

## HERTFORDSHIRE SENIOR COUNTY BADMINTON REPORT 2010/11 SEASON

Hertfordshire Senior County 1<sup>st</sup> team competing in The Premier A division of the Inter County Championship completed the season at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes over the weekend 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

A team consisting of six young players aged 19 or below supplemented by the experienced Gail Emms, Natalie Barton, Liza Smith and Richard Southward battled hard over the final weekend of three to retain Hertfordshire's presence in the top flight.

The six youngsters Helena Lewenska, Emily Westwood, Ryan McCarthy, Elliott Miles, Doug Furze and Dan Hatt will have learnt much over the weekend, benefiting greatly from the experience that puts Herts in good standing for future seasons.

Emily Westwood (pictured below) was named first team player of the season, contributing at all three disciplines to a creditworthy season for the county.



Our senior county 3<sup>rd</sup> team picked up the only title of the season for the county winning division 3 in convincing style going the season undefeated with eight straight wins. Liz Austin took over the captaincy of the team at the start of the season and was determined to get the 3<sup>rd</sup>'s back into division two after last season's unfortunate relegation. Lindsay Orchard (pictured below) led the team with a remarkable season's performance winning 24 straight matches at all three events and was deservedly named player of the season.



County President, Bob Welsh, ever present at home and away County fixtures presented the award to both young ladies.

Colin Walker's 4<sup>th</sup> team, the starting ground for many of our seasoned senior county players finished runners up in division 4, travelling as far as Lincolnshire on one away trip.

Amy George, 14, made her senior county debut, joining older brother Steven. Howard Stobo, Conor Bambrick & Alex English made up the other under 17's making appearances during the season. University student Hannah Fletcher was named player of the season with a string of fine singles results.

Another remarkable performance occurred during the season when Liz Austin (nee Wheeler) made her 100<sup>th</sup> appearance for the County. Liz (pictured below) made her county debut in 1997 and has been a fantastic servant to the county ever since.



President Bob made the award of engraved glassware at the 3<sup>rd</sup> team's last home of the season at the Hertfordshire Sports Village on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team playing in division one of the Regional Division of the ICC battled hard during season but had to settle for a mid table position in the end. Captain Andy Walden had a difficult task on many occasions during the season in fielding a team, calling on several 4<sup>th</sup> team players on several occasions. Many gained valuable experience but a lot needs to be done to get a consistent team out that brings with it many benefits. The selectors will be working on this during the summer months. Charity Barnes was named player of the season.

It is never easy highlighting any particular performances but during my travels I have noticed two keys areas that must be a real positive for selectors, coaches, players & spectators.

- The quantity and quality of many of our young players stepping up into Senior County is thrilling and exciting to say the least.
- The keenness and enthusiasm shown by our ex-internationals Gail Emms, Natalie Barton & Liza Smith at our first team weekends in offering support to our younger players cannot go by without mention.

With these final thoughts in mind I ask all readers to consider available free time they have to further our county badminton to get in touch.

Paul Widdicombe – Chairman of Senior Selectors

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