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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

June 2008

H.S.B.A. U15 County Trials

Sunday 15th June at St Albans High School for Girls, Townsend Avenue, St Albans

Time 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm

The U11, U13 and U17 squad trials took place in May and, as some prospective candidates were unable to attend and will be seen at a later date, the U17 squad lists are not complete and will be printed in the next newsletter at the beginning of September.

H.S.B.A. AGM

The HSBA AGM will be held on **Thursday 19th June** at the Wellfield Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield at 7.45 for 8.00 pm. Please make an effort to attend to meet the committee and find out what is happening in the Hertfordshire badminton world.

Schools and Clubs

Enclosed with this newsletter is the affiliation form for next season. Please return it before the end of this term to affiliate at the discounted price of £12 - after 1st August it reverts to the higher price of £15. The affiliation entitles each school or club to one free entry into a Junior League. Further entries are £2 per team. The League is run for U12, U15 and U18 age groups and we would like to see some schools take part along with the clubs. The standard is varied and matches are played in a friendly manner. The League Secretary is Geoff Daniels - for further information please contact him on 01992 444348 or e-mail geoff@daniels1.wanadoo.co.uk, but please do not affiliate directly to him.

The 2008 Child and Parent

**Paul Widdicombe (Dad, Bottle Filler,
Banker & Chauffeur)**

Being the parent of a badminton playing child just how far do you go to encourage him or her to reach their full potential. It is more than just taking them miles for a tournament or county match, it is how you interact with them during the course of the day. There are no courses to attend - you have to learn on the spot in most cases. I am sure we have all had tears, tantrums, racket and verbal abuse and that's from us to start with. If you are looking for an answer then you will not find one here. If you come across one do let me know.

What do you do on a Sunday these days?

When I was a child sport did not exist on a Sunday. I went to Church, had a roast lunch, went for an afternoon walk, picked blackberries in the autumn, returned home for mum's Victoria sponge, watched Ann of Green Gables, read a book, cleaned my school shoes for the following day, had my hair washed by mum and went to bed well before 9pm.

How Sundays have changed.

Today we have no Sunday lie in. Up before some of our neighbours have gone to bed and the day light has appeared. Careful not to wake the other half and the daughter. Set the Satnav and off to the sunny sights of Stroud, Stoke or Sheffield for the day.

Arrived, book them in to find they have drawn the number one seed in the singles and doubles! Knock up starts fairly well but before long the idea is to see who can play the cleverest shot - round the head, between the legs or with the wrong hand. Two hours later being called for the first match, as we are the fifth player in the box of five. Ten minutes later with the first game won lunch is required. Good job Mum stayed up late last night to wait for the bread to thaw out. Game two and another win in the bag. Child starts thinking I am going to win my box and starts to anticipate who they might have in the knock out stages. This over confidence leads them to lose the next two games and finish in mid table in the box. How do we get the message across? This all took several hours and frequent trips to the referees table to find out when our little one was next on court, only to be told on the last occasion if you come up again I am going to stop the tournament and go home.

Doubles starts after a two hour break waiting for the singles knock out stages to be completed. During this period a new game is invented. How many can play badminton in the corridor and how many rackets can we break. This new game is best avoided if you want a peaceful break and chat with the parent from Perth or Penzance.

Doubles starts and further fun. How can four players all loose the score and think of four different possibilities? A scorer is requested whose first task is to deal with a dodgy line call. Not my remit lads, call for the tournament referee. Referee advises whose side the shuttle lands decides if it is in or out. Game recommences and goes to the wire 21-20. No hand shakes at the end.

Second game and child has a nightmare everything he touches goes out or in the net. Partners head goes down. Pair fall out and never want to play together again. Parents to the rescue - milkshake and chips all round. Back on court, trying hard but go down fighting.

Retire to the changing room and a quick shower before the home ward journey! Do they ever shower?

Journey home a nightmare! Sunday night traffic back to London is in full swing. M4/M1 slow moving or stationary for no reason.

Back in doors at 9pm - just enough time to clean my shoes and the kids before retiring for that well earned rest in front of the PC to catch up on all the emails.

Have Sundays really changed that much?!

What is the attraction of 10-10?

Duncan Conway (U13 Team Manager)

Reflections on the Under 13 League Finals

Sunday saw the climax of the 2007/08 Shires League season. This season had seen our Under 13 team remain unbeaten despite two 10-10 draws out of seven matches. As Group winners we were invited to the Finals, held at Babington College in Leicester – on the day a very cold venue! The day started with a public draw for the first round, to determine how Group winners played Runners-up from a different Group. We felt we were fortunate in our draw against Lancashire whom we had beaten 5-1 in the Team Challenge finals. The first part of the match bore this out as we raced to a 7-0 lead before we lost a game. However it then became much harder and Lancashire closed right up to us and we finished up with another 10-10 draw! So it went to a countback on points won. We went through by a margin of 10 points in totals of 378 – 368. We were now playing in the top four of the national league – how far could we go? The second public draw of the day saw us drawn against Notts whom we had played in one of the 10-10 draws in our Group. Could it happen again? Yes it could and it did. We lost out on the mixed doubles by 3-1 but compensated in the boys singles, and so the pattern went on. At 8-8 it was looking like a second 10-10 - and indeed that was what happened. So to the countback a second time. This time the margin was even tighter, but we lost out by 3 points. So, having failed to reach the final, we were left to play Hampshire in the 3rd/4th place play-off. Could it happen again? By the end of the mixed and singles, at 7 - 5, it was clear that it was a possibility, but we did have that one game advantage. But unfortunately, the Hampshire girls clawed back that one game advantage, so it was 10 - 10 again and another countback loomed. This turned out to be even tighter than before and we lost by 2 points! As a result we came 4th overall, just 3 points off the final and 2 points off 3rd place. So near, yet so far.

Has anybody else played three 10 - 10 ties in the finals? I doubt it and I don't recommend it. My congratulations to every one of the players - Conor Bambrick, Max Hodgkinson, David Maughan, Mark Sadler, Matthew Widdicombe, Anna Collis, Alex English, Amy George, Isabel Hatt and Georgia Pittson - they kept their effort going right through from 10 am to 7.30 pm You were so close to the very top, but it was not to be. But it does emphasise the importance of every point in every game in every match.

Gold and Silver for U11 Girls

In the last three U11 open tournaments held at Bracknell, Middlesex and Sussex, Amy George and Isabel Hatt returned with a handful of gold and silver medals. Amy won the singles at Bracknell, beating Isabel in the final, and at Middlesex, where she beat Isabel in the semis. In Sussex, Amy was runner-up to a player from Dorset. Amy and Isabel teamed up to make a formidable doubles pair, winning gold medals at all three tournaments. Well done, girls!

U13 Squad for the 2008/09 season

Cayleigh Bambrick	Nobel	Kit Akin-Agunbiade	Lochinver House
Anna Collis	St Francis College	Gregory Benson	St Michael's
Renu Dhall-Chopra	Hitchin Girls	Rory Briers	Richard Hale
Philippa English	Dame Alice Owen	Lyall Daniels	John Warner
Eleanor Fitton	Bishops Hatfield	Jack Goode	Richard Hale
Amy George	Mount Grace	Corran Goodson	Dame Alice Owen
Isabel Hatt	Nicholas Breakspear	Krishan Gulabivala	Dame Alice Owen
Ellie Makewell	Lodge Farm Primary	Yash Kejriwal	Haberdashers' Aske's
Laura Monk	John Warner	Mohammed Khaku	St Meryl Primary
RAchel Ng	Beechwood Park	Joshua Kinnear	Fearnhill
Zöe Taylor	Simon Balle	David Maughan	Sherrardswood
Ying Cen Tee	Royal Masonic	William Pickworth	St Albans
		Rishav Shah	Northwood Prep
		Casper Siu	Watford Boys Grammar
		Daniel Sweetnam	Hemel Hempstead
		Matthew Widdicombe	Chauncy

U13 Development

Daniel Fox	Verulam
Stephen Ward	Westfield

U11 Squad

Aimee Hodgkinson	Sherrardswood	Andrew Baird	Knebworth Primary
Keya Patani	St Albans Girls High	Matthew Calver	Wilbury Junior
Lia Willis	Wheatfields Primary	Austin Ephgrave	Wilbury Junior
		Sai Raj Kondan	Creswick Primary
		Sam Newlove	Green Lanes Primary

U11 Development

Ellen Jennings	Russell Primary	Myan Patel	The Ryde
Sophie Vernon	Wood End Primary	Max Titterton	Purwell Primary

Gazelles Badminton Club

Byron and Lesley Perry

The 16th May was the last club night of Gazelles Badminton Club. Byron Perry started the club more than thirty five years ago with Elsie Gore when they wanted a club for their children and, of course, other children. The club's first home was St Mary's Church Hall and after a short time the club moved to Mount Grace School hall where it has been ever since.

Gazelles always encouraged members to enter the Herts Schools Tournaments and, for most of the time, entered teams in the county Junior Leagues. Over the years they achieved considerable success both in the tournaments and league matches. Many Gazelles members represented Hertfordshire in Schools Matches and current members are in the County Squads. Many members have gone one to represent Hertfordshire at senior level. One of our present members has played in an England/ Belgium match representing England in the singles, doubles and mixed events and came home with a winners medal.

Some examples of achievements by ex members are:

An award for outstanding performances in over 100 appearances for Hertfordshire (in one of which she beat Donna Kellogg in the ladies singles)

Winning the Greek National Ladies Doubles Title and representing Greece in the Balkan Games

Winning the under 15 All England Boys Doublers

Qualifying as an International Badminton Umpire and Referee

Chairing the Herts Schools Badminton Committee for some years

Appointed age group coach and selector for England squad.

National Inter-schools Badminton Championships

Olivia van der Maat
(Chancellor's School)

Years 7, 8 and 9 Finals

On the day of the National badminton finals, the team met up outside Chancellor's School at 7.15 in the morning. We were all tired but looking forward to the day ahead. We all piled into the school's minibus and set off on our search for victory. The journey up to Derby, where the finals were being held, took three to three and a half hours. It was a long journey, but we managed to keep ourselves occupied with Ipods, Nintendo DS' and the latest gossip at school.

Once we got to the leisure centre, we made our own little camp. All schools warmed up then we gathered in a circle and the organisers told us the rules and gave us the court number where we were playing and who we were playing against.

Each match against the other schools consisted of 2 singles and 3 doubles. Alex English and Olivia van der Maat, Chancellor's number 1 and 2, played a singles and doubles game each match.

Georgia Pittson and Jessie Northen, Chancellor's number 3 and 4, played doubles, with Chloe Bungey as our reserve.

In the competition there were boxes of 2 groups drawn. We were drawn in Group 1 with five competitors, so we played against Robert Mays School, Woodlands School, Wolverhampton Girls' and Trentham High School. Group 2 had four competitors who were Sheffield High School, Altrincham Grammar, the Howard School and Talbot Heath School.

After much hard work and competitiveness we came second in our box and therefore joint third in the competition overall, which was quite an achievement against schools from all over England and very exciting.

After such a long and tiring day we then faced the journey home. When we arrived back at the school at 6.30 that evening, we were glad to get off the minibus and go home to have a well earned rest.

I would like to say thank you to the teachers who took us and supported us all the way, Mrs Hobbs and Mrs Payne. They were great and made the trip as much fun as possible.

Tournament Results

U13 Bronze - Warwick

Girls Singles Final Anna Collis beat Philippa Broadbent (Do) 24-22

U13 Bronze - Surrey

Girls Doubles Final Catherine Bailey (Ex)/Anna Collis beat Paige Butler/
Cherry Gatusch (Ke) 21-19

U13 Bronze - Middlesex

Boys Doubles Runners-up William Belfield/Edward Byrne

U14 Essex

Boys 'A' Singles Final Daniel Hatt lost to Aaron Cheng (Sy) 13-15, 8-15

Boys 'B' Singles Semi-final Dale Maddox lost to Roshan Rajoria (Ex) 7-21

Final Nick Barnett lost to Roshan Rajoria (Ex) 13-21

Primary Schools Team Tournament

The Primary Schools Team Tournament was held at Stevenage Leisure Centre on Sunday, April 27th. The day began with a coaching session where the children learnt new skills and practised a variety of shots. The tournament proper began at 11 am. Nineteen boys teams and fourteen girls teams from a total of ten schools (and one junior club) took part, some with as many as four teams. Each team consisted of three players - one playing singles, and the other 2 playing doubles. The boys first round was played in 3 groups of 5 and one group of 4, with Lochinver House, St Giles 1, Northwood Prep and Norton St Nicholas 2 winning the groups. The second round was played in 4 groups of 4 and one of 3 with the top schools in one box playing for positions 1 - 4, the runners-up of the first round playing for positions 5 - 8 and so on. There were several tight matches ending with equal points, the win being decided by the doubles game.

The girls played their first round in 2 groups of 5 and one of 4, the winners of the groups being Little Heath, Norton St Nicholas 3 and St Giles. The second round was played in 4 groups of 3 and 1 of 2 with the teams again playing for their final positions from 1 - 14. The 1st three teams were presented with medals at the end of the day and all children taking part received certificates.

1	Lochinver House	1	St Giles
2	Northwood Prep	2	Little Heath
3	St Giles 1	3	Norton St Nicholas 3
4	Norton St Nicholas 2	4	Lordship Farm 1
5	Wilbury 1	5	Sherrardswood
6	Letchworth BC	6	Norton St Nicholas 1
7	Norton St Nicholas 4	7	Lodge Farm 1
8	Norton St Nicholas 3	8	Wilbury 1
9	Sherrardswood	9	Wilbury 4
10	Little Heath	10	Wilbury 2
11	Wilbury 3	11	Norton St Nicholas 2
12	Lodge Farm 1	13	Lordship Farm 2
13	Knebworth	14	Lodge Farm 2
14	Wilbury 2		
15	St Giles 2		
16	Wilbury 4		
17	Norton St Nicholas 1		
18	Lordship Farm		
10	Lodge Farm 2		

At the end of the tournament, points for the schools which had entered both boys and girls teams were added together to give a combined total. The gold medals went to St Giles, with Norton St Nicholas 3 winning the silver and Little Heath the bronze.

From the editor:

Thanks to Olivia van der Maat, Paul Widdicombe, Duncan Conway and Byron and Lesley Perry for their contributions to this newsletter. It's sad to see Gazelles disappearing from the badminton scene - the end of an era. I have had some tournament results sent in by a few people - and thank you for them - but as space is at a premium I have only included a few this time. Please start sending results in again when next season starts. The badminton season has almost come to an end so, on behalf of the committee, I wish you all a happy summer break. Closing date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, 22nd August.

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