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# HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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

June 2002

**Congratulations to Phil Hammond**, a former junior county player, who was presented with the Herts Young Player of the Year trophy at the Herts Badminton Association AGM.

**Congratulations to Natalie Munt**, also a former junior county player, who won the National Ladies Doubles title. Natalie was presented with the Stuart Wyatt Trophy by BA of E Chairman John Havers at the All England tournament.

## Child Protection Officer

Christine Comras has been appointed Child Protection Officer for HSBA. If you have any queries, please telephone Christine on 01707 659714

## From the AGM

Chairman's Report - Ken Winchester

As you will see from the various reports of other Committee members, the HSBA has again enjoyed an incredibly successful season.

The good fortunes of your Association have been greatly dependant upon the co-operation and assistance of parents, players and other helpers who provide us with such essential support. I wish to gratefully acknowledge their invaluable contribution. I am also particularly indebted to those individuals who have taken the trouble to write or otherwise contact me and express their highly valued views and suggestions.

We live in an age when few are willing or can even afford to devote their time to voluntary pursuits. In this increasingly competitive world it is paramount for us to attract other committed enthusiasts. For the present time, we owe a great debt of gratitude to each individual member of the Committee who willingly perform their duties in such a professional manner.

I am certain you would wish me to express our collective appreciation to Megan Lumb for our comprehensive Newsletter, which is always a delight to read. Your contributions are ever welcome, so please keep the reports coming!

We are again indebted to Malcolm Lumb for continuing to keep our finances on track in ever more complex circumstances. I am pleased to report that your Association is well placed for next season. It will be their goal to maintain and increase the number of quality badminton playing and coaching opportunities for aspiring young players.

## U17 Squad - Tony Clarke, Manager

Another very good year - the Thursday squad sessions have been well attended and enjoyed by players and coaches alike. One triangular and three quadrangular matches were played. Two matches were lost - against Sussex and Hampshire - and the best win was against Middlesex, beating them by 11 points after a 5-5 draw. In January at the R.I.O tournament in York, the team was not seeded, but played well and beat Lothian, Greater Manchester, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, losing only to Yorkshire and taking 2nd place. At the I.C.T. in Nottingham, the team was seeded 8. In the first match of the 2nd round, Sam Alexander turned her ankle so badly that she was out for the rest of the tournament, which meant it would be difficult to win any more matches at this level (top 16). The team played really well to record victories over Ulster and Greater Manchester to finish 14th out of the 37 counties competing.

Congratulations to our four top premier girls, Sam Alexander, Rachel Howard, Jenna Tye and Fiona Perry for their excellent results in Open Tournaments and particularly to our two WCP stars, Sam and Rachel, for their England selection and their excellent results overseas. Finally, I would like to thank the parents and especially Pat Walker, my assistant manager, for all her help, particularly at the ICT and also to Cheryl Howard for her help to R.I.O.

### U15 Squad - John Smith, Manager

This year we had a squad of 29 players (13 girls and 16 boys) 12 of whom had no previous county experience. For the second year running we had no international stars in our midst (and over one third of the squad were inexperienced) but we have had an excellent season. From 40 encounters with teams from other counties - some in team events, some in straight matches - we had 30 wins and 10 losses. The highlights were as follows: Winners of the Surrey Inter-Counties Team Tournament for the second time; Winners of the regional round of the National Team Challenge; Bronze Medal in the National Finals of the Team Challenge; Winners of the Eastern Region (non-premier) Inter-counties Team Tournament (in both boys and girls events); 7th place in the Northern Counties U15 Team Championships (the standard of this event is extremely high and we had some outstanding wins against very strong Scottish opponents). Congratulations to all the players who took part in these events and represented HSBA so well.

Several players have achieved individual gold, silver and bronze medals in open tournaments and it is good to see new squad members being brave enough to have a go in events which attract the best in the country.

This year for the first time we presented an award for 'The Most Improved Player' of the season. All squad members were asked to vote for the player they thought most deserved the award. The result was a tie between two players, so this year the trophy is shared by Shaamil Magecha and Kate Lester.

Finally a comment on the exceptional team spirit and enthusiasm of this year's squad, the impressive way everyone has supported each other and how both experienced and new members have integrated. As always I am grateful to Ken Winchester for his assistance on squad nights and to everyone who has supported the squad in other ways. It has been a very friendly and enjoyable group of people to work with.

### U13 Squad - Duncan Conway, Manager

At the County Trials, we took more and better players than usual. On the second week, watching them play against each other, I realised we were starting at a significantly higher level than usual throughout the squad. The strength of the best was shown by the presence of nine Premier graded players. These first impressions were to be confirmed throughout the season. In the ESBA Team Challenge regional round, we beat all the opposition by 6-0 except Bucks. This was a 3-3 draw, which we lost by 2 points. In the finals in March the team played superbly, raising their game as they worked through the box winning four matches 5-1. The final box match was a magnificent 4-2 win over Yorkshire. The semi-final against Bucks was again tied 3-3 but this time we won by 4 points. We were in the final for the first time for nine years. Despite all the efforts of the players we lost to Nottinghamshire 2-4 to come runners-up. However, two Championship wins and a runner-up in thirteen years of competition is an excellent record.

In the ESBA age group tournaments Premier events, players have won 11 gold medals, 14 silvers and 17 bronze (or equivalent), also a gold and bronze at U15 grade. Two Standard graded boys were upgraded to Premier and Standard players won 5 gold medals, 3 silvers and 9 bronze - nine of those medals being won by U12 or younger players.

Laura Cousins and Katie Comras were among the first batch of players to be invited to the national World Class Start training scheme.

They have been joined by Luke Donnelly, Kamran Haq, Arjun Mehta, James Reynolds and Nigel Tao. It is also an honour to be invited to the Assessment Days and Oliver Crabb,

Rebecca Cousins, Akash Jhunjunwala, Victor Liew and Victoria Stokes have achieved that level of excellence. More recently, Laura and Katie have represented England in International events.

Nine county matches were played with losses only to Hampshire and Sussex. Many thanks for the terrific support given to the county teams by players and their parents, and especially to Jeremy Warnes for keeping such an excellent record of results. The U12s have played very well and were comfortable winners against Leicestershire and Surrey U13s. One pair reached the semi-final and one pair the final of the Gloucester Invitation Doubles. In the Eastern Region (non-premier) U13, the U12 boys team came 3rd and the girls teams 2nd and 5th and the prospect for next year looks good. The U11 players won one and lost one in a triangular match. A mainly U11 team played in the Eastern Region U12 tournament, winning 4 matches, then losing to Essex A to come runners-up.

To compete properly nowadays it is important to move towards the creation of an U11 squad. Discussions about this are proceeding and I hope that the new squad will be in place for the start of next season. If we are to continue to compete at the top levels, this development is, I believe, essential.

### Development Training Squad - Hazel Levins, Manager

Our aim is to prepare and help the players to achieve success in the Herts County Squad Trials. We have had great success so far and the majority of the players who have trained with us are now playing in the Herts County Squads. This is an indication of the hard work put in by the players and especially the coaches, Pat Walker and Dick Large, who I would like to thank for all their support and help over the last season (and I hope for the forthcoming season!)

We have completed a successful season with several of our young players representing Herts in U11 matches and tournaments. Also, selected players were invited after Easter to train with the U13 squad in preparation for the trials in September.

We would like to encourage all teachers and coaches to send players to the trials in September. The more grass roots players we have, the greater the chance of finding and developing quality players. Also, we are always happy to assess players during the season, so, please feel free to contact me if you have a player who would like the chance to play more and who you feel has the potential to become a County Player.

### Treasurer's Report - Malcolm Lumb

The financial statement shows that once again, we have ended the year with a small surplus. Full advantage was taken of the free court facilities at Haberdashers' Aske's School, for which we are very grateful, allowing us to increase the numbers of players of different age groups participating in the training. No County Administration Grant was received for the year though the application was made.

Stanstead Abbots JBC kindly provided a further donation which was specifically for use by the U15 Squad and a strategy board was purchased as well as a small trophy for most improved player during the year.

## HSBA TOURNAMENTS

Three hundred and sixty seven players competed in the HSBA tournaments this season (two more than last season!) As usual there were more boys than girls though there were more U10 girls than previously (an encouraging sign). The 'B' singles and the U11 doubles made up the busiest and shortest day and the U10 tournaments, combined with the 'A' singles gave the organisers a much longer day than expected.

Thanks to all the helpers, particularly Marion and Duncan Conway, Malcolm, Ceri and Shân Lumb, Pippa Gomar and Angela Blowers. Thanks also to all those who helped with signing in players, putting up scores - a particular mention to Rhian Blowers, Gareth Lumb, Rachel and Hannah Warnes for helping out with this job - and selling raffle tickets - and particularly to Christine Comras and Charity Warnes for organising them.

Affiliation - To all schools, clubs, individual coaches and others (whose children are not in one of the county squads or development training) who wish to receive copies of the newsletter for the 2002/2003 season - a form for affiliation to HSBA is available from the editor.

### U12 Jubilee Tournament

**Hazel Levins (Development  
Training Manager)**

On Sunday 19th May we held an U12 Jubilee Tournament at Birchwood Leisure Centre for the players currently playing in the U13 Squad and in Development Training. The players were placed in teams of 3 each consisting of an U12, an U11 and an U10 player and there were four teams of boys and four teams of girls. The boys and the girls played in separate events.

Each match consisted of three games of single (one at each age group) and three games of doubles (each game with a different pair). The players gave their team a name in relation to the Queens Jubilee. One was called 'The Royals', others 'The Corgis', 'The Tiaras', 'The Jewels' and so on. Every player tried their very best for their team which gave the spectators some excellent badminton to watch from some very young players.

Play went on longer than expected, but we managed to finish by 7.00 pm (only one hour later than intended) and despite two power cuts to add to the excitement. The teams played each other and the winners were decided by:

- 1 the number of matches won
- 2 the number of games won
- 3 the points for and then the points against

It was an enjoyable afternoon and the games were played in a good spirit and it gave the younger players the chance to get to know each other and to play together and against their peers in a very closely contested event.

Runner-up teams, who received silver medals, were:

The Golden Crowns - James Murch, Alex Gomar, Richard Wilson

The Tiaras - Charlotte Willis, Beth Saggars, Emily Westwood

and the **winning teams**, who received silver salvers, were:

**The Corgis** - **Michael Ashworth, Matthew Fitt, Harry Sandford**

**The Jewels** - **Nicole Black, Hannah Warnes, Helena Lewczynska**

### U11 Singles Challenge

**Jeremy Warnes**

The U11 Singles Challenge is a relatively new addition to the badminton calendar and falls at the very end of the season. The format is slightly different from most other tournaments: four regional rounds played between six counties in each region, the top six players from each region progressing as a team to play in the National Finals. In the regional round, the Herts team of Rebecca Cousins, Helena Lewczynska, Hannah Warnes and Emily Westwood competed against players from Berkshire, Essex, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex. Hannah and Rebecca managed to gain places on the Slough team finishing fourth and sixth respectively. Helena and Emily just missed out, but will have the opportunity to compete next year (Emily another 2 years!)

The boys team for the regional round was Matthew Fitt, Alex Gomar, Akash Jhunjunwala and Harry Sandford. Akash played very well and took fourth place overall. Alex came close and finished in ninth place. Both the other boys struggled initially and could not get close to qualifying.

The Finals were played at the National Badminton Centre on Saturday June 8th. For many of the children this was their first 'serious' tournament, but none of them seemed overawed by the situation. In fact, the

standard of play was exceptionally high and many of the matches were very closely fought indeed. Again the format for these finals is quite unusual; there is no knockout round, but three rounds of boxes. This meant that all the children played 10 matches to 11 - a lot for children of that age.

Rebecca and Hannah played very well throughout the day. In the first round (6 boxes of 4), Rebecca upset the form book with an excellent win over the Leicester #4 player and finished second in her box with 2 wins out of 3. Unfortunately Hannah couldn't quite repeat Rebecca's performance, losing two very close games, the last 10-11, leaving her in 3rd place in her box. After the first round the children had a break for an hour to recover (I suspect that a lot of the parents needed the break too!) Luckily the weather was good enough for a pleasant picnic in the nearby park.

After lunch the competition hotted up, as did the temperature in the hall. The second round was played in 4 boxes of 6, with the winners and runners-up from the previous round making up the top 2 boxes and the third and fourth placed players making up the remaining boxes. Rebecca found herself in a very, very tough box (including the eventual winner who only dropped 6 points in total during this round!), but showed her characteristic dogged determination, fighting for every point. Hannah's box was more tightly fought, she was one of three players who all had won four out of five games. Unfortunately Hannah's points score was the weakest of the three and she was placed third in this box.

The final round of boxes was played in 6 boxes of 4 again - the winners and runners-up of the top two boxes playing off for places 1-4, the 3rd and 4th placed players of the top two boxes playing off for places 5-8 and so on. By this point the children were getting very tired. Rebecca fought very hard in her remaining games and came away with an excellent 12th place. Hannah comfortably won the games in this last box and finished 17th overall.

In the boys finals, Akash played well throughout the day and looked to be close to getting into the top group. In the first round Akash won his first two matches quite comfortably, but his final match in this round, which he lost, turned out to be a tough one against Nayan Patel of Leicester. However, the top two went through into the top half of the second round so he could recover. In the second round, he won his first game, then lost to Mark Middleton of Yorkshire. He came back in his third game, but then lost the fourth before winning his last game. This meant that he came third in this group and into the final round in a group playing off for positions 5-8. In the final round Akash finished in a three way tie for first place (5th overall) but just lost out in the tie break to finish in seventh place overall. A very good performance over a very long and hot day.

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#### U15 Northern Counties Team Tournament

Lyn Lester

On 13th April, Frankie Edelmann, Kate Lester, Anthony Moye and William Westwood met at Hatfield Leisure Centre at an earth shattering time of 6.15 am. Setting off in two cars, William and Anthony travelled with John Smith. Frankie and Kate travelled with Rob and myself, Kate's brother William and Jack (the black Labrador as mascot). Having stopped for breakfast at approximately 8.00 am, we were once again on the road heading towards Newcastle. Major panic! John pulled over and said that Anthony had left his coat at the service station. It was agreed that John would continue to Newcastle with the boys and we would return to collect Anthony's coat. Fortunately we only lost about half an hour's travelling time and caught up with John just as he arrived in Newcastle. No doubt this was a ploy on Anthony's part to ensure that we were all well and truly awake!

Hertfordshire were in a box with Lothian 1, Northumberland and Isle of Man. The games played were singles, level doubles and mixed doubles, all played to 21 with no setting. Herts beat the Isle of Man 5-0 and Northumberland 5-0. Lothian 1, the seeded team, were more difficult. At two games all, Frankie and Kate needed to win their doubles to put Herts top of their box and in a better position for the play-offs for positions 1-8 the following day. But it was not to be. They narrowly lost their doubles game by 20-21, but it was an outstanding match of dedication and determination.

That evening we all went out for a meal at Frankies (very appropriately named) and it gave everyone an opportunity to socialise and relax.

The following day Herts played Lanarkshire 1, West of Scotland and Staffordshire. We were beaten 3-2 by Lanarkshire and 4-1 by West of Scotland, but we did manage to beat Staffordshire 3-2. This placed Herts in 7th position overall. As Herts were not expected to finish in the top eight, it was a tremendous achievement by all the players. In the boys doubles, Anthony and William never lost a game. In the girls doubles Frankie and Kate beat the two Scottish internationals.

I am sure that all the players will join me in thanking the Hosts for an extremely well organised and friendly tournament. A tournament played in the spirit it was intended, with honesty, friendliness and a great deal of enjoyment. Our thanks also go to John Smith who, throughout the tournament, proved an excellent coach - even though the players did not particularly enjoy his 'warm up' sessions.

Well done to the four players, who should all feel justifiably proud of what they each achieved and for their exemplary behaviour both on and off the court.

#### Tournament Results

#### U15 Standard Challenge

Girls Doubles

Final

Claire Allen/Kate Lester beat S Eddy/S Humble (Nd)

#### Warwickshire U14

Girls 'A' Singles: Quarter final **Laura Cousins** lost to Mariana Agathangelou (Jy) 12-21

Girls Doubles: Semi-final **Laura Cousins/Samantha Ward (Sy)** lost to Mariana Agathangelou (Jy)/Vicky Ingram (St) 12-21  
**Frankie Edelmann/Kate Lester** lost to Krissy Koslicki (Nm)/Lucy Milne (Yo) 18-21

#### Hampshire U14

Girls Singles Quarter final **Victoria Stokes** lost to Krissy Koslicki (Nm) 6-15

Girls Doubles Semi-final **Kate Lester/Victoria Stokes** lost to Vicki Ingram (St)/Krissy Koslick (Nm) 12-15

#### Wessex U12

Boys Singles: Semi-final **Oliver Crabb** beat **James Reynolds** 17-16, 15-9

Final **Oliver Crabb** lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 3-15, 3-15

Boys Doubles: Semi-final **James Reynolds/Luke Thomson (Sx)** lost to Simon Foster/Mark Newbery (Ha) 15-9, 13-15, 12-15

Final **Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly** beat Simon Foster/Mark Newbery 15-8, 15-17, 15-12

Girls Singles Semi-final **Rachel Warnes** lost to Kimberley George (Sx) 1-11, 7-11

Girls Doubles Semi-final **Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis** beat **Rebecca Cousins/Hannah Warnes** 15-6, 10-15, 15-9

Final **Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis** lost to Kimberley George/Bronwyn Powell (Sx) 8-15, 8-15

#### Warwickshire U12

Boys Singles: Semi-final **James Reynolds** lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 8-15

Boys Doubles: Quarter final **Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly** lost to Benjamin Fearn (Ch)/Gary Fox (GM) 9-15

Semi-final **James Reynolds/Luke Thomson (Sx)** beat **Akash Jhunjunwala/Matthew Westwood** 15-13

Final **James Reynolds/Luke Thomson** beat Simon Foster/Mark Newbery (Ha) 15-7

#### Berkshire U12

Boys Singles Quarter final **James Reynolds** beat **Oliver Crabb** 15-10

Final **James Reynolds** lost to Luke Thomson (Sx) 7-15, 13-15

Boys Doubles Semi-final **Oliver Crabb/Luke Donnelly** lost to Shaun Parr/Toby Sweet (Ke) 8-15

Final **James Reynolds/Luke Thomson (Sx)** beat Shaun Parr/Toby Sweet 15-7, 15-0

Girls Singles: Quarter final **Hannah Warnes** lost to Caroline Felton (Ex) 4-15

Semi-final **Rachel Warnes** lost to Alyssa Lim (Bu) 0-15

Girls Doubles

Final

**Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis** lost to Caroline Felton  
(Ex)/Kimberley George (Sx) 9-15, 10-15

**From the editor:** Thanks to those who sent contributions for this Newsletter. The AGM had the lowest attendance for many years - only 4 people other than the Committee. Is it lack of interest, or is it being held at the wrong time of year (namely the end of the season)? On a more cheerful note, I hope everyone has a great summer break and that all players will be fighting fit and ready for lots more badminton in September. Closing date for the next issue of the Newsletter is **Friday, 30th August.**

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

## **HERTS COUNTY SQUAD TRIALS**

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Please can Primary Schools pass this information to good players in Year 6 before the Summer break, as the trials are very early in the Autumn Term**

### **Trials for U13 County Squad 2002/2003 Season**

**Wednesday, 18th September at Parmiters School, High Elms Lane, Garston** (just beyond the Crematorium)

**Registration time: 6.15 pm**

**Start time: 6.30 pm**

(Expected finish no later than 8.30 pm)

Players must be under 13 on 1st January 2003, i.e. must have dates of birth in 1990 or 1991

### **Provisonal ADVANCE NOTICE**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**Primary Schools please note**

### **U11 Trials for season 2002/2003 for expected new County Squad**

**Wednesday, 18th September at Parmiters School, High Elms Lane, Garston** (just beyond the Crematorium)

**Registration time: 4.45 pm**

**Start time: 5.00 pm**

Expected finish no later than 6.30 pm

A few talented players may be asked to stay on for U13 trials (see above)

Players must be under 11 on 1st January 2001, i.e. must have dates of birth in 1992 or younger

**Any queries - contact Duncan/Marion Conway 01707 652061**

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### **Trials for U14/U15 (years of birth 1989/1988) and U16/U17 (years of birth 1987/1986)**

- These Trials will take place on **Sunday, 22nd September at Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City**

**Time: 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

Any queries for U14/U15 to John Smith - Tel: 01442 240974

Any queries for U16/U17 to Tony Clarke - Tel: 01992 586727 OR Pat Walker Tel: 01992 422073

Please make a note of these dates NOW. A reminder will appear in the next edition of the newsletter at the beginning of September.