



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

July 2013

Center Parcs National Schools Championship finals

**Christine Adey
and Caroline Jennings**

The sun was shining at Center Parcs Sherwood Forest on the weekend of 20/21 April, but the main action was indoors as 36 teams from secondary schools across England battled to become the 2013 National Schools' Badminton Champions in the Under 14 and Under 16 age groups.

Representing the Eastern Region at Under 14 were a boys' team from Monk's Walk School in Welwyn Garden City and a girls' team from St Clement Danes in Chorleywood. There were nine schools in each of the Under 14 categories, seeded and split into three groups of three for Round 1. The results of Round 1 determined the groupings for the next round, in which schools competed for the final placings.

In the Boys' event, Monk's Walk got off to a great start in Round 1 by beating Cramlington Learning Village from Northumberland 5-0. The tables were turned when the team then suffered a 5-0 defeat to Trentham High School from Staffordshire. Given that this team consisted of five county players, led by England player Jack Buckley, the team were not too disheartened and were delighted to finish second in their box, putting them in the play-offs for positions 4-6.

In Round 2, Monk's Walk lost 4-1 to Bournemouth Collegiate after some close, hard-fought games. Finally, they faced Tapton School from Yorkshire. A win would secure fifth place. Hopes were high after Chris Adey won his singles. Tapton evened the score with a doubles win against Matthew Harden and Nima Karshenas. In the second singles match, Jack Kimber and his opponent were very evenly matched but the Yorkshire boy closed out the match at 21-18. Chris Adey and Matthew Harden won their doubles to make it two games all, but Tapton won the deciding game, leaving Monk's Walk in sixth place overall.

Trentham High School won the boys' event after a nail-biting final against Denbigh School from Milton Keynes.

First up in the Under 14 Girls' Event St Clement Danes found itself playing North London Collegiate School headed up by a name familiar to many readers: Keya Patani. So the first game on was quite poignant from a Herts' perspective - Ellen Jennings v Keya Patani. It was a real nail-biter with Ellen squeaking a 21-20 win. Next SCD's least experienced pair, Ashley Eales and Olive Coles, played their equivalents from NLCS and dug in for another 21-20 win. April Miller managed a much easier singles win 21-12 and the final score was 5-0 to SCD, but it was a tougher match than the score suggests.

Next up was Upton-by-Chester, definitely the seeds in the box. Upton-by-Chester school shares sports facilities with the West Cheshire Performance Centre and all four girls in the school team train there. In fact they had the top three Under 15 Cheshire girls plus another Under 15 county player - strength in depth in spades! St Clement Danes were overpowered, with the only win being Ellen Jennings at No 1 singles with another 21-20 nail-biter.

So SCD finished 2nd in the box leaving them in play-offs for positions 4-6 against Minster and Guildford High. The Minster match was pretty frustrating as Ellen and April won their singles comfortably but the doubles remained elusive and the whole match was decided by a 21-20 defeat in the last game. The match against Guildford High School, spearheaded by Samodani Weijtunge (the No 1 Under 15 girl in England), was tougher. April picked up No 2 singles and No 2 doubles with Olive but Ellen and Ashley could not totally cut Samodani out of the doubles (although they had a good try!) and so lost 21-19 making it a 3-2 win to Guildford. The final position for St Clement Danes was a creditable 6th. Upton-by-Chester won the girls' event, dropping just 2 games all day.

In between matches, players had the opportunity to meet and chat to special guests ex-GB internationals Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms as well as rising GB star Rhys Walker. This event is a lot of fun and a real eye-opener for less experienced players.

Under 17 ICT 2013

Pat Walker

The Under 17 Inter counties Tournament was held at Nottingham University from Thursday 4th April to Sunday 7th April. The Herts team players were:

Girls	Cayleigh Bambrick, Philippa English (captain), Libby Jennings, Laura Monk and Lia Willis
Boys	Lyall Daniels, David Maughan, Hugo Weaver, Matt Widdicombe (captain) and Duncan Williams

The Herts team were 5th seeds out of the 37 counties competing.

In the first round group with Herts were Cumbria, Leicestershire, Kent and Avon. On Thursday the first match for the Herts team was against Cumbria, with Herts winning 9-1. With no time to rest, Herts went straight into their second match playing Avon. Another win for Herts with a 10-0 result. Then it was back to the University for dinner, followed by the third match of the day playing Kent, resulting in a 7-3 win for Herts.

The end of a very positive first day for the team, but still Leicestershire to play as the last game in the group on Friday morning. Points are crucial in every game in this event and the result of the Herts-Leics match was a 5-5 draw in matches and 11-11 in games, but with a points difference of 18 in Leicestershire's favour. Kent had beaten Leics 6-4 so Herts were winners of the group despite losing one match. It was now straight into Round 2.

In this next group Herts were to play Cheshire, Berkshire and Warwickshire. First came the match against Berkshire, with a 6-4 win for Herts. Then it was the match against Cheshire, with another close fought match and another 5-5 result but Cheshire winning by 13 games to 12. Time for dinner followed by a late match against Warwicks. Yet another 5-5 result, and 10-10 in games, but Warwicks winning by 34 points.

Herts were now playing for final positions 9 to 12 and in the third round faced Leinster, Lancashire and Essex. Saturday was another early morning start with Herts playing Leinster at and losing 6-4. Then Lancs at midday and another defeat, this time 7-3. The Herts players then had some well-earned free time with plenty of opportunity to prepare for the Saturday night disco. The last match for Herts was against Essex on Sunday morning, and the team finished the 2013 ICT with a 6-4 win.

A final place of 11th for Herts, but with a 5-5 draw against Warwicks who finished 4th the competition was very close between so many counties.

All the players in the Herts team produced a high standard of badminton with total commitment in every game they played, with Matt Widdicombe winning all 9 singles games he played over the four days. It was a difficult decision for manager David Brown to name a 'player of the tournament' but the title went to Lia Willis with the full support of the captains and all the Herts team. Congratulations Lia. Well done Matt. And well played everyone who represented Herts at ICT 2013.



The Herts team with Team Manager David Brown at ICT 2013

Contrasting fortunes at National Team Challenge finals

The Under 13 and Under 15 finals were played at Hertfordshire Sports Village over the weekend of 23-24 March, and the reports of the Herts teams' management on the contrasting experiences of their teams follow.

Under 15's

John Stobo

The Under 15 team found the going very tough in Sunday's tournament and disappointingly finished in 12th place. The first round saw defeats to Dorset, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Nottinghamshire and Cheshire, and though wins were achieved in some individual games by Herts boys and girls in level doubles and in girls' singles, victory in any of these matches was a distant prospect.

The afternoon round began with a very close match against Devon, but with the match poised at 3-3, the girls' doubles pair could not find the two points needed for victory from 19-19 in the last game. The final match against Sussex resulted in another defeat, leaving the team with little to show for a lot of hard work and commitment in every match.

Team: Victoria Clayton, Zach Daniels, Karlli Leung, Brett Maisey, Sam Newlove, Sophie Vernon, Amy Willetts, Lia Willis

Under 13's

Mike Newlove

On a snowy cold Saturday 10 teams from around the country, Warwickshire & Northumberland, didn't make it through the weather, played in 2 boxes of 5.

Hertfordshire's first match now became Sussex, which we narrowly lost 4-2 though equal on points, Devon were up next, and again the matches were close but Herts won 4-2. Against Lancashire whom we expected to find hard work Herts won 5-1 with Chris Adey taking the no1 singles player to three games in a tight match. Finally in our box we had to play Bucks, again a very close match losing on points after finishing 3-3.

This put Herts in the 5-8 set of places with Devon, Ulster & Essex, Devon decided that they had better leave because of the weather, so finished 8th. Essex could offer no answers losing both the final matches and finishing 7th. Ulster proved a tougher battle, Herts finally winning 4-2 and finishing in 5th place.

The overall winners were Bucks The Herts team of Chris Adey, Laura Anderson, Harriet Bell, Rees Clarke, Molly Goode, Mathew Harden Monique Maisey, Keya Patani, James Penver and Ben Plunkett, worked very hard on the day to achieve a very creditable 5th position, so nearly in the top 4.

Thanks to Jo Goode, Graham Clarke & all supporters on the day.



Herts Under 13 team at the Shires League finals, one player unfortunately missing

Shires League finals, 2012/13

Under 17's

David Brown

The Herts Under 17 team had shown real fighting spirit and great teamwork to reach the Shires League finals.

On the day we knew the challenge to beat any of the top teams would be tough, and drawn against Lancashire in the first round we needed all playing to their best of their ability, which is exactly what happened, with Herts winning 15-5, a great victory. Moving on to the next match, Buckinghamshire proved just too strong for the Herts team, meaning we then had to fight for 3rd or 4th place against Hampshire. After some very close games, the match went right down to the wire. The 10-10 scoreline in games left Herts just losing out by 13 points to finish in a very respectable 4th place.

Team: Cayleigh Bambrick, Anna Collis, Lyall Daniels, Philippa English, Libby Jennings, David Maughan, Hugo Weaver, Matthew Widdicombe, Lia Willis

Under 13's ***John Stobo, based on results published at: <http://www.ian.rizzotto.talktalk.net/page3.html>***

The Herts team were drawn in the first round against Warwickshire, one of the pre-tournament favourites who eventually finished second, and despite a hard fight lost by 6-14 and thus played the last two rounds for a

position in the 5th to 8th group. The second round produced a strong performance against Derbyshire and a victory by 12-8, and the final nail-biting confrontation with Sussex for 5th or 6th place ended in defeat by just 13 points after a 10-10 draw in games. Special mention should be made of the performances of Laura Anderson and Christopher Adey and of Molly Goode who won all their games in mixed doubles and girls' singles respectively.

Team: Christopher Adey, Laura Anderson, Harriet Bell, Rees Clarke, Molly Goode, Matthew Harden, Monique Maisey, Luke Meehan, Keya Patani, James Penver

Eastern Region Single Sex tournament

This tournament was played at the University of East London's Sportsdock Sports Centre on 20 April in the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups, with Herts entering teams in all categories except the Under 17 girls. The format is unusual: a team can comprise just two players competing in a singles game each and a doubles game together or three players, of whom just two play in each match against another county. The first phase is played in two boxes, after which the teams in the top half of each box form another one to contest the top positions and those in the lower half of the original boxes meet to contest the lower positions.

Under 13's

The boys entered two teams, Team A consisting of Rees Clarke and Luke Meehan who did well, finishing in 3rd place after narrowly losing to Norfolk A, the eventual winners, and Essex A. Team B consisted of Alex Peat and Daniel Lewis. After beating Essex A, who finished 2nd, 3-0 in their group, they narrowly lost their other group games and eventually finished in 6th place.

Graham Clarke

The girls likewise entered two teams. Team A consisting of Harriet Bell and Molly Goode beat Bedfordshire but lost its other three matches in the first round, so played in the lower group in the second round. Team B (Eleanor McArdle and Sanaya Patel) also played the second round in the lower group after defeats in its four first round matches. In the second round the match between the two ended in victory for Harriet and Molly who, despite winning their other second round match as well, finished in 2nd place, and 6th overall, because of their first round defeat against Norfolk B being carried forward to the second round. Eleanor and Sanaya finished in 9th place overall after the second round.

Under 15's

Two teams of two boys were entered into the event: Austin Ephgrave/Zack Daniels and Sam Newlove/Martin Lui.

Austin/Zach lost a close match against Norfolk A and Sam/Martin lost a close match against Essex A. So both boys teams finished second in their respective boxes, winning 3 out of 4 matches, meaning that they would face each other in the 1-4 play-off box.

After some hard fought matches Sam/Martin came 3rd overall and Austin/Zach came 4th. Well done to both pairings for finishing in the top 4!

Richard Vernon

It proved to be a very successful day for the girls. Sophie Vernon and Amy Willets won their box very convincingly, winning every match and only dropping one game. They then continued to play brilliantly to win every match in the second round too, to emerge Under 15 Girls tournament winners! A fantastic result! Victoria Clayton and Emily Clarke battled hard to finish 3rd in their box and played well in round 2 to win two out of the three matches and finish 6th overall. Well done girls!

Sue Clarke



Amy Willetts and Sophie Vernon at their winners' medal presentation ceremony

Under 17's

Herts entered a single U17 boys' team this year and unfortunately no girls were available to play on the day. The boys were Edgar Titterton and Nathan Scofield who had matches against some very tough opposition, one team of which consisted of two gold standard players. Whilst the level of play was very high the conditions made the matches harder for all teams due to the lighting of the venue. Despite all this we enjoyed the tournament and emerged in 7th place.

Edgar Titterton

Herts Youth Games Badminton tournament, Sunday July 7th

Barbara Lewczynska

Another excellent badminton tournament took place as part of a smaller Herts Youth Games this year, and at a different venue due to ongoing funding issues and government cutbacks. However, Wodson Park turned out to be a good venue, as it offered slightly better viewing (and seats) for mums and dads and other supporters, and five courts plus shorter games meant it was a half day event, rather than a full day.

Played in a round robin format, in total a massive 225 games were played, with all of the ten districts playing each other.

Stevenage won the accolade as the most noisy/supportive and certainly the most brightly coloured team, but it was Dacorum ably managed by Carol Gahan who won back the trophy after North Herts had claimed it last year.

The top two teams, Welwyn Hatfield and Dacorum, jockeyed for top position throughout the afternoon, and we were all on edge until the last minute. Though Welwyn Hatfield won the head-to-head between the two by 59-49 and had a better overall points difference, the tournament took points scored as the final calculation, as opposed to matches won or points difference, and Dacorum won the competition by the extraordinarily narrow margins of THREE points (594 to 591). So well done to Dacorum.

Many thanks must go to our scorer Conor Bambrick on the desk, who patiently took in the scores and answered competitors' concerns, mostly "what position are we in now" about a thousand times; he also had to add up the scores manually as the computer programme decided to play up!! Dave Bartlett, was as ever our 'technical man', and his invaluable work and networking beforehand always ensures a smoothly run event.

Thank you also to the parents who came along to support – the players couldn't have done it without you!!!!

The final team positions (and their managers) were

1. Dacorum – Carol Gahan
2. Welwyn Hatfield – John Stobo
3. East Herts – Doug Clarke
4. North Herts – Robert Tucker
5. Watford – Phil Adams and Ricky
6. St Albans – Keith Burns
7. Three Rivers – Frances Morrison
8. Hertsmere – Alan Overy
9. Stevenage – Ben Vranjkovic
10. Broxbourne – Tara Haddock

Badminton England grading promotions

Congratulations to the following squad players who in the June 2013 grading list have improved on their highest singles grading since the July 2012 list:

- Grade E Lia Willis
- Grade F Keya Patani
- Grade G April Miller
- Grade H Brett Maisey

Congratulations to the following squad players who achieved their first grading in the June 2013 list:

- Grade G William Pickworth
- Grade H Finlay Cattermole
- Grade I Harry Goode, Khadijah Hasan, Calum Latter

Badminton England junior tournaments – dates for your diary!

The programme of tournaments for the 2013/14 season has now been published on the Badminton England web-site:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=2544§ionTitle=Junior+Circuit#.UefNOL5wY6Y>

In some categories, the deadline for the first tournament of the series is in August:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Entry deadline</i>
Under 13 Gold	Notts	14-15 September	21 August
Under 17 Gold	NBC, Milton Keynes	7-8 September	14 August
Under 17 Bronze	SE Essex	22 September	28 August

If you are planning to enter any of these tournaments, you can't leave it until after your summer holidays to submit your entry!

Also, the Hertfordshire Under 15 Bronze tournament, which all eligible Under 15 squad members would be expected to enter, has an entry deadline of **2 September**.

Results of prize competition

Winners of the prizes in the competition advertised in April's *On the Line!* were Doug Clark of Ware and Phil Gray, Head Coach of Knebworth JBC. Well done to them – prizes have been despatched!

Phil, however, wasn't impressed with the format of the competition, emailing me:

"Can I point out though that your competition is very unfair. It is dependent on delivery of the newsletter which is 2nd class and very erratic. In the past the newsletters have gone out in batches so those in a later batch will not have a chance.

Why not simply do a draw for those that respond within x days. Much fairer all round.

If I really was driven by the shuttles, then I would simply give up as I doubt I would have a chance of win and so would not sign up to an electronic copy – thus you have created a self defeating competition!"

Point taken, Phil, but I hope you found your prize useful, all the same!

John Stobo

Senior schools points table

The final table for the 2012/13 has now been compiled by Megan Lumb – many thanks for her work. The top 5 positions in each category are shown below, and the full list is on the HSBA web-site.

Under 18

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Presdales	55	1	Nobel	50
Royal Masonic	51	2	John Warner	40
Nobel	50	3	Sherrardswood	38
St Albans Girls	49	4	Beaumont	36
John Warner	36	5	Richard Hale	32

Under 15

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Queenswood	121	1	Haberdashers' Aske's	138
St Albans Girls	78	2	Hitchin Boys	102
Dame Alice Owen	62	3	Monks Walk	93
Roundwood Park	32	4	Verulam	90
Monks Walk	28	5	Freman College	47

Under 13

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Queenswood	80	1	Monks Walk	110
Parmiters	50	2	Haberdashers' Aske's	65
Mount Grace	49	3	Verulam	56
Monks Walk	45	4	Holmemead	45
Presdales St George's	33	5	Simon Balle	42

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of *On the Line!* The deadline for contributions to the October 2013 newsletter is Friday 27 September, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:

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