



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

October 2012

HSBA tournaments

All the tournaments listed below will be held at Stevenage Leisure Centre, Lytton Way, Stevenage, SG1 1LZ. Entry forms for them can be downloaded from the HSBA web-site:

<http://www.hertschoolsbadminton.co.uk/downloads.html>

where there is also a map giving directions to the Leisure Centre. B singles events are not open to members of the County Squads.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>School Year</i>
Sunday October 21 st 2012	0930 hours	Under 11 Boys & Girls Doubles	Year 6 and under
		Under 13 Boys & Girls B Singles	Year 8 and under
		Under 18 Boys singles	Year 13 and under
	1130 hours	Under 18 Girls Singles	Year 13 and under
	14.00 hours	Under 18 Boys & Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under
Sunday November 25 th 2012	09.30 hours	Under 15 Boys & Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under
Sunday January 27 th 2013	09.30 hours	Under 10 Boys & Girls Singles	Year 5 and under
		Under 13 Boys singles	Year 8 and under
	11.30 hours	Under 13 Girls Singles	Year 8 and under
	14.00 hours	Under 13 Boys & Girls Doubles	Year 8 and under
Sunday February 10 th 2013	09.30 hours	Under 11 Boys & Girls Singles	Year 6 and under
		Under 15 Boys Doubles	Year 10 and under
	11.30 hours	Under 15 Girls Doubles	Year 10 and under
	13.30 hours	Under 13-Under 18 Giant Handicap Mixed Doubles Tournament	All School Years
Sunday March 3 rd	11.00 hours**	Primary Schools Team Tournament	Year 6 and under
	13.30 hours	Under 15 Boys & Girls Singles	Year 10 and under

**The Primary Schools Team Tournament will be preceded at 09.30 hours by a coaching session for all tournament entrants delivered by HSBA squad coaches and other qualified coaches.

Center Parcs National School Championships 2012/13

Entries are now being accepted from schools right across England as the race to be 2012/13 Center Parcs National Schools Badminton champion gets under way for the new season. With over 22,000 school children from within 1,700 secondary schools and middle schools getting on court last year, the Center Parcs National Schools Championships – now into their 9th year – are well respected as one of the largest and most successful school badminton tournaments in the whole of Europe.

Now, with competitive school sport regularly in the media spotlight and attention circling on getting more 11-16 year olds active as part of the legacy plans on the back of a successful London 2012, Badminton England is putting the call out to help get some real local momentum behind making badminton a top priority.

Hertfordshire schools delivered some fantastic performances in the 2011/12 competition, with Hitchin Boys Under 14 and St Francis Girls Under 16 teams both reaching the national finals, so we hope for a strong entry from the County's schools in this year's competition.

To find out more and apply to enter your school's teams, visit the Badminton England web-site:

<http://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/homepage.asp>

At the home page, select "Schools Competition" from the "Competition" menu.

New County squads for the 2012/13 season

Selections for this year's age-group squads were made following trials, and those selected are listed below. There may be scope for players who were unable to attend for trials on the correct days still to be assessed.

Development squad

Taroun Kumar Balasubramanion, Laura De Costa, Jessica Gray, Khadijah Hassan, Fiona McArdle, Thomas Reynolds, Harry Searle, Thomas Searle, Symran Shah, Max Shirvell, Toby Shirvell, Lucas Siu



Under 13 squad

Christopher Adey, Laura Anderson, Harriet Bell, Finlay Cattermole, Rees Clarke, Rian Devram, Ashay Dhingra, Amelia Dixon, Steven Elliott, Jamie Gall, Jack Glynn, Tobias Goddard, Molly Goode, Matthew Harden, Jason Hayley, Calum Latter, Daniel Lewis, Monique Maisey, Luke Meehan, Eleanor Mcardle, Alex Peat, Keya Patani, James Penver, Benjamin Plunkett, Sonny Ward



Under 15 squad

Beth Adams, Mark Amer, Max Ansell, Andrew Baird, Emily Clarke, Victoria Clayton, Jonathan de Costa, Claudia Crowther, Zach Daniels, Austin Ephgrave, Brendan Ho, James Jarman, Jack Kimber, Harry Knill-Jones, Karlli Leung, Martin Lui, Lathan Mahalingam, Brett Maisey, Shaun McKnight, April Miller, Samuel Newlove, Sebastian Plunkett, Esme Stevens, Max Titterton, Nathan Wooster, Sophie Vernon, Amy Willetts, Lia Willis



Under 17 squad

Cayleigh Bambrick, Greg Benson, Wesley Chan, Anna Collis, Lyall Daniels, Renu Dhall Chopra, Philippa English, Daniel Fox, Jack Goode, Francesca Farlie, Isabel Hatt, Kate Hill, Yash Kejriwal, David Maughan, Laura Monk, Nathan Scofield, Heidi De Sousa, Ying Cen Tee, Edgar Titterton, Hugo Weaver, Matthew Widdicombe, Duncan Williams



New faces on the management team

As well as new squad players for 2012/13, there have been some important changes to the HSBA management team. Full details of the new management group are provided on the HSBA web-site at:

<http://www.hertsschoolsbadminton.co.uk/contact-us.html>

New to the management team are the Under 17 squad manager, David Brown, and the Under 13 squad manager, Mike Newlove. David joins us with excellent credentials having previously been coached as a junior by Bill and Andy Goode and also Roger Mills, which helped him to achieve under 18 and 21 singles, level and mixed doubles winning titles. He comes to us with a solid background in coaching junior badminton at county level that will doubtless prove to be of enormous benefit to each of our aspiring young players. Mike Newlove, following several years of experience gained through supporting Graham Hall in the management and delivery of training for our Under 13 squad, has assumed the role of squad manager.

And the departure of some familiar faces

Ken Winchester

Following a difficult season for HSBA, we have lost the voluntary services of some very significant individuals. As a result, remaining Committee members will be even harder pressed to fulfil the ambitious programme that we provide on behalf of our young players. I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a number of retirees whose considerable contribution cannot be overstated.

Angela Blowers

Throughout much of this present millennium, Angela has worked tirelessly to facilitate the smooth running of this Association, stepping into a number of essential roles without hesitation. As if this was not enough, she has often proved to be a source of most helpful advice when important decisions have been needed. However, it has been her invaluable assistance in the running of the annual Open Tournament, which will have made such a financially beneficial impact on the funds of HSBA to the mutual benefit of all our young players. I sincerely hope that Angela will find time in the future to rejoin HSBA but, in the meantime, offer her our sincere thanks and good wishes.

Pat Walker

When an individual has been giving so generously of their time for more than a score years, how does one give them sufficient credit? Apart from being a very lovely and caring person, Pat has been an invaluable friend both to the Association and members alike. Having assisted Tony Clarke in supporting the Under 17's to achieve significant county badminton success over many years, Pat was kind enough, when the need arose, to take over the reins as squad manager, and it is to Pat's credit that the squad has continued to achieve great success. I fully understand and respect the circumstances that have caused Pat to step down from her duties but I am pleased to know that she will remain in close contact with the Association. For the moment, it is my sad duty to offer her sincere thanks for the considerable work that she has voluntarily undertaken on our behalf and wish her the very best of good fortune.

Phil Westwood

I am particularly sorry to be losing the services of Phil who, apart from bringing four exemplary children to our squads, has proved to be such a highly competent Fixtures Secretary. His considerable help and knowledge will be much missed by HSBA, and I have personally always valued his friendship and important viewpoints. In thanking Phil for his invaluable help, I hope he will continue to feel willing to pass on his well-considered opinions, which will always be greatly appreciated. On behalf of all at HSBA, may I wish Phil and his family every success in the future.

Graham Hall

I would like to record the Association's thanks to Graham who has successfully managed our Under 13 squad throughout the past two seasons and who worked with the squad in support of Marion and Duncan Conway for several seasons before that. Graham's undoubted range of skills has been much appreciated and respected by me and other members of HSBA. His considerable ability to run and organize our closed tournaments will be greatly missed and, in addition to offering our sincere gratitude, I would like to wish him the very best of good fortune.

Mary Wikner

A great strength of HSBA has been the professionalism demonstrated by members of the Committee. This has been greatly in evidence in the efficient and helpful manner by which Mary has fulfilled her duties as Secretary to this Association. I will greatly miss her friendly advice, which has been of enormous benefit throughout recent times. It is comforting to know that Mary will remain in contact with the Association, and may I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for all that she done throughout much of the last decade.

Volunteer helpers sought

HSBA is always ready to welcome help from interested supporters of the Association, and particularly at this time there is a need to increase the number of contributors to the management group. Details of activities with which assistance would be much appreciated can be found on the HSBA web-site at:

<http://www.hertschoolsbadminton.co.uk/downloads/Vacancies%20090912.pdf>

Currently HSBA is seeking:

- Fixtures Secretary – to arrange all fixtures for Herts squads, for national competitions (e.g. Shires League) and also friendly matches.
- Schools/Clubs League organiser – to organise junior club leagues for all age groups.
- Fund Raiser – to raise funds jointly for HBA and HSBA by seeking out grants, sponsorship etc.
- Website Manager - to keep the HSBA website up to date and attractive.
- Parent Representatives – to be the conduit between the committee and the parents for each squad, and also to assist squad managers in administrative tasks (such as organising food at matches)
- General Tournament Helpers – to help at the open and closed tournaments, with raffles, handing out shuttles, helping at the desk etc

Revised Badminton England grading system

BE has replaced the familiar system of grades 1, 2 and 3 for junior players with a new system of grades from A to I which covers junior and senior players. The correspondence between the old and new grades is shown below.

	<i>U17</i>	<i>U17</i>	<i>U15</i>	<i>U17</i>	<i>U15</i>	<i>U13</i>	<i>U15</i>	<i>U13</i>	<i>U13</i>
<i>Previous grade</i>	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	3
<i>New grade</i>	D	E	E	F	F	F	G	G	H

Progression from one grade to another is no longer determined by a junior player achieving certain thresholds, such as winning a box in a junior tournament, but by all results achieved in BE-sanctioned tournaments within each 2-month qualifying period. In essence, a player's grade will rise or fall according to each result achieved and the grade of the opponent in each match. A full description of the new system, including details of the precise criteria for grade changes, is given at:

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

The first grading list to use the new system was published in July 2012, and On the Line! will report the progression of squad players as each new list is published.

Badminton England junior tournament results

When HSBA squad members reach the knock-out stage of events played initially in boxes or the quarter finals of events played in straight knock-out format, On the Line! will report their achievements.

Under 17 Gold, Milton Keynes

MX	Quarter final	Matthew Widdicombe & Paige Butler lost to Angus Pedersen & Lydia Powell: 19-21, 21-18, 14-21
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Under 15 Gold, Essex

MX	Quarter final	Keya Patani & Brandon Ngooi lost to Johnnie Torjussen & Katie Tran: 9-21, 7-21
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Under 15 Silver, Berkshire

BS	Quarter final	Andrew Baird lost to Jack Buckley: 15-8, 8-15, 11-15
GS	Final	Lia Willis lost to Gean Sou Mo: 7-15, 9-15
GD	Semi final	Lia Willis & Ellen Jennings lost to Gean Sou Mo & Katie Whiteman: 6-15, 8-15

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

Denmark training trip

Andrew Baird

On August 27th three adults (Liz Bateman and Steve Willis from Hertfordshire and Mark Males from Dorset) and a group of 15 excited badminton players aged between 12 and 16 travelled to Denmark for a five day training Camp at Middelfart badminton club. Among them were Laura Anderson, Sam Newlove, Chris Adey and myself from HSBA, together with other players from Surrey, Cornwall, Dorset, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and Wiltshire. After months of careful planning and preparation by Steve leading up to our trip, we were given a rare opportunity to train the Denmark way thanks to Steve's perseverance and determination for the trip to go ahead.

Once the flight had landed we were warmly greeted and welcomed by Carsten, our main coach for the week, and other club members and helpers to kindly drive us to Middelfart badminton club. We settled down quickly,

unpacked and sat down for lunch. Not long after, our first training session commenced getting a taste of the unique Danish style of training. The new experience was incredible. We trained, slept and ate in the club facilities, and occasionally visited the town and went into schools learning about their school life and what they do in their free time. In the afternoon sessions we played badminton with the Danish children from the club, socialised and learned many extraordinary things about Denmark and the way they do things; comparing them to how different it is back in England.

The training continued each day with an extremely high level of intensity, testing and dramatically improving our fitness and shot ability. However it wasn't all blood sweat and tears, we learned from the fun warm ups and jumps to music with the Danish boys and girls that we became close friends with. We trained and went into town with the Danish children like we were a huge family. A well thought-out website was put together by Mark and the adult helpers with videos and hundreds of photos which were posted daily letting parents and friends see how we were getting on. The whole experience was something to remember. Steve, Liz, Mark, Carsten and all the adult helpers and coaches from the club contributed to make the trip a huge success. All of the players are extremely keen on a return visit as it was such a special, unique experience.



Sam and Andrew attend to the advice of their Danish coach!

Herts Youth Games 2012

Barbara Lewczynska

There are certain times when we should really appreciate badminton being an indoor sport, and so it was at this year's Youth Games, as many participants had to deal with the truly inclement weather for much of the day (You must remember that fantastic July we had). We were nice and cosy in the badminton hall, and even though we had to endure the big horns of the basketball competition next door, at least we were dry!

The full complement of ten districts took part in the badminton competition, and we witnessed some fantastic play throughout the day. Huge thanks should go to the ten district managers, who guided their teams throughout the day, and put in the hard work coaching prior to the tournament. The ten managers/coaches were Tara Haddock (Broxbourne), Jo Bevil-Gahan (Dacorum), Paul Foster (East Herts), Alan Overy (Hertsmere), Robert Tucker (North Herts), Keith Burns (St Albans), Ben Vrankovic (Stevenage), Frances Morrison (Three Rivers), Phil Adams (Watford) and John Stobo (Welwyn Hatfield).

At around 15.30 the competition stopped, the curtains in the badminton hall were drawn back and the children were able to witness the Olympic Torch Relay changeover in the Athletics Hall. Amid much cheering and flag waving, the very noisy crowd gave it a great reception ... then it was back to work again.

The competition is played in a round robin format where every point counts, rather than the number of matches won, so right to the very last minute the positions could change. This year although the first two positions were fairly safe towards the end of the competition, the battle for third place (and a bronze medal) was on a cliff edge right until the end. Retaining the badminton trophy for the second year running were North Herts – congratulations to all the team.

The final positions in the badminton tournament were

1. North Herts
2. Stevenage
3. Hertsmere
4. St Albans (only eight points behind Hertsmere)
5. Watford
6. Dacorum
7. Three Rivers
8. Welwyn Hatfield
9. East Herts
10. Broxbourne

Thank you to all my helpers on the day, the unflappable Gill Bartlett, who manned the desk and took the scores so ably, technical support and PR Dave Bartlett, Phil Green for supplying the computer program and David Maughan who gave up his Saturday to come and score.

I did see Tony Marmo, the Games organiser, at some point during the day, he looked like he could do with a very large G & T . Well done Tony – it was a real triumph of organisation once again.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of On the Line! The deadline for contributions to the January 2013 newsletter is Friday December 28, and they should be sent to John Stobo at:
J.R.Stobo@btinternet.com