



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

July 2014

HSBA tournaments, 2014/15

Next season a full programme of 25 age-group tournaments is once again being offered by HSBA. Full details are below, and entry forms for all the tournaments listed will shortly be available as downloads from the HSBA web-site:

<http://www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk/downloads.html>

Note that B singles events are not open to members of the County Squads.

Venues for next season's tournaments are:

- Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, SG1 1LZ
- Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield, AL10 0AN

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>School Year</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Saturday September 20 th 2014	1000 hours	Under 15 Boys Singles	Year 10 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 11 Boys Singles	Year 6 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls Singles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 11 Girls Singles	Year 6 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 15 Boys Doubles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 15 Girls Doubles	Year 10 and under	
1600 hours	Under 15 Mixed Doubles	Year 10 and under		
Sunday Nov 9 th 2014	1000 hours	Under 15 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	Birchwood LC
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under	
Sunday November 16 th 2014	1000 hours	Under 18 Boys Singles	Year 13 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 13 Boys B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 18 Girls Singles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 13 Girls B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 18 Boys Doubles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 18 Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 10 Boys Singles	Year 5 and under	
		Under 10 Girls Singles	Year 5 and under	
1600 hours	Under 18 Mixed Doubles	Year 13 and under		

Sunday February 8 th 2015	1130 hours**	Primary Schools Team Tournament	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
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Sunday March 8 th 2015	1000 hours	Under 13 Boys Singles	Year 8 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	1200 hours	Under 13 Girls Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
	1600 hours	Under 13 Mixed Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 11 Boys Doubles	Year 6 and under	
Under 11 Girls Doubles		Year 6 and under		

**The Primary Schools Team Tournament will be preceded at 1000 hours by a coaching session for all tournament entrants delivered by HSBA squad coaches and other qualified coaches.

Harrod Under 17 County Challenge 2014

Tracey Crowther

As we set off at 7am from Birchwood Leisure Centre on that bright sunny morning no signs were visible of the desperate struggle that had taken place prior to that day to pull together what turned out to be a goliath squad. Not only had Dave lost two of his key Under 17 girls to injury only a week before but fate had thrown him another curve when the day before the event Jack Goode twisted his ankle and was unable to attend. With the reserve also not available to play it was Zach Daniels to the rescue! The Herts team now consisted of only three Under 17 team members, five from Under 15's and Molly Goode from Under 13's. To increase the pressure we were a player down in the girls events, taking only four as a fifth girl with the required capability could not be found.

With Dave Brown at the wheel, team captains Dan Fox and Fran Farlie were ready to prepare the troops for battle. David Westwood and Duncan Williams, veterans at ICC, were there to guide us through what was to become the battle of the best team spirit. We knew we had a challenge ahead of us with only four girls and such a young team, but the coaches could not have hoped for such an outstanding response from the team to the mountain ahead.

Day one: With a first round group including Warwickshire, Cheshire and Surrey it was going to be a tough start. The drums and trumpets were so loud it was difficult to hear the screams of support for the team. Still the screams rang out for each and every team member at each and every game. It was the support for each other that drove the inspired five games to be won despite the experienced class opposition. In the Warwick match it was Chris Adey who not only took a singles win but in a thrilling doubles epic with Zach Daniels also took a boys' doubles. In the Cheshire match a real team effort was required: first Keya Patani skilfully won her girls' singles, then alongside Claudia Crowther smashed their way to victory in their girls' doubles. Duncan Williams and Fran Farlie had already in leadership style taken number one mixed doubles. This was a positive start for the team and proved to be a great bonding and motivating platform for the days to come.

Day two: After a good night's sleep and an awesome breakfast at the University Halls of residence we were good to go! Team talk from the coaching duo Dave and David did the trick and the team were ready to take on the two remaining teams in the group. Out of the blocks it was Northumberland, and once again Duncan and Fran won their mixed along with Claudia and Keya in the doubles and Chris in the singles – this time they were joined by Sam Newlove taking his singles and a surprising win for Fran and Molly in their girls' doubles. It was a fantastic result and we won the match. At the end of the first round, having also beaten Avon 7-3, the team finished 4th in the group.

In the second round despite being defeated by Sussex and Lincolnshire, we put ourselves in a great position for day 3. It was clear now that we had a chance, despite our young inexperienced team, to finish mid-table and we were determined to do so. It was around this time Dave Brown was experiencing the pressure jips as we like to call them! As the pressure of each match was overwhelming Dave was looking more and more grey! David Westwood was also feeling tense as the days went on but seemed to relieve the pressure by spending time with the ladies! Many a meal would go cold while Dave was engulfed in conversation with a stunning member of the female coaching staff from one of the many counties taking part!

Day three: In the third round, we played in a group for positions 21-24, and if we win our remaining matches we finish top of our group. It was Staffordshire and Norfolk today and we didn't know at the time but it was to be Northants on Thursday. With the exception of Avon each match had gone to the wire. The team spirit of this outstanding group of young people had to be seen to be believed. We have beaten Gold players, players with higher rankings, players four years older and stronger. It all rested on the last 3 matches; I was really concerned for Dave's health at this point! Ambulance at the ready as we beat Staffs on points! Fortunately after a nail-biting girls' doubles Molly and Fran won the game for a 6-4 victory over Norfolk. Then Day four it was time to take on Northants. With their very strong team in mind we had a long team talk and were ready for our final combat. It wasn't one for the faint hearted in a 5-5 draw: once again three of the matches were won in three including a marathon Dan and Molly mixed doubles. At the end of Thursday we had beaten Northants and finished top of our group, achieving 21st position overall out of 36 teams. The team including coaches were hoarse from shouting encouragement, and we were all so proud of the outstanding achievement of this gutsy, motivated, hardworking superteam!

Best Player Award: Impossible decision, should it go to Keya who at 14 years old had won every singles match other than when faced with an England International? Or Zach perhaps, whose never-ending positive and fantastic personality along with astonishing team play, won matches even saving four match points? Or Duncan, so talented that other team coaches were commenting on his ability and superb play? Molly not only at 12 years old winning mixed and doubles matches but when asked to play singles not only plays gladly but wins! The decision in the end was made simply because the award could not be given to anyone else. He had won so many of his singles matches and so many of his doubles we couldn't keep up! Match points were no match for him and he is only 14: the outstanding player of County Challenge 2014 is Christopher Adey.

No one could have prepared me for County Challenge: for the players the experience can only be described as unmissable. Each day the players were given an opportunity to compete not only for their team against great county players, across the country but also to play against some of the best players in the country. They have formed a bond as colleagues, team mates and now as friends. The team spirit created by this event is something I am privileged to have been a part of. Both Dave Brown and David Westwood formed a wonderful coaching team, inspiring a group of young and inexperienced (in the main) group of players to achieve outstanding individual and team performances and results.

Team: Christopher Adey, Claudia Crowther, Zach Daniels, Daniel Fox, Molly Goode, Samuel Newlove, Keya Patani

**Center Parcs National School Championships finals:
Monk's Walk School Achieve their Ambition of a Medal**

Christine Adey

For the second year running, the Monk's Walk Under 14 boys' badminton team travelled to Sherwood Forest Center Parcs on 10 May to represent the Eastern Region in the Grand Final of the National Schools Badminton Championships. Having finished in 6th position out of nine finalists in 2013, their aim was to improve on that position and possibly come home with a medal.

The first round was played in three groups of three with the winners of each group securing a place in the play-offs for the medals. In their first match Monk's Walk faced Benfield School from Newcastle upon Tyne, who had already lost 5-0 to Cowley International College from Merseyside. Despite looking a bit nervous and losing a few close games, Monk's Walk claimed a 3-2 win. Not surprisingly the following match against Cowley was much tougher and very tense with both schools keen to win the group. After the first singles and doubles it was one game all. The second singles game proved crucial with Jack Kimber having to fight for every point against an opponent who refused to give up and made some incredible retrievals. Having been inspired by Jack's 21-18 win, Chris Adey and Matthew Harden then clinched victory over Cowley, who subsequently finished in overall 4th position, with a 21-5 win in their doubles match.

This secured the Monk's Walk boys a place in the play-offs for the medals, where they faced Wilson's School from Sutton in Surrey, a boys' grammar school where badminton is part of the school curriculum and Bournemouth Collegiate, an independent school with a high performance Sports Academy programme which includes badminton. Both the opposing teams included several well-known county players and in the case of Bournemouth one player from the junior England squad. Bournemouth Collegiate took the gold convincingly, beating Wilson's 4-1 and Monk's Walk 5-0. Wilson's took the silver, beating Monk's Walk 4-1. However, the Monk's Walk boys were absolutely thrilled to finish in third place and bring home a well-deserved bronze medal.



Monks Walk Under 14 bronze medal winning team: Chris Adey, Jack Kimber, Matthew Harden, Calum Wilson

Eastern Region Single Sex tournament

This tournament was played at the University of East London's Sportsdock Sports Centre on 26 April in the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups, with Herts entering two boys' and two girls' teams in the Under 13 and Under 15 age groups and a team of boys in the Under 17's. 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. Depending on the size of the entry, events were played either as two rounds of boxes or in a single round-robin format.

Under 17 boys

Christine Adey

Chris Adey and Zach Daniels, both from the Under 15 squad, represented Herts in the Under 17 boys' event.

With Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk each fielding two teams, there were a total of seven teams, and they all played each other. The boys got off to a good start, winning their first four matches against Essex B, Norfolk B, Suffolk B and Norfolk A, then lost very narrowly to Essex A. Finally, they lost 3-0 to the so far undefeated Suffolk A, despite some very close games.

The final match of the group was between Suffolk A and Suffolk B. Had Suffolk A won that match, as expected, Suffolk B would then have tied on four wins with Herts and having beaten Suffolk B 3-0, Herts would have taken second place on the head to head. However, one of the Suffolk A boys had to pull out of the final match because of severe cramp, leaving Suffolk A and Suffolk B tied on 5 wins. So, Suffolk B took the gold medal and Suffolk A the silver. Herts had to settle for third place, despite having beaten the final winners 3-0.

Exhausted after a very intensive day's play, the boys were a little disappointed with the final outcome but pleased that they had put in a respectable performance at the higher age group.

Under 15 Girls

John Stobo

This tournament enables younger players and those who have had little chance of Shires League play during the season to gain valuable experience of a competitive environment, and so it was that Victoria Mangan and Isobel Nendick, Lia Di Gesaro and Amelia Dixon formed the two Herts teams. In addition to the challenge of playing mostly against Under 15 girls a year older than them (or two years in Amelia's case, who is an Under 13 squad member!), the task facing our young players was made more demanding by the organiser's decision to merge the Under 15 and Under 17 girls' events because of the small number of teams.

After a first round played in boxes, in which Amelia and Lia secured victory over Suffolk, both teams went into a second round box to play for places 5-9. After several more tense matches, including that between them which was narrowly won by Victoria and Isobel, the two teams ended in 5th and 7th positions. This was a very creditable result in a tournament which had been gruelling throughout a long day's badminton.

Under 15 Boys

Sue Meehan

Hertfordshire entered two teams in this tournament, against 5 other teams from 3 counties. This meant that the boys were in for a hard day with six matches consisting of 3 games per match up to 15 points. Max Titterton and Jacob Harper represented Herts A, Rees Clarke and Luke Meehan Herts B.

Herts A started off well winning their first match against Suffolk A. They continued their winning streak for the first five matches putting them in joint first place at the end of the first five matches. Herts A eventually went on to win the tournament, beating Suffolk A into second place. Both teams won 5 matches but Herts A beat Suffolk A in their individual match.

Herts B fought some hard matches, eventually winning 2 out of the 6 matches with some very close results indeed. The twist in the tail came when Herts A played Herts B in the final match of the day and Herts B beat Herts A 2-1!

The final result was Herts A 1st and Herts B 5th. Well done to both teams. An exhausting but very enjoyable day.



Jacob Harper and Max Titterton at their winners' medal presentation ceremony

Under 13 Girls

Graham Clarke

It was a very successful afternoon for the girls, Herts A consisting of Molly Goode & Abbie Smith winning all their games, dropping only one game during the day – a fantastic result to win the Under 13 Girls tournament. Herts B consisting of Namia Raby & Symran Shah won one match against Suffolk B to eventually finish in 5th place.



Abbie Smith and Molly Goode at their winners' medal presentation ceremony

Under 13 Boys

Graham Clarke

Likewise the U13 Boys entered two teams. Team A consisting of Sam Jarman and Jason Haley finished in 4th place beating Suffolk B, Essex B and Herts B during the day. Team B consisted of Jack Glynn & Levin Mathew, who had a tough afternoon, with some hard matches but eventually beat Suffolk B to finish in 6th place.

Hertfordshire's stars at English Nationals

John Stobo

Notable results were achieved by several squad players across the age groups of the English National Championships Series, and full details are reported in our results round-up service on Page 8. Congratulations are due to all squad players who had gained acceptance in their age group for this season's instalment of junior badminton's premier tournament series:

- Under 11 Harry Goode, Alyssa Onnay Lee, Leona Lee
- Under 13 Molly Goode, Kishan Hathi, Abbie Smith
- Under 15 Chris Adey, Laura Anderson, Mark Amer, Daniel Davey, April Miller, Keya Patani, Nathan Wooster
- Under 17 Daniel Fox, Keya Patani, Duncan Williams

The English National Championships Series also includes the Under 19 age group, and while this age group is of course beyond the scope of HSBA's activities, it should be noted that at this year's tournament, played at the English Institute of Sport from 14-16 February, two former HSBA squad members achieved successes: Conor Bambrick reached the semi-finals of both the men's and mixed doubles, partnering Michael Roe and Viki Williams respectively, while Matthew Widdicombe reached the quarter-finals of the men's singles and, in partnership with Angus Pedersen, the final of the men's doubles.

HSBA bids a sad farewell to Sangeeta

Ken Winchester

After eight marvellous years in charge of our youngest squad, we are very sorry to be saying au revoir to Sangeeta Dhall. Sangeeta is an ex-international player, who has brought both passion and experience to her coaching and managing role. Although she leads a very active professional life, she has somehow managed to find considerable time and energy to benefit young aspiring players thirsting for badminton success.

On a personal level, I shall miss her outgoing friendship and her invaluable loyalty through some difficult times. We wish Sangeeta all good fortune and hope that she will come back to renew her friendships in HSBA whenever possible.

Departures from the HSBA committee

Ken Winchester

This season we have also been greatly saddened by the resignation of Malcolm Fraser from both our Committee and from Chair of HBA. Malcolm's enormous contribution to the promotion of junior and senior badminton within Hertfordshire and nationally cannot be overstated. His departure reflects a widening gulf between the actions of our governing body and the interests of all County Badminton Associations.

We must also bid a grateful farewell to our splendid Honorary Treasurer, Ash Kejriwal, who has so carefully guarded the finances of HSBA throughout the last seven years. I should like to add my personal thanks to Ash for his invaluable support and friendship during some turbulent times for the Association.

New squad manager for the Under 11 Development squad

Ken Winchester

I am delighted to announce that Kelly Matthews has kindly accepted appointment as squad manager for the Under 11 Development squad, in succession to Sangeeta Dhall. She will undoubtedly prove to be a popular and invaluable choice with our younger players as she began her own highly successful development whilst part of the Hertfordshire junior County system.

Kelly became a full-time badminton player at the age of 16 after winning Badminton England junior National singles titles for five successive years (1994 to 1998) and went on to win the gold medal in singles at the European Under 19 championships and play on the full international circuit until she retired in 2007.

Since then she has been coaching players from beginners through to County level within Hertfordshire. She has also worked for Badminton England, coaching the national juniors as one of the designated coaches for the National Under 15 team, before taking some time out to have her first child.

Kelly took the helm after Easter and managed the Development squad selection process at the recent trials for next season. We wish her every success with her squad in 2014/15 and in future years.

Junior Club news, 2013/14

Swifts Junior badminton club

Megan Lumb

A membership of 87 during the year, dwindling in the summer term due to exams, shows that Swifts is prospering. The very youngest players in the first session are being coached by an ex club member, Rhian Blowers. Rhian is a level 2 coach, as are more of the other coaches at Swifts.

Players in the second and third sessions get some coaching and play singles on a ladder system - competition is very keen - and doubles. The fourth session is a free-for-all with mainly doubles being played, although the singles ladder system operates for them too. The doubles is run as a challenge, where players only play with the same partner twice in an evening - points are added up and averaged by the number of games played to give overall champions. The race for the top points was very competitive, Ryan McKeever getting most points and Chris Malpas and Mukunth Raveendran becoming overall champions. A few parents also play in the fourth session with the older players.

As there is no longer a clubs' league, Swifts players took part in the club tournament last November and all enjoyed the experience.

New members are always welcome. For information please contact Marion Conway on 01707 652061 or e-mail marionconway@gmail.com

Editor's note: All the Hertfordshire junior clubs for which the editorial team has an email contact were invited to contribute a short report on their club's activities over the past season. We hope that in future years more may do so.

Badminton England grading promotions

Congratulations to the following squad players who have improved on their highest singles grading since Badminton England's grading list of July 2013:

April 2014

- Grade E Christopher Adey
- Grade F Zach Daniels, Daniel Davey
- Grade G Molly Goode, Kishan Hathi, Monique Maisey, Abbie Smith
- Grade H Harry Goode, Alyssa Onnay Lee, Leona Lee,

Congratulations to the following squad player who achieved his first grading in the April 2014 list:

- Grade I Thomas Sweetnam

Badminton England junior tournament results

When HSBA squad members reach the knock-out stage of events played initially in boxes or the quarter finals of events played in straight knock-out format or a medal position in an event played in round robin format, On the Line! will report their achievements.

Under 17 English National Championships

XD	Quarter final	Kishan Hathi & Molly Goode lost to William Jones & Gauri Morjaria: 10-21, 9-21
GD	Semi-final	Molly Goode & Abbie Smith lost to Asmita Chaudhari & Hope Warner: 12-21, 13-21

Under 15 English National Championships

BD	Quarter final	Christopher Adey & Oliver Chapman lost to Alex Cook & Zach Russ: 16-21, 10-21
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BS = Boys Singles BS* = Boys Singles Gold Star BSx = Boys Singles Extra BD = Boys doubles
GS = Girls Singles GSx = Girls Singles Extra GD = Girls Doubles XD = Mixed Doubles

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of On the Line! The deadline for contributions to the October 2014 newsletter is Friday September 26, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:

J.R.Stobo@btinternet.com