

Season 2006-07
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*If the training is easy
the match will be hard,
but if the training is
hard the match will be
easy.*

SWIFTS JUNIOR
BADMINTON CLUB
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Summary

Well the new season is upon us and already Swifts members have been taking part in tournaments. And, of course our competitive matches started this week with some intra-club games. The detailed results of these can be found at the end of this newsletter as usual.

The U14 girls had a very close X v Y match. Although the match score was 9-1 to the X team the individual game scores were very close indeed. Well done to Stephanie Thomas for stepping in on the day to replace an injured player.

One player in this match learned an important lesson about rally point scoring— make sure your serve goes over the net when your opponent is on match point! In fact make sure your serve always goes over the net!!!

The U15 X v Y match was even closer—the result was 7-3 in favour of the Y team with lots of very close games. Johnathan Leachman stepped in at the last minute as a replacement and Ryan Tinslay was slightly injured during the singles but battled on regardless and it might have been even closer.

Closer still was the U11 unisex match which was drawn 5-5 and the difference between the teams was only 7 points out of 345 scored in total. Close stuff!

Membership Matters

Please remember to pay your subscriptions by 30 September. We have changed the system this season and immediate payment is essential.

Please arrive in good time for your club session and matches and be ready to play **promptly** at 10:00am, 11:30am or 1:00pm as appropriate. It is not acceptable to arrive late for club sessions and matches because it is disruptive and disrespectful to the coaches, team managers, other members and your opponents. If you **are** unavoidably late for a match please let the team manager know so that they can plan accordingly.

Please also remember that at competitive matches your team manager's decisions are final and it is not acceptable to argue about them.

If you are injured or ill and cannot play a match it is vital to let your team manager know as soon as possible so that a replacement can be found.

Swifts' Competitive Season

You'll notice a few changes to the competitive programme this season, at least as far as matches are concerned.

There has been great controversy in the badminton world this summer about the implementation of the new rally point scoring system (RPS), introduced by the governing bodies after a period of experimentation at major tournaments.

All tournaments in Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire, all county matches and all national circuit tournaments will be held using RPS and all county squad training will be for the new system.

Swifts' view is that we should train our members using the official laws of the sport and provide competitive opportunities to develop players' skills in them. To do otherwise would be unethical and would disadvantage our members when they take part in tournaments or attempt to get into county squads and also when they play in national competitions. It would also confuse young players (especially beginners) who will be taught (and examined on, in some cases) only the new laws at schools around the county.

Some other local junior clubs (in most cases unaffiliated to Badminton England and their county association) take the opposite view and feel that their clubs exist primarily to feed the ACDBL adult league clubs with new members. Since the adult league has chosen to stay with the old laws of badminton they wanted to do so as well.

Swifts' ethos is that the club serves to develop players' skills in the sport of badminton. Nobody can predict which clubs you might join later on in life and to take such a blinkered view is just plain wrong.

The good news is that the junior league decided, in the end and after a very fraught summer, to move forward and implement the new official scoring system for all its matches - though this was only on the casting vote of the chairman at a special EGM and after a three week delay.

Swifts, not wishing to enter teams that would include either county squad members or beginners into a league played under the old laws had held back some of its teams until the matter was clarified. Mayflower did exactly the same thing. One of the other league clubs (Yeomans Bridge, which was against the introduction of RPS) was unhappy at the decision taken and vetoed our introduction of six more Swifts teams and more Mayflower teams into the league.

In any case, after a review of the Swifts competitive programme it was intended to enter only ten teams, since closer competition is a prerequisite for making progress as a player and some of the ACDBL matches were becoming too one-sided for our stronger players.

So there are only four Swifts teams in the ACDBL this season. However, we also have a full complement of Surrey league matches (mainly for the stronger players) and have also arranged a large programme of intra-club matches, where the teams playing will be closely matched to one another to ensure a more enjoyable and useful development experience. These will be designated as Swifts X versus Swifts Y. There

are no Swifts A versus Swifts B matches at all.

In addition a lot of friendly matches have been arranged to make sure that our competitive programme remains (by a long way) the best of any club in the local area. In fact, apart from the X v Y matches, we are playing pretty well exactly the same matches that we would have had if our additional teams had been accepted into the league. In terms of numbers of matches it is comparable to any previous season. In terms of how close we expect the matches to be (and therefore how useful they are as a means of development) it should be a much better season than any we have had for some time. However, we only have eight matches against Yeomans Bridge, so you won't have to endure those plastic shuttles as often as usual.

This season there will be two club tournaments again—our members seemed to enjoy and benefit from those we held last year—and we will be entering teams into the expanded SSBA club team tournament at the end of the season. This year there is a section specifically for teams composed of non-county squad players on a separate day so we expect to enter more teams than we were able to previously.

The net result of all this is that Swifts members of all playing strengths should benefit from a better competitive programme this season, though we have not yet been able to publish a full fixtures list because of all the delays caused by the decision-making process. In addition Yateley Hawks has lost its venue temporarily and cannot arrange home fixtures yet.

All members will, of course, receive a fixtures list when it is completed, probably in late September or early October.

Another significant issue that arose this summer was the question of affiliation to Badminton England and the county association. This is mandatory under ACDBL rules and ensures that each club is fully insured for accidents that may happen during club sessions and matches.

It has emerged that three local ACDBL junior clubs have not been affiliating as required by the league rules and were therefore inadequately insured (clubs get third-party liability insurance as part of the affiliation package). In addition it meant that their members were strictly not eligible to enter tournaments or to train with county squads.

Several clubs, including Swifts, made it clear that they could not arrange matches against these clubs. The insurance issue was of paramount importance.

The situation was resolved when all of them agreed that they would comply with the rules and affiliate from now on. Swifts will monitor the situation and check that such affiliation does, in fact, occur before Swifts teams visit those clubs.

For Sale or Wanted A new service for Swifts members

For sale. A pair of size 9 1/2 unisex Ashaway AST 3500i badminton shoes. Brand new (cost £35) and worn once only. White/blue. £10. Please contact the newsletter editor for details.

National Tournaments

The new season has started (the first event attended by a Swifts member was on 19 August!) and our members have already started to show signs of a successful season.

James Buffham played in the BE U17 Gold at Milton Keynes on 2-3 September and got to the quarter-final of the boys' singles and mixed doubles and the semi-final of the boys' doubles.

A Trip to the All-England Tournament

Clive Dean intends to organize a trip to watch matches at the All-England in March this season. If you are interested in joining the party and seeing matches between the best players in the world at discounted rates please talk to Clive at the club session or email him at Clive.suedean@ntlworld.com.

International Tournaments

Jack Kinmond and James Buffham both went to a tournament in Malmo, Sweden this weekend—the very large (400 players) and strong Internationella Skånska Ungdomsspelen, which means “Skånes (an area of Sweden) International Youth Games”—as part of the England U15 and U17 teams respectively.

Jack's best result was in the U15 level doubles where his pair progressed to the quarter-final. He also won a singles match before being knocked out in the second round.

James also did well in the doubles where he and his partner defeated the third-seeded German number one pair and were knocked out in the quarter-final by the eventual winners in a close match 18-21, 19-21.

Well done to them both.

Berkshire Tournaments

Christine Meades will have entry forms available at the club session next week for the forthcoming Berkshire U10 and U14 restricted tournaments. Only Berkshire-qualified players who have never actually played for the county can enter these events, so why not have a go?

The only unfortunate thing about these tournaments is that they will be played with nylon shuttlecocks.

Swifts Tournament

Christine will also have entry forms available for the first Swifts tournament of the season (to be held on 7th and 14th October commencing at 9am for all members). A copy is also being sent with this newsletter. Please return these forms as soon as possible and by 30 September at the very latest. Even beginners should have a go at this tournament—it will be handicapped to try and ensure even matches no matter how good the players are—and takes the place of club sessions on 7 and 14 October.

Surrey County Fixtures 2006-07

Swifts members lucky enough to be in one of the Surrey junior county squad and hoping to be selected for matches may find it useful to have early warning of the matches and events arranged for this season. Don't forget that these dates may change. We don't have the Berkshire fixtures, except where indicated.

U11

The U11 friendly fixtures are not complete yet (there are no Shires league matches at this age group) but one has been arranged as follows:

Essex 12 November

U13

Middlesex	H	4 November
Sussex	H	11 November
Team Challenge		25 November
Berkshire	H	16 December
Avon Doubles		27-28 January
Oxfordshire	A	14 January
Gloucs Doubles (U12)		3 February
Kent	A	24 February
Essex	H	10 March
Hertfordshire	A	1 April
RIO (U12)		29 April

U15

Sussex	H	21 October
Berkshire	A	28 October
Middlesex	H	18 November
Team Challenge		25 November
Kent	H	9 December
Essex	A	17 December
Avon Doubles		27-28 January
Gloucs Doubles (U14)		4 February
Oxfordshire	H	24 February
Hertfordshire	H	17 March
RIO (U14)		6 May

U17

Hampshire	H	14 October
Middlesex	A	11 November
Oxfordshire	A	14 January
RIO (U17)		20-21 January
Berkshire	H	3 February
Essex	H	17 February
Kent	A	24 February
Sussex	A	24 March
ICT		12-15 April
Wimbledon (U16)		5-6 May

None of these fixtures will appear on the Swifts fixtures list. There just isn't room and not enough members are affected to justify it.

Intra-Club Match Results

Location: Lightwater	Date: 9 Sep 2006		Opposition: X v Y Match	
Result: X Team Won			Home	U14 Girls
Swifts X	Georgia Flatman	Claire Calder	Gilly Thomas	Rebecca Flatman
Swifts Y	Abigail Copps	Laura Fitzpatrick	Danielle Meme	Stephanie Thomas

Swifts X Players		Score		Swifts Y Players	
Georgia Flatman		19	21	Abigail Copps	
Claire Calder		21	7	Laura Fitzpatrick	
Gilly Thomas		21	8	Danielle Meme	
Rebecca Flatman		21	14	Stephanie Thomas	
Georgia Flatman	Claire Calder	21	17	Abigail Copps	Laura Fitzpatrick
Gilly Thomas	Rebecca Flatman	21	15	Danielle Meme	Stephanie Thomas
Georgia Flatman	Gilly Thomas	21	17	Abigail Copps	Danielle Meme
Claire Calder	Rebecca Flatman	21	17	Laura Fitzpatrick	Stephanie Thomas
Georgia Flatman	Rebecca Flatman	21	17	Abigail Copps	Stephanie Thomas
Claire Calder	Gilly Thomas	21	9	Laura Fitzpatrick	Danielle Meme
		9	1		

Location: Lightwater	Date: 9 Sep 2006		Opposition: X v Y Match	
Result: Y Team Won			Home	U15 Boys
Swifts X	Jamie Ellis	Conor Dean	Ryan Tinslay	Johnathan Leachman
Swifts Y	Tom Frew	Huw Batts	Nick Halliwell	Terence Fisher

Swifts X Players		Score		Swifts Y Players	
Jamie Ellis		21	19	Tom Frew	
Conor Dean		21	16	Huw Batts	
Ryan Tinslay		15	21	Nick Halliwell	
Johnathan Leachman		21	17	Terence Fisher	
Jamie Ellis	Conor Dean	20	21	Tom Frew	Huw Batts
Ryan Tinslay	Johnathan Leachman	19	21	Nick Halliwell	Terence Fisher
Jamie Ellis	Ryan Tinslay	7	21	Tom Frew	Nick Halliwell
Conor Dean	Johnathan Leachman	15	21	Huw Batts	Terence Fisher
Jamie Ellis	Johnathan Leachman	21	23	Tom Frew	Terence Fisher
Conor Dean	Ryan Tinslay	13	21	Huw Batts	Nick Halliwell
		3	7		

Intra-Club Match Results

Location: Lightwater **Date:** 9 Sep 2006 **Opposition:** X v Y Match
Result: Drawn **Home** **U11 Unisex**

Swifts X	Helen Calder	Stirling Burrow	William Manners	Ben Jeffries
Swifts Y	Emily Hancock	Toby Jeffries	Andy Bryan	Chris Bryan

Swifts X Players		Score		Swifts Y Players	
Helen Calder		21	17	Emily Hancock	
Stirling Burrow		21	15	Toby Jeffries	
William Manners		18	21	Andy Bryan	
Ben Jeffries		21	20	Chris Bryan	
Helen Calder	Stirling Burrow	21	6	Emily Hancock	Toby Jeffries
William Manners	Ben Jeffries	11	21	Andy Bryan	Chris Bryan
Helen Calder	William Manners	7	21	Emily Hancock	Andy Bryan
Stirling Burrow	Ben Jeffries	21	13	Toby Jeffries	Chris Bryan
Helen Calder	Ben Jeffries	12	21	Emily Hancock	Chris Bryan
Stirling Burrow	William Manners	16	21	Toby Jeffries	Andy Bryan
		5	5		