
HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

August/September 2006

COUNTY TRIALS FOR 2006/2007

U12/13 Trials (dates of birth 1995/1994)

Wednesday, 13th September at the Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

6.00 pm - 8.00 pm (registration 5.45 pm)

Contact Duncan/Marion Conway on 01707 652061

U14/15 Trials (dates of birth 1993/1992)

Sunday, 17th September at the Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

1.30 pm - 5.00 pm (registration 12.45 pm)

Contact Hitesh Shah on 0208 907 7790

U16/17 Trials (dates of birth 1991/1990)

Sunday 17th September at the Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

11.00 am - 1.30 pm (registration 10.45 am)

Contact Tony Clarke on 01992 586727 or Pat Walker on 01992 422073

TRIALS FOR U11 COUNTY SQUAD AND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Trials for the U11 Squad and Development Training will be held over 4 weeks in September on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th between 5.30 and 7.30 pm in the Herts Sports Village in the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.

If you would like the opportunity to enter please come along to as many of these sessions as you can.

There will be a charge of £4.00 made to each player per session, payable on the night.

Contact Hazel Levins on 01992 559491

Rally Points Scoring

The rally points scoring will be used this season in the HSBA tournaments as well as in the Junior League matches. Enclosed with this newsletter is a simplified guide to the rally points scoring. If any further details are needed, please check the Badminton England website: www.badmintonengland.co.uk

Open Tournaments

For various reasons I am not listing the BE tournaments this year. They, and the entry forms, are to be found on the Badminton England website. If any player does not have access to this website, then please contact your squad manager to get information.

H.S.B.A. TOURNAMENTS

Sunday, October 22	U13 (Year 8 and under) Boys and Girls Doubles U15 (Year 10 and under) Boys and Girls 'B' Singles	9.30 am 9.30 am
Sunday, November 5	U11 (Year 6 and under) Boys and Girls Doubles U18 (Year 13 and under) Boys and Girls Singles U18 (Year 13 and under) Boys and Girls Doubles	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm
Sunday, January 28	U10 (Year 5 and under) Boys and Girls Doubles U13 (Year 8 and under) Boys and Girls 'B' Singles U15 (Year 10 and under) Boys and Girls Singles	9.30 am 9.30 am 2.00 pm
Sunday, February 11	U11 (Year 6 and under) Boys and Girls Singles U15 (Year 10 and under) Boys and Girls Doubles	9.30 am 9.30 am
Sunday, March 25	U10 (Year 5 and under) Boys and Girls Singles U13 (Year 8 and under) Boys and Girls Singles	9.30 am 9.30 am

All these tournament will be played at **Stevenage Leisure Centre**

Thursday, December 21	U13 (Year 8 and under) Mixed Doubles U15 (Year 10 and under) Mixed Doubles U18 (Year 13 and under) Mixed Doubles	9.30 am 12 noon 2.30 pm
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To be played at **Hatfield Leisure Centre**

Sunday, February 25	Primary Schools Team Tournament - at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Details at a later date
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Registration time is 15 minutes before start time

Entries to: Mrs Roz Hodgkinson, 24 Turpins Close, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0RA
Tel: 01438 715231
e-mail: hsba@srpltd.com

Shires League - Notice of Changes for 2006/07

Phil Westwood

(Fixtures Secretary)

Fixtures - For the coming season, Herts has been moved from our 'traditional' South East grouping, Group A, into Group B - facing the Midlands and East Anglia.

This was a logistical decision by the Shire League, faced with having to accommodate additional teams. But it was not imposed; we were asked and, after due consideration, accepted.

Our new group contains: Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk.

The main drawback is further travelling. This will be partially offset by more home games, if it can be arranged.

On the plus side, Group A has become a very strong group. Four or five teams are now of a standard worthy of a Final place. The choice of Herts to move was geographical but with, as the League saw it, the bonus of rebalancing the strengths of the groups. Let's hope we can justify that expectation.

And for the older age-groups, a change of scene and opposition might, perhaps, blow away a few cobwebs.

If, at the end of the season, it has not been successful/popular, we will make a case and apply to move back to Group A.

Rally Points

The Shires League, in the wake of BE, has adopted Rally Points! There is no point rehearsing the arguments, emotions for and against. It's a done deal. So what does it mean for Shires League matches?

Every rally ends with a point to one of the players.

Pick-up serve in position from which you last served.

Each rubber will be best of three games to 21

At 20-all the first with a two-point lead wins, or the first to 30 points

Winner serves first in the next game

Drinks break at 11; no drinks at other times (exceptional conditions aside)

Towelling down is still allowed, on request

One coach, nominated before start of match, allowed 90 seconds between 1st and 2nd games; 5 minutes between 2nd and 3rd

For greater detail see <http://www.shiresbadminton.co.uk>

A New Slant on International Badminton (Trip to Viernheim)

Di Godin

Saturday morning April 29, 3.30 am. Shayna and I were already awake, too excited to sleep, and had the pleasure of waking Paul and Waz. Then, off to Stanstead to meet the rest of the group.

Still only 6.30 am and everyone was surprisingly cheery for the hour of the day. I have to admit to being a bit nervous as it was our first time and Waz and Shayna being the youngest by 5 years or so.

At Hahn airport we were met by some of the German families - lots of noise, handshakes and hugs as old friends reunited. Siegfried, our host, immediately greeted us and chatted to the children making us feel comfortable and part of the group.

A short visit to our host's house for an early lunch and a meeting of minds between Siegfried and Waz, who both collect trains. From then on, it was go, go, go for the whole weekend. We started off with a games trail around the homes of various host families. At each station, we were plied with more food and drink and a game for points. The games were simple yet varied., for example, throwing basket balls through hoops, darts, knocking down a stack of cans - and who will ever forget the artichoke tea? Old and young alike joined in, had fun and got to meet all the other families. Although fun, who said men weren't competitive: husband Paul came second overall and Waz won the junior section.

That evening it was off to the local museum for a bit of culture. We had our own private tour for an hour and they have an interesting local history. Shayna was surprised to see Potters Bar included in their clubs and town twinning section with photographs of people she knew. The rest of the evening was spent at the museum grounds with the older ones enjoying a drink and a rest in good company after their walk, whilst the younger ones enjoyed playing various ball games on the grass. It is amazing how sport can overcome language barriers - all the children ranging for 6/7 up to 17 /18 were involved.

With no-one in our family speaking German, I thought this would be a problem, but it turned out not to be. On the more difficult words and conversations there was always someone nearby to translate and they showed great patience trying to make sense of my pidgin German often accompanied with hand signals and pointing. It was good to see everyone chatting away and mixing freely catching up on a year's news.

After a lazy start, Sunday was the time for serious badminton. Four hours and 54 games later, we were all exhausted. It was fun and played in a friendly atmosphere with most games being mixed up, one English person partnering a German person. So it was difficult to decide on a winning team but I think the majority of us agree that the Germans would have edged ahead.

Once again it was back to the museum grounds for more imaginative games including stilt racing. This time England proved to be the winners. I'm not really sure it's anything to be proud of in the circumstances, but that didn't stop us celebrating.

Awards, prizes and speeches followed dinner, then a few table games and puzzles. No one was given the opportunity to get bored or feel left out. Now I know why the others were telling me I would get tired - not so much is the badminton to blame!

Monday started with a visit to the local fire station. From there it was off to see a model railway one of the townspeople had built in a warehouse. He had spend 5 years building it so far, but has plans to extend it some more. Needless to say, I didn't see Waz for the rest of the morning. He somehow managed to get behind the scenes. After the first 20 questions, the builder's English deteriorated, I can't think why??!!

Lunch was followed by a few words of thanks as we were joined by the 'Mayor', and wishes of a safe journey home and invitations to go back next time. This we hope to do. Meanwhile we will have to wait and meet our new friends when they visit England next year.

I hope this account will encourage some families out there to give it a go. We do meet on some Saturday evenings to play badminton and to get to know each other. If you are interested, please contact Marion Conway on 01707 652061.

Swifts Presentation Evening

The Swifts Presentation Evening was incorporated with the AGM on the last Friday in June. After the initial welcome by Marion and Duncan Conway, the business part of the evening took place, while the playing members of the club had their photographs taken. When they returned the presentations began.

Many of the younger players were presented with certificates for BISI awards, with some of the older ones gaining the bronze award. Certificates and medals were presented to runners-up and winners of the Junior Leagues.

Players at the top of the 4 sessions were presented with bronze, silver and gold medals with the winner of each session receiving a trophy. These were: Session 1 - Tom Ritson; Session 2 - Kirsty Southey; Session 3 - Edward Byrne; Session 4 - Ben Goodson.

During the summer term, a doubles challenge had been run (players not being allowed to partner the same person more than once in any week). The overall winners were: Session 2 - Jessie Northen and Joseph Tam; Session 3 - Alex Northen and Ben Norfolk; Session 4 - Jonathan Morris and Ben Goodson.

This was followed by the Year winners and runners up. Year winners were: Year 2 - James Cummings; Year 3 - Rosie Conway/Keval Mehta; Year 4 - Amy George/ Isabel Hatt/Corran Goodson; Year 5 - Shayna Godin/Justin Chan; Year 6 - Kirsty Southey/Gareth Lumb/Michael Peak; Year 7 - Juliet Radmall/Steven George; Year 8 - Heather Myers/Ryan McCarthy; Year 9 - Lauren Austin/Jonathan Radmall; Year 10 - Eleanor Golland/Ben Goodson; Year 11 - Elinor Perks/Fred Wonnacott; Year 12 - Oliver Hammond.

Runners-up in the Junior Championship: Jessie Northen and Michael Peak

Junior Champions: Kirsty Southey and Gareth Lumb

Runners-up in the Senior Championship: Angela Law and Ryan McCarthy

Senior Champions: Claire Kerry and Ben Goodson

Marion and Duncan thanked the various coaches for their help and presented the older coaches with bottles of wine, while the younger ones, Rhian Blowers, Oscar Lam and Jonathan Radmall, got chocolates!. We also said goodbye to Emily Crabb who is going to University this coming year. Thanks were also given to the Lumb family for organising the presentation (plus a couple of bottles of wine - very nice thank you) and also thanks to the parents for their support.

After which the older members of the club played on for another hour.

Potters Bar Olympic Games

The Potters Bar Olympic Games took place on Monday, August 28. They were organised by Neville Collman, who is better known in the Herts cricket world. There was a variety of events ranging from Chess, Darts and Cribbage to Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis and Squash to Target Golf, Target Cricket, Football, Sprints and even a quarter Marathon.

On the badminton side, 5 pairs appeared for the doubles. Ceri and Gareth Lumb played for the Old Owens team and finished with a bronze medal. The winners were from the local Health Club, one of whom was Richard Gouriet who used to play at Swifts. When the doubles had finished, the 'optional' singles started, the biggest snag being that each doubles pair played their partner first. Not everyone took part in this. Ceri beat Gareth and then played Richard in the semi-final. Having just got started, and Ceri leading 2-1, the fire alarm went off and we had to evacuate the building. After about 10 minutes, the game was able to continue and Richard went on to win 15-7. From the other games which were played, the winner was Jack Calvert - another Swifts player - and he played Richard in the final, which Richard won 21-13. Ceri was again in the bronze position.

It was a good representation of Swifts past and present players as Ceri was also a member and Gareth currently plays there.

Later in the day Gareth, Andrew Huntley (also a Swifts player) and 2 other boys represented Old Owens in target cricket where they won the gold medal. They also joined other youngsters in a combined team in the 'Beat the Goalie' and 'Hit the Crossbar' challenge.

Quite a number of people, mainly adults with a sprinkling of children, took part and enjoyed themselves - particularly the medals presented at the end of the day.

Review of the U17 Year

Tony Clarke (Squad Manager)

RIO 2006 (21st/22nd January)

Due to a clash of dates the RIO weekend in January was changed, but the hotel booking at the Wheatlands Lodge Hotel could not be changed. It could have meant cancelling the event completely but fortunately Yorkshire managed to find an alternative.

We stayed on York Racecourse where the jockeys are accommodated and the disco was at a Working Mans Club in the centre of York. It could have been a disaster! It wasn't. Not staying at the Wheatlands Lodge was inconvenient but it was ok.

Now to the badminton. There were 3 very good teams, so 2 of them must play each other in the first group. As expected, we played Notts, so the winner of this match would play Yorks in the final. Our first 2 matches were against Leicester and Warwickshire, which we won 15-0 and 14-1. Notts were at full strength and proved too good on the day, winning 10-5. Dinner, the disco and breakfast went off ok.

We had to play Yorkshire first on Sunday morning and it was a good opportunity to play it head to head to really see how good we were. Yorks won 14-1, which told us we had to think of something special if we are to have a chance at ICT. We duly beat Lothian 11-4 to finish 3rd.

The team were Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, James Reynolds, Gregg Roantree, Matt Westwood, Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, Victoria Stokes, Charlotte Willis, Emily Westwood and Helena Lewczynska.

U17 Inter- Counties Tournament 2006

April 10th 2006, my 25th anniversary, 25 successive ICTs at Nottingham University starting in 1982 - how times have changed! Before 1982 Hertfordshire had never won a first round match and had always finished in the last quartile, 27th out of 32 in 1981. In 1982 the team included my daughter Debbie and 4 other reasonable girls plus 4 relatively good boys including Andrew Cracknell (one time chairman of HSBA) and Jason Large (coach to the England U15 team). However, we had one obvious weaker boy. I learned my 1st lesson on day 1 of the tournament. We had lost our first 2 matches and needed a win to raise morale and give us a chance of finishing in the 3rd quartile. I selected the team and included my 5th weak boy to play 2nd mixed. We were winning 5-4 with just the 2nd mixed still on court. They lost 21-0 and Herts lost by just 5 points in a 5 all draw.

Lesson 1 - if you only have 4 good boys only select and bring 4; alternatively, if you do bring a 5th boy or girl you don't have to play them. Obviously it is difficult to tell players that they are not playing in the next match.

There is however no room for sentiment. The worse thing I've ever had to do at the ICT is to tell a boy who had played in every match that he would not be playing in the final against Yorks in 1997. It was our best chance of winning and in that case you take no risks. The chances were that it could be a 5-5 draw and points could be important. We won 6-4, to win the title for the only time. It had taken 16 years. Lessons 2 to infinity go on each year. If I go on long enough I could get it all right, but I doubt it!

Back to 2006. We left Birchwood SC early on the Monday morning, with a new member of the management team, Steve Willis, whose school provided the minibus, together with myself and Pat and Colin Walker. The team was Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew, James Reynolds, Gregg Roantree, Laura Cousins, Katie Comras, Victoria Stokes, Charlotte Willis and Rachel Warnes.

We were seeded 2, a little different from 1982. We arrived in plenty of time to check in at Sherwood Hall, have our photo taken and be ready to play Worcestershire in Area 2 at 12 o'clock. We won 10-0, conceding only 27 points. We're off and running. A good choice of words. Next came Cheshire at Jubilee Hall, and then Sussex at Chilwell after dinner. If all goes well, Isle of Man at Jubilee the next morning followed by Surrey at Jubilee after a wait of an hour and a half. Then back to the University to play Warwicks before dinner and, probably our toughest match v Ulster at 8.30 in the evening. A very tough day. All did go according to plan. We beat Cheshire 10-0, Sussex 9-1, Isle of Man 8-2, Surrey 10-0 and Warwicks 10-0 before taking on last year's 5th place Ulster. It was our 4th match of the day, made even later by Nigel playing the complete game again because he and his opponent couldn't agree the score. We played really well and went on to win 9-1 to reach the last 4, together with Yorks, Notts and Bucks.

Once you have played in the final you want to be there every year. This would be our 7th final in the last 13 years and our 3rd finals appearance in a row. We beat Notts and Bucks both 6-4 to set up a repeat of last year's final against Yorks. John and Sue Foster (Yorks managers) are great friends, but for about 2 or 3 hours each year we become deadly enemies. Yorks have not missed a finals appearance since 1990 and have won the last 7 in a row, a fantastic record. Can we stop them making it 8 in a row.

We didn't get off to a great start. Even after 25 years you can make the silliest of errors. Victor had been nominated to play in 3 games (not allowed). PANIC!! And the error was not noticed by the court officials. After we had sorted the typographical error, I finally had a look at the team sheet. Last year we took one of the mixed which allowed us to reach 4-4 and keep the match alive. With Gaby White playing in the U19 Six Nations, it would be difficult for Yorks to stop us doing the same again. However, John chose to strengthen his mixed by playing Marcus Ellis and Jamie Bonsells at 1st and 2nd mixed and took the gamble that Bonsells and Richard Morris could beat any combination of Nigel, Kamran and Victor. Could he be right? Yorks duly won both mixed and one girls singles to be 3-1 up. Marcus, as expected, won his singles against Nigel. However James played brilliantly to beat Richard Morris. 4-2 to Yorks.

We had to win the boys 1st doubles to stand a chance. Unfortunately John got it right. Bonsells/ Morris beat Nigel/Kamran 21-13. James/Victor did well to win at 2nd doubles to give Yorks a 5-3 lead. Laura/ Victor lost to Robertshaw/Allinson to give Yorks a winning score. Charlotte/Katie won well to make the score sound better. Yorks 6 – Herts 4. Still, 3rd, 2nd and 2nd in successive years is brilliant.

Shires League Finals (Summary) 7th May Babbington College Leicester

The Herts team was Nigel Tao, Kamran Haq, Victor Liew (back from the 6 Nations), James Reynolds, Matt Westwood, Victoria Stokes, Charlotte Willis, Emily Westwood and Helena Lewczynska. In the first round we beat Staffs to join Yorks, Notts and Bucks in the semis. We drew Yorks (not good) and lost 8-2 and then lost 6-4 to Bucks in the play-off for 3rd place, still a very good result.

The successes in Open Tournaments are too many to list. Excellent individual results were achieved by Nigel, Kamran, Victor, Laura and Katie. In the Nationals, which were held at HSV in Hatfield, all the above reached the semi finals or better in at least one event. James also had some excellent results, and still has next season to look forward to.

Congratulations to Victor, Laura and Katie who were members of the England U17 team which won the Six Nations Tournament. The first time in its history that Denmark has not finished in first place.

My thanks, particularly to Pat Walker for all her work throughout the year, and also to Colin Walker and Steve Willis for their help at the ICT. Thanks again, a great team effort.

From the editor: Thanks to Di Godin, Phil Westwood and Tony Clarke for their contributions to this newsletter. Please, everyone, do your bit and send in tournament results (I know they appear on the website, but I quite often can't read them as I don't always have the links to get into them.) Reports from matches and tournaments would be nice too. Good luck to everyone in Herts - may it be a good season. Closing date for items for the next newsletter is Thursday, October 26.

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

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

Ray Learney Memorial Fund

Coach and Tutor Ray Learney died while coaching in Tenerife this summer. Hundreds of juniors, many adults, and most Herts coaches have been coached by Ray. Just this year at the Opening of the A10 School Sports Partnership Ray coached about 125 juniors, also, two Coach Level 1, a Level 2 and Community Sports Leaders courses for Watford Girls Grammar - over 50 new coaches in Herts. Ray didn't stop at the formal course delivery he was always happy to listen to anyone's concerns and provide helpful advice in his own time.

Ray was particularly keen to help youngsters get started in coaching so we thought it a fitting to create a 'Ray Learney Memorial Fund' to help subsidise teenagers get into coaching at a time when their money is usually in very short supply. If you would like to help remember Ray this way or simply support youngsters start in coaching please send anything you can afford to HBA Treasurer, 9 Valley Close, Hertford, SG13 8BD. Please make any cheques payable to 'HBA'. Ray's family are very grateful and supportive of this Herts manner of remembering him.

If you'd like any further information on this do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Dave Bartlett, HBA Coaching Co-ordinator,
Email: Dave-HBA@Bartlett1.Plus.com