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Headteacher of Ladbrooke JMI School

December 2007

Tournament Dates for 2008

Sunday 20th January

U10 (year 5 and under) boys and girls doubles	9.30 am
U13 (year 8 and under) boys and girls 'B' singles	9.30 am
U15 (year 10 and under) boys and girls 'A' singles	2.00 pm

Sunday 3rd February

U10 (year 5 and under) boys and girls singles	9.30 am
U13 (year 8 and under) boys and girls 'A' singles	9.30 am

Sunday 27th April

Primary Schools Team Tournament

All the above tournaments are held at the Stevenage Leisure Centre.

Entries to: Mrs Roz Hodgkinson, Boonwood, 24 Turpins Close, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0RA

Tel: 01438 715231.

e-mail: hsba@srpltd.com

WANTED

Person to take over job of H.S.B.A.
Treasurer after the AGM next June.
Anyone interested, please contact
either Malcolm Lumb (01707 653812)
or Ken Winchester (01707 645610)
for further information

H.S.B.A. COUNTY TRIALS

The H.S.B.A. county trials were held at the beginning of September. The following were selected to be in the County Squads and Development Groups. A few members of each lower age squad will be invited to train with the older squads from time to time.

U11 Squad

Gregory Benson (Abbots Langley)
Jack Goode (Tewin Cowper)
Yash Kejriwal (Haberdashers' Aske's Prep)
Mohammed Khaku (St Meryl's JMI)
Sai Raj Kondan (Creswick JMI)
William Pickworth (Heath Mount)

Renu Dhall-Chopra (Lordship Farm Primary)
Eleanor Fitton (The Ryde)
Amy George (St Giles CE Primary)
Isabel Hatt (Little Heath Primary)
Ellie Makewell (Lodge Farm JMI)
Zoë Taylor (Abel Smith)

U11 Development Group

Rory Briers (St Joseph's in the Park)
Matthew Calver (Wilbury Junior)
Austin Ephgrave (Wilbury Junior)
Corran Goodson (Brookmans Park Primary)
Daniel Sweetnam (South Hill Primary)
Edgar Titterton (Purwell Primary)

Ellie Fursland (Weston JMI)
Lia Willis (Wheatfields JM)

U13 Squad

Kit Akin-Agunbiade (Lochinver House)
Conor Bambrick (Nobel)
William Belfield (Roundwood Park)
Edward Byrne (St Columba's College)
Lyll Daniels (John Warner)
Sam Endemi (Marlborough)
Max Hodgkinson (Verulam)
Josh Kinnear (Fearnhill)
David Maughan (Sherrardswood)
Mark Sadler (Lochinver House)
Rishav Shah (Northwood Prep)
Ben Spencer (John Warner)
Matthew Widdicombe (Chauncy)

Lizzie Airey (Dame Alice Owen)
Chloe Bungey (Chancellor's)
Anna Collis (St Francis College)
Alex English (Chancellor's)
Philippa English (Brookmans Park Primary)
Katherine Head (Bushey Hall)
Rachel Hibberd (Watford Girls Grammar)
Hannah McLaren (St Francis College)
Laura Monk (John Warner)
Georgia Pittson (Chancellor's)
Kirsty Southey (Stopsley High)
Piu Yi Tam (Bishops Hatfield Girls)

U13 Development Group (now upgraded to full squad members)

Casper Siu (Nascot Wood Junior)
James Sweetnam (Hemel Hempstead)
Oliver White (Hitchin Boys)

U15 Squad

Oliver Adams (Knights Templar)
Conor Barford (Longdean)
Nick Barnett (Chancellor's)
Jonathan Benson (St Michael's)
Ewan Berry (St George's)
Mitch Chapman (Verulam)
Thomas Dion-Fehily (John Henry Newman)
Andrei Donko (Queen Elizabeth Boys)
Steven George (Mount Grace)
Richard Gentle (Stanborough)
Daniel Hatt (Nicholas Breakspear)
Alex Lee (Dame Alice Owen)
Gareth Lumb (Chancellor's)
Dale Maddox (Fearnhill)
Ryan McCarthy (Chancellor's)
Andrew Maughan (Sherrardswood)
Elliott Miles (Freman College)
William Moss (Bishops Stortford High)
Jack O'Brien (Longdean)
Michael Peak (Goffs)
Daniel Regan (Chancellor's)
Sahil Shah (Haberdashers' Aske's)
Howard Stobo (Townsend)

Lisa Bullen (Dame Alice Owen)
Jo En Choi (Dame Alice Owen)
Hayley Ladd (St Albans Girls)
Heather Myers (Nicholas Breakspear)
Jessie Northen (Chancellor's)
Isabelle Sadler (St Albans Girls High)
Kate Sellars (Sir John Lawes)
Reena Tarkhala (St Albans Girls High)
Emily Westwood (Roundwood Park)
Claire Widdicombe (Chauncy)

U17 Squad

Tim Angus (St George's)	Laura Bygrave (Fearnhill)
Ross Barnes (Marlborough)	Frances Dickson (J F Kennedy)
Chris Belfield (Roundwood Park)	Daniella Farsiani (St Albans Girls High)
Matthew Fitt (Rickmansworth)	Bethan Griffith (St Albans Girls High)
Alex Gomar (Haberdashers' Aske's)	Sarah Hunter (Parmiters)
Akash Jhunjunwala (Haberdashers' Aske's)	Laura McLaren (St Francis College)
Matthew McCloskey (Fearnhill)	Amy Pearson (St George's)
Edward Moss (Bishops Stortford High)	Ying Yi Tee (Royal Masonic)
Tom Pearce (St Albans)	Stephanie White (Priory)
Alex Regan (Chancellor's)	
Iain Robinson (Richard Hale)	
Arjun Shah (Parmiters)	
Ben Vranjkovic (John Henry Newman)	
Scott Williams (Fearnhill)	

Shires League - Herts Do the Triple v Cambs

Phil Westwood

Hopes for the Shires League campaign are perhaps not so rosy this year, but we've started with a morale booster.

Sunday 22nd September saw the U13s, U15s and U17s travel to St. Neots, and all won their respective matches 18-2.

OK, Cambridgeshire are by far the weakest side we'll face, but our U15s and U17s particularly were not at full strength, through injury and other commitments, so these were good points to pick up.

U17 Shires League **Hertfordshire vs. Cambridgeshire**

Arjun Shah (U17 Squad/Parmiter's School)

Having to wait 20 minutes to enter the sports hall only increased our anticipation and excitement, as we were so eager to start our first match of the season. Our managers Pat Walker and Tony Clarke made it very clear to us that it was vital to get this victory. Our team was: Akash Jhunjunwala, Matthew McCloskey, Arjun Shah, Ben Vranjkovic, Laura Bygrave, Amy Pearson, Isabelle Sadler and Ying Yi Tee.

After a long knock up, the games finally got started. Mixed doubles was played first and all four pairs played together well. Good teamwork and combination from all Herts representatives, especially Akash and Isabelle, gave us a 3-1 lead and a slight advantage as we headed on to play singles. Not only we were playing at away territory but everyone had come to realise that the speed of the shuttle was not easy to control. They were remarkably fast! However, with Ben diving all over the court to produce superb rallies, we saw Herts win all the singles, with great games from Matthew and Amy, which gave us a great lead of 11-1. Having won the games quite comfortably so far, we moved to take on Cambridgeshire in doubles. Knowing that we had already won was a relief, and therefore, ironically, everyone played as if they had nothing to lose. Great doubles played by Laura and Ying and, of course, Arjun and Ben played phenomenal doubles yet again! Once all games were completed Hertfordshire took a secure victory of 18-2. Well played to everyone and a good result to start the season.

Leicester Invitation Doubles

Marion Conway

Two U12 girls pairs and two U12 boys pairs travelled to Leicester to take part in the Leicester Invitation Doubles which is an annual event that has been running for over 30 years. Hertfordshire has taken part for much of that time. Although often we enter six pairs, this year only four were entered as it was on the same day as the HSBA U13 level doubles and mixed doubles.

As usual the players played in boxes of 7 to 9 pairs with the winners and runners up of the boxes going through to the quarter finals of a play off event. This year the overall standard of play was good. There seemed to be few really easy games.

Amy George/Isabel Hatt and David Maughan/Matthew Widdicombe won their boxes and progressed to the quarter finals. In the first round of the play off David/Matthew beat the only surviving Yorkshire pair 21-15, but in the semi finals they were narrowly beaten by the Staffordshire Smith twins, Marcus and Craig, who went on to win the tournament.

The girls also won the first round of the play off by convincingly beating a Warwickshire pair. In the semi finals they were also narrowly beaten 18-21 by the Leicestershire pair of Sarita Patel/Megan Sell, who also went on to win the tournament.

Out of the 14 counties who entered the tournament, Herts was the only county to have two pairs in the semi-finals. Our other two pairs: Anna Collis/Rachel Hibberd and Lyall Daniels/William Belfield also played very well and were narrowly beaten to third place in their respective groups. Four more points in the deciding game, in both instances, would have seen them in the play offs too.

The whole tournament was played in a very friendly atmosphere and all our players played with commitment and good humour.

Well done to all our players.

HSBA Tournaments

Under 15 Boys 'B' Singles

Louis Walpole (St Albans School)

The Elvis tribute concert the night before the tournament at Stevenage Leisure centre on 15th October required some clearing up and 'de-stickyng' of the courts but in no way did this diminish the enthusiasm of the 33 entrants.

In the main event and after some very close matches in the boxes, Oliver Ng, Kishan Rangunathan and Jack Wallace had nail biters of a first round in overcoming Steven Euesden, Marcus Katsantonis and Louis Walpole respectively with Sam Berry, Sam Spencer and Chris Fisher having smoother wins over Manhar Bhojwani, Alex Deeble and Alex Gibson.

The quarter final results were weighed rather more towards the winners with Siu Kei Tam, Sam Berry, Sam Spencer and Oliver Ng coming through against Kishan, Chris, Jack and Oliver Simpson. In the semis Sam Berry won against Siu Kei and Oliver lost to Sam Spencer. The final was a most exciting game with Sam Spencer just losing to tournament winner Sam Berry.

Many of the early matches in the Plate competition were extremely close - Billy Beechy v Lee Lindsay 21-18, Toby Cooper v Rory McEwen 21-19 and Rikin Shah v Naveen Nandakumar 22-20. In the quarters another close match saw Viraj Aggarwal beat Toby 21-18 and Joe Richards overcame Reehan Adat 21-16. In the semis Rikin just beat Viraj 22-20 but in the final it was Joe Richards who 'came up the inside' to beat Rikin. All very exciting!

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part, but our special thanks go to all who spend so much time and effort organising the day both behind the scenes for a long time ahead of the event and on the day, without whom such an enjoyable and worthwhile competition could never be possible.

Final: Sam Berry beat Sam Spencer 21-16

Semi-finalists were Siu Kei Tam and Oliver Ng

Plate Final: Joe Richards beat Rikin Shah 21-10

U15 Girls 'B' Singles

Grace Moore (Dame Alice Owen School)

The under 15 girls 'B' singles took place at Stevenage Leisure Centre on 14th October 2007. The competition was great fun, although it would have been even better if more girls had entered. There were only 5 players and we all played each other. There were some closely contested games and everyone played really well. Aimée Couch scored 81 points and came first beating me into 2nd place by just one point. Emily Stacey and Temi Fajobi both scored 68 points and Olivia Hessey in last place scored 31.

Winner	Aimée Couch
Runner-up	Grace Moore

U13 Boys Doubles

Gareth Lumb (U15 Squad/Chancellor's School)

(Original version spoken when asked by Barbara to write a report: "There was a tournament. We won all our games except the final which we lost to Mark and Max. Well done!")

(2nd - improved - version a couple of weeks later)

It was another Sunday morning and we travelled to Stevenage Leisure Centre for the U13 tournament. I was playing with Edward Byrne and we were in a group of 4. We won our box - this meant we were in the main event with the other winners who were Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler, Kit Akin-Agunbiade/Oliver Gomar, Josh Kinnear/Rishav Shah, Conor Bambrick/Oliver White, James Sweetnam/Jonathan Taegle and Mitch Chapman/Ben Spencer and also the runners-up. Ed and I managed to get to the final beating Rory Briers/Jack Goode, Josh/Rishav and then Mitch/Ben 21-18 in the semi. We lost the final to Max/Mark after a really hard game.

In the plate Alex Macrae/Paras Maroo won all their games to the final as did Paul Earle/Sam Gan who beat Alex/Paras in a hard match to win the plate event.

Final **Max Hodgkinson/Mark Sadler** beat Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb 21-11
Semi-finalists were Aneesh Aggarwal/Casper Siu and Mitch Chapman/Ben Spencer
Plate Final Paul Earle/Sam Gan beat Alex Macrae/Paras Maroo 21-14

U13 Girls Doubles

Kirsty Southey (U13 Squad/Stopsley High School)

The day started out well as Jessie Northen and I played and won the box against Emily Butler/Erin Wilkinson and the same score against Roohi Bhatti/Jayna Patel. Laura Monk/Hannah McLaren put up more of a fight, but ended up losing 16-21. With an overall score of 63 Jessie and I went into the main event along with Laura/Hannah who came second with an overall score of 58. Jayna and her partner, Roohi, scored 33, Emily/Erin scored 20 and both went through to the plate event.

Also through to the main event were Lizzie Airey/Lexy Richards, Isobel Batchelor/Reena Tarkhala, Hannah Last/Georgia Pittson, Alex English/Piu Yi Tam and Alex Clark/Lucy Golding. Jessie and I played against Alex/Lucy - we won 21-9 - then went on to play Lizzie/Lexy where we lost 12-21. Lizzie/Lexy went on to beat Hannah/Georgia in the final.

The plate winners was between Alice Turner/Summer Winkworth, who beat Hiral Mistry/Isabella Rosales in the semi, and Roohi/Jayna who, having had a walkover in the quarter final, beat Harsimran Sahotay/Vanshi Shah in the semi. The final was won by Alice/Summer.

Final: **Lizzie Airey/Lexy Richards** beat Hannah Last/Georgia Pittson 21-15
Semi-finalists were Jessie Northen/Kirsty Southey and Alex English/Piu Yi Tam

Plate final: Alice Turner/Summer Winkworth beat Roohi Bhatti/Jayna Patel 21-13

Under 13 Mixed Doubles

Georgia Pittson (U13 Squad/Chancellor's School)

On the 14th October 2007, the U13's mixed doubles took place at the Stevenage Leisure Centre. The tournament was strongly contested by thirteen pairs, who gave their all in this competitive tournament.

After a tough beginning of three or four matches the first stage came to an end with the top two pairs in each 'box' going through to the main knockout. The other pairs contested the 'plate' knockout. The plate final saw Rishav Shah/Laura Monk playing Edward Byrne/Chloe Bungey in an entertaining doubles with Edward/Chloe ending up the eventual winners.

Both semi-finals in the main event were closely matched with Mark Sadler/Lizzie Airey playing Conor Bambrick/Alex English, the latter pair narrowly losing 21-19. In the other semi-final Gareth Lumb/Olivia van der Maat played Max Hodgkinson/Kirsty Southey with this latter pair going through 21-17.

The main final turned out to be a war of attrition with Mark/Lizzie against Max/Kirsty battling it out for the top honours. In an up and down contest the lead changed hands frequently with neither pair dominating for long periods. This exciting match finally ended, neither pair deserving to lose, with a sporting victory for Max/Lizzie, at a score of 21-18.

It was a very successful and well organised tournament which all contestants appeared to enjoy! Thanks to all the organisers and all the coaches. A final well done to the overall champions of Edward playing with Chloe for the plate and Mark and Lizzie for winning the main.

Final **Mark Sadler/Lizzie Airey** beat Max Hodgkinson/Kirsty Southey 21-18
Semi-finalists were Conor Bambrick/Alex English and Gareth Lumb/Olivia
van der Maat

Plate Final Edward Byrne/Chloe Bungey beat Rishav Shah/Laura Monk 21-7

U17 Shires League

Laura Bygrave (U17 Squad/Fearnhill

Hertfordshire v Derbyshire

School)

On a cold Sunday, November 11th, a team of 5 girls and 5 boys travelled to Ware to play in a county match against Derbyshire. The boys who played were; Matthew McCloskey, Scott Williams, Arjun Shah, Akash Jhunjunwala and Ben Vranjkovic. The girls who played were; Laura Bygrave, Helena Lewczynska, Emily Westwood, Ying Yi Tee and Frances Dickson. With the first games about to begin we were missing Akash and Ying. This meant we had to play the 1st, 2nd and 4th mixed games. Finally Akash arrived after getting lost on the way there. We won all the mixed games and that gave us a 4-0 lead. The singles was the most eventful of all the games. There was a disagreement in one game where they had an argument on court, which was finally solved by the Herts player coming to an agreement. This was frustrating but also very amusing especially as we won that game. Ying finally joined us at the start of the doubles. Having played a tournament the day before with Laura, Ying had an unfortunate injury to her neck. Fighting through the pain though, she played anyway. Overall we won the match 18-2, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players and Pat and Tony. It was a very enjoyable day and a great victory.

Affiliated Schools for 2007/2008

Abel Smith	Bishops Stortford High	Bridgewater
Chancellor's	Chauncy	Dame Alice Owen
Freman College	Haberdashers' Aske's	Haberdashers' Aske's Girls
Hertswood	Hitchin Boys	Hitchin Girls
John Henry Newman	John F Kennedy	Knights Templar
Ladbrooke JMI	Lochinver House	Norton St Nicholas
Parmiters	Presdales	Queenswood
Ralph Sadleir	Richard Hale	Roundwood Park
St Albans	St Albans Girls High	Turnford
Watford Boys Grammar	Wilbury Junior	

The points system - where players from senior affiliated schools are awarded points for positions reached in the tournaments which are added together for a school total in each age group - is continuing. Winner and runner-up schools receive trophies.

The U18s have played all three tournaments - singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Final points are:

U18 Boys

1	Haberdashers' Aske's	116
2	Roundwood Park	76
3	Chancellor's	50
4	Parmiters	48
5	John Henry Newman	43
6	Freman College	42
7	St Albans	36
8	Dame Alice Owen	31
9	Bishops Stortford High	19

U18 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	154
2	Dame Alice Owen	49
3	St Albans Boys (6th form)	29
4	Presdales	27
5	Roundwood Park	25
6	Freman College	20
7	Queenswood	16
8	Hitchin Girls	6

The U15s have played 3 tournaments - the 'B' singles, level doubles and mixed doubles and with one event to go their points to date are:

U15 Boys

1	St Albans	91
2	Chancellor's	62
3	Haberdashers' Aske's	51
4	Freman College	50
5	Knights Templar	41
6	John Henry Newman	32
7	Richard Hale	29
8	Chauncy	24
9	Dame Alice Owen	22
10)	Bishops Stortford High	13
10)	Lochinver House	13
12	Hertswood	9

U15 Girls

1	St Albans Girls High	132
2	Dame Alice Owen	104
3	Presdales	67
4	Chancellor's	35
5	Chauncy	34

So far the U13s have played level doubles and mixed doubles and their points are:

U13 Boys

1	Lochinver House	111
2	Haberdashers' Aske's	90
3	Chancellor's	36
3	St Albans	36
5	Dame Alice Owen	19
6	Hertswood	17
7	Hitchin Boys	16
8	Ralph Sadleir	6
9	Bishops Stortford High	3

U13 Girls

1	Chancellor's	118
2	Dame Alice Owen	77
3	St Albans Girls High	46
4	Presdales	30
5	Ralph Sadleir	28
6	Knights Templar	6

H.S.B.A. Tournaments - November 4th
U18 Boys Singles/Doubles

**Alex Gomar (U17 Squad/Haberdashers'
Aske's School)**

The day dawned bright and cold, as the young players took their positions, anticipating a good hard day of badminton. They would not be disappointed, as the tournament got swiftly underway, with the first round of U18 boys singles launched not long after 9:30. Nine groups, 34 boys, each brimming with talent and enthusiasm from their respective schools, fought hard throughout the morning until they were split into the main and the plate as per usual. The plate event, comprising of those unworthy of the demand of the main title, saw some close matches, culminating a nail-biting win for George Moss over Richard Tan. The main event (perhaps quite uneventful) turned out quite as expected. The semi finals witnessed Gregg Roantree and Matthew Westwood, leaving James Reynolds and Arjun Shah behind, to face one another in the final, from which Gregg finally won the U18 singles title. It brings home the precise meaning of the phrase: 'third time lucky'.

Final: **Gregg Roantree** beat Matthew Westwood 21-10
Semi-finalists were Arjun Shah and James Reynolds
Plate final: **George Moss** beat Richard Tan 22-20

The doubles event ended in similar fashion with some minor changes. Tim Angus/ Alex Gomar (arguably the most attractive pair on court during the day) came out victors over Philip Chee/Richard Tan in the final of the plate event, but the main event was no less hard-fought. The semi-final gave Ryan McCarthy, Elliott Miles, Arjun Shah and Ben Vranjkovic bronze medals while the two close matches brought Gregg Roantree (once again) to the final, partnered by James Reynolds, to play Matthew Westwood/Oliver Crabb. The match finished with James/ Gregg triumphantly collecting the shield, and the end of a spectacular array of badminton.

Final: **James Reynolds/Gregg Roantree** beat Oliver Crabb/Matthew Westwood 21-12
Semi-finalists were Ryan McCarthy/Elliott Miles and Arjun Shah/Ben Vranjkovic

Plate final: Tim Angus/Alex Gomar beat Philip Chee/Richard Tan 21-12

U18 Girls Singles/Doubles

Angela Law (Dame Alice Owen School)

There were only 11 girls entered in the singles, making 3 boxes. In the first box Charlotte Willis came 1st, winning all her games and I went through in 2nd after losing 16-21 to Charlotte. 3rd and 4th were Frances Dickson and Meera Lakhani.

In the second box there were only 3 people - Daniella Farsiani went through undefeated and Jennie Plant came 2nd, with Rosie Botfield 3rd. In the last box, Isabelle Sadler was first, followed by Hannah Clifton, then Ceire Bhatti and Helena Davenport.

In the main event there were only 2 quarter finals played as Charlotte and Isabelle both got byes. Daniella beat Hannah 21-2 and I beat Jennie 21-6. Both of the semis were then quite close as Daniella lost to Charlotte 21-17 and I lost to Isabelle 21-18. Charlotte then went on to beat Isabelle in the final.

In the plate semi-finals Frances beat Rosie and Ceire beat Helena to go through to the final, where Frances beat Ceire to win the singles plate.

Final: **Charlotte Willis** beat Isabelle Sadler 21-17
Semi-finalists were Daniella Farsiani and Angela Law
Plate final: **Frances Dickson** beat Ceire Bhatti 21-16

In the doubles there were also not many entries as there were only 8 pairs, making 2 boxes. In the first box, top seeds Charlotte Willis/Rachel Warnes won all their games. Second were Daniella Farsiani/Isabelle Sadler, with Charlotte Green/Laura McLaren and Ceire Bhatti/Jennie Plant 3rd and 4th respectively.

In the second box, Victoria Stokes and I came 1st after winning all of our games, followed by Frances Dickson/Amy Pearson. Going through to the plate were Hannah Clifton/Katie Pollitt and Rosie Botfield/Helena Davenport.

In the main event semis Charlotte/Rachel beat Amy/Frances 21-5 and Victoria/I beat Isabelle/Daniella 21-18. In a close final, Victoria/I lost to Charlotte/Rachel.

In the plate Laura/Charlotte beat Helena/Rosie and Hannah/Katie beat Jennie/Ceire in the semis and in the final Hannah/Katie emerged as victors.

Final: **Rachel Warnes/Charlotte Willis** beat Angela Law/Victoria Stokes 21-17
Semi-finalists were Frances Dickson/Amy Pearson and Daniella Farsiani/
Isabelle Sadler

Plate final: Hannah Clifton/Katie Pollitt beat Charlotte Green/Laura McLaren 21-15

U18 Mixed Doubles

Alex Regan (U17 Squad/Chancellor's School)

So it was the start of one of the most prestigious tournaments of the season - the Herts under-18 mixed doubles. Teams lined up, rivalries already simmering, as the tournament started. Thirteen pairs were lined up at the starting post with only one pair to win the gold.

This event has traditionally taken place over the festive period and was always billed as a Christmas fun event. Evidently things were getting a little competitive, so it was given a far higher profile, taking place on the same day as the under-18 singles and doubles.

The number one and two seeds predictably won their boxes – the formidable Westwood's (Matthew and Emily) and Gregg Roantree/Charlotte Willis – each gaining byes through to the next round.

Ben Vranjkovic and his partner Lauren Crichton won their box, then winning against Oliver Crabb/Angela Law 21-18 in a close fought match.

The second placed pair in the Westwood box (Arjun Shah/Rachel Warnes) went on to beat the young upstarts Elliott Miles/Isabelle Sadler only to lose in the semi final against Gregg/Charlotte. Ben/Lauren then lost in another tight match in the other semi against the Westwoods. The Plate event was won by Matthew McCloskey/ Daniella Farsiani.

Onto the final leg and it was the Westwoods Vs Roantree/Willis. The game could have gone either way, but in the end blood was thicker than water and the close family bond between Matthew and Emily won through. It was good to see siblings clubbing together (as opposed to the way my brother and I play doubles – trying to club each other!). Well done to all those who participated. At the end of the day, it was still a fun competition with a bit of an edge.

Final: Matthew Westwood/Emily Westwood beat Gregg Roantree/Charlotte Willis 21-19
Semi-finalists were Ben Vranjkovic/Lauren Crichton and Arjun Shah/ Rachel Warnes

Plate final: Matthew McCloskey/Daniella Farsiani beat Alex Regan/Stephanie White 21-12

U11 Boys Doubles

Rishav Shah (U13 Squad/Northwood Prep School)

On Sunday 4th November the HSBA U11 Boys Doubles took place. Seventeen pairs participated with most appearances from Lochinver House, Norton St Nicholas and Wilbury. Rishav Shah/Yash Kejriwal came 1st from Group A, Rory Briers/Corran Goodson came 1st from Group B, Jack Goode/William Pickworth came 1st from Group C and James Finlayson/Suraj Shah came 1st from Group D. In the quarters Rishav /Yash beat Daniel Fox/Samuel Newlove, Jack/William defeated Archie Preston/Henry Wood, Rory Briers/Corran Goodson overcame Liam Bishton/Macaulay Denman and James/Suraj overpowered Alexander Byfield/William McGinn. In the semi-finals Rishav/Yash beat Jack/William 21-3 and Rory/Corran beat James/Suraj 21-11. So the final was Rishav/Yash against Rory/Corran with Rishav/Yash having a good win.

In the Plate, the semi-finalists were Matthew Calver/Austin Ephgrave, Stavros Drakou/ Tim Le Couilliard, Tom Keeble/Rajan Lal and Sai Raj Kondan/Ellis Milton, with Stavros/Tim and Sai Raj/Ellis getting to the final where Sai Raj/Ellis won.

This was a very enjoyable tournament and we thank all the organisers and helpers for all their time and effort.

Results

Final: **Rishav Shah/Yash Kejriwal** beat Rory Briers/Corran Goodson 21-11
Semi-finalists were Jack Goode/William Pickworth and James
Finlayson/Suraj Shah

Plate final: Sai Raj Kondan/Ellis Milton beat Stavros Drakou/Tim Le Couilliard
21-18

U11 Girls Doubles

Isabel Hatt (U11 Squad/Little Heath Primary School)

The Under 11 girls doubles were held at Stevenage Leisure Centre, with 20 girls taking part in the tournament.

In group A were Amy George/Isabel Hatt, Zoe Taylor/Lia Willis, Poppie Ephgrave/ Hope Tolliday, Alice Ashbrook/Leah Tomlin and Sophie Duncan/Katie Kirkbride.

Group B had Philippa English/Eleanor Fitton, Taylor Burniston/Emily Robertson, Ellie Fursland/Tanisha Gearing, Cayleigh Bambrick/Ellie Makewell and Milly Denman/ Morgan Payne.

In Group A, Amy/Isabel came 1st quite convincingly, the scores not truly reflecting the hard work and efforts of the other pairs, winning all their games to less than 10 points. Zoe/Lia came 2nd, Poppie/Hope 3rd with Sophie/Katie and Alice/Leah 4th and 5th respectively.

Philippa/Eleanor won Group B though Cayleigh/Ellie were extremely close to 1st place, just losing to Philippa/Eleanor 19-21. In 3rd place were Milly/Morgan, 4th were Ellie/Tanisha and 5th were Taylor/Emily.

First and second positions in both boxes went into the main event and 3rd, 4th and 5th went into the plate event.

In the plate quarters, Taylor/Emily lost to Alice/Leah with a score of 14-21, while Ellie/Tanisha had a convincing 21-5 win over Sophie/Katie. The semis were between Poppie/Hope and Alice/Leah who won a very close game 21-19; and Morgan/Milly who played Ellie/Tanisha beating them 21-13. Then it was the finals where Morgan/Milly won comfortably.

Isabel/Amy George beat Ellie/Cayleigh in one main event semi-final with a score of 21-13, both pairs having to fight hard. The second semi saw Zoe/Lia losing to Philippa/Eleanor, the final score being 21-10. Then it was the final where Isabel/Amy had a convincing win against Philippa/Eleanor.

All the girls who took part in this tournament played extremely well, and enjoyed themselves. They would like to thank everyone who helped organise and run it, and the people who watched and supported the players.

Final: **Amy George/Isabel Hatt** beat Philippa English/Eleanor Fitton 21-7
Semi-finalists were Cayleigh Bambrick/Ellie Makewell and Zoe Taylor/Lia
Willis

Plate final: Milly Denman/Morgan Payne beat Alice Ashbrook/Leah Tomlin 21-6

U17 Shires League
Hertfordshire v Nottinghamshire
School)

Ying Yi Tee (U17 Squad/Royal Masonic School)

The team was: Matthew McCloskey, Arjun Shah, Ben Vranjkovic, Scott Williams, Laura Bygrave, Helena Lewczynska, Ying Yi Tee, and Emily Westwood.

This match, played at Ravenshead Leisure Centre on the 25th November was, probably, the most crucial match we have had to play so far. Everyone arrived at 12 noon sharp (except Arjun and Hitesh who got lost at the McDonalds a few minutes away) and were knocking up quite heartily, seeing as a win or draw was vital for the day. The mixed doubles soon went underway as soon as all players from both teams were present and, after several tight matches, the score was two games apiece. After a short break, the boys were put on first for the singles while the girls watched, hoping that there would be wins from the boys, which would relieve us from the immense pressure. Even though they played their hardest, Matt was the only person to win his game, which had everyone rejoicing. In actual fact, the girls were thinking 'Thanks for the pressure you guys.'

So the four of us went on, and thankfully, Emily, Helena, and I won our singles games, with mine and Helena's being particularly close; Laura played very well but the game was tight and unfortunately did not go down in her favour. The pressure was mounting as the score was now tied at 66 as we began the doubles games.

Between all the girls, two doubles games went to Herts. On the boys' side, Arjun and Ben had managed to win one of their two games, with Scott and Matt winning one game and still having one to play. Their match was possibly the most critical game of the match for if they won, we would win overall, but if they lost we would only draw against Notts. The adults sat on chairs applauding every winning shot, while the rest of the players sat on the sidelines cheering, which was less reserved than that of the adults (Tony was sat at the edge of his chair, watching very anxiously). It seemed like ages when Scott and Matt finally won the game, 21-18, 18-21, 21-16, which caused Tony to punch the air in joy, literally; accompanied with an ecstatic Herts side. Everyone played extremely well and the end result was a close, but essential 11-9 win to Herts.

H.S.B.A. Tournaments

U11 Girls/Boys Singles

As these tournaments, played on November 25th, were after the editor's deadline, no one was asked to write a report. However, here is just a short summary of the day. The start was delayed for 30 minutes, but the rest of the day ran smoothly and finished on time. Well done, Roz and Barbara!

The U11 girls had 24 players with the top 2 seeds Amy George and Isabel Hatt getting to the final with ease. The final was hard fought with Amy emerging as winner.

Final: **Amy George** beat Isabel Hatt 21-13
Semi-finalists were Ellie Makewell and Renu Dhall-Chopra
Plate final: Morgan Payne beat Emily Roberts 21-14

The U11 boys had 37 entries. Here there was an upset with Jack Goode beating top seed Rishav Shah in the semi-final and taking on and beating Yash Kejriwal in the final.

Final: **Jack Goode** beat Yash Kejriwal 21-15
Semi-finalists were Rishav Shah and Suraj Shah
Plate final: Rajan Lal beat Matteo Rosales 21-6

U15 Girls/Boys Doubles - U15 Mixed Doubles

Thirteen pairs entered the girls doubles. In the middle box, the younger pairing of Jessie Northen/Kate Sellars just pipped their seniors, Lisa Bullen/Hayley Ladd 21-20, to win the box. The main knock-out went to form, the final being between Daniella Farsiani/Isabelle Sadler and Heather Myers/Claire Widdicombe. In the plate Hannah Last/Georgia beat Alex English/Piu Yi Tam again as they did in the U13 doubles to reach the final to play against Anjali Karnani/Charlotte Swift who had beaten Deepika Bhojwani/Priya Shah in their semi.

Final: **Daniella Farsiani/Isabelle Sadler** beat Heather Myers/Claire Widdicombe 21-11
Semi-finalists were Lisa Bullen/Hayley Ladd and Jessie Northen/Kate Sellars
Plate final: Hannah Last/Georgia Pittson beat Charlotte Swift/Anjali Karnani 21-6

Twenty two pairs played in the boys doubles and the expected pairs won their groups. Ryan McCarthy/Elliott Miles won through to the final easily beating Jonathan Benson/William Moss and Daniel Regan/Iain Robinson, as did Andrei Donko/Daniel Hatt who beat Oliver Adams/Thomas Dion-Fehily and Steven George/Howard Stobo. In the plate Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb repeated their U13 win over Mitch Chapman/Ben Spencer 21-17 and another 21-17 win over Jack O'Brien/Conor Barford took them to the final to meet Conor Bambrick/John Elms who had beaten Reehan Adat/Kishan Ragunathan 21-19 and Marcus Katsantonis/ Abhishek Kulkarni 21-11 in their half of the draw.

Final: **Ryan McCarthy/Elliott Miles** beat Andrei Donko/Daniel Hatt 21-17
Semi-finalists were Daniel Regan/Iain Robinson and Steven George/Howard Stobo
Plate final: Conor Bambrick/John Elms beat Edward Byrne/Gareth Lumb 21-14

Eighteen pairs played in the mixed doubles. This was the tournament for surprises. Alex Lee/Jo En Choi won group C with a 21-10 victory over Daniel Hatt/Lisa Bullen; group A found Matthew Widdicombe/Isabel Hatt as runners-up relegating the older pairing of Thomas Dion-Fehily/Stephanie White to the plate and in group D Max Hodgkinson/Amy George also ousted Daniel Regan/Hayley Ladd. Neither pair progressed beyond the first (quarter final) round, but the semis also produced a shock result with Steven George/ Daniella Farsiani beating 2nd seeds Andrei Donko/Heather Myers. Elliott Miles/Isabelle Sadler reached the final easily for a tough game against Steven/Daniella with some superb rallies.

In the plate the two unexpected relegated pairs found themselves meeting in the final, both beating younger opposition on the way. Thomas/Stephanie beat Conor Bambrick/Alex English 21-17 and Michael Peak/Kirsty Southey 21-13 and Daniel/Hayley beating first Christopher Hamilton/Shayna Godin 21-7 and, in a harder game Gareth Lumb/Jessie Northen, 21-15.

Final: **Elliott Miles/Isabelle Sadler** beat Steven George/Daniella Farsiani 21-16
Semi-finalists were Alex Lee/Jo En Choi and Andrei Donko/Heather Myers
Plate final: Daniel Regan/Hayley Ladd beat Thomas Dion-Fehily/Stephanie White 21-16

Awards for All

Angela Blowers

Junior Coaching sessions with Simon Hardcastle and Nathan Rice

At the end of October we organised two coaching sessions for junior players at St Albans High School for Girls. The first time we organised a similar event we targeted the squad player; this time it was the turn of the club player.

We were very lucky to have two very good player/coaches, Simon Hardcastle and Nathan Rice to run the event.

Players from junior affiliated clubs were invited to the sessions and, although it was held during half term, the places were filled very quickly.

The clubs represented included Comets, Swifts, Much Hadham, Gadebridge, Stanstead Abbots, Harpenden, Parmiters and Baldock.

Simon and Nathan made the sessions fun but, at the same time, the players worked very hard and at the end of the day there were many requests for more coaching sessions.

Disability badminton at Knebworth Badminton Club

Philip Gray

Knebworth BC runs various disability badminton sessions. We have been running sessions for adults with learning disabilities (see below) for a number of years now. Recently we have run sessions for children with Special Needs and for Visually Impaired children. Our newest session is for people in wheelchairs. We believe we are only the second club in England to run a wheelchair badminton club. The other one is in Nottingham!

We have a number of members, including Jack and Gobi (see below), and are looking for more. We are also looking to raise around £20,000 to buy ten sports wheelchairs. The club ran a raffle recently (with 47 donated prizes, including a bike) and held a quiz evening with disco to raise some of the money. We managed to raise £1,400, which won't buy a whole wheelchair, but will go a long way towards purchasing one.

The cost of running wheelchair badminton sessions when we have all ten chairs will be at least £4,000 per year. The spares are also quite expensive. If you know of anyone who could contribute to the running costs, by a small yearly donation of between £10 and £50 please contact us. Every little helps.

We are also looking for some big donations to buy the chairs and keep us going. Again, if you know of any companies that may want to be first on the scene and help establish our club as the best in the UK, then please contact Philip (see below).

Jack (15) has just won Junior of the Year at the British Wheelchair Sports Awards. Jack will tell people 'the reason why I need a wheelchair is because my legs don't work'. He was born 4 months premature and lived in hospital attached to machines until he was two. He's in Year 11 at school doing PE, IT and other subjects for his GCSEs. He wants to go to university and get a job in sports. He's no different to anyone else except that he uses a wheelchair to get around. His friends wish they had chairs and go in his whenever they can. He played wheelchair basketball at school with GCSE students doing PE and they all said it caned their arms. Jack says "they can't take the pace!"

His dislikes are: people who feel sorry for him or talk to him as if he can't understand them, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, physics and operations. Jack said, "My likes are loads of stuff besides badminton, but sport is my biggest thing. I went to the Labour Party Conference to talk about Youth Sport and met Gordon Brown and Tessa Jowell and loads of other people. I guess people don't expect kids in chairs to do much, but sport is so good for you, health, fun, social, making friends, everything." He also loves music. He used to play piano and drums, but got fed up practising so now he just listens to his favourite bands and goes to gigs sometimes. He likes Snow Patrol, Coldplay and Chilli Peppers. He likes going to football, rugby and tennis matches and going out with his mates, playing computer games and having fun with his mates.

Jack also competed in the first World Championships for Power Wheelchair Football in October in Japan. His team didn't come anywhere significant, but he did enjoy the trip and representing his country.

Gobi (31) is a former national and regional level swimmer. He was born with spina bifida and, although confined to a wheelchair, participates in competitive sport. He won Gold at the Four Nations Disabled Badminton Championships held in Cardiff in August 2007. Gobi and his doubles partner, Ryan, had never played together before but ended up beating the Welsh favourites 20-22, 21-17, 21-12.

Gobi, a qualified UKCC Level 1 badminton coach, is now hoping to compete in the European Championships next May. He said "I have always been competitive and determined to prove a point to others and to show disability doesn't have to get in the way. But in order to achieve my goals I need major assistance in the form of sponsorship and funding, which will primarily be used to obtain a sports wheelchair. Hopefully then I can make a serious challenge for the different titles in disabled badminton. And one day I hope they make badminton a Paralympic sport."

Gobi has potential to be a world class athlete. Bring on those games!

Wheelchair sessions

Our sessions are at Gosling Sports Park from 6-7 pm on Sundays. However, we are looking at different times and days. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please pass on our contact details (below).

Junior sessions

Knebworth Junior Badminton Club is a Premier club. We are starting to expand our junior session on Sundays. We are looking for children in years 7 and above. Our sessions are currently at Gosling Sports Park from 7-8 pm on Sundays.

Adults with learning disabilities and over 50s

We currently have a session on Thursdays 11-12 am at Birchwood Leisure Centre in Hatfield for adults with learning disabilities. We also have space for adults over 50, although we aren't strict about the age limit. Any age will do if you're not at work.

Contact

For more details about the club contact Philip on 01438 235438 or e-mail him at: Knebworth.badminton@ntlworld.com

U13 National Team Challenge Manager)

Duncan Conway (13 Team

Saturday brought the regional round of the Under 13 National Team Challenge. We had to travel, as usual, to Mildenhall on the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border to play in The Dome which brings its own oddities with its curving roof.

There were five counties playing at Mildenhall. Each played each other in a box. As there were five, one sat out a round. By good fortune, our break was at lunchtime. Furthermore the draw gave us a favourable playing order. So could we use these advantages to get to the finals?

Our opening match was against Northants. They turned out to be the weakest team in the group and we were able to record a 6-0 victory. We then played Norfolk and again gained a 6-0 victory. And then we could have our lunch!

After lunch we faced up to Suffolk. Until a recently we would have seen this as another fairly easy match. But they have become much stronger and indeed they edged us out of the finals a couple of years ago. And they have already beaten Notts in the Shires League. So we had to be careful to play our strong team formation. Mark Sadler and Anna Collis played the lead singles. Anna won by 15-12, 15-12. Mark was also heading towards a steady victory when he injured some muscles in his side. After some discussion he bravely continued despite some obvious pain. He ran out the victor eventually by 15-9, 10-15, 15-8. The second singles went one each to give a match score of 3-1 going into the doubles. David Maughan and Matthew Widdicombe just lost the boys doubles by 13-15, 13-15, but Lizzie Airey and Georgia Pittson comfortably took the girls rubber by 15-4, 15-5 to give us a final match score of 4-2.

The final match was against Essex who had also moved steadily through the day being, like Herts, unbeaten so far. This meant that both these teams had qualified for the finals. But there was no slacking - after all it was against Essex! Due to Mark's injury we had to switch David and Matthew into the singles, and Mark played with Max Hodgkinson in the doubles. David went down by 7-15, 6-15 in the first singles but Matthew took his, in a very tight match, by 20-21, 15-6, 15-12. 1-1 overall! Anna found the Essex player too much and went down 6-15, 11-15. However, Alex English, despite turning her ankle in the middle of the second game, picked herself up and only just lost by 15-7, 17-19, 13-15. Overall 1-3! The doubles would decide it.

Max and Mark took their rubber in two games by 15-14, 15-6. Lizzie and Georgia had much more of a struggle, but they fought back to win by 13-15, 15-12, 15-9. Overall 3-3!!

That was the end of the play, and it was over to the tie-break rules. We had a bigger points difference than Essex but they had one more rubber, and it was rubber difference counted higher than points difference. Nonetheless we will be playing the in finals at Luton in February. Well done everyone.

U15 Silver - South East

Girls Doubles Winners of Group of 6 Rachel Gauntley (Ex)/ **Isabelle Sadler**

U15 Bronze - South East

Boys Singles Final **Steven George** lost to Kieran Kavi (Wk) 13-21

Boys Doubles Semi-final **Steven George/Matthew Widdicombe** lost to John Williams/Thomas Downard (Ha) 14-21

U15 Silver - Anglia

Girls Doubles Winners Rachel Gauntley (Ex)/ **Isabelle Sadler**

U13 Bronze - South East

Girls Singles Quarter final **Alex English** lost to Catherine Bailey (Ex) 12-21

Girls Doubles Final **Alex English/Piu Yi Tam** lost to Paige Butler/Cherry Gatusch (Ke) 16-21

U13 Bronze - Anglia

Girls Singles Final **Anna Collis** beat Rachel Adams (Sx) 21-15

Girls Doubles Final Catherine Bailey (Ex)/**Anna Collis** beat Claudette Reis (Sf)/ Hannah Swan (Bu) 21-19

U11 Silver - East Midlands

Girls Singles Semi-final **Amy George** beat **Isabel Hatt** 21-16

Final **Amy George** lost to Nicola Gresty (Gl) 12-21

Girls Doubles Final **Amy George/Isabel Hatt** beat Charlotte Murray (Do)/Jessica Pugh (Sh) 21-12

U11 Silver - Milton Keynes

Girls Singles Quarter final **Isabel Hatt** lost to Nicola Gresty (Gl) 13-21

Semi-final **Amy George** lost to Ira Banerjee (Nd) 24-26

Girls Doubles Final **Amy George/Isabel Hatt** lost to Ira Banerjee (Nd)/ Nicola Gresty (Gl) 14-21

From the editor:

Thanks to EVERYONE who contributed to this newsletter. Thanks particularly to Barbara Lewczynska for chivvying the players for tournament reports - makes much better reading coming from the people who actually take part rather than from those watching. Also thanks to Pat Walker for organising the U17s to write match reports. Please note the slight change in my e-mail address. Closing date for the next newsletter is **Friday, 22nd February**.

On behalf of the HSBA Committee I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year.

Megan Lumb, 16 Strafford Gate, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1PN

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