

Printed by courtesy of the
Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

June 2004

Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association County Trials will be held in September. Details are on the attached sheet.

Tournament dates for next season will be in the next newsletter. Will all players (and parents) please make a note of these dates and times as some events have changed quite considerably.

Also - to all Shield holders - please make sure that your shield is returned to the tournament secretary at least one week before the tournament date and that it has been engraved with your name and the date.

Eastern Region Single Sex Tournament - U13

Bob Green

On Saturday, May 8, the under 13 squad (grades 3 and 4 players only) took the short trip across to Stopsley to do battle with teams from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Both the boys and girls squads were able to field two teams of three players, the teams being selected to provide an even contest. The players were: Girls - Alice Bloomfield, Laura Bygrave, Abigail Bursack, Charlotte Gawley Green, Kate Herring, Ying Yi Tee; Boys - Tim Angus, Stephen Hibberd, Rory Harcourt, Harry Sandford, Matthew Sellars, Scott Williams.

In the girls event, both Herts teams won their matches against the other counties, the 'A' team lost only one game in the process and the 'B' team did not drop any. So everything depended on the final match - Herts 'A' v Herts 'B'.

Herts 'B' won a tough opening game 15-8 and it looked like it might be all over, but they were dealt their first defeat of the day in the second game, going down 7-15. So the tournament was all down to the final game, where Ying and Charlotte held off a late surge from Kate and Alice to win 15-12. So Herts 'B' took the gold and Herts 'A' the silver.

Suffolk was third, Bedfordshire fourth, Norfolk fifth and Cambridgeshire sixth, without a win.

In the boys tournament, Herts did not get it all their own way. The 'A' team beat the two Suffolk teams and Bedfordshire before the final game with Herts 'B', losing to Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Meanwhile the 'B' team had beaten the two Suffolk teams, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, losing only to Norfolk.

So it looked like Herts 'B' had the edge going into the final match. However, it was not to be, with the 'A' team coming out winners by three games to love. This left Norfolk as the winners and a three way tie for second place between the two Herts teams and Bedfordshire. After some frantic Key Stage 3 maths, the runners-up were announced as Herts 'A'. Bedfordshire were third, Herts 'B' fourth, Cambridgeshire fifth and the two Suffolk teams sixth and seventh.

A successful day, with Herts teams winning three of the four available medals.

Reports from the AGM

Twenty four people attended the AGM this year (must be a record!!), so it wasn't just the committee. During the evening, trophies and medals were presented to the 'Young Coach' and 'Young Volunteer' of the year. As it has been difficult to select a winner from the nominations, both trophies were shared - the Young Coach award going to Chris Fisher and Jon Pancutt and the Young Volunteer to David Westwood and Joe Webb. Chris, Jon and David were there to receive their medals, but Joe was unable to attend.

Chairman's report - Ken Winchester

I am again pleased to say that HSBA have enjoyed a very successful season, albeit not without its fair share of difficulties.

This final outcome has again been due to the dedication and generosity of the many people who have so willingly contributed their spare time along with their expertise. I remind everyone that squad fees are heavily subsidised by the unremunerated work of others and further underpinned by pre-existing funding. To remain a highly viable entity, it is important for your association to attract younger, committed individuals. A departure from our present modus operandi will be required if we are to make available adequate recompense to such suitable newcomers.

I wish to record the association's deep gratitude to John Smith who steps down this year as U15 Squad Manager. John has kindly agreed to stay on to manage the squad coaching. We welcome Hitesh Shah and wish him good luck as John's successor.

I am also personally very sorry to be losing Lyn Lester who has performed such a superb job on behalf of HSBA. Lyn has kindly agreed to carry on until a successor can be arranged.

Malcolm Lumb has again been instrumental in maximising the value of our assets and I would add your grateful thanks to my own. Megan also deserves our congratulations in continuing to produce such a superb newsletter that entertains us with all matters connected to HSBA and beyond.

For the sake of brevity, I shall refrain from mentioning everybody by name but it is only right that we should congratulate each of the squad managers and their assistants for the tremendous results that they have achieved with their squads.

We hope that we may continue to depend upon your assistance and support in the coming season.

U11 and Development Training - Hazel Levins

We have enjoyed our season training in the new Herts Sports Village with its excellent facilities. After the trials, twenty four players were invited to our weekly sessions. All players have tried hard and have a good attendance record. The U11 squad finished the season on a high note by winning the U11 Singles Challenge Regional Event at Slough in May, where we played teams from Essex, Berks, Middlesex, Sussex and Surrey. This and all of our matches prove that we have some very promising players in our squad who can look forward, I feel sure, to winning many more events and medals in the future for themselves and for Herts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Walker and Dick Large who have helped and supported me throughout the season, also David Westwood, who has helped on several occasions.

Thanks, too, to the parents who ferry their children to and from weekly training sessions and matches and to Nicholas Fraser, our parent representative on the committee.

U13 Squad - Duncan Conway

We started the season without the strength in depth which had characterised the previous two seasons. However, the squad members worked hard and gave 100% commitment in the matches and in the practices and were able to keep us in the top six counties nationwide. We dominated the East Anglia round of the Team Challenge and in the final finished in 6th place

out of twelve - a creditable performance. The Shires League saw us play Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Essex. Although we lost our first match to Hampshire, we made it

to the finals where Lady Luck was on our side as we had the best draw in the first round and we finished in 4th place overall - another excellent result. In Invitation events, we didn't manage to win any more silverware at Leicester, but the Avon Doubles saw the Girls Trophy go down from Herts in the morning and return to Herts in the evening. Several matches and tournaments for Grade 3 and 4 players only have been played so we have again been able to offer match experience to all members of the squad. Good results in BAofE JC tournaments for Richard Wilson, Helena Lewczynska and Emily Westwood resulted in Helena and Emily representing England in Germany in an international tournament. Grateful thanks to my wife Marion, Hitesh Shah and Bob Green whose help with coaching and matches has been invaluable. Also my thanks to the parent representative, Barbara Lewczynska and to all the parents who have made the season go smoothly.

U15 Squad - John Smith

The moment has arrived and I find myself writing my last report as manager of the Herts U15 squad. I have been involved with HSBA for 20 years and, as I reflect on those years, there are so many happy memories I can recall. It has been a wonderful time and, although hard work and time-consuming, it has been immensely enjoyable. I shall still be around to help with the coaching, but I am passing the managerial baton to Hitesh for next season with my best wishes for his success.

So, what about this season's badminton? Well, it really has been a case of "If only.."

On paper we had the strongest squad in England. Nine players were selected for the World Class programme and all of them were selected to play for England at least once, some of them several times. Congratulations to Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, James Reynolds, Nigel Tao and Matthew Westwood. Many of our players have won medals in different graded open tournaments and we have had some team successes. We have much to be proud of, but the problem is that our expectations are very high. We won the regional round of the National Team Challenge, but a week before the finals our No 1 boy injured his shoulder and could not play. The team played well on the day and we won a bronze medal for the third year running. It has been a great pleasure coaching all the players who have attended squad sessions regularly. The standard of play has improved enormously since last September. Thanks to everyone who has supported the squad with transport, refreshments, setting up nets, looking after teams on match days, etc. and especially Ken and Hitesh for their invaluable assistance on squad nights. My very best wishes to all the friends I have made over the years; committee members, parents and, of course, the players. I hope we will be able to keep in touch.

U17 Squad - Tony Clarke

It has been another excellent year for the Herts U17 squad. Individual performances in age group tournaments were very good at both U15 and U17 Junior Challengers.

The team events were the highlights of the year with excellent results in the Shires League, York RIO and the ICT at Nottingham University. We finished 2nd behind Yorkshire at RIO beating Notts on the way. We convincingly won the southern section of the Shires League. In the finals in Leicester, the four first round winners drew lots to play each other. To our dismay the Yorks team manager drew out Herts but our team rose to the challenge and **WE BEAT YORKSHIRE!** In the finals we were runners-up to Notts. After Easter, in the Inter-Counties Tournament we won our group in the first round. After an initial scare against Cheshire in the second round we went on to win the group and gain a place in the top four. Having lost to Yorks and Notts, the team played really well to beat Hants on the final day and gain a bronze medal. It was a proud team manager who watched Will and Emma collect the 3rd place silver salver. This was our 5th medal in the last ten years. I would like to thank the rest of the ICT management team of Pat, Colin and Mike for their considerable help and particularly Pat for her help throughout the year. Also many thanks to the parents for their support especially at the ICT.

Treasurer's Report

Once again a satisfactory year, helped by the £1,945 gained from the BAofE JC tournaments held last December. Consideration is being given as to the best use of this money and it is intended to give details before the new season starts.

BAofE U11 Singles Challenge

Hazel Levins (U11 Team Manager)

The U11 Squad finished the season on a high note by winning the U11 County Singles Challenge Regional Event at Slough on Saturday May 15, where they played teams from Essex, Berks, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex. Our youngsters had met these counties during quadrangular matches throughout the season, always playing very close games and not clinching the vital points needed to win the game and taking 3rd or 4th place on the day. It was a reflection of their determination and effort that this time they took the points and came home with the trophy.

The Herts team was Daniel Regan, Elliott Miles, Andrei Donko, Gareth Lumb, Emily Westwood, Claire Widdicombe, Kate Sellars and Jo En Choi.

Although it is a team event, a regional team is formed on the day from the top six highest placed individual scores from the boys event and the girls event. Emily Westwood won the girls event and formed part of the regional team along with fellow team mate Elliott Miles. Kate Sellars came 7th in the girls event and narrowly missed gaining a place in the regional team.

The National Final was held at Milton Keynes on Saturday June 12 and the Slough Regional team came 3rd. Our congratulations go to Emily Westwood, who won the girls event and is U11 National Champion. Well done!

BAofE U11 Singles Challenge Final

Phil Westwood

The 3rd U11 BAofE National Singles Challenge (there are no U11 Nationals as such) was held at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes, on June 12. The highest placed finishers, six boys and six girls from each of four regional heats, gathered to form teams to compete for those regions, and for individual trophies for the top four girls and boys.

The heats had taken place at York, Leicester, Stroud and ours at Slough. But before play started the teams gathered to choose names under which to compete. Thus emerged the Northern Nutters, the Midland Devils, the Southern Whackers (I'm sure I got that right!) and the Slough Smashers, comprising Emily Westwood and Elliott Miles from Herts, four players from Essex and two each from Surrey, Sussex and Berkshire.

As you might expect the first round boxes each contain one competitor from each of the regions, but finishing positions determine the make-up of the boxes for the following rounds. There are three rounds altogether, designed such that by the last round players are grouped by similar standard. No one is knocked out. Every player has ten games and is playing to the very last game to improve their position. With play beginning soon after 10 am and finishing at about 6.30, stamina plays its part.

So play began, and, as the second round boxes began to take shape, I'm afraid it was clear that the North-South divide is alive and well. All six of the Midland Devils' girls were into the two 'upper half' boxes along with four from the Northern Nutters, leaving just Emily and Megan Stancombe (Gl) to fly the flag for the south. The boys, slightly better, were split six and six, with four of the Slough Smashers through to the top half, including Max Wescott (Essex - Herts next season).

After a break for a bite, play resumed. Emily duly made her way into the top four group, conceding just three points in five second round games. She was joined by Sophie Sankey (Bu) - the Midlands heat winner, Emily Mumby (Li) - the York heat winner and Lauren Bromley (St) - the Midlands heat runner-up. And for the boys, Tom Wolfenden (La) and Oliver Cohen (Yo), respectively first and fourth from the York heat, made the top box, along with Steven Cappleman (Ha) - the winner from the Stroud heat and Sam Dobson (Sy) - runner-up from Slough.

Here I must digress with a little grumble on Elliott's behalf. He hadn't started well, but in this format there is always the possibility of recovering some ground. Now the tournament was run extremely well, as always, yet a rule was repeatedly overlooked. In the second round, there were seven occasions where two boys finished a group equal on 'games won'. Each time the higher placing went to the player scoring most points. In fact, in six of those seven cases the other player had won 'the game between them' and, according to the printed rules, should have had the decision. Elliott was one of the unlucky six, and undoubtedly would have finished at least three points higher than his 19th place.

Back to the competition. In the final round, since players come through in pairs - first and second to one box, third and fourth to another, etc - they carry through the scores from the game between them. Emily, with an 11-2 win over Lauren Bromley in hand, was just two games from the title. First up was Sophie Sankey. Like Emily this was her second U11 singles challenge, but unlike Emily, Sophie will be back next year - a likely contender for the top spot. After a good start, mistakes crept in and Sophie drew back to 4-4, but Emily regrouped and pulled away to win 11-4. One game to go. Emily Mumby had reached this play-off with some good play, including a closely fought 11-9 win over Sophie. But from the start of this last game she was clearly tiring and the Herts Emily had little trouble, winning 11-4. From fifth last year, she had returned to win. Lauren took second, with Emily Mumby third and Sophie fourth.

The boys event ran on well after the girls had finished. Oliver Cohen (Yo) was a well deserved boys winner. Tom Wolfenden (La), who ran Oliver the closest of anyone in the second round with a 10-11 score, was third. Sam Dobson (Sy), who had capitalised on early good fortune, was second. Sam, in the same starting group as Oliver, had won only one game in that group, and had scraped through in second place on points. But in the second round he had won all his games to top that group and gain a place in the top four play-off. Steven Cappleman (Ha) was fourth.

And lastly, the team placings were much as predicted from the opening round. The Northern Nutters (as had last year's Northern Knights) dominated proceedings. With four in the top seven, they won the boys event by a large margin. This, added to their second in the girls, they ended twenty points clear of the Midland Devils in second spot. The Slough Smashers in third were a further forty points down, but well ahead of the Southern Whackers.

Last year the teams were each given coloured T-shirts at the start. With players so young, many did not know each other and the team colours helped them break the ice and gel as a team. It was certainly easier to round them up for team photos. Although the competition this year was probably as good and everyone seemed to enjoy the day, that team spirit seemed to me to be lacking from the overall atmosphere (organisers please note).

End of season tournaments

Anne Donnelly

Kent U16

Considering this tournament clashed with the U16 Rising Stars, there was still a large and competitive entry. Luke Donnelly and Stephen Barnard were the only Herts entries, Oliver Crabb pulling out through injury.

Boys Singles: Luke played exceptionally well and won his box, going through to the quarters. Stephen, unfortunately, had one player in his box pull out through injury, won one of his games but lost the other. Luke then had to play Luke Foreman (Sy). In spite of the huge height and age difference, he put up a good fight, but lost 7-21.

Boys Doubles: As Oliver was not able to play in this tournament, Luke entered the doubles with scratch partner - Chris Hart from Kent. They did very well and reached the semi-finals - beating Calvalcanti/Clackett; Clarke/Lock and Holloway/Page - where they met Luke Foreman /Jack Molyneux (Sy). They played a good game, but lost - not a bad result, considering they had never played together before.

Hampshire U14

Herts entries - Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, James Reynolds and Matthew Westwood

Boys Singles: Oliver, Luke and James all won their boxes, but unfortunately Matthew lost to Ross Little. James and Oliver had byes to the quarters, while Luke played Mark Cappleman (Ha). Luke had the lead for most of the game, but it slipped away and Mark won 21-17. James then lost to Michael Mellor (My) 19-21 and Oliver lost to Andrew Brunning (Ex) 14-21, who went on to win the tournament.

Boys Doubles: James/Chris Tustion (Ox), Oliver/Luke and Matthew/Xavier Bramley (Bu) all won their boxes, Matthew/Xavier going out in the quarters. In the semis, Oliver/Luke beat James/Chris 15-10, 15-12 and went on to win an excellent final 13-15, 15-5, 17-16, both sides giving it their all.

Mixed Doubles: A lack of girls meant a very small entry with only two boxes. James/Bronwyn Powell (Sx) and Oliver/Kimberley George (Sx) won their boxes putting them straight into the final, which James/Bronwyn won 15-8, 15-9.

Kent U14

Herts entries - Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, Matthew Fitt, James Reynolds, Matthew Westwood

Boys Singles: Crabb, Donnelly, Matthew F, James and Matthew W all won their boxes, with Oliver then beating Matthew F in the play off for the quarters. Luke and Matthew W found themselves on opposite sides of the net. Luke, not playing in the quite the same form as he had in the Kent U16, for the the first half of the game looked like he wasn't quite there! Matthew steamed ahead to turn round at 11-2 and Luke woke up, but too late, Matthew winning 21-15. Oliver played Xavier Bramley - a good game, Oliver wining 21-14. So, three Herts boys in the semis - James beating Matthew W 21-12 and Oliver losing to Andrew Brunning (Ex) 17-21, who went on to beat James in the final 15-10, 15-13.

Boys Doubles: James/Andrew Brunning (Ex), Oliver/ Luke and Matthew W/Xavier Bramley (Bu) all won their boxes, going straight to the semis where Oliver/Luke lost to Matthew W/Xavier 15-21 and Andrew /James beat Parr/Sweet before going on to beat Matthew W/Xavier in the final 15-13, 15-8.

Mixed Doubles: James/Bronwyn Powell (Sx), Luke/Emily Scott (Ke) and Oliver/Kimberley George (Sx) won their boxes again going straight to the semis. James/Bronwyn beat Xavier Bramley/Webb 21-18, then Luke and Oliver found themselves in opposition. In what turned out to be quite a battle, the more established pair - Oliver/Kimberley - beat Luke/Emily 21-19. The final was won by James/Bronwyn 11-15. 15-5. 15-7.

U14 Rising Stars

Herts entries - Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, James Reynolds, Matthew Westwood.

(Girls entries at a different venue - Rebecca Cousins, Hannah Warnes, Rachel Warnes, Charlotte Willis)

Boys Singles: a large entry so games were to 15 points, no setting. Matthew and Oliver won their boxes, Matthew playing very well to beat Mark Newbery 15-9. Oliver, again played Xavier Bramley (Bu) in their box, beating him 15-12. Luke and James, on this occasion, did not get out of their boxes, Luke losing to Ross Little (GM) and James to Michael Mellor (My). In the quarters, both Oliver and Matthew were put out of the equation, Matthew losing to Andrew Brunning and Oliver to Luke Thomson.

Boys Doubles: Matthew/Xavier Bramley, Oliver/Luke and James/Andrew Brunning all won their boxes, with Oliver/Luke then beating Chris Tustion/Jonathan Campbell (Ox) to reach the quarters. This meant that once again Matthew/Xavier faced Oliver/Luke in a quarter final, but this time Oliver/Luke were the victors. James/Andrew beat Middleton/Shields for their place in the semis. Unfortunately, the Herts were all beaten at that point, Oliver/Luke by Luke Thomson (Sx)/ Ben Stawski (Wk) 21-15 and James/Andrew by Mark Newbery (Ha)/Gary Fox (GM) 21-18.

Wessex U14

Herts entries - Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, Stephen Hibberd, Alex Regan, James Reynolds, Matthew Westwood, Rebecca Cousins, Hannah Warnes.

Boys Singles: A surprisingly large entry. Oliver, Luke, James and Matthew won their boxes. All of them were playing well. Alex won one of his singles, placing him third in his box. Both Matthew and Luke, after playing 4 in their boxes, had to play another round to reach the quarters. Matthew lost to Mark Cappleman (Ha) 9-21 and Luke played, what turned out to be quite a long game, against Tom Forsyth (Ha), winning 21-9. In the quarters, Oliver met Mark Newbery (Ha) in a close and good game, ending with Mark the victor 21-19. Luke, having recently finished his last singles, went straight on to to meet James, who came out the winner. James was playing exceptionally well and carried his

form through to beat Ben Tier (Ha) in the semi-finals and gain a place in the finals against Andrew Brunning (Ex). The finals were played later in the day with James beating Andrew.

Boys Doubles: Oliver/Luke and James/Andrew Brunning won their boxes. The big upset was that Matthew/Xavier Bramley were beaten in their box by Daniel Boxall (Wi)/James Buffam (Sy). Alex/Stephen came third in their box.

James/Andrew got a bye to the semis, while Oliver/Luke again had to play an interim round against Mark Cappleman/Tom Forsyth (Ha), which they won 21-5. This meant that Oliver/Luke had to play James/Andrew in the semis. This was a really exciting game to watch - Oliver/Luke down at the start, catching up to take the lead. and then neck and neck all the way. The end result was Oliver/Luke winning 23-20. Oliver/Luke were back on great form. The final was between them and Mark Newbery/Gary Fox, which Oliver Luke won 21-17.

The girls played well, but on this occasion did not make it to the later stages.

From Alan Reynolds

After a gruelling season of U15 Junior Challenger tournaments, our Herts boys were able to relax a little in the 3 end of season U14 tournaments. In these tournaments, Oliver Crabb, Luke Donnelly, James Reynolds and Matthew Westwood amassed a total of 15 medals (5 gold, 2 silver and 8 bronze), which I think is a credit to them all and great for Hertfordshire.

Junior Leagues

Pat Walker (League Secretary)

Final League Table

	Played	Won	Lost
U12 Boys			
Gazelles	6	5	1
Swifts	6	4	2
Much Hadham	6	3	3
Harpenden	6	0	6
U12 Girls			
Swifts	7	7	0
Gazelles	8	5	3
Stanstead Abbots	8	3	5
Hitchin	7	3	4
Much Hadham	8	1	7
U15 Boys A			
Hitchin	6	6	0
Gazelles	6	4	2
All Saints	6	1	5
Comets	6	1	5

U15 Grand Finals

Girls Singles	Final	Laura Cousins lost to Sarah Walker (Ex) 4-11, 7-11
Girls Doubles	1st 2nd	Laura Cousins /Samantha Ward (Sy) Katie Comras /Sarah Walker (Ex)
Boys Doubles	2nd	Robert Hird (Bu)/ Nigel Tao
Mixed Doubles	2nd	Arthur Cheung (Bu)/ Katie Comras

Berkshire U12

Boys Singles	Quarter final	Richard Wilson lost to Ralph Pedersen (Mx) 5-15
Boys Doubles	Semi-final	Robert Tring (Sx)/ Richard Wilson lost to Peter Briggs (Le)/Chris Coles (Av) 13-15
Girls Singles	Final	Helena Lewczynska beat Emily Westwood 15-11
Girls Doubles	Final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood beat Felicity Boyce/Bryony Morris (Sx) 15-7

Wessex U12

Boys Singles	Semi-final	Richard Wilson lost to Chris Coles (Av) 13-15, 7-15
Girls Singles	Semi-final	Helena Lewczynska beat Emily Westwood 5-11. 11-5. 11-2
	Final	Helena Lewczynska beat Laura Baker (Ha) 3-11. 11-7. 11-9
Girls Doubles	Winners 3rd	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood Laura Bygrave/Charlotte Gawley Green

Warwickshire (Rising Stars) U12

Boys Singles	Quarter final	Richard Wilson lost to Chris Coles (Av) 6-15
Girls Singles	Quarter final	Emily Westwood lost to Sarah Milne (Yo) 11-15
Girls Doubles	Semi-final	Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood lost to Jessica Fletcher/Sarah Milne (Yo) 13-15

From the editor: Thanks to Bob Green, Hazel Levins, Phil Westwood, Anne Donnelly, Alan Reynolds and Marion Conway for their contributions. The season is finally over and I hope everyone will have a very happy summer break and will come back in September ready for another busy and hopefully, successful season.

Megan Lumb
16 Strafford Gate
Potters Bar,
Herts
EN6 1PN

Tel: 01707 653812
E-mail: megan@mischief16.demon.co.uk

