

2010 HERTS OPEN BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

The 2010 Herts Open took place at HSV on the weekend of 4 and 5 September and yet again it was a well supported tournament. Over 200 players took part, coming from all parts of England plus Wales, Jersey and Northern Ireland too. Hertfordshire was well represented with both juniors and seniors looking to getting their seasons off to a flying start.

The mens and ladies singles was played on the Saturday starting on all twelve courts at 10.00 with the finals finishing around 7.30. The number of entries for the mens singles was restricted to 72 (there were over 90 entries) with 16 players taking part in a qualifying event to get into the main draw. The event was won by Toby Penty (Surrey) who has now been picked to represent England in the World Championships in August. There were 44 entries in the ladies singles and was won by Georgina Bland (Surrey) who beat Hertfordshire's Emily Westwood in the final.

Sunday started with the mixed competition, again on all twelve courts, and as the day progressed the mens and ladies doubles competitions were started. All in all 108 games were played during the day with the last final coming off court just after 8.00. The mens doubles was won by Joe Morgan and James Philips (Wales) as they showed why they had been ranked as high as 41 in the world. The ladies doubles final was a tough three setter with Jo Dix (Hampshire) and Gemma Whiting (Kent) beating the number one seeds Caroline Harvey and Carissa Turner (Wales) 13-21, 21-18, 21-19. By the time the semi-finals and final of the mixed competition came along the weekend's activities was starting to take its toll on a few of the players. Emily Westwood and her partner Arthur Cheung (Buckinghamshire) made it to the final courtesy of a walkover in the semi-final where they faced Joel Gayle and Caroline Westley (Essex). Unfortunately for Joel cramp took a hold while he was warming up and he had to concede, making Emily and Arthur the winners.

Overall it was another successful Herts Open tournament, played in fantastic spirit with lots of excellent badminton and a tidy profit for HBA. 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 Jo Williams, Bob Welsh, Margaret Cooper, Graham Hall, Tim Jalland, Barbara Lewczynska, John Herdman and the staff at HSV for their time and effort over the weekend.

2011's Open tournament is scheduled for Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September and hopefully it will be as successful as previous years. Feel free to come and watch some excellent badminton and if you would like to help out over the weekend please give me a ring.

Eddie Lintott

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