

Badminton in Herts

Newsletter of the Hertfordshire Badminton Association

HBA website: www.hertsbadminton.net

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Thank You to Malcolm Fraser
HBA AGM 2nd June Regional Manager to Speak
League Results and News
Community Badminton Networks

Contents

Contents	2
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	2
BADMINTON England Update	2
Membership & Affiliation	2
HBA COMMITTEE	2
Development Committee	2
HBA AGM	3
BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE	3
Community Badminton Network News.....	3
Herts West CBN	3
North Herts CBN	3
Welwyn Hatfield CBN.....	3
League Results.....	4
InterCounty	4
InterCounty Veterans Results.....	5
County League.....	5
Hertford Area League	5
Letchworth & District League	6
Stevenage League	6
South West Herts League.....	6
Letchworth & District Badminton League News.....	6
Grassroots & Junior News	6
Herts Youth Games	6
NEWSLETTER NEWS	6

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd June 7:15pm, nibbles & networking, for 7.45pm HBA AGM, Birchwood Leisure Centre. Regional Partnerships Manager Rhiannon Smith to speak on 'New Opportunities for Clubs'.

BE Level 1 Coaching Course 21st, 28th June & 12th July Times: 9.30am – 4.30pm all days. Venue: North Hertfordshire College, Cambridge Rd, Hitchin, SG4 0JD. See HBA website for links to more information and forms. **Deadline: 3rd June.**

Herts County League Fixture meeting to be advised

Saturday 30th August & Sunday 31st August Herts Open tournament at Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

Monday 1st September Hertford Area Fixture meeting at 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

Sunday 20 October National Governing Bodies of Sport Development Day at HSV, Hatfield: Opportunity for clubs & coaches to network. See HSP website www.sportinherts.org.uk

BADMINTON England Update

Come and hear latest at the AGM.

Paul Kempster/Gill Bartlett

Membership & Affiliation

Approximate club membership figures for Hertfordshire are:

- 73 affiliated clubs
- 1000 Senior members
- 500 Junior members

All Senior members and coaches should receive this newsletter. Please let us know of anyone who doesn't.

HBA COMMITTEE

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*	Also members of the Development Committee

Development Committee

The Badminton Herts Development Committee currently comprises those marked * above, together with the following representatives of partner organisations

H O Contact	James Craig, Participation Manager London & Eastern Region 07725 413873 jamescraig@badmintonengland.co.uk
Herts Sports Partnership	Peter Simmons, HSP Liaison Officer for NGBs A-L
Herts SDO	Ben Vranjkovic, Stevenage SDO (prev).

HBA AGM

The HBA AGM will be held on Monday 2 June 2014 in the Sportsman room at Birchwood Leisure Centre. Prompt 8pm start.

In addition to the now established tradition of refreshments (wine and nibbles), and the usual Reports on Activities, election of officers, President and Vice Presidents, and Presentation of Trophies to League winners, Rhiannon Smith, Eastern Region Partnership Manager, will give a presentation on the '**New Opportunities for Clubs**'. Don't miss it!

Feedback from members at the meeting on the impact of BE's abolition of JJC status (Junior member of a Junior Club) would be welcomed. The proposed County fees for the coming season, are: Senior fee unchanged at £3.70; Junior fee unchanged at £1, with a rebate of 50p per junior member to former JJC clubs

Please come and meet old and new friends and make it a good attendance this year. As an incentive each club represented at the AGM will receive £10 towards club funds.

REMINDER Malcolm Fraser stood down as Chairman during the season after a long, dedicated and informed chairmanship which goes back to the 1960's. It is impossible to overstate his positive impact on the Association over the years. We are extremely grateful to him for all his efforts. Thank you, Malcolm.

Paul Kempster kindly accepted the role of 'Acting Chairman' for the remainder of the season. The Committee are always looking for potential helpers – especially any of you with marketing or promotional experience, or someone willing to help find advertisers for the newsletter! If you're interested or think you can help, contact Paul Kempster email: pkempster@gmail.com or Gill Bartlett: 01438 715374 or gill@bartlett1.plus.com

BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

Reminder: Birchwood Leisure Centre is providing us (HBA) with exclusive use of its 4 court hall from 9am to 9pm every Sunday during the year.

Junior, Senior and Vets county matches, and Senior & Junior tournaments have priority booking. Although tournaments may use courts for the whole day, most matches will not, and courts will be available before and after matches for other users to book.

This means there will be opportunities for affiliated clubs and coaches to enjoy and make use of the facilities at a discounted cost on an ad hoc or regular basis, subject to availability.

Colin Walker will continue to be the contact and administer bookings. If you or your club are interested in hiring courts at a very attractive £5 per court hour please email Colin at colin.walker4@ntlworld.com to discuss your requirements and court availability.

Community Badminton Network News

There are 4 CBNs in Herts: East Herts (EH), Herts West (HW), North Herts (NH) and Welwyn Hatfield (WH). Each CBN is eligible for up to £2,500 funding per year from Badminton England Head Office subject to having a formal management structures. WH CBN has received this funding starting September 2013, Herts West CBN and North Herts CBN are working towards, and EH CBN have decided to progress badminton without funding. Below are reports from the CBNs that we have recieved.

Herts West CBN

The development plan is being worked up. The next meeting is 16th June and it is hoped more clubs will participate.

North Herts CBN

The Community Badminton Network (CBN) has continued to organise additional badminton activities in the area and are about to start another series of school sessions either side of the summer break. However, they have struggled to progress their status beyond the basic level due to those involved being unable to give enough time to move it to the higher level.

A big thanks to all those involved in badminton development in North Herts this season, without your efforts the situation would be so different. We are so glad to have you all.

Bob Green, Chairman North Herts CBN

Welwyn Hatfield CBN

The article below appeared in the May edition of the Welwyn Hatfield Sport Physical Activity Alliances magazine:

'Since the Welwyn Hatfield Community Badminton Network (WHCBN) was established 3 years ago the number of places people can play and the amount badminton played in the borough has rocketed. This has been helped by the recent introduction of new and exciting programmes made available by the national governing body, Badminton England. So, schools have Smash Up! that encourages children to not only play the standard game but to have fun playing it to music and even to invent their own rules! Sir Fredric Osborn, Stanborough and Onslow St Audrey schools have all enjoyed Smash Up sessions and one of the SFO school students was inspired to go on the Smash Up training course so she could continue the after-school sessions for her friends. Several of our primary schools have coaching and eight had fun Bisi tournaments, organised by Cherie Wiper, Stanborough School, where 240 children had great fun with 10 different badminton activities.

Several of our secondary schools enjoyed the local and county Center Parcs inter-schools badminton tournaments again this season: the success of WH secondary schools badminton was epitomised by 2 of our schools, Monks Walk and Queenswood,

winning both rounds to enter the regional play-offs last month - with Queenswood coming third, but Monks Walk boys winning gold - and then bronze in the finals at Nottingham Center Parcs in May. Our sports centres, Birchwood, Gosling, Hatfield and Herts Sports Village and University have weekly 'No Strings' sessions where people turn up as and when they like and there's a friendly face to co-ordinate games: if they go regularly they are entered into free draws. These 'No Strings' have been so successful that extra sessions have had to be started; check out www.nostringsbadminton.co.uk for a 'No strings' near you. And for those who want a bit of coaching there are now 'No Strings Essentials' courses starting up. Some of our sports centres may be running Smash Up for juniors during the holidays. Local clubs provide excellent opportunities for those who want a regular and slightly more structured environment including Hatfield and Welwyn clubs at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Comets junior and Comets (adult) club at Herts Sports Village, Swifts at Hatfield Leisure Centre and at inclusive Knebworth junior and adult clubs there are also opportunities for people with disabilities - at Gosling Sports Park. Several clubs are doing great in the Herts leagues and junior clubs are encouraging members to reach their potential including becoming county and international players. WHCBN comprises representatives from all clubs, schools sports facilities and other organisations with an interest in promoting badminton.'

Dave Bartlett, WH CBN Chairman

League Results

InterCounty

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 was 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 was 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.

InterCounty Veterans Results

During the 2013/14 season the County entered teams in the Over 40s, Over 50s and Over 55s Masters County Championships and an over 45s team in the Masters County Challenge. The Over 40s team won 4 matches and lost 4 matches and finished third in their group. The over 50s team ended the season in a very creditable second place in the regional group, behind an extremely capable Essex squad, liberally sprinkled with internationals. A special mention has to be made of Steve Willis and Sally Devine, both of whom played in every match! The over 55s also finished second in their group behind Essex winning 3 matches and losing 3 matches. The high point of the season came over the weekend of 11/12 January in Worcester when the over 45s County Challenge team won the Premier League winning all six of their matches. If you are over 40 and are interested in representing the County next season please contact the new Masters Coordinator, Steve Willis at steve586@msn.com.

Eddie Lintott

County League

Ladies Division 1 won by Ware Ladies 1
Division 2 Masters Herts Ladies 1
Mens Division 1 won by Ware Mens 1
Division 2 won by Comets Mens 2
Mixed Division 1 won by Ware Mixed 1
Division 2 won by Masters A
Division 3 won by Masters B

Hertford Area League

Ladies 4 Premier won by Wizard A
Ladies 4 Div1 won by Stanstead Abbots A
Ladies 4 Div2 won by Stanstead Abbots B
Mens 6 Premier won by Stanstead Abbots
Mens 6 Mixed Premier won by Stanstead Abbots A
Mens 4 Premier won by Wizard A
Mens 4 Div 1 won by Bishops Stortford 1
Mens 4 Div 2 won by Stanstead Abbots A
Medley Premier won by Spartans A

Medley Div 1 won by Stanstead Abbots A
Medley Div 2 won by Allenburys
Medley Div 3 won by Stanstead Abbots B

Letchworth & District League

Div 1 won by Highbury
The Fletcher Cup won by Highbury

Stevenage League

Div 1 won by Cam Gears A
Div 2 won by Norton and Baldock
Div 3 Saracens
Div 4 Academy B

The Presentation Evening Saturday, 7th June 2014, 7.30pm-11pm. at St. Johns Community Centre in Hitchin, SG4 9JP. Similar to last year - an evening of "fun" games and the Presentation of Awards.

South West Herts League

Medley Div 1 won by Harpenden
Div 2 won by Gadebridge
Mixed 6 Div 1 won by Lockers Park
Ladies 4 Div 1 won by Vauxhall
Div 2 won by Bushey Barons
Mens 4 Div 1 won by Harpenden
Mens 6 Div 1 won by Lockers Park
Div 2 won by Warners End

See all leagues' complete results:

www.hertsbadminton.net/default.aspx?id=17

Letchworth & District Badminton League

News

Letchworth & District Badminton League have had an uneventful season, there were no conceded matches and they were all completed on time.

The Fletcher Cup had some really close matches between teams of very different strengths, one was actually a tie. The eventual winner was Highbury, who beat Strings by just 16 points (250-234).

Highbury also won division 1, with Norton & Baldock runners up. The division 2 winners were St Johns B and Welwyn were second.

Baldock Junior Badminton club continues to thrive, with the usual loss of older members as they go to university or join local adult clubs and a steady influx of new younger members to keep numbers stable. The club was externally audited for its Premier Club status this season and got some great compliments.

Shuttles Badminton Club has also continued to provided another opportunity for local juniors to get quality coaching, which is good news for the relatively 'new kid on the block'.
Bob Green

Grassroots & Junior News

The World Masters Games takes place every 4 years to reflect the Olympics Games. It is popular with retired professional athletes and former Olympic competitors. It exist to encourage all people beyond young adulthood to play sport with the awareness that competitive sport can continue throughout life and

improve personal fitness. The first Summer Games was staged in 1985 at Toronto. The Sydney 2009 Summer Games was well attended and represented by many countries with a record 28,676 competitors. Turin, Italy hosted the 8th Summer Games from 2nd to 11th August 2013. Sports include archery, athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, bowls, canoe/kayak, cycling, hockey, football, golf, judo, rugby, sailing, shooting, softball, squash, swimming, tables tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting etc.

The host city for the next World Masters Games in 2017 will take place at Auckland, New Zealand. In badminton, there are 3 categories = Open, Competitive and Recreational. Open category is for elite athletes who represented their countries internationally. Competitive level caters for county and intercounty players. Recreational level provides for club players and recreational players. Age group start from 35 years old onwards.

Joe and Angie Rayappan who live at Stevenage participated in the club level after playing at local clubs on and off for a number of years. After coming runner up in their group (B), they had to play the winner of group A, Australian pair in the semi final. The more focused Rayappans swiftly beat them in straight sets.



In the final, the Rayappans representing GB had to play out of their skins to beat their original group winner (another Australian pair)

with a good score of 21-12, 21-17 to secure their first ever Gold medal in mixed doubles. Needless to say they are still up on cloud 9 and looking forward to Auckland 2017 to defend their title.

Angie

Herts Youth Games

Herts Youth Games badminton tournament will be played Sunday 6 July at Wodson Park. Only 8 Herts districts will compete this year: see HYG website for 2014: <http://hertsyouthgames.co.uk/>

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Advertisements

Advertisements help reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter, and hopefully give added interest to readers! If you know of any potential commercial advertisers, please put them in contact with me. Even better, if you could help find prospective advertisers regularly (3 times a year), please let me know! Gill Bartlett: 01438 715374
Gill@Bartlett1.plus.com

Have you received your Newsletter?

For various reasons (to be explained at the AGM) we have had to send this newsletter via email. It is being sent to all members 16+ with correct email addresses.