

Hertfordshire County Badminton Association County Teams Report 2013/14 Season

It is my pleasure to report on the 2013/14 Season as Chairman of Selectors since 1990.

The season was going to be tough as explained by my fellow selectors below, whose appreciation is acknowledged in some time stressful periods. In main by players dropping out with very little notice prior to a match.

The end result was all three teams held their positions, with some outstanding individual performances.

Congratulations to all those that represented the county in particular Helena Lewczynska, Gail Emms, Matthew Widdicombe & Cayleigh Bambrick who all won County awards.

As I step down from this position I would like to thank all the 200+ players over this 20 year plus period, the County committee for the ongoing support especially our past Chairman Malcolm Fraser and my close family who have without question put up with many of my tantrums as team selection and player availability became problematic.

Paul Widdicombe – Chairman of Selectors

1st Team Report

Playing 9 ties over three weekends in Milton Keynes twice and Nottingham was the 1st teams programme for 2013/14.

Player nominations are always going to be difficult with so many other commitments for our elite players. However Gail Emms, Conor Bambrick & Laura Cousins competed in all 9 ties with others closely following behind.

The first weekend in November was held at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes. Our first opponent's current Champions Yorkshire, what a challenge for the players. The challenge was met securing a 5 all draw. Although 3 -1 down after the singles, we pulled ourselves back in the match with some excellent doubles results.

Essex followed and a defeat against our neighbours 7-3. As the season unfolded this result seems hard to quantify as Essex ended up in 9th position at the close and were relegated back to where they came the season before. The final match of the weekend also went against us with a 6-4 loss to Cheshire.

The second weekend and a trip to Nottingham the weekend before Christmas. Saturday saw two 5 all draws firstly against Warwickshire and then against Surrey. After a good Christmas meal on the Saturday night we converted those draws into a 6-4 win against Lancashire.

The final weekend over the 5th & 6th April 2014 proved to be our most successful with three great wins. Starting with a 6-4 win over previously unbeaten Nott's and a bigger win 8-2 over struggling Bucks. Sunday morning and the final match was a 7-3 triumph over Avon.

The season had many highlights especially from the ladies. Helena Lewczynska going undefeated in her 7 ties with 14 great wins at all three disciplines, a great achievement. Katie Comras & Laura Cousins won all 6 ladies doubles they played together. Gail Emms who played in all 9 ties winning 9 ladies doubles and 8 mixed doubles all at first pair was named 1ST team player of the season.

Congratulations to all those who played for the first team a great result in finishing 4th with two fine draws against first and second placed Surrey & Yorkshire and a 6-4 win over 3rd placed Notts.

Paul Widdicombe – 1st Team Manager



**Herts 1st team ladies at the final weekend meal
Katie Comras, Laura Cousins, Gail Emms (1st team player of the season),
Helena Lewczynska (Herts Player of the season) & Kelly Matthews**

Andy Walden – 2nd team Captain

Having started off with testing away games at Warwicks and Leics, both of which we lost, claiming just 1 point, we feared we would spend the season gripped in a relegation battle. But 3 consecutive wins, one with maximum points, saw us move to mid-table safety fairly quickly. In the end, we only failed to finish 2nd - behind runaway winners Leics - by two rubbers from Cambs; and that only after a freak result saw them thrash Norfolk in the final game of the season.

But 3rd place was very respectable and a good return for a great team effort. We managed to get a fairly settled team, with 8 of the core team playing in at least half of our games - and special thanks to Matt Widdicombe, James, Kat and Kath, each of whom played in 7 of the 8. The consistency in team selection helped us, with all players, including those who did step in, contributing well.

An additional mention is warranted for Kat, who played across all disciplines at various times in her 7 matches, and came out with a positive win: loss ratio in each of them.

She was however just pipped for the Player of the Year award by Matt. Not only did he play 7 of the 8 games (only missing the last one on account of an annoyingly impressive tournament performance on the same weekend), but he performed consistently well throughout, and continued to improve as the season progressed and deserves the award on account of some very good singles wins, contributing to his record of 5 wins from 7 matches at 1st Men's singles - not often seen in Herts County Badminton!! So congrats to Matt and all the team.

And, despite losing a couple of our stalwarts in Chris and Kat, we move on to next season with high hopes of fighting for a play-off place.



Matthew Widdicombe & Cayleigh Bambrick (2nd & 3rd Team Players of the Season)

Liz Austin – 3rd Team Captain

It was another tough season for the 3rd team, with many of our opposition having imbalanced teams with stronger men than ladies. However, all the core team members managed at least one win during the season, contributing to us picking up points even where we couldn't win matches.

The ladies excelled themselves again with our core ladies Caroline Hale & Liz Austin and Cayleigh Bambrick & Charlotte Willis losing only 1 singles and 3 doubles all season. Caroline's 8 out of 8 singles and 15 out of 16 doubles wins speak for themselves, however special mention should also be given to Cayleigh, who playing at 1st singles won 4 out of 5 and added 9 out of 12 doubles wins with 3 different partners.

If there was a prize for effort and commitment it would have to go to Paul Monk, who picked up our only men's singles win to give us a crucial 8-7 victory over Beds, arguably the most significant result in our quest to avoid relegation.

Player of the season went to Cayleigh, not only for her win record but also reflecting her attitude, commitment and effort across all three disciplines in her first full season for a senior team.

2013/14 SEASON

No.	Player Squad	Appearances	Appearances	Appearances	Appearances
		1st	2nd	3rd	Total
<u>Ladies</u>					
1	Austin Liz	0	2	7	9
2	Bambrick Cayleigh	1	0	7	8
3	Barnes Charity	0	6	1	7
4	Comras Katie	6	3	0	9
5	Cousins Laura	9	2	0	11
6	Edelmann Frankie	3	3	0	6
7	Emms Gail	9	0	0	9
8	English Philippa	0	0	1	1
9	Hale Caroline	0	2	8	10
10	Hatt Izzy	0	0	1	1
11	Lewczynska Helena	7	0	0	7
12	Matthew Kelly	5	0	0	5
13	Rayappan Sue	0	0	0	0
14	Warden Kath	0	7	0	7
15	Westwood Emily	0	0	0	0
16	Willis Charlotte	0	1	6	7
17	Young Kat	0	7	2	9
<u>Men</u>					
1	Austin Jon	0	0	2	2
2	Bambrick Conor	9	0	0	9
3	Daniels Lyall	0	0	7	7
4	Doling Richard	3	0	0	3
5	Furse Doug	2	1	0	3
6	Holt Chris	0	6	0	6
7	Hor James	2	0	0	2
8	Kempster Paul	1	0	7	8
9	Lee Lester	0	0	1	1
10	Maughan David	0	0	1	1
11	McCarthy Ryan	6	0	0	6
12	Monk Paul	0	0	7	7
13	Pace Rob	0	1	6	7
14	Reynolds James	3	7	0	10
15	Sadler Mark	6	0	0	6
16	Skinner David	0	0	1	1
17	Walden Andy	1	5	0	6
18	Westwood David	0	4	0	4
19	Westwood Matthew	0	2	5	7
20	Widdicombe Matt	6	7	0	13