces available in the Herts Development Training Squad. If you have any players who are considering entering the U11 trials in September, this would be a good opportunity for them to get some extra coaching and experience beforehand. Training goes on until half term. If you have players who would be interested and are aged between 8 and 11 years old, please ask them to contact Hazel Levins (Tel: 01992 558491) as soon as possible for further details, as spaces are limited. There are also one or two spaces for girls born in 1994 or 1995 to train with the U12/U13 squad. Contact Duncan/Marion Conway on 01707 62061 for details.

Coaching takes place in the Herts Sports Village each Wednesday between 5.30 and 7.30 pm.

H.S.B.A TOURNAMENTS

Megan Lumb

At last my 'reign' as tournament secretary has come to an end. Yippee! No, contrary to some people's comments, I shan't be bored. I am continuing to edit the newsletter (so be prepared to be 'volunteered' to write articles) and I will still be sorting out the points system for the affiliated schools - but all that comes at the end of the tournaments and is without all the hassle of entry forms, phone calls and last minute withdrawals sometimes necessitating in re-arranging the draw!!

Luckily two volunteers have come forward to take over. They are Roz Hodgkinson and Barbara Lewczynska; with Philip Gray probably taking over as main tournament referee from Duncan Conway. They have already had a taster this year and have not been frightened off by the task. They have already roped in a number of parents to help on a regular basis. The maxim is 'No helpers, no tournaments', so if there are any more parents out there who are interested in helping out on odd occasions, please contact Roz on 01438 715231 or Barbara on 01923 856539. I'm sure they will be delighted to hear from you.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments - January 29th

U10 Boys Singles and Doubles

David Maughan (U11 Squad/ Sherrardswood School - with a little help from Dad!)

The U10 boys singles was held in the Stevenage Leisure Centre. As usual, large numbers of players had entered from Wilbury and Lochinver schools, but eleven schools were represented, a total of 24 boys who were split into 6 groups. All the games were played to 11 points, except the final which was played to 15. The top 2 players in each group went through to the main event and the bottom 2 went into the plate.

There were some good matches in the groups, but Group V was the closest, with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th players all winning one game each. Points were also very even (22, 22 and 21) and the decision on who got the second place went to the match between the two players drawing on 22 points. Oliver Payne just snatched the place ahead of Corran Goodson. Lyall Daniels played particularly well in Group W and did not give away a single point.

The tournament then went to the knockout stages and Matthew Elsom, Lyall Daniels, Matthew Widdicombe all reached the semi-finals of the main event. Lyall and Matthew both won 11-1 and went through to the final which Matthew won. Having just missed out on a place in the main knockout, Corran went on to reach the semi-final of the plate event where he went out to James Calver. Andrew Moir came through the other plate semi-final beating Gavin Hinds. The plate final between James and Andrew saw Andrew win his first event of the day with more success to follow in the doubles.

Results

Final: **Matthew Widdicombe** beat Lyall Daniels 15-3
Semi-finalists were Oliver Gomar and Matthew Elsom

Plate Final: Andrew Moir beat James Calver 15-6

Having tired us out with the singles in the morning, we then moved on to the U10 doubles in the afternoon!

Again the doubles event was played to 11 points. Only 18 of the single players played in the doubles, so the draw was split into 2 groups, one of 4 and one of 5.

The holders, Matthew Widdicombe/David Maughan comfortably won through their group, conceding only 2 points in their 4 games, while Lyall Daniels/Matthew Elsom topped their group. The semi-finals went as expected with the two group winners getting through to the final. The first half of the final was close, with the score being 8-7 at one point, but in the end Widdicombe/Maughan pulled ahead to win. Congratulations to Matthew on picking up both the singles and doubles titles.

The plate event saw Andrew Moir pick up his 2nd gold medal of the day when he and Lewis Copper beat James Calver/Edward Goater in the final.

Results

Final: **David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe** beat Lyall Daniels/Matthew Elsom 15-8
Semi-finalists were Isaac Bedi/Oliver Gomar and Lucas Campbell-Gumb/Phillip Smith

Plate Final: Lewis Copper/Andrew Moir beat James Calver/Edward Goater 15-3

A big thank you to Megan Lumb and helpers who, as usual, kept the day running like clockwork. A huge effort as there were 3 age groups, with boys and girls events in each age group, being played on the same day at the same venue.

U10 Girls Singles

Nine girls played in the U10 girls singles, in one group of 4 and one of 5. Group winners Isabel Hatt and Amy George had very little problem with the opposition, Amy having just one hard game against Rachel Hibberd. They, with Laura Monk, went into the main event, the other playing in the plate. Amy and Isabel had easy wins over Laura and Rachel, both winning 11-2. The final appeared a very one sided affair as, despite Amy's best efforts, Isabel ran out a very convincing winner.

In the plate Grace Hall beat Emma Lewis to meet Madeleine Lewis (no relation) in the semi-final, Madeleine going on to the final. In the bottom half Natalie Farsiani beat Anna Collis to play her Gazelles club mate. It was a hard fought game with Madeleine coming out the winner.

Results

Final: **Isabel Hatt** beat Amy George 15-0
Semi-finalists were Laura Monk and Rachel Hibberd

Plate Final: Madeleine Lewis beat Natalie Farsiani 15-10

Due to lack of entries, there was no U10 Girls Doubles competition

Boys and Girls U13 'B' Singles

The U13 'B' singles took place alongside the U10 singles. Forty seven boys took part, playing in the Bowls Hall in 11 groups of 4 and one of 3, due to withdrawals on the day. There were no squad players allowed, so many of the boys were evenly matched and some games were very close and went on a long time. Group winners were Reehan Adat, Sahil Shah, Nishanth Selvakumar, Tej Malde (all from Haberdashers' Aske's), Jack Wallace, Paul Abdullah, Andrew Street, James Macdonald, Sam Spencer, Oliver Simpson, Jonny Wiseman and Chris Fisher. They and the runners-up played in the main event. Jack Wallace worked his way through to the final beating first Paul Abdullah 15-4, then having a hard quarter final against Reehan Adat and just scraping through 15-14. He beat James Macdonald in the semi final to meet Chris Fisher in the final. Chris first beat Jonny Wiseman 15-5, then Lewis Hare 15-4 and had a semi-final win of 15-6 over Sam Spencer. The final was hard fought with Chris coming out the winner.

All others played in the plate event. There were several very close (15-14) games but eventually Dale Maddox, beating John Whittaker 15-8, Alex Stokoe 15-0, Prassana Jothibal 15-9 and Paras Shah 15-0 made it to the final to meet Edward Gilder. Edward came through beating Alistair Mason 15-1, Alex Shavick 15-7, Freddie Ross 15-10 and Rikin Shah 15-7. The final was a very long, very hard game, going to setting, with Dale holding his nerve and getting the win.

Results

Final: **Chris Fisher** beat Jack Wallace 21-16
Semi-finalists were James Macdonald and Sam Spencer
Plate Final: Dale Maddox beat Edward Gilder 23-21

In the meantime 14 girls contested the U13 'B' singles. Part way through one girl withdrew injured which made it 13. Group winners were Ayomide Akin-Agunbiade, Sarah Wilder and Lexy Richards, who played in the main event with Hemali Patel, Georgia Pittson and Anjali Karnani. Anjali beat Hemali 15-11 in the quarter and Sarah swept past Georgia 15-4. The girls were evenly matched and both semi-finals were hard fought, Anjali beating fellow St Albans pupil Ayomide 15-12 and Sarah beating Lexy 15-14. The final was a comfortable win for Sarah.

In the plate Hannah Last came through to the final beating Olivia Tomkins 15-2 and Sarah Ryan 15-9 on the way. There she met Nicola Hyatt who, having had a bye to the semi-final, had then beaten Ellie Johnson 15-5. The final was hard fought resulting in a win for Nicola.

Results

Final: **Sarah Wilder** beat Anjali Karnani 21-10
Semi-finalists were Ayomide Akin-Agunbiade and Lexy Richards
Plate Final: Nicola Hyatt beat Hannah Last 21-10

U15 Girls Singles **Eleanor Golland (Chancellor's School)**

I arrived on a cold January morning ready for a tough 'A' tournament. I saw some players that I recognised and had a chat as I waited for my first match, that I lost and I then went on to lose my box! The standard was very high. I then lost in the first round of the plate 5-15 to Marigold Keane. The plate final was contested by Frances Dickson and Sonali Patel, the 'B' singles winner and won by Frances. The main finalists were Laura Bygrave, who beat Kate Herring, and Ying Yi Tee, who beat Daniella Farsiani, Laura going on to win the final. It was an enjoyable day, and I saw some good badminton being played.

Results

Final: **Laura Bygrave** beat Ying Yi Tee 21-15
Semi-finalists were Kate Herring and Daniella Farsiani
Plate Final: Frances Dickson beat Sonali Patel 21-2

U15 Boys Singles **Ben Goodson (U15 Squad/Chancellor's School)**

Waiting for my first game in my box, I was talking to Marion Conway and found, to my surprise, that I was ranked first seed for the first time in an U15 event. This was very exciting and I felt that there was an expectation for me to do well, which I enjoyed. I won the first two games in my box and in the third, Alex Gomar had to retire after falling and hurting his back. I was now in the main event and, after winning a hard fought match with James Head, I eventually lost in the semi-final to Ben Vranjkovic, who played brilliantly and went on to lose in a tense final to Arjun Shah. In the plate there were many close games with Oscar Lam, who had won the 'B' singles, playing Philip Adams in the final. Eventually Philip defeated Oscar to take the gold of the plate event. There were some great matches to watch and everyone had a good day.

Results

Final: Arjun Shah beat Ben Vranjkovic 21-18
Semi-finalists were Ben Goodson and Akash Jhunjhunwala
Plate Final: Philip Adams beat Oscar Lam 21-15

U11 Match v Surrey

Mick Bungey / Jeff Daniels

Driving along the Southgate Road in Potters Bar, we saw Angie and Liz with the girls, Amy and Isabel, who followed us towards the M25. Leaving Potters Bar on a very foggy morning to play Surrey at the Ebbisham Sports Club in Epsom, we drove on accelerating away from Angie. For some people this was their first venture to this badminton location. With plenty of time in hand, we arrived at the M25 junction 9 Leatherhead turn off then it all went wrong! To cut a long story short we arrived safely with Angie and Liz sitting in the lounge drinking a cup of tea and the girls warming up on the courts. The moral of this story is the tortoise and the hare!!

Due to players missing from both counties the team managers had lots of rearranging to do during the day - well done, Liz, you did a great job.

Was it going to be one of those days? After the trauma of the journey, the start in the girls singles was just as bad - Chloe defeated 0-15 against an opponent she was to play another three times in the day! Young Isabel Hatt won 15-10, but Lizzie Airey lost an exciting and nail biting game 14-15. Another young member of the team, Amy George, restored the balance, thumping her opponent 15-0! With 2 singles matches left, Kirsty Southey lost 12-15, making a great effort to win her tie after trailing by several points, but Katherine Head made sure we drew the singles 3-3, winning comprehensively 15-3.

The pairing of the girls and boys in the mixed doubles by the team manager was inspirational! Many of the pairs had never played together in a competitive environment or had very limited time in training sessions.

After her bad start in the singles, Chloe had her chance of revenge when she played against her conqueror in the mixed doubles. With Edward Byrne, victory was sweet 15-4. This was followed by outstanding performances by Isabel/Lyall Daniels who crushed their Surrey counterparts 15-1, Lizzie/David Maughan cruising to a 15-3 win, Amy/Sam Endemi triumphant 15-5 and Kirsty/Edward (who won his second match) completing this winning sequence 15-8. It would have been a clean sweep, but Katherine/David just lost a titanic battle 14-15, in a game which could have gone either way.

In the girls doubles it was a much closer affair, but Herts were victorious by the margin 6-3. New partnerships were formed, Chloe/Lizzie being the first on court, with Chloe facing her old adversary in two matches in this section. But, after both Herts girls regaining their confidence with wins in the mixed, they reigned supreme winning all three girls doubles matches 15-9, 15-1 and 15-8.

The young pairing of Isabel/Amy was also a dynamic combination, winning their respective games 15-8, 15-10 and 15-5 to complete a unique achievement throughout the entire match sequence versus Surrey, as they both secured a one hundred percent record of not being beaten in any match, singles or doubles.

What a feat considering both Isabel and Amy are Year 4 pupils.

Kirsty/Katherine were the only pairing to lose their matches, but they fought all the way for every point, playing some lovely badminton and getting great support from their team mates and parents alike.

Although beaten 7-15, 10-15 and 11-15 Kirsty/Katherine, another new pair, started to understand each other, playing much better together as time went on.

Due to half-term absentees, four boys represented Herts U11 against Surrey. Edward Byrne, Lyall Daniels, David Maughan and Sam Endemi proved all too strong for the Surrey team winning their respective initial 4 singles matches with the remaining 2 singles matches being shared, the final score being 5-1.

Again with continued enthusiasm and team spirit the boys doubles pairings overpowered the opposition 8-1.

The team manager Liz and the entire squad are to be congratulated for their high standards in playing some outstanding badminton and behaviour throughout the day, which was reflected in Herts winning the overall match 27-9, a comprehensive victory.

For those who want to know, the journey home was stress free! Next destination Milton Keynes and the match versus Bucks. Straight up the M1!!!

Senior Schools Competition

The season is now over and the total tournament points have been added up for affiliated schools at U18, U15 and U13. Haberdashers' Aske's took the honours in all three age groups (partly through the large number of entries and partly because several players reached the latter stages of the tournaments to gain more points). St Albans Girls High won both the U13 and U15, with Roundwood Park getting the U18 to stop a clean sweep. Chancellor's was runner-up in U13 boys and girls (with just one girl playing) and also the U15 boys. St Albans Boys and St Albans Girls High were runners-up at U18 while the U15 girls runner-up was Queenswood. Several schools (including Chauncy - 3rd in the U13 girls) have only one player entered - and these are individual entries. The U13 and U15 results below and Trophies and certificates have been sent to the winning and runner-up schools.

U13 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	218
2	Chancellor's	170
3	Ralph Sadleir	72
4	Lochinver House	62
5	Richard Hale	56
6	Sherrardswood	53
7	St Albans	50
8	Hitchin Boys	30
9	Knights Templar	28
10	John Henry Newman	19
11	John Warner	18
12	Fearnhill	10
13	Heathcote	5
14	Bridgewater	2

U13 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	225
2	Chancellor's	49
3	Chauncy	40
4	Presdales	32
5	Roundwood Park	25
6	Ralph Sadleir	22
7	Queenswood	16
7	Turnford	16
7	Heathcote	16
10	Fearnhill	10

U15 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	104
2	Chancellor's	103
3	St Albans	96
4	Fearnhill	54
5	John Henry Newman	40
6	Beaumont	37
7	Roundwood Park	29
8	Watford Boys Grammar	24
9	Richard Hale	17
10	Ralph Sadleir	16
11	Knights Templar	15
12	Rickmansworth	11
13	Heathcote	9
14	St Clement Danes	8
15	John Warner	4

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	196
2	Queenswood	97
3	Fearnhill	74
4	Presdales	65
5	Chancellor's	48
6	Royal Masonic	45
7	Hitchin Girls	37
8	Priory	16
9	Heathcote	11
10	Hertswood	10

It would be nice to see more affiliated schools entering pupils into the tournaments - who knows, your school could win next year!

Top Schools Tournament East Region

Carla Regan

On the weekend of February 4/5, two teams from Chancellor's School entered the Top Schools Team Tournament East Regional round. On Saturday the U14 (Year 9 and below) team played against seven other schools. The teams were placed into two boxes of four. Chancellor's won their 1st round group and in the 2nd round played the winners and runners-up of the other group as well as runners-up of their own group. Amazingly and unexpectedly they came through as ultimate

winners to go through to the National finals to be held in Luton in March. This feat was achieved despite two of the boys, Daniel Regan and Nick Barnett, being only in Year 7 and Tom Moody, whilst in Year 9 is a tennis player rather than a badminton player. The number one seed was Ryan McCarthy, Year 8. They all played exceptionally well and we wish them every success in the finals. The other team going through is Park High.

On Sunday, Chancellor's U16 (Year 11 and under) team participated. The team comprised of Luke Donnelly, Ben Goodson, Alex Regan and Luke McCarthy, all Year 10 boys. The team started off slowly and unfortunately had their toughest game first. They improved so much during the course of the day that they eventually beat the ultimate winners. However, they did not gain enough points in the earlier rounds to get through to the National final. Luke Donnelly, in particular, did not drop a singles game in the whole tournament. This was still a great achievement, however, as most of their opponents were hairy legged Year 11 boys, and Luke McCarthy is a tennis player rather than a badminton player. The eventual winners were Park House and Haberdashers' Aske's also went to the final as runners-up.

THEN

U14 Top Schools National Final

Tracy Barnett

On Saturday, March 18, a team of four boys from Chancellor's School competed in the U14 Top Schools Badminton National finals in Luton, having come top in the regional round in February. The team players were Tom Moody (Year 9) better known as a tennis player, Ryan McCarthy (Year 8), Daniel Regan and Nick Barnett (both Year 7).

Over 120 schools participated in the regional events with the top sixteen teams competing in the finals. Despite the fierce competition on the day, the Chancellor's team beat all but two of the schools they played and, after a long and gruelling day, in which each team member played 12 games, the team finished in 6th place. This was an outstanding achievement for the team who were playing in their first competition of this type and had never before played as a team.

U12 Invitation Doubles - Stroud

Tracy Barnett

Four pairs travelled the long journey to Stroud to represent Hertfordshire in the tournament. Nick Barnett/Daniel Hatt, Steven George/Howard Stobo, Kate Sellars/Jade Webb and Amy George/Isabel Hatt.

The day started well for the boys. Nick/Dan, as expected, won all their games without much difficulty to take first place in their box. Steven/Howard had a terrific start winning their first three games, the best result beating a seeded pair, Sam Parsons/Matthew Close (Wk) 21-10. Unfortunately it was not enough for them to go through to the knockout round. Nick/Dan faced Parsons/Close in the quarter finals. It was a fraught match with the Herts pair eventually winning 21-15. The semi-finals against Michael Armstrong/Kieran Gibbons (Av) was a nail biting game which was halted at 20-20 when Gibbons got a bad nose bleed. After more than half an hour wait the game resumed with setting. Unfortunately, it had lost its momentum and despite a great effort Nick/Dan lost 21-22. It was a disappointing end for the boys and as no medals were awarded for 3rd place, they came home empty handed!

The girls did not fare so well. Kate/Jade won 3 of their 5 games, narrowly losing a fourth 19-21. Amy/ Isabel, rank outsiders (aged only 9 and 8 respectively), gave it their best effort, managing to hold their own in a number of games showing their skill and determination despite their tender age. A pair to watch for the future!

Swifts Gain Clubmark Accreditation

Marion Conway

Swifts has been a BE accredited Club since 2004 but last year, or was it the year before, I received a pile of paperwork for the Bronze Award. However this seemed to give very few advantages and was not recognised by Sport England. At about the same time I received three more thick files which were for the Silver Award. As this is recognised by Sport England as Clubmark and could make it easier to get grants, this looked much more worthwhile.

Spurred on by this I waded through the paperwork which appeared to ask for the same things in several different ways. All began to go well as I found that we had been doing most of the things required and had been on most of the necessary courses. We just had to produce the proof! It was at this point, surrounded by piles of paper in slippery wallets, that I blew a fuse and stopped! Recently Tom Burton and Angela Blowers encouraged me to start again and amazingly it all fell into place. With their help, the file was finished and the next thing I knew we were being congratulated by Badminton England for being one of the first three clubs in Hertfordshire to get the award. Moral of this story is - a little help from your friends keeps the paperwork at bay! Watch this space and the Welwyn Hatfield Times for news of the presentation of this award.

And It Was Us!!

Duncan Conway

This little saga started soon after Christmas when a letter dropped through the door from Hertsmere Borough Council. Now I really only expect to receive Council Tax demands from Hertsmere and it was the wrong time of year. Opening the letter it turned out to be an invitation to the Civic Dinner and Dance. How curious! Even curiouser was that there was no mention of a cost. It was a free meal! Now Marion and I are more used to being in badminton kit rather than dinner jacket and formal dress. So there was considerable discussion before we decided that this was too good to be missed. Also it crossed our minds that maybe this would be like the various Awards Ceremonies (Oscars, Booker Prize and suchlike) where you do not know what you are going to get until it happens.

We returned the response form and received our formal tickets. The evening came and we drove over to Bushey. We were publicly announced, something else that hasn't happened for a long time! Then we were greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress and their deputies. Aperitifs followed and the dinner was announced. It was an enjoyable meal. Then the presentations began. We were called second. The citation (information supplied by Angela Blowers) was based on badminton and covered both our Swifts and County work. When it had been read out we were given an official certificate 'to place on record the Council's appreciation of the work done for the citizens of the Borough'.

Were we pleased? Yes, definitely highly delighted!

Was it an enjoyable evening? Undoubtedly.

Our thanks to those who organised it and to everyone who has commented after seeing the two newspaper reports.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments - 12th February

U15 Boys Doubles

James Head (U15 Squad/Bushey Hall School)

On Sunday, February 12, the Herts U15 doubles competition took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre. My usual partner was away on a school trip as it was half term. I was asked by Matt McCloskey to partner him as his usual partner was also away on a school trip. Ironically, during our time at county we had never played together! We played and won all 3 of our box games and then went on to play Dan Regan and his partner for the day, Josh Cooper in the quarter finals which we also managed to win. This then put us through to the semi-finals where we played Elliott Miles/Andrei Donko. After a good game we then went through to the final against Akash Jhunjunwala/Ben Goodson. We didn't do so well and ended up collecting the silver medal BUT WE WILL BE BACK NEXT YEAR!

Results:

Final: **Ben Goodson/Akash Jhunjunwala** beat James Head/Matthew McCloskey 21-6

Semi-finalists were Alex Gomar/Alex Regan and Andrei Donko/Elliott Miles

Plate Final: Steven George/Daniel Hatt beat Oscar Lam/Jonathan Morris 21-6

U15 Girls Doubles

Hannah Clifton & Ellie Thomson (Queenswood School)

On Sunday February 12, two Queenswood couples travelled nervously to Stevenage. We started the day by finding out which box we were in - we looked forward to playing our four matches. We began our first match. Hannah/Ellie played Jessica Hall/Rebecca Hankin and we won with a score of 15-7. We then had a break and the Queenswood's other pair, Emily Hau/Emma Hayward unfortunately lost. Overall Hannah/Ellie won three out of four matches, putting us in the main event. Emily/Emma won one of their matches and they through to the plate event.

Unfortunately we were knocked out in the quarter finals, whereas Emma/Emily went on to the semi-finals. Here they were knocked out, 12-15, by Katie Booth/Phoebe Hodges from St Albans High, after a close match. After much good play, the main event was won by Laura Bygrave/Ying Yi Tee and the plate by Lauren Austin/Sarah Wilder. Congratulations to them on their victories!

As this was the last U15 tournament, the final schools placings put St Albans High at the top, followed by Queenswood. Well done to everyone who played!

Results

Final: **Laura Bygrave/Ying Yi Tee** beat Alice Bloomfield/Kate Herring 21-5
Semi-finalists were Frances Dickson/Anita Kandiah and Charlotte Gawley Green/Bethany Harriss

Plate Final: Lauren Austin/Sarah Wilder beat Katie Booth/Phoebe Hodges 21-14

U11 Boys Singles

Edward Byrne (U11 Squad/St Columba's College)

On Sunday, February 12, the U11 boys singles tournament took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Twenty six competitors took part in the tournament and were placed in six boxes. (Several had dropped out through illness). In the main event, Edward Byrne, David Maughan, Sam Endemi and Mark Sadler all got a bye to the quarter final, where Edward won against Ben Spencer 15-5; David played Daniel Farrugia and won 15-7; Sam lost to Christian Farrugia 11-15 and Mark beat Lyall Daniels 15-1. In one semi-final Edward and David played a very hard game which Edward won 15-13. In the other semi-final Mark beat Christian 15-0. So Edward and Mark went head-to-head in the final and the victor was Mark.

In the plate Frankie Cuffaro, James Calver, Kit Akin-Agunbiade and Edward Goater had byes to the quarter finals. There Frankie and Kit beat Adam Kayani and Pardeep Dhaliwal and James and Edward lost to Luke Taylor and Andrew Marshall. In the semi-finals Frankie beat Luke 15-9 and Kit beat Andrew 15-6. So the plate finalists were Frankie and Kit - both from Lochinver - and the winner was Kit.

It looked like all the competitors enjoyed the tournament and I thought it was really fun - exciting but also very hard. I hope the spectators enjoyed it just as much as me and all the other boys who took part!

Results

Final: **Mark Sadler** beat Edward Byrne 15-1
Semi-finalists were David Maughan and Christian Farrugia

Plate Final: Kit Akin-Agunbiade beat Frankie Cuffaro 15-6

U11 Girls Singles

(Ed's comment - Amy George and Isabel Hatt did a write up of this tournament and e-mailed it to me, but I didn't receive the e-mail, so - thanks girls for your efforts. Maybe next year.....?)

Nineteen girls competed in this event with Olivia van der Maat, Lizzie Airey, Chloe Bungey and Lexy Richards winning the groups. They played in the quarter finals of the main event and reached the semi-finals beating Georgia Pittson, Rachel Hibberd, Hannah Last and Jessie Northen respectively. In the semis Olivia had a hard game against Lizzie, winning 15-11 and Lexy had a comfortable win over Chloe 15-4. The final was hard fought but Olivia triumphed to retain her trophy. In the plate Kirsty Southey, Shayna Godin, Amy George and Isabel Hatt reached the semi-finals where Kirsty beat Shayna easily and Isabel had a win over Amy. The final was again hard fought with Isabel just beating Kirsty.

- 9 -

Results

Final: **Olivia van der Maat** beat Lexy Richards 15-8
Semi-finalists were Lizzie Airey and Chloe Bungey

Plate Final: Isabel Hatt beat Kirsty Southey 15-12

Primary Schools Team Tournament

Shân Lumb (on behalf of Ladbroke School)

It was Sunday February 26 and it was time for the Primary Schools Team Tournament at Stevenage Leisure Centre. There was a training session with several coaches to start the day. Then at 11 am the competition began. The teams were split into groups and each had to play 1 singles and 1 doubles against the other schools. Ladbroke Boys 1 and Ladbroke Girls 1 won their groups fairly easily. The Ladbroke

2nd teams tried really hard but found the competition quite tough, although all the teams had the support of the large teddy mascot, Miff!!

At the end of the morning each group had a winner, runner-up, 3rd and 4th place. Each of the winning teams then had to play each other for 1st - 4th places, the runners-up had to play for 5th - 8th places etc. This meant that both of the Ladbrooke 1 teams were in the top groups. The boys, having lost to Wilbury 1 in their first match, struggled against the tough competition of Sherrardswood and Lochinver 1 and finally came 4th. The girls fared better, beating St Giles 1, Little Heath 1, St Andrews 2 and Little Heath 3 to take 1st place.

At the end of the tournament, medals were presented to winners, runners-up and 3rd place teams in both boys and girls competitions, with a trophy to each of the winning schools. All schools that had both boys and girls teams were included in the combined competition. To the delight of the Ladbrooke 1 team, parents, Mr Elliott the headteacher (and Miff!!) the trophy came to us this year.

Results

Boys

1	Lochinver 1
2	Sherrardswood
3	Wilbury 1
4	Ladbrooke 1
5	Morgans 1
6	St Andrews 1
7	St Giles 1
8	Little Heath
9	Knebworth 1
10	Wilbury 2
11	Abel Smith 1
12	Morgans 2
13	Lochinver 2
14	Knebworth 2
15	Wilbury 3
16	Wilbury 4
17	St Andrews 2
18	Abel Smith 2
19	Ladbrooke 2

Girls

1	Ladbrooke 1
2	Little Heath 1
3	Little Heath 3
4	St Andrews 1
5	St Giles 1
6	Little Heath 2
7	Heath Mount
8	Wilbury 2
9	Ladbrooke 2
10	St Giles 2
11	Wilbury 1
12	St Andrews 2
13	Abel Smith

Combined

1	Ladbrooke 1
2	Little Heath 1
3	St Andrews 1
4	St Giles 1
5	Wilbury 1
6	Wilbury 2
7	Abel Smith 1
8	Ladbrooke 2
9	St Andrews 2

(Ed's note: It seems a bit like déjà-vu as this year Gareth, who is my grandson, was in the winning combined team. Last time Ladbrooke won the combined trophy was 1991 and at that time Gareth's aunt, my daughter Ceri, was in the team! A full circle indeed!!)

U11 Inter-County Doubles Tournament

Max Hodgkinson(U11 Squad/Sherrardswood School)

I arrived on Sunday March 26, remembering that it was Mothering Sunday, giving my mum a day trip to the HSV just for a change!

HSBA hosted the U11 doubles tournament. There were 6 counties competing on the day - Berkshire, Essex, Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Herts. Their top eight squad players, 4 boys and 4 girls, represented each county. They were split into 2 groups with all the 1st pairs playing each other and all the 2nd pairs playing each other. Twenty matches were played in total with the results as follows:

Boys Doubles Pair 1 - was won convincingly by Herts, Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler (M & M) winning all 5 of their games with scores of 15-5, 15-3, 15-12, 15-3, 15-7.

Boys Doubles Pair 2 - was won by Essex, Zain Ahmed/Lloyd Sabatini winning 4 of their games. Their scores were 10-15, 15-10, 15-3, 15-10, 15-12. Herts players David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe came 3rd.

Girls Doubles Pair 1 - was won convincingly by Sussex, Rhiannon Turner-Noakes/Marie White with scores of 15-5, 15-1, 15-3, 15-3, 15-7. The Herts pair, Lizzie Airey/Kirsty Southey, tried very hard but were no match for the opposition.

Girls Doubles Pair 2 - was again won by Sussex, Jess Bennett/Rachel Adams with scores of 15-3, 15-2, 15-0, 15-3, 15-4. Herts players, Amy George/Isabel Hatt, came 3rd. They are the youngest members of the squad, so well done. Sussex won the overall team tournament convincingly; Essex - 2nd; Herts - 3rd; Berkshire - 4th; Kent - 5th and Surrey 6th.

The overall standard of play was excellent by all the players. Well done to everyone.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments - 19th March

U13 Boys and Girls Singles

The last tournament of the season, played at the Herts Sports Village as Stevenage Leisure Centre had been double booked. For once it was a more leisurely start - midday instead of 9.30 am - and not so far for some of us to travel!

Thirty boys turned up, though a few had pulled out during the previous week through illness. They played in 7 groups. Top seed, Ryan McCarthy, only gave away 2 points in his group and 2nd seed, Daniel Regan gave away 8. The other seeded players, Elliott Miles and Andrei Donko also won their groups easily, Elliott giving away 5 points and Andrei 10. They progressed to the main event, with Ryan and Dan having byes to the quarter finals. Richard Gentle, playing in his first tournament, beat Gareth Lumb in the first round but then found he was no match for Ryan. Andrei beat Sahil Shah 15-7, then had a very long hard quarter against Nick Barnett (who had beaten Alex Lee) which he finally won 15-10. Steven George beat Andrew Maughan in the first round, then came up against Elliott, losing 3-15 and Daniel Hatt beat Chris Fisher (winner of the 'B' tournament) 15-1, before having a battle with Daniel Regan, which Dan R won. In the semis Ryan beat Andrei 15-8 and Daniel R had a titanic struggle with Elliott finally winning 15-12. The final was more one-sided than expected with Ryan winning comfortably.

In the plate Edward Byrne (youngest but one boy in the tournament) fought his way to the final against older competition, beating Peter Bishop, Jonny Wiseman and Paul Taylor. In the other half, Sam Berry had an easy run beating Michael Peak, Oliver Goodwin and Joseph Tam. The final was a very hard fought game, but Edward had no answer to his older opponent and Sam won convincingly.

Results

Final: **Ryan McCarthy** beat Daniel Regan 21-4
Semi-finalists were Andrei Donko and Elliott Miles

Plate Final: Sam Berry beat Edward Byrne 21-9

Twenty one girls took part in the competition., playing in 5 groups. First seed Isabelle Sadler won her group for the loss of only 4 points, but 2nd seed Daniella Farsiani had a tough match in her group against Heather Myers, the score being 15-9. They, along with Claire Widdicombe and Jo En Choi went into the main event with the winner of the last group, which was a much more open affair. In the main event, Isabelle, Lexy Richards, Jo En, Claire, Anjali Karnani and Daniella had byes to the quarter final. In the first round Heather Myers beat Isabel Hatt and Ayomide Akin-Agunbiade beat Sarah Wilder (winner of the 'B' tournament). Isabelle had an easy run to the final beating first Lexy 15-3 and then Jo En, who had beaten Heather, 15-0. In the other half Claire

beat Ayomide 15-4 and Daniella defeated Anjali 15-0. There followed another titanic battle between Claire and Daniella with Claire finally winning 15-14. The final went to Isabelle who became the U13 girls champion for this year. There were 7 junior school players in the plate, with 3 senior school players. In the top half, Chloe Bungey had a tough time beating first Lizzie Airey 15-14, then Jessie Northen 15-12. In the bottom half Amy George had an easier task winning over Katie Booth 15-6 and Kirsty Southey 15-6. In the first half of the final, the two girls were evenly matched, but Amy first crept ahead, then raced on to win.

Results

Final

Isabelle Sadler beat Claire Widdicombe 21-6

Semi-finalists were Jo En Choi and Daniella Farsiani

Plate Final

Amy George beat Chloe Bungey 21-14

North Herts U12 Tournament

Bob Green

The annual North Herts U12 Badminton Tournament took place on Saturday at Knights Templar Sports Centre. All the local boys and girls competed for the medals and a chance to represent North Herts in the Herts Youth Games to be held in May.

In the boys event, last year's runner-up was out to go one better this year and in the girls, last year's winner was aiming to make it two year's in a row. The quarter finals of the boys saw Rafe Hawkins-Hill beat George Eva 11-2, Daniel Farrugia beat Joshua Kirby 11-6, Thomas Stuart sealed an 11-2 victory over Graham Birch and Harry Williams saw off Matthew Hazeldene with an 11-5 score line. The pick of the semifinals was between Rafe and Daniel, with Rafe just edging it 11-9. In the other match, Thomas caused an upset by notching up a convincing 11-3 win over Harry.

The final was the tightest of games, with Thomas just losing out by 9-11, which meant that Rafe had gone one better than last year's silver by taking the gold. The girls singles had fewer entries, so all the players were in the same group. From the outset it was clear that Temi Fajobi was going to take some stopping, the closest anyone got to her was 11-4. So she won the title for the second year. Quite some feat. The runner-up was Hannah Woodhouse, who took the silver medal by only losing to Temi.

The boys doubles title looked destined for Rafe and Harry from the outset but they got a real scare in the semi-final, where Christian Farrugia/James Abrams led all the way, only to be pipped 11-9. In the other semi-final, Daniel Farrugia/Matthew Hazeldene had a solid win over James Berry/Toby Harvey 11-6. However, they were no match for Rafe/Harry in the final, losing out 5-11. The girls doubles had Temi and Hannah as the hot favourites. They stormed to the title, with 3 being the most points scored against them in any game. The silver medal was taken by Anna Collis/Alice Bennett, who only lost to the winners.

Another great day for junior badminton in North Herts and good luck to all those representing our area in the Herts Youth Games.

Tournament Results

U17 National Championships

Girls Singles	Semi-final	Laura Cousins lost to Michelle Cheung (Bu) 2-11, 8-11
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Laura Cousins/Karen Hird (Bu) lost to Samantha Ward (Sy)/Gabrielle White (Yo) 5-15, 4-15
	Final	Katie Comras/Sarah Walker (Ex) lost to Samantha Ward/Gabrielle White 10-15, 9-15
Mixed Doubles	Semi-final	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/Katie Comras lost to Chris Adcock (Nm)/Gabrielle White (Yo) 11-15, 3-15

U11 Home Counties

Boys Singles	Quarter final	Mark Sadler lost to Sam Parsons (Wk) 7-15
Boys Doubles	Quarter final	Cameron Weber (Bk)/Mark Sadler beat David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe 15-7
	Semi-final	Cameron Weber/Mark Sadler lost to Tom Harris (Sx)/Angus Pedersen (Mx) 5-15

U13 Home Counties - Bronze

Boys Singles	Quarter final	Elliott Miles lost to C Evans (Sy) 13-15 Andrei Donko lost to Chu-Chin Wan (Mx) 6-15
Boys Doubles	Final	Nick Barnett/Roshan Rajoria (Ex) beat Jack Smith /Adam Khimji (Ox) 15-11
Girls Singles	Semi-final	Isabelle Sadler beat Claire Widdicombe 15-3
	Final	Isabelle Sadler lost to Louise Breen (SG) 8-15

U13 Home Counties - Silver

Boys Singles		Ryan McCarthy lost to Tom Stanford (Bu) 15-8, 8-15, 3-15
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Inter Counties Tournament - Herts were runners-up to Yorkshire in the ICT this year again, with Nottinghamshire 3rd and Buckinghamshire 4th. Report in the next newsletter.

***From the editor:** Thanks to all those who wrote articles for this newsletter. It makes it worthwhile editing when I haven't got to write it all myself! Closing date for items for the next newsletter is **Friday June 16**.*

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Footnote

To end the season on a happy note - a group of 9 badminton mums (and 1 grannie) went out for meal and a chat at the Cock o' the North restaurant in Brookmans Park. It was a lovely evening - good food and drink, good company, with the noise level climbing on occasion to combat the noise on the next table - and not a badminton racket in sight!! Thanks to Marie and Liz for suggesting and organising it - we all enjoyed it. Keep it up, girls. It could become a tradition!!