

Season 2008-09
Issue 33
30 June 2009



Swifts Junior
Badminton Club



*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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Christine Meades

Christine Meades, who passed away on the morning of 5 June after collapsing at work earlier in that week, will be sorely missed by Swifts as a club and by a huge number individuals connected with the club.

She first became involved with Swifts when her young daughter, Gemma, became a member and, a few years later, took up the role of club secretary. She remained as secretary, with no thought of giving it up and continuing to work tirelessly on behalf of members, until she died—many years after Gemma had grown up and left the club.

Chris always had time for the members—whether it was to help an injured player, to comfort someone in distress, handing out the sweets to celebrate a victory or console a loss, or to find a partner for someone who wanted to enter a tournament.

She was almost always the first person connected with Swifts that new members came across, and was ever-present at club sessions, home matches and tournaments.

Her funeral on 19 June was attended by a very large number of people indeed, many of them from the badminton world, especially Swifts, and this reflected the love and esteem in which she was held. Several Swifts members, past and present, wore their Swifts shirts as a tribute to Christine and her work.

Her husband and daughter, Alan and Gemma, asked that floral tributes be confined to family members, and requested that, should anyone wish to pay their respects, any donations should be shared between Swifts and Surrey youth badminton.

The Swifts treasurer is administering this fund and the Swifts committee is considering how best to use its share to commemorate Christine's unique contribution.

We are also preparing a book of condolence and will be inviting members, parents and ex-members to sign this before it is presented to Christine's family. The committee would like to express its thanks for all contributions to the fund, and for the many messages of heartfelt condolences that have been received; it is we hoped that we can capture these within the book of condolence.

Swifts AGM

Swifts held its annual general meeting on Monday 29 June. Joanne Tinslay has agreed to fulfil the unenviable task of following in Christine Meades' footsteps as club secretary, and will shortly be sending out membership information for the coming season.

Club sessions for 2009-10

Accompanying this newsletter is a document detailing the club session dates for next season. Members have already been made aware of the restructuring of club sessions for the coming season, in order to allow us to better accommodate new members and to provide an improved development route for all members.

The committee has now also decided to lengthen the season for all members by incorporating the six summer sessions into the general subscription fee. This has been achieved with only a modest increase in the membership fee from £98 to £105 and means that those members who have previously held back on attending summer sessions because of a clash of several with their summer family holidays will be better able to do so in future.

Jon Escott and Christine Thompson will be making decisions over the next week or two as to which members will be in which of the new sessions, and the information will be included for each individual in the

League results 2008-09

Also included with this newsletter is the match secretary's report to the AGM, outlining our excellent league results for the past season. Not only did Swifts teams win seven out of the ten ACDBL divisions, but we also won or shared seven out of the ten Surrey League divisions; this is an unprecedented achievement and a major success.

This record success (to which every member has contributed, and of which you should each be immensely proud) is a fitting note on which to end the final newsletter of the season.