



On the Line!

Newsletter of Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association

July 2016

Hertfordshire's Under 13's triumphant at Shires League finals

Toby Goddard

The team were delighted to have made this season's Shires League National Finals after finishing 4th in the national league following some fantastic performances throughout the season against the other counties in the East. Wolverhampton was the venue for the National Finals, and they took place on Sunday 22nd May.

The tournament was organised so you do not know who you are playing until you arrive. Before the draw for the first round took place, Graham Clarke said he would be happy with any opponent except Yorkshire. The matches were drawn out of the hat and we got.... Yorkshire!

It took us a while to get going but after some very tight matches we beat Yorkshire 11-9. There were some excellent performances, most notably a brilliant doubles win for Leona and Lavigne. The opposition was strong, but we managed to scrape through the first round.

It was then time for the next draw. Jo Goode said she would be happy with anyone except Warwickshire. The matches were drawn out of the hat and we got..... Warwickshire!

Herts started very well with an unexpected mixed win for Leona and me against highly ranked players. Paankhuri then played brilliantly to win her singles, and Thomas and Shashank won their doubles in style. Zak played very well in his singles and was only just beaten by a very strong opponent. Herts won this match 11-9 as well.

It was then time for the final against Berkshire. Harry won his singles in a determined style, and Alyssa comfortably won her singles against a strong opponent. She then played the final game of the match with Pranathi and they led Herts to a win by 15-5.

It was a great day, and the team supported each other and made sure the parents felt stressed for the whole day. A big thank you to Mike Newlove, Graham Clarke, Jo Goode and Ming Lee for all their coaching on the day and in the weeks, months and years leading up to this day. Herts have not won this tournament for many years, and we are so pleased we did it. We did not win because we had the highest ranked players; we won because all of our 10 players were of a very similar standard and there were no weak links. We also benefitted from the team training we have been doing with Jo for the past 6 weeks. Without the dedication of the coaches and manager, we would not have had this great experience – thank you.

Team: Paankhuri Bhatia, Zack Bobrowski, Toby Goddard, Harry Goode, Pranathi Koneru, Alyssa Lee, Leona Lee, Lavigne Leung, Shashank Madhukiran, Thomas Sweetnam
Coaches: Graham Clarke, Jo Goode, Ming Lee, Mike Newlove



The victorious Herts team show off their Shires League gold medals

Editor's note: HSBA's archivist Megan Lumb has been delving into the records, and she says: "From all the records I can find – and I've been through the archives and the newsletters – this is the first time the Under 13's have won the Shires League. It kicked off as a nationwide league in 2002/03, although before that there were North, Central and South Leagues. The Under 17's won their league in 2004/05."

Squad managers for 2016/17

Ken Winchester

As the season came to an end, the HSBA committee were faced with the difficult job of replacing both our Under 11 and Under 17 Squad Managers who wished to step down from their roles. HSBA was also tasked with finding a replacement coach for our Under 13 squad following the departure of Jo Goode.

Having carefully considered each of the possible permutations, it was decided to minimise the impact of these many changes. We are very grateful to both Adrian Leung and Becky White for their willingness to step up to the roles of Under 12 and Under 18 Squad Manager respectively, as this will provide our players with valuable continuity. At the same time, Kelly Risley has kindly offered her services to help coach both the Under 14 and Under 18 squads, which will maintain the very high coaching standards throughout our squads.

Of course, we are very pleased to say that our Under 14 and Under 16 Squad Managers, Mike Newlove and Hitesh Shah respectively, are willing to continue in their present roles, and we would like to thank them for again offering their undoubted expertise.

HSBA tournaments, 2015/16

Next season a full programme of 28 age-group tournaments is once again being offered by HSBA including, for the first time, B Singles tournaments for the Under 19 age group. Full details are on Page 3, 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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Age group</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday October 9 th 2016	1000 hours	Under 16 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	1200 hours	Under 19 Boys Singles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 19 Girls Singles		
	1330 hours	Under 16 Girls B Singles	Year 10 and under	
		Under 19 Girls Doubles	Year 13 and under	
Under 19 Boys Doubles				
1500 hours	Under 19 Mixed Doubles			
Sunday November 13 th 2016	1000 hours	Under 16 Boys Singles	Year 10 and under	Stevenage Leisure Centre
	1200 hours	Under 16 Girls Singles		
	1400 hours	Under 16 Girls Doubles		
		Under 16 Boys Doubles		
	1530 hours	Under 19 Girls B Singles	Year 13 and under	
		Under 19 Boys B Singles	Year 10 and under	
Under 16 Mixed doubles				
Sunday November 20 th 2016	0930 hours	Under 14 Boys B singles	Year 8 and under	Birchwood Leisure Centre
	1130 hours	Under 14 Girls B Singles	Year 6 and under	
	1200 hours	Under 12 Boys Singles		
		Under 12 Girls Singles		
	1400 hours	Under 12 Boys Doubles		
		Under 12 Girls Doubles		
1500 hours	Under 12 Girls Doubles			
Sunday February 5 th 2017	0930 hours	Under 14 Boys Singles	Year 8 and under	Birchwood Leisure Centre
	1130 hours	Under 14 Girls Singles		
	1330 hours	Under 14 Girls Doubles		
		Under 14 Boys Doubles		
	1530 hours	Under 11 Girls singles	Year 5 and under	
		Under 11 Boys singles	Year 8 and under	
Under 14 Mixed Doubles				
Sunday March 5 th 2017	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.

Next season seven events on the Badminton England junior tournament circuit will held in Hertfordshire. Full details are on Page 4. Events start at 0900 hours, and a few days before players' match times are posted on the BE Tournament Software web-site:

<http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/default.aspx?tlid=1>

Additional venues for these events are:

- Gosling Sports Park, Stanborough Rd, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XE
- Hatfield Leisure Centre, Travellers Lane, Hatfield, AL10 8TJ

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Age group</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Sunday November 6 th 2016	Under 15 Bronze	Born in 2003 or later	Gosling Sports Park
Saturday December 3 rd 2016	Under 18 Bronze	Born in 2000 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday December 11 th 2016	Under 14 Bronze	Born in 2004 or later	Hatfield Leisure Centre
Saturday January 7 th 2017	Under 14 Bronze	Born in 2004 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre
Sunday January 15 th 2017	Under 17 Bronze	Born in 2001 or later	Gosling Sports Park
Sunday February 26 th 2017	Under 16 Bronze	Born in 2002 or later	Gosling Sports Park
Saturday March 25 th 2017	Under 16 Silver	Born in 2002 or later	Stevenage Leisure Centre

National Schools Championships Finals, 16th April
Bronze medals for John Henry Newman School

John Stobo

The 9 teams contesting the finals of the Under 16 Boys' event were organised in three boxes for the first round, and the John Henry Newman team played Cockermouth School and Huntcliff School, winning both matches by 3-2. Thus in the second round they were placed in another box of three to play for the medal positions against the winners of the other two first-round boxes. Against Queen Elizabeth's School, the team lost a very close match 2-3, but their defeat to Tapton School, the eventual gold medal winners, was by 0-5. Nonetheless results overall delivered the considerable achievement of a bronze medal, following a silver medal for the same team in the Under 14 tournament last season. As all team members will still be eligible for the Under 16 event next season, we may hope for even better things then!

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



The John Henry Newman team show off their bronze medals

Editor's note: This summary of the John Henry Newman team's performance is based on conversations with some of the team members and the results published at:

<http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=C3812D4C-96B5-42C7-8483-87812D6D31D4>

The final league match day of the season took place on Sunday 8th May and produced both exciting badminton in front of a large group of parents and other supporters and some dramatic changes to teams' league positions. The Hertsmere team rose from second to first place to become the Hertfordshire Junior League champions for 2015/16. Many congratulations to them! A big climber was the team from North Hertfordshire whose players leapt from 6th position to take the silver medals. In the same style the Three Rivers team staged a late surge to rise from 5th to 3rd place and take the bronze medals.



The winning Hertsmere team with the Junior League shield and their trophies

A team representing the Hertfordshire League will now go forward to contest the national inter-league finals at the National Badminton Centre on Sunday 12th June.

Final league positions for 2015/16:

Position	Team name	Points scored	Points conceded	Points difference
1	Hertsmere	738	509	+229
2	North Hertfordshire	701	579	+122
3	Three Rivers	684	578	+106
4	Stevenage	715	611	+104
5	Welwyn Hatfield	733	647	+86
6	East Hertfordshire	724	650	+74
7	Dacorum	560	650	-90
8	Broxbourne	504	670	-166
9	St Albans	563	731	-168
10	Watford	313	610	-297

In the table on Page 6 points scored by each team in each match are shown in the row bearing its name, and points conceded are shown in the column bearing its name. As the Watford team was absent from the final match day, the scores marked with an asterisk are averages obtained from results gained by the teams that played against Watford on the first two match days.

Team name	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Hertfordshire	Hertsmere	North Hertfordshire	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Welwyn Hatfield
Broxbourne		71	66	42	48	37	56	84	33*	67
Dacorum	60		67	47	71	96	76	61	33*	49
East Herts	85	78		67	77	84	79	74	82	98
Hertsmere	97	95	73		63	87	78	71	98	76
North Herts	90	72	67	75		73	81	81	71	91
St Albans	81	62	62	50	64		57	63	58	66
Stevenage	87	89	83	65	74	80		67	100	70
3 Rivers	85	90	87	64	78	87	74		33*	86
Watford	0	0	74	36	51	84	24	0		44
Wel Hat	85	93	71	63	53	103	86	77	102	

Junior Inter-League Finals, 12th June

John Stobo

The inaugural national inter-league finals were held at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes, and the team representing the Hertfordshire Junior League was one of eight contesting the Under 14 title. In the first phase teams were in two boxes of four, with Hertfordshire playing teams from the High Wycombe and District Junior League, Swifts Junior Badminton Club, Surrey, and St Ursula's Junior Badminton Club, winners of the Bristol Junior League. Matches comprised rubbers in each of five events: girls' singles, boys' singles, girls' doubles, boys' doubles and mixed doubles, with each rubber played as the best of three games, the first two to 9 points and the third, if needed, played to just 5 points. This format was closely modelled on the senior National Badminton League, right down to the inclusion of "power-play" shuttles. (If you don't know what a power-play is, watch the NBL on Sky television next season!)

For Hertfordshire's players this was the first experience of national tournament play, complete with match scorers and banks of seating for over 100 spectators. Though well prepared by our pre-tournament training, which had included practice games in the format of the finals and a team manager's briefing on how to use the power-play, the team was not able to put a dent in the progress of any of our three opponents. Some games were won, but we were unable to convert these successes into victories in rubbers and lost each match 0-5.

However, the second phase, in which the third and fourth teams from each first round box played for positions 5 to 8, was a different story. Our first match against the team from the Wigan Junior League, who had taken third place in the other first-round box, produced a thrilling 3-2 victory, with two games won by 9-8 and three of the rubbers being played out in tense deciding third games. Thereafter, playing for 5th or 6th places we again had to confront our first round opponents from High Wycombe. The result was 0-5 once more, but this time played by the Herts team with much more poise and evident confidence, forcing two of the rubbers to a deciding third game. Our final position of 6th reflected a lot of hard work by all team members and was an encouraging outcome to a very demanding day of competitive badminton played mostly against vastly more experienced opponents than our own team.

Team: Ethan Barnes (North Herts), Lilie Corke (Hertsmere), Will Davis (North Herts), Becca Hall (North Herts), Kerry Maddox (Stevenage), Christopher Saunders (North Herts), Shiami Thayaparan (Stevenage), Bruce Yao (North Herts)

Managers: Beverley and John Stobo



Hertfordshire Junior League team at the national inter-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 June 2016:

Promoted to grade E: Laura Anderson, Cameron Bannister
Promoted to grade F: Paankhuri Bhatia, Rees Clarke, Safee Hamid
Promoted to grade G: Olivia Clark, Amelia Dixon, Jack Glynn, Lavigne Leung, Shashank Madhukiran
Promoted to grade H: Mabel Rose Reid

A special mention should be made of Cameron's progress: having started 2016/17 at grade H he has achieved a grade promotion in each quarter of the season.

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

Grade I: Levin Mathew, Vihini Ragalage
Grade J: Luca Di Gesaro, Charlie Windebank

BE publishes an updated grading list at approximately 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>

Badminton England junior tournaments

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 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	Edward Chen lost to Archie Bult: 12-21
	Quarter final	Zack Bobrowski lost to Archie Bult: 18-21
GS	Quarter final	Pranathi Koneru lost to Shivani Bhoombla: 14-21
		Deborah James lost to Tessa Franks: 17-21

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of On the Line! This is the final edition which John Stobo will be editing, and the editorial role is being assumed by Jo Clark. Contributions to the next edition should be sent to her at: jo.treriseclark@btinternet.com