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# HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

October 2006

## **H.S.B.A. TOURNAMENTS**

The next HSBA tournaments are:

**Thursday, December 21** U13 (Year 8 and under) Mixed Doubles 9.30 am  
U15 (Year 10 and under) Mixed Doubles 12 noon  
U18 (Year 13 and under) Mixed Doubles 2.30 pm

To be played at **Hatfield Leisure Centre**

**Closing date: Monday, December 11**

**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](mailto:hsba@srpltd.com)**

## **H.S.B.A. County Trials**

Trials for the U11 County Squad went on through September and finally 4 boys and 3 girls were chosen for the squad. The others, including some U13s were invited to the Development Training sessions with a view to gaining entry to the squad in the future. They are: Rebecca Andrews, Zach Daniels, Renu Chopra, Ellen Eales, Eleanor Fitton, Yash Kejriwal, Laura Monk, David Moss, William Moss, Sai Raj, Rishav Shah and Robbie Waddup.

### U11 Squad

Kit Akin-Agunbiade	Lochinver House	Anna Collis	St Francis College Prep
Lyall Daniels	Duncombe	Amy George	St Giles CE Primary
David Maughan	Sherrardswood	Isabel Hatt	Little Heath Primary
Matthew Widdicombe	Morgans JMI		

The U13 trials were held early in September. There was a good turn out with several new faces appearing. The main squad members from last year were exempt from the trials giving the coaches more time to look at other players, some of whom were asked to return the next week before a final decision was made. The squad now has 16 boys and 13 girls.

### U13 Squad

Nick Barnett	Chancellor's	Lizzie Airey	Dame Alice Owen
Edward Byrne	St Columba's College	Chloe Bungey	Chancellor's
Mitchell Chapman	Verulam	Alex English	Chancellor's
Sam Endemi	Marlborough	Katherine Head	Bushey Hall
Steven George	Mount Grace	Rachel Hibberd	St Paul's CE Junior
Matthew Hare	Fearnhill	Jessie Northen	Chancellor's
Daniel Hatt	Nicholas Breakspear	Hemali Patel	St John's Senior
Max Hodgkinson	Verulam	Georgia Pittson	Chancellor's
Gareth Lumb	Chancellor's	Lexy Richards	Mount Grace
Dale Maddox	Fearnhill	Kate Sellars	Sir John Lawes
Oliver Ng	Bechwood Park	Kirsty Southey	Stopsley High

Michael Peak	Goffs	Piu Yi Tam	Bishops Hatfield Girls
Mark Sadler	Lochinver House	Lucy Wheeler	Chancellor's
Nish Selvakumar	Haberdashers' Aske's	Ben Spencer	John Warner
Howard Stobo	Townsend		

### **U15 Trials**

### **Hitesh Shah (U15 Manager)**

The U15 trials went very well with 44 players participating. From these Ken Winchester and I selected 11 girls and 17 boys for the U15 squad. I would like to thank John McCloskey, Kevin Maughan, Simon Bygrave and Pat Walker for their help on the day of the trials. Thus after the trials, the squad regularly meets on Monday evenings at St Albans Girls High School from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. This year it looks as if we have a lot of promising players and they all seem to be working very hard on the squad night. We have our first Shires League match against Cambridgeshire on Saturday, October 28 and the Team Challenge on November 25. On our squad nights we do dearly miss John Smith. I would like to thank him for his service given to Hertfordshire badminton. We wish him well and all the best for the future.

### **U15 Squad**

Ross Barnes	Marlborough	Ayomide Akin	St Albans Girls High
Chris Belfield	Roundwood Park	Laura Bygrave *	Fearnhill
Ewan Berry	St George's	Jo En Choi	Dame Alice Owen
Sam Berry	Knights Templar	Charlotte Gawley Green	Hitchin Girls
Andrei Donko	Queen Elizabeth Boys	Bethan Griffith	St Albans Girls High
Richard Gentle	Stanborough	Hayley Ladd	St Albans Girls
James Head *	Bushey Hall	Heather Myers	Nicholas Breakspear
Alex Lee	Dame Alice Owen	Isabelle Sadler	St Albans Girls High
Ryan McCarthy *	Chancellor's	Ying Yi Tee *	Royal Masonic
Matthew McCloskey	Fearnhill	Stephanie White	Priory
Andrew Maughan	Sherrardswood	Claire Widdicombe	Chauncy
Elliott Miles	Freman College	Edward Moss	Bishops Stortford High
Daniel Regan	Chancellor's	Iain Robinson	Richard Hale
Sahil Shah	Haberdashers' Aske's	Scott Williams	Fearnhill

\* Players are also training with the U17 squad

The U17 trials were held on the same day as the U15s. There are 19 boys and 13 girls in the squad.

### **U17 Squad**

Philip Adams	St Clement Danes	Alice Bloomfield	Presdales
Tim Angus	St George's	Rhian Blowers	Chancellor's
Oliver Crabb	Verulam	Laura Bygrave	Fearnhill
Luke Donnelly	Chancellor's	Lauren Crichton	Queenswood
Matthew Fitt	Rickmansworth	Frances Dickson	John F Kennedy
Alex Gomar	Haberdashers' Aske's	Jasmin Hodgson	Parmiters
Ben Goodson	Chancellor's	Sarah Hunter	Parmiters
James Head	Bushey Hall	Helena Lewczynska	Northwood College
Stephen Hibberd	Watford Boys Grammar	Amy Pearson	St George's
Akash Jhunjunwala	Haberdashers' Aske's	Ying Yi Tee	Royal Masonic
Ryan McCarthy	Chancellor's	Rachel Warnes	St Albans Girls High
George Moss	Bishops Stortford High	Emily Westwood	Roundwood Park
Tom Pearce	Sandringham	Charlotte Willis	Stanborough
Talfryn Provis-Evans	Sir John Lawes	Arjun Shah	Parmiters
Matthew Trott	Hitchin Boys	Ben Vranjkovic	John Henry Newman
Matthew Westwood	Roundwood Park		

## U12 Leicestershire Invitation Doubles

### **All the way to the Final**

**Helen Richards**

Twenty four pairs from 11 counties entered this event and Herts were represented by 4 pairs: **Lizzie Airey/Lexy Richards, Alex English/Georgia Pittson, Rachel Hibberd/Kirsty Southey and Amy George/Isabel Hatt**. Each pair played 5 matches in their group with the top two pairs in each group going through to the quarter finals.

Rachel/Kirsty won their match against Warwickshire, but were narrowly defeated in their other games. Amy/Isabel won 2 of their games but had stiff competition from Nottinghamshire, Avon and Gloucestershire. In group 4, Alex and Georgia did well to win 3 matches, losing only to Gloucestershire and Lancashire. Liz/Lex won all their matches, came top of their group and went on to play Nottinghamshire in the quarter final. After losing the first game 16-18, Herts were trailing in the second when one of the Notts pair was injured. Herts seized the advantage and managed to win 2-1. Aware of their good fortune, confidence was high as they approached the semi-final against Gloucestershire. The Herts pair displayed good communication skills and some wickedly disguised cross-court shots. Gloucestershire were despatched 15-10, 15-13. The final against Helen Briggs/Sarita Patel of hosts Leicestershire was a short-lived affair. Leicestershire dominated and won 15-8, 15-5 to collect the trophy. The girls were tired after their efforts but greatly enjoyed the day's play.

## Herts Pumping as Hodgkinson and Sadler Bring Home Gold

**Chris Sadler**

Herts entered three very strong pairs to the Leicestershire Invitation Under 12s Boys Doubles on Sunday, October 15th 2006. The event was organised into four boxes of 7 or 8 county pairs with the top two progressing to the quarter finals. Box games were singles matches to 21 with no setting. Fourteen counties were represented with 29 pairs entered.

**David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe**, whilst still under 11, continued their excellent track record against senior opposition with 3 wins. Although they were also defeated in 3 matches, these were all closely contested and they pushed the Essex pair all the way losing narrowly 19-21. They finished 4th of 7 in their box, a tremendous achievement given their age and they will be encouraged that they can mount a serious challenge for the silverware in this competition next year.

**Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb** found themselves in perhaps the toughest box with stern competition from Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire pairs. Despite this they rose to the challenge and defeated these teams to 17. 20 and 17 points, winning all their games in the box to finish on top with the Bucks pair qualifying in second place.

**Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler** faced 7 opponents in the biggest box. The Herts pair beat the strong Avon boys to 14 and played consistently well in their other matches. With 7 wins, Max/Mark finished the group in 1st place with Avon taking second.

Knock-out stages of the competition were decided in the best of 3 matches to 15 with setting. In the quarter finals Edward/Gareth met the Essex pair of T Phillips/L Sabatini. They made a great start taking the first game, but were pegged back to 1-1 in the second. In the deciding game they worked hard but were unfortunate to be narrowly defeated in a close match that could have gone either way.

Max/Mark comfortably won their quarter final against Lancashire in 2 games. In the semi-final they had a re-match against the Avon pair who had raised their game considerably to beat M Roe/P Mairs from Cheshire. Although they were given a much tougher match than the box game, Max/Mark triumphed again winning 15-10, 15-10. In the other semi-final the Bucks pair S Vandy/H Simcock, a surprise package given that they are still under 11, beat Essex 2 games to 1 in a closely contested match.

In the final Vandy/Simcock came out firing to take the first game 15-12. Max/Mark responded tremendously to level the match at 1-1 with a 15-7 win. In the final game points went evenly to both teams with a mixture of excellent shots and unforced errors as a result of fatigue and pressure. The Herts boys eventually worked up a small advantage and just as the Bucks pair seemed ready to accept defeat on championship point, they re-grouped taking several points off our boys to get to 14-12. Max/Mark made one last effort and pushed their opponents deep into their backhand court so that they were unable to make the return. So amongst much emotion and high-fives, Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler were crowned Leicestershire Invitation Under 12s Boys Doubles Champions for 2006. This was a good day for Herts boys who were the only county to get 2 pairs into the knockout stages and both as box winners.

#### **Wedding News**

**Ken Winchester (HSBA Chairman)**

Most of you will know that, after a relationship of over 20 years, Hertfordshire were forced to bid a grateful farewell to John Smith at the end of last season.

My wife and I, along with the Lumb family, were delighted to receive an invitation to John and Julie's wedding ceremony at the Roundabout Hotel, West Chiltington, West Sussex on Saturday, September 30th. What a uniquely special and joyous event it turned out to be! Accompanying music to the proceedings was expertly provided by one of Julie's daughters and her husband which precisely set the right atmosphere for the occasion.

Both the bride and groom were impeccably turned out and exhibited an endearing nervousness that touched the hearts of the small congregation. An unexpected slight panic over the exchange of rings only added to the magic of the moment. Further musical delight followed whilst the registrar attended to the usual nuptial formalities.

At the reception, we were treated to some lively anecdotes from one of John's 4 sons. One particular story of John leaning out of a car window, holding on to a piece of string controlling the carburettor, will deservedly go down in Smith family legend. The accepted norm of family television was amusingly contrasted with a description of John sharing his incisive analytical ability whilst viewing badminton videos.

John's speech was able to put all these stories into finer context. His deep affection for his family and his love of Julie was eloquently expressed and will remain a treasured memory. Following this splendid reception, guests were invited back to the couple's new home, just a short distance away. Talking to other family members, it was obvious that all were delighted

that John and Julie have settled down together for their new life in West Sussex. To celebrate their new found happiness, John and Julie shared a piano duet, expertly performed by both parties.

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After the cutting of the cake, it was time to say a fond farewell. However, I have Julie's valued promise that John will occasionally be returned to us for our tournaments. I am sure that you would join me in wishing them a long and happy future together.

### **Message from John Smith**

Hi, everybody! By the time you read this the new season will be underway and another summer will be rapidly fading into the distance. It feels strange for me because, for the first time in over 20 years, I am not planning for county trials or wondering how we will get on in this year's badminton competitions.

My main reason for writing is to thank everyone for all the wonderful cards and presents which I received at the end of last season. It was a time of mixed emotions for me and I was touched by the thoughtfulness and kindness of so many people - players, parents and coaches from the current squads and also many others I had coached or worked with over the years. The wine glasses and the tankard are being well used, the wine and the chocolates etc have already been consumed (and yes, my waist size is bigger than it should be so I need to get out on the South Downs for some exercise). With the vouchers I have been able to buy a really nice wooden and glass cabinet for my large collection of CDs. I hope I have included everyone who contributed to my send off. I was completely amazed at the sheer number of people who sent good wishes in various forms. Thank you all so much.

I shall look back on my time with HSBA with many happy memories and great pride to have been part of such a special organisation. It has been a privilege to know and to have coached so many wonderful young people and I will never forget all the excitement and fun we had together.

All my very best wishes for the future! I will try to get to some of the tournaments so I look forward to seeing at least some of you later in the year.

Many, many thanks again and good luck.                      John

### **H.S.B.A. Tournaments**

### **Barbara Lewczynska**

Firstly Roz and I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who helped us through our first 'tournament experience' on Sunday - our very calm referee Ken Winchester; Gordon Hatt and Grant Southey, who thought they were going to help out 'for a bit' but ended up running the girls tournaments in the bowls hall very successfully; Alison Widdicombe, Ben Goodson, Kim Maughan, Liz Hatt, Tracey Barnett; also Megan and Malcolm Lumb in the weeks leading up to the tournament.

### **U15 Boys and Girls 'B' Singles**

As the tournament happened to fall at the beginning of half, there was not as huge an entry as in recent years. However, many people commented that the standard of play was very impressive. In the girls event there was one box of four and one of five. Winners and runners-up went straight into the semis in the knockout, although one extra game was played in the plate, where Louise Hammersley took the gold medal beating Grace Moore in the final. The main event saw Daniella Farsiani and Sarah Wilder beating Prudence Hodges and Alex Northen respectively in the semis with Daniella beating Sarah in the final.

### **Results**

**Final:** Daniella Farsiani beat Sarah Wilder 21-9  
Semi-finalists were Prudence Hodges and Alex Northen

Plate Final: Louise Hammersley beat Grace Moore 21-13

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The boys event had a slightly higher entry - 19 players, with St Albans and Haberdashers' Aske's both well represented. Again some very good badminton was seen, and to the great relief of the organisers there seemed to be no confusion with the new rally points system. In the plate event Lewis Walker beat Pavan Surepeddi, Joseph Tam and Joe Richards, and Oliver Simpson came through beating Aditya Iyer and Tony Clark enroute to the final with Lewis who won the gold medal. In the main event Sam Spencer won his quarter and semi-finals against Chris Pollitt and Josh Cooper, while Philip Chee won his against Chris Fisher and Matthew Crossland to reach the final, with Philip winning a very tight match.

**Results**      **Final: Philip Chee beat Sam Spencer 21-17**  
Semi-finalists were Josh Cooper and Matthew Crossland  
Plate Final: Lewis Walker beat Oliver Simpson 21-15

### **U13 Girls Doubles**

The U13 girls doubles was played in one box of 4 and one of 5 and all played extremely well. Grace Moore kindly stood in with Kate Sellars whose partner was missing, but as Grace is U15 they could not progress further, but it meant that Kate got some games. All the girls went straight into the semis in the main and plate events. Lizzie Airey/Lexy Richards beat Alex English/Kirsty Southey and Hemali Patel/Georgia Pittson beat Chloe Bungey/Jessie Northen to reach the finals, with Lizzie/Lexy taking home the trophies. Rachel Hibberd/Piu Yi Tam (beating Lucy Binns/Anna Collis) and Amy George/Isabel Hatt (beating Natalie Farsiani/Madeleine Lewis) played a sizzling final which went to setting with Amy/Isabel just clinching it.

**Results**      **Final: Lizzie Airey/Lexy Richards beat Hemali Patel/Georgia Pittson 21-12**  
Semi-finalists were Alex English/Kirsty Southey and Chloe Bungey/Jessie Northen  
Plate Final: Amy George/Isabel Hatt beat Rachel Hibberd/Piu Yi Tam 24-22

### **U13 Boys Doubles**

#### **Alison Widdicombe**

This year the tournament was run by Roz Hodgkinson and Barbara Lewczynska. Will it be as successful as it always has?

The boys started at 9.30 am with 5 groups of 5 players. Most of the results of the matches in the group stages were as expected. The winners and runners-up of each group went into the main event and the other three went into the plate event. The players seeded to reach the semi-finals were all there at that stage, Nick Barnett/Daniel Hatt beating Mitch Chapman/Ben Spencer 21-11, Steven George/Howard Stobo beating David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe 21-14, Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler beating Sam Endemi/ Michael Peak 21-9 and Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb beating Matthew Hare/Andrew Maughan 21-8 in the quarters. Nick/Dan went on to beat Edward/Gareth 21-7 and in the closest fought match of the day Max/Mark defeated Steven/Howard 22-20. In the final of another successful tournament Nick/Dan were too strong for their younger opponents.

In the plate event, Marcos Katsantonis/Abhishek Kvlkarni met George Lewis/Louis Walpole, beating Jack Chen/Josh Treon and Jay Lakhani/Nikhil Patel on the way. George/Louis overcame opposition from Will Leppard/Alex Shavick, Daniel Rose/Sam Treon and finally Kit Akin/Oliver Gomar, before beating Marcos/ Abhishek in the final.

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**Results**      **Final: Nick Barnett/Daniel Hatt** beat Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler 21-8  
Semi-finalists were Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb and Steven George/Howard Stobo

Plate Final:            George Lewis/Louis Walpole beat Marcos Katsantonis/Abhikesh Kvlkarni 21-8

### **Tournament Results**

#### **U17 Gold Milton Keynes**

Mixed Doubles      Quarter final **Luke Donnelly**/Hayley Rogers (Ch) lost to Mark Middleton (Yo)/Alyssa Lim (Bu) 14-21, 13-21

#### **U17 Bronze Harlow**

Boys Singles      Quarter final **Arjun Shah** lost to Matthew Barker (Nh)

Boys Doubles Semi-final      **Arjun Shah/Ben Vranjkovic** lost to Matthew Barker/Andrew Haward (Nh) 19-21

#### **U15 Gold Fenton Manor**

Girls Doubles Final      **Helena Lewczynska/Emily Westwood** beat Lauren Bromley (St)/Laura Mercer (Yo) 21-11, 21-19

Mixed Doubles      Final      Chris Coles (Av)/**Emily Westwood** beat Matthew Nottingham (Ch)/Harriet Shillito (Yo) 21-12. 21-10

#### **U15 Bronze Berkshire**

Boys Singles      Quarter final **Matthew McCloskey** lost to Thomas Frew (Sy) 20-21

Boys Doubles Final      **Matthew McCloskey/Scott Williams** beat Phil Turrell/Joe Skornia (Ex) 22-20

#### **U15 Silver Berkshire**

Girls Doubles Final      **Laura Bygrave/Ying Yi Tee** lost to Cassie Hall (Bk)/Nicola Trafford (Ke) 10-15, 15-11, 9-15

Boys Doubles Semi-final      **Ryan McCarthy/Elliott Miles** lost to Mark Cooper/Kunal Radia (Le) 7-15. 16-14, 11-15

#### **U13 Silver East Midlands**

Boys Singles Final **Daniel Hatt** lost to Aaron Cheng (Sy) 13-21, 9-21

Boys Doubles Final Aaron Cheng (Sy)/**Daniel Hatt** beat Farid Akroum/Daniel Morris (St) 21-12, 21-11

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U13 Bronze East Midlands

Boys Singles Final **Steven George** beat Jack Michalski (Bu) 21-16

Girls Doubles Final **Amy George/Isabel Hatt** lost to Korri Lenney/Lucy Mason (Bu) 13-21

**From the editor:** Some players have extra newsletters addressed to teachers, Please would you deliver the letters either to the teacher or to the school office. We are trying to save money on postage and find that 'pupil post' can be quite effective, so **we are relying on you to remember** and not leave the letters in your badminton bags.

Thanks to all those who contributed articles for this newsletter - Hitesh Shah, Helen Richards, Chris Sadler, Ken Winchester, John Smith, Barbara Lewczynska and Alison Widdicombe. Congratulations to Barbara and Roz on the successful first tournament and good luck for the others during the rest of the season.

Players (and/or parents), please send in your tournament results. You can see above the information that's needed and I'm sure it doesn't take long to scribble it on a piece of paper and get it to me. Alternatively you could use e-mail (my address is at the bottom of the page). Reports of tournaments are also welcome.

Closing date for items for the next newsletter is **Friday, December 1st.**

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