



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

July 2015

HSBA tournaments, 2015/16

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

The Hertfordshire events in the Badminton England tournament series are also listed.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Age group</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Saturday September 12 th 2015	0900 hours	BE Hertfordshire Under 15 Bronze	Born in 2001 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday October 11 th 2105	1000 hours	Under 15 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 18 Boys Singles	Year 13 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 18 Girls Singles	Year 13 and under	
	1330 hours	Under 18 Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under	
Under 18 Boys Doubles		Year 13 and under		
1500 hours	Under 18 Mixed Doubles	Year 13 and under		
Sunday Nov 15 th 2015	1000 hours	Under 13 Boys B Singles	Year 8 and under	Birchwood Leisure Centre
	1200 hours	Under 13 Girls B Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1300 hours	Under 11 Girls Doubles	Year 6 and under	
		Under 11 Boys doubles	Tear 6 and under	

Sunday November 22 nd 2015	1000 hours	Under 11 Boys Singles	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
		Under 15 Boys Singles	Year 10 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 15 Girls Singles	Year 10 and under	
	1300 hours	Under 11 Girls singles	Year 6 and under	
	1400 hours	Under 15 Girls doubles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 15 Boys doubles	Year 10 and under	
1530 hours	Under 15 Mixed doubles	Year 10 and under		
Saturday December 5 th 2015	0900 hours	BE Hertfordshire Under 17 Bronze	Born in 1999 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday February 7 th 2016	0930 hours	Under 13 Boys Singles	Year 8 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	1130 hours	Under 13 Girls Singles	Year 8 and under	
	1330 hours	Under 13 Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 13 Boys Doubles	Year 8 and under	
	1530 hours	Under 13 Mixed Doubles	Year 8 and under	
		Under 10 Girls singles	Year 5 and under	
Under 10 Boys singles	Year 5 and under			
Saturday March 5 th 2016	0900 hours	BE Hertfordshire Under 15 Silver	Born in 2001 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday March 18 th 2016	1130 hours*	Primary Schools Team Tournament	Year 6 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre

*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 2015

Tracey Crowther

Keen and eager, we met at 07.00 hours at Birchwood car park. Despite our first game not starting till 14.00 hours, Dave Brown, with his fear of lateness OCD, insisted on a punctual start! Team loaded, bags in with Dave Westwood: we were good to go. The bus this year was slightly smaller so I drove the first leg with Claudia and Molly accompanying me in the front whilst Dave enjoyed a lengthy chat with team Herts in the back. After a stop for coffee and refreshments, it was Dave's turn to drive, this time with Dan and Zach upfront. Claudia seemed mortified as we embarked on group selfies in the back (embarrassing parents!)

This year's team relied once again on the availability of several Under 15 team players: Keya Patani, Laura Anderson, Molly Goode and Christopher Adey. Claudia Crowther and Milly Clarke were the only girls representing their age group. It is Milly and Sam Newlove's last year with us; they will be greatly missed. Zach Daniels was playing for a second time; however for Nathan Wooster and Dan Davey this would be their first. We were all ready for a tough but exciting challenge. The captains, Claudia and Zach, had been briefed and the players were all assigned roles and responsibilities. We were ready. Even with a last-minute scare when Chris damaged his ankle playing football 5 weeks prior to ICT, we got the "all clear" and he was in!

Our first match was against Oxfordshire; it was not an easy first match but the team was ready. We knew that Claudia and Zach were very difficult to beat after a year of playing together, as were Chris and Molly. This had to be our strategy in most matches as Chris was unable to play singles for fear of injuring his fragile ankle. With outstanding doubles performances from both boys' and girls' pairs, along with both girls winning their singles, we won the match 7-3. Having started so well we knew our next match, Sussex, would be difficult against their international squad. However, Zach still won his singles along with Milly and Molly who won tough girls' doubles. Feeling positive and ready for our evening match against Northumberland, we raced to dinner, had a short rest and shirt change, and then we were back on the bus for 20.30 hours.

We knew if we beat Northumberland we had a chance of finishing in the top half of the tournament. With the team selected, we headed to the very noisy university hall. The drums and the horns were deafening, and our supportive screams could not be heard over the sounds of the beating and bleating. Mixed doubles was first, and we won both in two games. Fantastic!!! Dave Brown was showing no major signs of his usual anxiety; although his nails were getting shorter by the minute! Boys' singles was tough, as we had expected. On the other hand, Keya beat the number one girl soundly and Laura killed the number two. At this stage, most of us had lost our voices from screaming. Thankfully Zach had brought a large megaphone which was a great motivator. This year, another inspiration for the team was the support from several parents; some who had travelled a great distance. After a long match with four games going to three sets, we won the match 7-3. After an outstanding day of play from team Herts, it was off to bed for a well-earned and needed rest. The next day was going to be a vast difference, with matches against Bucks, Derbyshire and Cheshire.

Our first match was scheduled to start at 11.00 hours which gave us plenty of time to have a short lie in and then breakfast. We knew Derbyshire had very strong girls and a selection of strong boys. After a goliath battle and return to his outstanding current form, Dan won his singles along with the ever reliable Keya. Alas they were to be our only wins against Derbyshire. It did prepare us however for the mighty Bucks at 13.00 hours! We all knew that Bucks were a squad of England internationals; this we used as an opportunity to mix up the team giving players a chance to play different games. Moving swiftly passed the 0-10 loss, we were looking forward to Cheshire at 20.30 hours. Having had two completely contrasting days, it was nice to spend some time in our rooms relaxing together before dinner. We met at 17.30 then headed down for another delicious meal. Despite that day's results, team spirits were high as we were still finishing in the top half. This is an outstanding achievement considering the lack of depth in the squad and apparent lack of Under 17 girls. The evening match once again was held in the University temporary hall, which whilst being so loud from the cheering and instruments, echoed with atmosphere and support. Another tough match was under way. Dan won his match in a gripping 3 setter but it was only Laura that won another match; it was a fantastic performance as Cheshire's singles players were no piece of cake.



The Hertfordshire team and coaches at the 50th ICT tournament

Saturday is always a great day at ICT; not only is it packed with high octane badminton, ICT disco but there is also the ICT meeting! Dave and dad Mr Westwood had set about working out which two counties we would be playing today. We were to start the day with Cornwall. In similar style to day one, we won the match 7-3 with outstanding performances from everyone. Essex was scheduled as our last match of the day. We started well with wins in both mixed doubles. Chris and Zach went on to win their boys' doubles and Molly and Laura won their girls' doubles. It wasn't enough however, as the match was lost 4-6. The badminton was over for the third day, leaving plenty of time to get ready for the disco, which thankfully was fun-filled and without incident!

Our final day would decide whether our position in the table would be 14th or 15th. The day didn't start well for Herts with Molly feeling unwell, and the decision was made that she should rest. With Molly unavailable, Sam and Milly would play mixed as they have proved to be an outstanding mixed pair throughout the year. Chris, despite not being match fit, was keen to play an England player in the boys' singles. The support from both teams and parents was at an all-time high as the result meant so much. Zach and Claudia won the first mixed, followed by victories for Keya, Dan and most incredible of all in 2 sets: Chris!!! Laura and Milly had won their doubles match. Surrounded by both teams, in a 3 set gripping match, Nathan and Sam won the final game therefore we won the match 6-4, finishing 14th.

Keya was voted Herts player of ICT by the coaches. Despite outstanding results ongoing from Zach and Chris, it was Keya who had consistently played very difficult opponents as number 1 girl, and won. Once again, Herts Under 17 team were a team to be proud of. They are a team full of heart, team spirit and gumption. I know I can speak for Dave and Dave also when I say that once again we were encouraged by the passion and enthusiasm shown by this young squad of players. And we look forward to next year, for another move towards the top of the table!

Team: Christopher Adey, Laura Anderson, Milly Clarke, Claudia Crowther, Zach Daniels, Daniel Davey, Molly Goode, Samuel Newlove, Keya Patani, Nathan Wooster

Center Parcs National School Championships finals: John Henry Newman take silver

Steven Elliott and Jason Haley

We arrived at the venue proud to know that however well we did reaching the finals meant that we would be at least 9th out of 8,000 competing schools in the country.

As we started our first match our number one player Steven Elliott was cheered on by the rest of the team and their families; it was a thrilling game won by Steven 21-11 giving us the initial lead over Longridge School and the confidence and drive to play our best. Then after Michael and Callum's victory in the doubles, Jason knew that just one more win would secure a place in the top six schools; Jason duly won with a decisive score of 21-3!

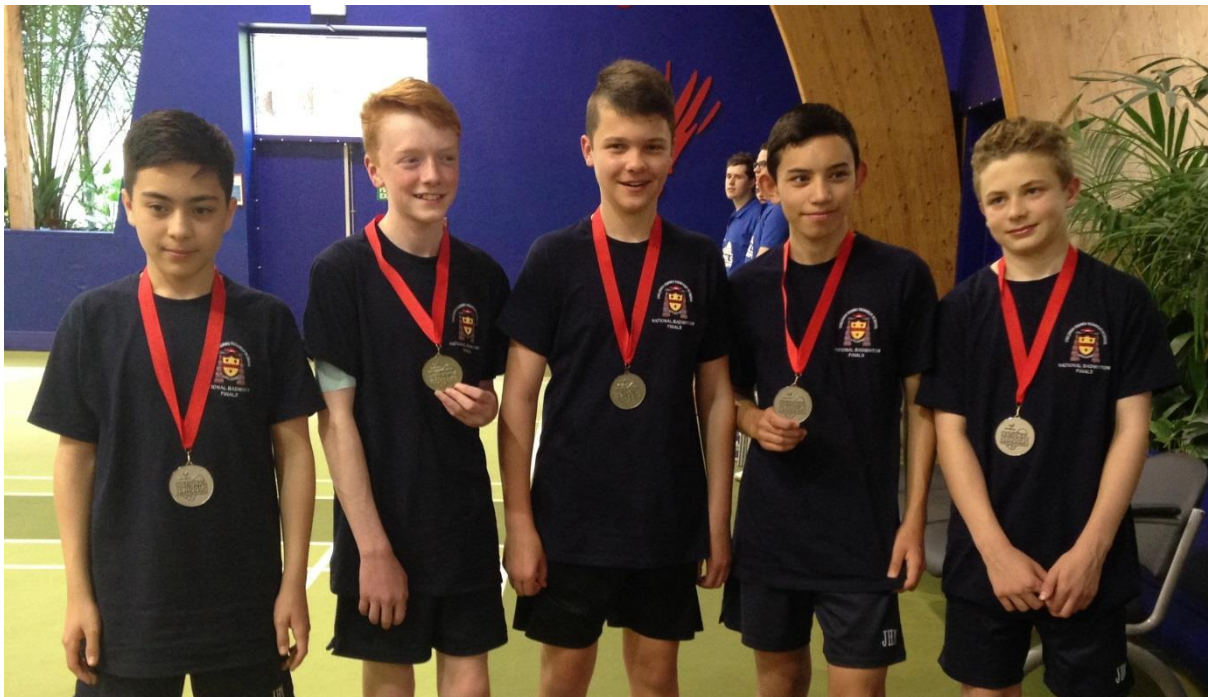
Our next opponent was Reading School, and from what we saw in the warm-up we knew they wouldn't be easy to beat. We started off strongly, Steven winning his singles comfortably but unfortunately the next two games weren't as successful, leaving us at a one game disadvantage. At this stage we knew we had to win the last two to put us in the final top three. A gruelling game won by Steven and Sean put us back at level pegging, leaving the deciding game to Jason and Callum. The game was extremely tense, having the whole crowd on the edge of their seats at 19-all, but we pulled through to win 21-19 and from that point on we knew we had a chance of being the national winners.

At this stage we knew we had secured a medal, exceeding all our expectations, but we wanted to go the extra mile. Fuelled with sheer determination we ended up beating William Farr School 4-1 in games. However this could have been a very different result had Jason not won his game in a dramatic singles. From trailing 3 points behind at 20-17 Jason pulled back to win 22-20. We had made it to the gold medal match!!

The final was between Tapton and John Henry Newman Schools. It was extremely nerve-racking for both sides, and the trophy could have gone either way. The first match was narrowly won by Steven 21-19 giving us a great start, but was soon levelled off after Michael and Callum were defeated in their doubles. Jason was next up but even at his best he was unable to win the next game. It was down to Steven and Michael to bring it to a decider but after a thrilling game Tapton came out on top, and even with the final win from Jason and Callum it didn't make a difference. Tapton were crowned KS3 national champions winning closely by one game (3-2). Although we were slightly disappointed we were delighted to have secured silver medals and be crowned 2nd

best in the country. This was an outstanding achievement, as the team had never reached this stage of the national competition before.

Team: Steven Elliott, Jason Haley, Callum Latter, Michael Rock and Sean Groarke



John Henry Newman team members display their silver medals

Eastern Region Single Sex tournament, 9th May

This tournament includes girls' and boys' events in the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups. Each team comprises either two or three players of the same sex. This year it was played at the University of East Anglia, and as before it was well-organised and played in excellent spirit by all competitors. Sadly, however, there are doubts about whether it will continue in future seasons. Discontinuation would be a great pity because it gives valuable match experience to players who have usually not had the chance to compete in Shires League matches.

Under 13 event

Mike Newlove

At Under 13, Herts' honour was upheld in the boys' tournament by Thomas Sweetnam and Sam Hancock who worked hard in all their games, winning or losing by close margins. They finished in 4th place, the event having been conducted as one all-play-all box of five teams. Norfolk took the top spots, with two very strong teams.

Under 15 event

John Stobo

The Under 15 squad set off for Norwich with one girls' team and two boys', but shortly after arrival had two of each! The explanation? The last-minute withdrawal of an Under 13 player left Herts without a girls' team in that age group, and the second girl in that team agreed to play up an age group, enabling us to field two teams of two girls instead of one team of three.

For girls and boys the first phase of the event was played in two boxes of four. Our two girls' teams, playing in the same box, finished second and third. The second-placed team of Amelia and Olivia lost very narrowly to the winning Norfolk team, and Lia and Lilie, the latter promoted from Under 13, performed creditably to win one match. The boys' teams each won one match in their respective boxes. Kyle, Charlie and Tommy finished third, but Sam, Jack and Sonny were unfortunate to finish fourth in their box, following a three-way tie in matches and a count-back of points won which went against them.

In the second phase teams in corresponding positions played off against each other to determine a final order. Thus the event concluded with the girls' teams finishing 3rd and 6th, while the boys were 6th and 7th.

Team: Olivia Clark, Charlie Corke, Lilie Corke, Tommy Corteen, Lia Di Gesaro, Amelia Dixon, Jack Glynn, Kyle Hoyte, Sam Jarman, Sonny Ward

U17 Event

Monique Maisey

A pleasant drive delivered us to a very professional venue at the UEA. The Under 17 event had five boys' County teams and four girls' county teams competing and this enabled a lovely calm steady flow of enjoyable excellent badminton to be played.

The Hertfordshire boys were represented by Brett Maisey and Freddie Clarke, winning three doubles, Brett winning one singles and Freddie with outstanding play winning all of his singles. Overall this gave them 3rd place – Bedfordshire A were the winners.

The girls were represented by Monique Maisey and Harriet Bell, winning one doubles and Monique winning one singles out of the three games, some grippingly close. Overall this gave them 3rd place, with Suffolk B winning.

Adrian Leung

Ken Winchester

I am delighted to congratulate Adrian Leung on recently passing the final assessment for his Level 2 coaching qualification. As some of you will be aware, Adrian has been lending valuable assistance and encouragement to the Under 11 squad at their training sessions throughout the season. He has also been instrumental in arranging some highly appreciated friendly matches with other counties. Adrian received financial support through his Level 2 course from HSBA, with additional assistance from the Ray Learney fund. I know that Ray would have been pleased to learn that the sport to which he devoted his later life was continuing to grow the skills of the county's coaches through his family's kind legacy.

Shires League, 2014/15

As we reported in April's On the Line!, Hertfordshire's Under 13 team, finishing 10th in the league, faced a play-off against 7th placed Hampshire for a place in the finals. This proved to be a very close match, in which Hampshire eventually prevailed by a 12-8 scoreline. Thus, the Herts team narrowly missed out on a place in the national Shires league finals.

Badminton England grading promotions

Congratulations to the following squad players who have improved on their previous best singles grading in the list published by BE in April 2015:

Promoted to grade E: Daniel Davey
Promoted to grade F: Claudia Crowther, Sam Newlove
Promoted to grade G: Paankhuri Bhatia, Tobias Goddard, Harry Goode, Matthew Harden
Promoted to grade H: Steven Elliott, Jack Glynn, Samuel Jarman

Congratulations also to the following players who achieved their first grading in the same list:

Grade I: Adam Amer, Keshita De Silva, Sherwin Elliott, Safee Hamid, Arin Hattrell, Ghaja Jeevananthan, Ishita Mann, Alex Pearson, Finley Reynolds, Thomas Searle

BE publishes an updated grading list at approximately three-monthly intervals. Full details of the grading system and the latest list are provided on the BE web-site at:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/text.asp?section=2956§ionTitle=National+Gradings#.VLrDj2ezV9A>

HSBA tournaments, 2014/15: the final table

Following completion of this season's HSBA tournament, the Senior Schools points tables are as follows:

Under 18

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Queenswood	142	1	Verulam	141
St Albans Girls	76	2	John Warner	53
Presdales	66	3	Townsend	43
Parmiters	61	4	Beaumont	41
Monks Walk	46	5	Monks Walk	40
			Oaklands College	
Simon Balle	21	6		
St George's	8	7	John Henry Newman	36
		8	Freman College	29
		9	Highfield	26
		10	Priory	14
		11	Ashlyns	11
			Hitchin Boys	
		13	Haberdashers' Aske's	10
		14	Merchant Taylor	7
		15	Roundwood Park	6
			St Albans	
		17	Onslow St Audreys'	4
		18	Queens	3
		19	Chancellor's	2
			Knights Templar	
			Parmiters	
			Stanborough	

Under 15

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Presdales	66	1	Haberdashers' Aske's	131
Hemel Hempstead	61	2	Verulam	81
Dame Alice Owen	43	3	John Henry Newman	68
Freman College	41	4	Monks Walk	50
Watford Girls Grammar			Richard Hale	
St George's	40	6	Queens	46
Parmiters	38	7	Watford Boys Grammar	39
Mount Grace	33	8	Beaumont	36
			Simon Balle	
Sir John Lawes	29	9		
Queenswood	27	10	Chancellors	32
Hitchin Grils	24	11	Hitchin Boys	30
St Albans Girls High	11	12	Ashlyns	29
		13	St George's	27
		14	Sandringham	26
		15	Parmiters	23
		16	Samuel Whitbread	19
		17	Dame Alice Owen	16
		18	Mount Grace	14
		19	St Albans	13
		20	Freman College	11
			Knights Templar	
		22	Westfield Academy	9
		23	Stanborough	2

Under 13

Girls		Position	Boys	
School	Points		School	Points
Sir John Lawes	49	1	Richard Hale	137
Loreto College	25	2	Ashlyns	94
Mount Grace	22	3	Parmiters	45
			Watford Boys Grammar	
Queenswood	20	4		
Dame Alice Owen	11	5	Hemel Hempstead	38
		6	Hitchin Boys	30
		7	Dame Alice Owen	29
			Haberdashers' Aske's	
			Simon Balle	
		10	Bishops Stortford College	25
		11	Lochinver House	19
		12	Highfield	17
		13	Beechwood Park	16
			Goffs	
			John Warner	
		16	Mount Grace	12
		17	Egerton Rothesay	6
		18	Verulam	5
		19	John Henry Newman	4
		20	Sir John Lawes	2

Editor's note: Results gained by players attending schools outside Hertfordshire are not included in this table.

Badminton England junior tournaments

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

Hertfordshire Under 13 Summer Bronze

BS	Round 2	Ghajaan Jeevananthan lost to Tyreese Heslop: 15-21
		Thomas Sweetnam lost to Jack Nguyen: 16-21
	Quarter final	Finlay Cattermole lost to Ben Calder: 16-21
GS	Quarter final	Alyssa Onnay Lee lost to Ananya Rastogi: 15-21
		Lavigne Leung lost to Leona Lee: 9-21
	Final	Paankhuri Bhatia lost to Leona Lee: 13-21
		Leona Lee won the event!!

BS = Boys Singles BS* = Boys Singles Gold Star BD = Boys doubles GS = Girls Singles
 GS* = Girls Singles Gold Star GD = Girls Doubles MX = Mixed Doubles

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of On the Line! The deadline for contributions to the October 2015 newsletter is Friday 25th September, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:

J.R.Stobo@btinternet.com