

Herts Open 2014

The 2014 Herts Open took place at HSV on the weekend of 30 & 31 August but unfortunately numbers of entries were well down on previous years. There were still over 150 players who took part, coming from all over the country. Hertfordshire was well represented with both juniors and seniors looking to get tournament practice early in the season.

The mens and ladies singles was played on the Saturday using all twelve courts to start. There were 66 entries in the mens singles and 26 in the ladies singles. In the mens singles the number one seed Ben Muir (Surrey) and the number two seed Joel Douse (Bucks) both got to the final with Ben winning a tough three setter with Hertfordshire's Matthew Widdecombe in the semi-finals. Ben was the victor again in the final winning 21-19, 21-17. In the ladies singles the number 2 seed Jo Dix (Hants) met the Hertfordshire based Nicki Chan-Lam in the final. Jo Dix ran out the winner 21-16, 21-15 to claim her first Herts Open title having been coming to the tournament for over a decade.

Sunday started with the level doubles again on all twelve courts, and as the day progressed the mixed doubles were started. All in all 65 games were played during the day with the last final coming off court at 8.00. In the mens doubles final top seeds Joel Gayle (Essex) and Victor Liew (Middlesex) were comfortable winners beating Martin Drabble (Yorks) and Robert Golding (Middlesex) 21-15, 21-9. In the ladies doubles final the pairing of Paige Butler and Lucy Mason (Bucks) beat Chrissi Nettleton (Yorks) and Rachel Vickers (Cheshire) 21-19, 21-10. The last game to be played was the mixed final between Joel Gayle and Caroline Westley (Essex) and Matthew Widdecombe and Claire Weaver (Cheshire). Joel and Caroline retained their title winning 21-10, 21-10.

Overall it was another successful Herts Open tournament, played in good spirit with lots of excellent badminton. A tournament of this size would not have been possible nor would it have run so smoothly without the help of a number of people, and so I would like to thank the referee, Lesley Owens, Jo Williams, Bob Welsh, Graham Hall, John Herdman and the staff at HSV for their time and effort over the weekend.

Eddie Lintott