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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

June 2005

National Champions

Tony Clarke

The final of the U17 Shires League was played at the Leicestershire Badminton Centre on Sunday April 24. Herts qualified for the final by winning the Southern Group beating Berkshire, Essex, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and runners-up Sussex, who also qualified for the finals. The qualifiers from the other 3 groups were Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire. The Herts team was: Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, James Reynolds, Nigel Tao, Matthew Westwood, Katie Comras, Frankie Edelman, Kate Lester, Victoria Stokes and Charlotte Willis .

In the first round the group winners played the runners-up of another group, the winners of these matches finishing in positions 1-4, with the others in 5-8.

Herts played Leics and won comfortably 10-0, to join Yorkshire, Bucks and Warwicks, who surprisingly beat No 3 seeds Notts. In the semi-finals Herts beat Bucks 8-2, losing only the 1st boys singles and the first boys doubles. Yorkshire struggled to beat Warwicks, but finally managed a 6-4 victory.

The final started with the mixed, hopefully two bankers for Herts. Kamran/Katie had a winning lead of 11-3, but the Yorkshire pair fought back to win 21-19. Victor/Kate levelled the score with a close fought 21-16 to win the 2nd mixed. The teams shared the boys singles with a win for Nigel, but James was defeated by U15 National Champion Richard Morris. Frankie and Katie won the girls singles to give Herts a 4-2 lead with just the four doubles to play.

Nigel/Matthew won the 2nd boys doubles 21-12 while Kamran/Victor were locked in a titanic struggle finally squeezing home 21-18 to give Herts a winning 6-2 lead. Herts lost one of the girls doubles, but Victoria/Charlotte beat a strong Yorkshire pair 21-16 to remain undefeated throughout the day, as was Matthew. This gave Herts a 7-3 victory, reversing the 6-4 defeat by Yorkshire earlier in the month at the ICT. Warwicks beat Bucks to take 3rd place.

April 2005 has been a fantastic month for the U17 team, finishing 2nd at the ICT, Herts best result since winning the title in 1997 and then to win the Shires League to basically become National Champions. The team, containing seven International players, trains every Thursday at the Hertfordshire Sports Village in Hatfield.

Footnote

U17 team manager, Tony Clarke, was seen pictured with the Shires League trophy at the end of a very successful season. Tony will be in his 25th year as manager of the U17 squad next season. During that time he has seen the Junior County become consistently one of the strongest in the country. His efforts were rewarded last season when the Badminton Association of England presented him with their award for his contribution to English badminton.

At the end of this newsletter is a Photo Gallery of some of last season's successful players. Another 'Gallery' will be included in the next newsletter.

U11 Singles and Doubles Challenges

The U11 Singles Challenge took place in Slough on April 30. Six counties competed - Herts, Middlesex, Berkshire, Sussex, Surrey and Essex. The Herts girls were Kate Sellars, Olivia van der Maat, Lexy Richards and Katherine Head; the boys were Nick Barnett, Daniel Hatt, Gareth Lumb and Steven George. The girls played very well, with Kate finishing in 9th place and as a team they were 4th behind winners Essex, Sussex and Surrey. The boys also did well, finishing 3rd behind winners again Essex, and Sussex, with Daniel 3rd and Nick 5th going as part of the regional team to the national final in Milton Keynes in June.

Points from the girls and boys events were added together for an overall total and Herts finished 3rd behind winners Essex and runners-up Sussex, with Surrey 4th, Berkshire 5th and Middlesex 6th.

The U11 Doubles Challenge took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre on May 15. Four counties took part - Herts, Sussex, Surrey and Essex. The Herts girls team was Kate Sellars/Olivia van der Maat and Lexy Richards/Katherine Head. A third individual pair - Chloe Bungey/Amy George - also played. The boys team was Nick Barnett/Gareth Lumb and Harry Angus/Daniel Hatt. The individual boys pair was Steven George/Howard Stobo.

The girls played in a group of eight and the boys in one group of 9. The girls finished 3rd behind Sussex and Essex and the boys team were equal first with Essex. By adding the team points together, Herts ended in 3rd place behind joint winners Essex and Sussex, who had to nominate players for a mixed doubles to decide the overall winner. Essex won comfortably and became regional champions in doubles as well as singles.

U13 Regional Single Sex Competition

Marion Conway

Sunday morning and once again we were off to Luton Regional Sports Centre, a venue that begins to feel very familiar. This time it was for the Regional Single Sex tournament.

The venue was crowded with teams from Herts, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire for U13, U15 and U17 age groups. There were 3 players in each team and we had entered two U13 boys teams and two U13 girls teams. We hoped that this would give match experience to a number of players who had not had the opportunity to play in matches earlier in the season.

At first it was chaos as the organiser arrived after most of the teams and the paperwork was complex because of a number of withdrawals. However, once play started, everything ran smoothly. In each match, each team played three doubles games. All of our players tried very hard, but a number showed their inexperience.

The two second teams struggled in their boxes although the girls, in a larger box, won one match. This meant they both came third in their boxes and were both playing for 5th/6th place. Both teams lifted their games and both teams won convincingly to take 5th place.

The path of the first teams was also remarkably similar. Both did well in their first matches, but when they came to play the Norfolk teams, they struggled. They both lost their first games but the second and third pairings lifted their games, much to the relief of the spectators, and won the matches by 2 -1, and so proceeding to the finals.

The results in these matches, however, were different. The girls fought hard against Bedfordshire, but lost the first two games. To their credit they did not give up and managed to win the third game but this meant that they lost 1-2 overall and took the silver medals.

The boys also struggled in their match against Suffolk 1 and just lost the first game 13-15. So the tension mounted for players and spectators alike. However, the second pair stormed to a 15-2 win. Everything rested on the final game which was very tight. However Herts managed a 15-10 win to take the gold medals.

So Herts came home with two 5th places, one 2nd place and one 1st place in an U13 event. An excellent result as all our boys and half our girls are still under 12. Well done, everyone!

Boys 1st team: Daniel Regan, Ryan McCarthy, Andrei Donko

Boys 2nd team: Alex Lee, Freddie Kenison, Andrew Maughan

Girls 1st team: Abigail Bursack, Daniella Farsiani, Isabelle Sadler

Girls 2nd team: Claire Widdicombe, Jo En Choi, Gemma Ford

The following two items by Frankie Edelman and Nigel Tao have already been reported by Team Manager Tony Clarke. However these give an insight into the major tournaments from the players point of view (and also give away some of the happenings which might never otherwise come to light!!)

RIO 2005

Nigel Tao/Frankie Edelman (U17 Team Captains)

Hertfordshire went into RIO hoping to improve on our 2nd position last year. The team was Francesca Edelman, Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Kate Lester, Victoria Stokes, Charlotte Willis, Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, Matt Westwood, Stephen Barnard and James Reynolds. The team knew this was one of the best chances to dethrone Yorkshire and team spirits were high and the team was eager to get going at 7.30 in the morning. We knew the weekend would be full of surprises, and the first came when our scheduled train to Yorkshire became a coach, which was to leave 10 minutes earlier than the train, and essential member Matt Westwood, to our relief, managed to make the coach as it was about to leave.

After an enthusiastic train/coach journey, we arrived in York and, to carry on the Herts tradition, walked in on the opening talk for RIO '95, but this time the team managed to keep their feet to themselves and managed not to make a scene as they entered.

Our first match of the day came against Lancashire, a game which we eventually won reasonably comfortably 12-3, with debutantes Matt, James, Stephen, Charlotte and Victoria playing very well and showing no signs of nerves. This was a good confidence booster for them and the team.

Our second match was against Surrey; we all expected this to be a very difficult game as they had some very good players. The match started with James, an underdog against Max Gardner, one of the top players in his age group. James raced off to a surprising 8-0 lead before Max's strength started to show and James eventually lost 21-14. However, the team managed to hold themselves together and managed to win with a surprising score line of 12-3. This shocked our very own Tony Clarke who had doubts regarding our chances prior to the game.

Our final match of the day was against Lothian, a strong Scottish county. Winning this match would guarantee us a top four finish and, despite losing a few matches, we managed to beat them reasonably comfortably, 10-5.

After beating Lothian, everybody walked to the hotel, got their room keys (the girls getting the traditional best room in the hotel 'the flat', had dinner and then started to get ready for the much awaited disco (Risco '95). With everybody all dressed and Nigel and Kam wearing their especially extravagant shirts the disco began. It was in the usual style with all the classic songs like 'build me up, buttercup baby' and everyone seemed to have a good time. Not to forget Katie's crazy dance routines (which I won't get into) and the surprise ending of the boy's rendition of the Full Monty which, of course, Kam participated in!

After a good night's rest for most, the team were ready to do battle with Notts for a place in the final. We knew that we had a very good chance of beating this Notts side that were without their top three boys through injury. It was a hard fought match but we emerged victors by the score of 10-5, a creditable performance and a good start to prepare us for Yorkshire, who disposed of Lancashire relatively easily in the other semi-final.

Our final against Yorkshire was eagerly awaited by most, and when the team sheet came out we fancied our chances. However, we plunged into a difficult position by losing our first 6 matches leaving the score at 6-0. Although the girls fought hard to regain vital points, we eventually lost 10-5. It was an encouraging performance by the entire team, and as always, we were unlucky to lose to Yorkshire in the final and had to settle for a second place finish.

The highlight of the day, however, was Tony Clarke, our team manager, winning an award for being the Herts team manager and attending RIO for an astonishing 15 years. Thanks must go to Tony and Pat for taking and organising the team. This encouraging performance would hopefully set the stage for next year when we return with pretty much the same team, apart from losing our top girls Francesca Joanna Edelman and Kate Lester, attempt to make John Foster's trousers roll once again.

ICT 2005

The Herts team was full of confidence, following a successful season and knowing this would be our best opportunity to end Yorkshire's dominance in the ICT. We were aware of tough competition, despite being seeded second, as Bucks, Notts and Essex were also in contention with some very good players of their own. Our team was Frankie Edelmann and Nigel Tao (team captains for this year), Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, Matt Westwood, James Reynolds, Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Kate Lester and Victoria Stokes.

Kam and Matt, with their music and loud speakers, along with Vicky's weird but entertaining music in the background, provided the journey's entertainment in the minibus journey to Nottingham. Our first group consisted of Northants, Leinster, Lincolnshire and Jersey. After depositing our luggage, we set out for the sports centre to have our team photo taken. As expected, we overcame Northants with relative ease, 10-0, with the first, much anticipated crème egg of the tournament won by Frankie, who somewhat amazingly managed to repeat the feat against Jersey, who we also beat 10-0. The team, so far, had played really well and hadn't dropped a game. Special mention must go to Matt who played some quality badminton. After dinner we travelled to Chilwell to play our final match of the day against Leinster. Despite very poor conditions, the team coped well and eventually won 9-1, with a solid team performance once again. Credit on this occasion must go to Victor for defying the laws of gravity and hitting what can only be described as 'Kaboom' smashes. At the end of an eventful first day, we got back to the university ready for showers, cakes and hot chocolates. The usual fight for the showers was avoided by a democratic suggestion to determine the shower order by playing cards - an eventful game. After hot chocolate, cakes, a few games of 52 card pick up, Laura's bizarre interpretation of a curfew and a lack of muffins, it was time for bed, but the best action of the day was still to come, which featured Matt, a piece of soap, and a pound coin. The player of the day award went to Victoria, who played very well and winning a crème egg of her own in her final game. Kam also warranted a special mention for his attributes as a 'key player' on and off court. Prior to lights out there was further action in the corridors between Matt again, and another senior member of the team, involving soap being bombarded across the rooms. Eventually they ran out of soap and so decided that bed was probably the best option.

The second day was, coincidentally, 'April Fools Day', and Kam got Matt worried at 7.30 in the morning, thumping on his door and telling him the team had already left. After breakfast and a bit of pool and table tennis (without a ball), we set off for the sports centre to play Lincolnshire, an enthralling match to say the least. Although the score line of 10-0 seems to suggest a total one-sided annihilation, it wasn't. In the boys singles, Vicky and Nigel came back from 19-12 down in their matches to eventually win 21-20. In the boys doubles there was another 21-20 match in our favour, and this time it was Kam/Nigel who eventually saw off their opponents. Seeing as it was April Fools, James was made the hoax of the day, involving an open proposal to Anna Wilson. But James eventually returned the favour by 'soaping' a message of his own on his door. (Thanks must go to the cleaners who replaced all the soap, which had somehow been used up the night before!!)

After only conceding one game in our group we progressed to the next stage to play Staffordshire, Essex and Avon. Former team captains Dave and Will turned up and their appearance boosted the team's morale considerably. Our remaining games of the day were against Staffs and Avon, who we managed to beat with scores of 10-0 and 9-1 respectively. However, there was worry within the camp with news that our No 1 mixed player, Katie, had hurt her shoulder. Luckily it wasn't serious and a bit of ice did the trick. After playing Avon, we headed back to the rooms for the usual hot chocolate, cakes and a bit of the OC. All the trouble in the boys dormitories was avoided as we knew that Essex was going to be a very tough game and one we needed to win to ensure a top four finish.

Day 3 was important, not only because of the badminton, but also because the disco was to follow later that evening. This provided Kam with the perfect opportunity to demonstrate, once again, that he was a key player on AND off the court. He was surprisingly pumped up for his first match in the mixed against Miles McBain/Sarah Walker, a game which we went into as underdogs, but won with a surprising score of 21-14. Victor/Frankie also played well to beat Essex's second mixed - a great

confidence booster for the team, as we knew we only needed 4 more games to guarantee a top four finish. However, we lost our next 3 games - 2 boys singles and 1 girls singles, with Laura narrowly losing out to Sarah 20-21. Frankie, leading by example, won her singles convincingly, leaving the scores at 3-3. The boys doubles were the most important two games. There was no need to worry, as some 'boom selection' shots from Matt sealed the 2nd boys doubles 21-13 against Lee Perry/Jon Raw. Further vintage doubles play from Vicky/Kam put us in a 5-3 lead, with only the girls doubles left to play. The girls managed to despatch their opponents relatively easily leaving the final score at 7-3. Victory against Essex meant that we were guaranteed a top four finish and we were set to battle it out with Yorks, Bucks and Notts.

Our next match was against Bucks, but injury ruled Nigel out of the singles, which meant James had to step up to play No 1 singles, with Matt filling at No 2, playing Arthur Cheung and Rob Hird respectively. After an inspirational team talk from Tony and a formidable formation, we were ready to do battle with Bucks. There was tension when we went 2-1 down, with James due to play Arthur - a match which Arthur was odds on to win. However James, surprisingly, went 11-4 ahead, some 'insane in the membrane' shots enabled him to take the game 21-14 - a massive shock to everyone. This made the score 2-2, rather than 1-3, which did miracles for the team. Despite Bucks going 3-2 up after a girl's singles, the match always favoured us and we eventually wrapped it up, winning 7-3 - a creditable result.

This meant if we won against Notts we would be in the final against Yorkshire, who despatched them convincingly 9-1. We knew that it was going to be difficult and after some tactical adjustments we were confident of winning and advancing to the final. When the team sheet came out, we fancied our chances. After losing the first mixed, it wasn't looking good. Vicky/Frankie were 20-14 down in the second. However, a phenomenal rally for Vicky on match point, which included some breathtaking defence (later dubbed the 'defensive rally' by Frankie), inspired them both and they proceeded to win the game 21-20. Despite total commitment from Alison Pulford and Will Simpson of Notts, diving all over the court, we still managed to take the four singles. This left us 4 up with 4 to play. We collected the one doubles rubber we needed to win, which left the final score at 6-4 to Herts. This set up an enthralling final day against Yorkshire.

However, before the final, there was something more important on the minds of the players - the disco! The match against Notts had finished late so dinner had been held for us and it meant that many of the Herts team arrived 'fashionably late' for the disco. Everyone seemed to have a good time; not forgetting Kate's mysterious disappearance and, well, we all know what happened with Kam. The night ended with hot chocolate and cakes in Katie's room where the prize of best dressed was given out. Need I say who the winner was? And I won't get into his winning speech of his entire routine of preparation.

The final day was greeted with much enthusiasm. This was what everyone had been waiting for. Unfortunately, we were made to wait that little bit longer, as there were other matches to play that would determine positions 5-39. After a seemingly endless few hours, we were called into the hall, with Frankie and Nigel proudly leading the team out, to a huge ovation from the crowd. It was as if no one wanted Yorks to win! The first 2 matches on were the mixed. We took the second very comfortably, with Kam/Katie beating Danny Adams/Lauren Allinson. After Nigel/Kate's performance in the mixed against Notts, we were able to play them at No 1. After a pulsating start, going 9-1 up, they seemed to hit a brick wall. White/Bonsels managed to re-coup the deficit and ran out winners 21-11. The score was 1-1, which is what we had anticipated. Girls singles was next. Laura had another tight game, this time against Lucy Milne. She fought for every point and turned in a superb performance to win 21-20. Frankie, once again leading by example, turned in another great performance to beat Kate Robertshaw quite comfortably. We were now in a commanding 3-1 lead with the boys singles next on. Victor had a tough game against Marcus Ellis, along with James, who had the difficult task of playing the 'man mountain' of Richard Morris. Both players lost, but showed great spirit in fighting for every point, as they knew they could be vital in the case of a draw. The score was evenly poised at 3 apiece with just the doubles to play. We knew there was a chance we could take the match 6-4, but each pair would have to play out of their skins to win. First on was the girl's doubles.

Kate/Laura had a long, hard fought battle with Kate Robertshaw/Kim Stevens and managed to come out top, leaving the score at 4-3. Katie/Frankie never really seemed to get going against Gabby/Lauren, and so the score was 4-4 with just the boys to play. Nigel/Matt went on and put up a solid performance against Adam/Morris who, unfortunately, proved too strong which left the tie in Yorks' favour. The last game of the tournament was Kam/Victor against Ellis/Bonsels. There were some amazing rallies, demonstrating the power and skill of each of the players; however, Ellis/Bonsels came out on top. This left the final score 6-4, with Yorkshire retaining their crown, and Herts finishing a very creditable 2nd.

The trip was rounded off by an entertaining meal at McDonalds, where Matt featured as the star of the show, demonstrating his 'wobble-iciousness'. It was a sight to behold, which put a few of us into tears of laughter. Once again, it was a very successful ICT, and we were unlucky not to have won, but as history states, we came fourth in 2002, third in 2004, second in 2005, maybe it's a premature indication that we can bring home the title next year - who knows? Special thanks must go to Tony, Pat, Colin and Christine for making all this possible, and we will do our best to repay your efforts by beating Yorkshire and winning ICT 2006. Unfortunately we also have to say goodbye to Frankie, our super TC, who was taking part in her last ICT, along with Kate. They were two vital members of the team, whose presence and contribution we will no doubt miss. Thanks must also go to the travelling army of fans who came to support. Finally, credit must be given to the players. They performed fantastically throughout, and I'm sure, along with me, they cannot wait until next year.

North Herts U12 Tournament

Bob Green

This started at 2 pm on Sunday 17th April in Knights Templar Sports Centre, one of those sunny afternoons when you wish you were outside.

The format was boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles and girls doubles. There had been over 60 entries received and so it was decided that all games would be played to 11 points. However, it soon became apparent that a lot of boys had not checked in. In fact 20 just did not show up - maybe it was the FA Cup Semi-final on television that did it, or maybe they just forgot. Whatever the reason, it made a complete hash of the eight boys groups, which had to be reformatted very quickly into five groups instead. At least all the girls turned up, so their singles event was able to get started, while the boys' was adjusted. The sunshine seemed even more appealing than it did at 2 pm!

There were 18 girls split into four groups but the surprises were not over yet. After a few games had been played, two girls made it known that their names did not appear to be on the list of games. On investigating it turned out that they had been entered in the boy's singles and doubles by their school. So another quick change was needed to fit them into groups and schedule their games. All the time results were coming in thick and fast and boys kept asking when they could start playing. The words 'This is the last one of these that I run!' were spinning around in my head by now.

Eventually all the girls' games had been completed and the group winners were Temi Fajobi, Simi Aujla, Helen Harbon and Amy Phillips. The semi-finals saw Helen almost cause an upset but eventually losing 10-11 to Temi and Simi comfortably beating Amy 11-5.

The boys singles then finally got started and stress levels returned to an acceptable level. The group winners were Rafe Hawkins-Hill, Harry Williams, Kasun Kodituwakku, Jonathan Gateson and Ryan Walker. They were joined in the quarter finals by the best placed runners up, who were Jake Mckie, Matthew Hazeldene and Sam Berry. The semi-finals saw Rafe beat Jake 11-3 and Sam beat Harry 11-5.

The two singles finals were played simultaneously and they were well under way, when suddenly all the lights went out. The building was evacuated and after a few frantic phone calls it was established that half of Baldock had lost power. So the event was abandoned for the day, with the singles winners unknown and the doubles event yet to start. Well, at least we could soak up some of that sunshine for the remainder of the afternoon.

On May 1, after numerous phone calls, e-mails and school notes, everyone reconvened to complete the event, this time at Hitchin Boys School but with the same glorious sunshine outside.

The singles were decided in 5 minutes, as they had to continue from where they had left off. Sam caused a surprise by beating Rafe 11-5 to take the boys gold medal and Temi won the girls with a very closely fought match against Simi 11-9.

Next the two doubles competitions got under way, with 6 girls pairs playing in a single group and 13 boys pairs playing in two groups. This time all the boys were present and only one girl failed to show up, so the organisation was a breeze!

In the girls doubles the two singles finalists (Temi and Simi) played as a pair and none of the other pairs could match their all round strength. In taking the title they gave away an average of just four points per game. The runners-up spot was snatched up by Alex Murphy/Naomi Hanson.

In the boys Group A, the runners up were Matthew Hazeldene/Ryan Walker, who were defeated only once by the winners, Kasun Kodituwakku/Arjun Aujla, who did not lose a game. Group B was won by the favourites, Rafe Hawkins-Hill/Harry Williams with a 100% record. Chris Valentine/Sam Berry took the second spot, having only just lost out 8-11 to the group winners.

In the first semi-final Chris/Sam beat the Group A winners Kasun/Arjun 11-4. Meanwhile in the other match Rafe/Harry were too strong for Matthew/Ryan 11-5.

So the final was a replay of the group match between Chris/Sam and Rafe/Harry. It was not as close a game as expected and revenge was sweet for Chris/Sam, as they took the gold medals 11-7.

So, at last the event (that does seem a good word to use) was over and despite all the stress it was worth it to see so many youngsters having fun and showing off their talent. Maybe I will be able to run it next year after all!

U13 Match v Suffolk

Iain Robinson (U13 Squad/Richard Hale School)

On Sunday, April 17, a team of 2 girls and 6 boys - Kate Herring, Charlotte Gawley Green, Matt McCloskey, Elliott Miles, Andrei Donko, Chris Belfield, Ewan Berry and myself - travelled to the YMCA in Ipswich for an U13 match against Suffolk.

It was a nice sunny day and we arrived in good time to knock up. This was the first time I had played a match for 7 weeks because I had broken my collar bone, so I was keen to get started.

The Hall was dark and cold compared to outside, but we soon got used to the special badminton lights. My first match, which unfortunately I lost, was very close, the final score being 20-21, but the other boys all managed to win their games.

The girls won one of the two games they played and in the mixed doubles we won two and lost two.

The boys doubles pairs won 6 out of 7 games, with some close scores and the girls doubles team also won.

The final score was 15-5 to Herts. As there was still some time to spare, we played reverse singles winning all but one of the girl's games.

The team all played well and it was an enjoyable match.

Junior Leagues - Final Positions

U12 Boys

- 1 Swifts
- 2 Gazelles
- 3 Comets
- 4 Much Hadham
- 5 All Saints

U12 Girls

- 1 Gazelles
- 2 Swifts
- 3 Queenswood
- 4 Comets

U15 Boys 'A'

- 1 Gazelles
- 2 Stanstead Abbots
- 3 Much Hadham

U15 Boys 'B'

- 1 Hitchin
- 2 Swifts
- 3 Comets

U15 Girls

- 1 Swifts
- 2 Queenswood
- 3 Stanstead Abbots

(Final between Gazelles and Hitchin to be played on July 3)

U15 Medley

- 1 Swifts
- 2 Hitchin
- 3 Much Hadham
- 4 Comets

U18 Boys

- 1 Hitchin
- 2 Swifts
- 3 Comets

Top Schools U16 Boys Finals

Adrian Herzmark

This year has been another successful season for Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School, culminating in the Badminton England Top Schools competition. On Saturday April 16, the boys secured a very creditable 4th place in the under 14 event. The team was made up of Akash Jhunjunwala, Alex Gomar, Prakash Rajani, Philip Chee and Richard Tan.

On Sunday April 17, in the under 16 event, the school was one of 18 out of 92 schools that reached the finals. Our Under 16 team was: Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Arjun Mehta, Akash Jhunjunwala and Alex Gomar - a strong core of Hertfordshire boys. Habs managed to win all six of their matches to claim the title for the second year in a row, the third for this particular team, beating Holly Lodge School from Staffordshire in the final. The team managed to go through the entire tournament unbeaten, playing 60 games in total (including the regional qualifying round) and winning 60 games. It was an outstanding team achievement.

Tournament Results

U16 Kent

Boys Singles	Final	James Reynolds beat Martin Woolley (Ke) 15-3, 15-1
Boys Doubles	Final	Andrew Brunning (Ex)/ James Reynolds beat David Marchant/Martin Southgate (Ex) 15-4, 15-8
Mixed Doubles	Final	James Reynolds /Bronwyn Powell (Sx) beat Martin Woolley/Rebecca Greenstreet (Ke) 15-13, 15-7

U17 Grand Finals

Girls Doubles	Winners	Katie Comras /Sarah Walker (Ex)
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U18 Grand Finals

Men's Doubles	Winners	Anthony Moye /William Westwood
Women's Doubles	Final	Katie Comras /Sarah Walker (Ex) beat Susan Perry LI)/ Erika Whittingham (St) 15-3, 15-10

From the editor: Thanks to Marion Conway, Bob Green, Adrian Herzmark, Iain Robinson, Frankie Edelmann, Nigel Tao and Pat Walker for their contributions. This is the last newsletter of a very successful season.

I hope everyone has a really good summer break (forgetting about badminton for at least a short while) and be back ready to play again in September.

Closing date for items for the next newsletter is **Tuesday, August 30**.