

Season 2011-12
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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.*

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Match summary

On Friday the u14 boys' A team played away to Eagles in the ACDBL and lost by 167-201.

U15 national championships



Ollie (l) with partner David King

Ollie Thompson missed the Swifts graded tournament this weekend in order to play in the U15 national championships—a feeble excuse if ever I heard one. However, he was vindicated in this strange decision when he reached the quarter-final of the boys' singles and won the doubles. So Swifts has a national champion again!

Samodani Wijetunge (an U12, remember) also played in the tournament and reached the second round of the girls' singles and the quarter-final of the mixed event. She has also been re-graded as a grade 1 U17 player, so she now holds the rare (possibly unique) distinction of being a grade 1 player in three age groups simultaneously—U13, U15 and U17.

County representation

Nicholas Pipe and Samodani Wijetunge played for the Surrey U13 team in a Shires League match against Sussex on Sunday, winning 14-6.

National gradings

Josh Surplice was inadvertently missed from last week's list of Swifts players with national gradings. He is an U17 grade 2 player.

New members

We extend a warm welcome to Aanya Nathwani (U10, beginner) and Atharvi Salvi (U12, improver), both of whom played in the tournament on Saturday.

Swifts graded singles tournament

The first weekend of the Swifts graded tournament was held on Saturday. The record number of participants, for a Swifts singles tournament, of 76 players was reduced from the 80 entrants when one player was called in to work unexpectedly, another was ill on the day and two just failed to turn up. Another member, who had not entered, also turned up and had to be sent home, as we can't necessarily grade people and schedule an extra hour or more of court time on the spot.

The graded tournament is a good one as everyone has something to be happy about: those that do well are always happy, and those that do badly can blame the organisers for putting them in the wrong grade. Even those near the bottom of the bottom grade can look forward to gaining a bit more in age and experience, while even the organisers are happy as grading people is much easier than allocating handicaps.

The main object of the grading exercise, close badminton between evenly-matched players, was achieved on the whole and I'm fairly sure, given the entry, nobody was in the wrong grade. The gradings are not allocated until we know who has entered so aren't necessarily comparable from year to year.

The detailed results can be found, along with pictures of the medallists, later in the newsletter. The medal winners were:

	Winner	Runner-up
Girls' grade A	Stephanie Pipe	Kaman Liang
Girls' grade B	Isabel Phillips	Jessica Mallett
Girls' grade C	Serena Farrelly	Ellie Darlington
Girls' grade D	Neeve Galvin	Maddie Godwin
Boys' grade A	Jack Kinmond	Ieuan Godfrey
Boys' grade B	Nicholas Pipe	Alex Downes
Boys' grade C	Harry Williams	Ben Cullen
Boys' grade D	Flynn Thatcher	Thomas Day
Boys' grade E	Eliot Duff	Charlie Allen
Boys' grade F	Toby Hodges-Long	Atharvi Salvi

ACDBL match results

Location: **Walton** **Date:** **2 Mar 2012** **Opposition:** **Eagles**
Result: **Lost 167 - 201** **Away** **U14A Boys**

Swifts	Nicholas Pipe	Ben Coker	Alex Hunt	Chris Gane
Opposition	Roger Boka	John Ewart	Joel Hartikainen	Mike Woollatt

Home Players		Score		Away Players	
Roger Boka	John Ewart	16	21	Nicholas Pipe	Ben Coker
John Ewart	Mike Woollatt	21	16	Ben Coker	Chris Gane
Joel Hartikainen	Joel Hartikainen	21	12	Alex Hunt	Chris Gane
Mike Woollatt	Mike Woollatt	21	11	Chris Gane	
Roger Boka	John Ewart	18	21	Nicholas Pipe	Ben Coker
Joel Hartikainen	Mike Woollatt	21	15	Alex Hunt	Chris Gane
Roger Boka	Joel Hartikainen	20	21	Nicholas Pipe	Alex Hunt
John Ewart	Mike Woollatt	21	20	Ben Coker	Chris Gane
Roger Boka	Mike Woollatt	21	13	Nicholas Pipe	Chris Gane
John Ewart	Joel Hartikainen	21	17	Ben Coker	Alex Hunt
		201	167		

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade A

Grade A boys' singles							
Group A							
Player	Pos	Josh Surplice	William Manners	Ieuan Godfrey	Jake Handley	Jack Kinmond	Martin Jager
Josh Surplice	3		21	18	21	7	21
William Manners		17		18	18	7	19
Ieuan Godfrey	2	21	21		21	5	21
Jake Handley		12	21	13		11	21
Jack Kinmond	1	21	21	21	21		21
Martin Jager		14	21	16	20	5	

Jack Kinmond was the clear favourite but the other players all wanted to do their best against him in the hope of becoming a giant-killer, and there were some very close games and it is significant that the player who finished last was able to score at least 17 points against everyone except Jack. Ieuan won the race for second place.



Jack Kinmond and Ieuan Godfrey

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade B

Grade B boys' singles

Group A							
Player	Pos	Nicholas Pipe	Connor McCartney	Ben Coker	Sam Williams	Alex Downes	Alex Lawrence
Nicholas Pipe	1		15	15	15	15	15
Connor McCartney		1		15	6	7	15
Ben Coker		3	8		8	7	13
Sam Williams	3	11	15	15		5	15
Alex Downes	2	14	15	15	15		15
Alex Lawrence		10	14	15	12	12	

This was a close competition, with runner-up Alex Downes only losing by a single point to Nick Pipe in the deciding match and a fair sprinkling of games being decided by very close margins. Nick and Sam were giving at least two and up to six years to their opponents so did well to finish as they did.



Alex Downes and Nick Pipe

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade C

Grade C boys' singles

Group A									
Player	Pos	Christopher Spain	Oliver McCoy-Page	Christopher Gane	Ben Cullen	Callum Mitchell	Harry Williams	Henry Bradshaw	Harry Owens
Christopher Spain			8	11	5	11	3	10	w/o
Oliver McCoy-Page	4	11		10	10	11	10	11	11
Christopher Gane	3	10	11		5	11	1	11	w/o
Ben Cullen	2	11	11	11		11	8	11	w/o
Callum Mitchell		10	4	10	1		8	5	w/o
Harry Williams	1	11	11	11	11	11		11	11
Henry Bradshaw		11	7	4	7	11	8		9
Harry Owens		w/d	8	w/d	w/d	w/d	8	11	

The winner, Harry Williams, beat fourth-placed Ollie McCoy-Page by only a single point. In fact all of Ollie's losses (all to the players above him) were by a single point. There may be a lesson to be learned about concentration there. Ben Cullen was runner-up.



Harry Williams and Ben Cullen

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade D

Grade D boys' singles

Group A											
Player	Pos	Ollie Phillips	Wai Hau Fun	Harry Hodges-Long	Thomas Day	Lucas Downes	Flynn Thatcher	Daniel Beeney	Joseph Frean	Thomas Chan	Alex Lopez
Ollie Phillips	4		11	9	0	11	1	11	11	11	11
Wai Hau Fun		9		9	6	5	4	7	11	4	10
Harry Hodges-Long	3	11	11		4	9	11	11	11	11	11
Thomas Day	2	11	11	11		11	7	11	11	11	11
Lucas Downes		10	11	11	10		6	10	11	11	11
Flynn Thatcher	1	11	11	5	11	11		11	11	11	11
Daniel Beeney	5	4	11	3	7	11	9		11	11	11
Joseph Frean		7	6	7	5	6	1	3		5	8
Thomas Chan		5	11	6	7	6	7	9	11		11
Alex Lopez		5	11	7	5	9	3	4	11	6	



Nobody in this grade managed to win all their games so the tie-break system had to be called into action. Flynn Thatcher was declared the winner on the basis of his head-to-head victory over runner-up Thomas Day.

Thomas Day and Flynn Thatcher

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade E

Grade E boys' singles							
Group A							
Player	Pos	Eliot Duff	Dominic Nabasa	Joshua Craven	Charlie Allen	Archie Pendry	Luc Frean
Eliot Duff	1		15	15	15	15	15
Dominic Nabasa	3	10		15	14	15	11
Joshua Craven		9	12		5	15	10
Charlie Allen	2	13	15	15		15	15
Archie Pendry		13	6	3	9		15
Luc Frean		5	15	15	10	8	

This was the only section in which every player won at least one game and was won by Eliot Duff, with Charlie Allen as runner-up, though by only two points in the deciding games.



Eliot Duff and Charlie Allen

Swifts graded tournament results

Boys' grade F

Grade F boys' singles

Group A									
Player	Pos	Matthew Biddle	Henry Sutton	Hayden Mitchell	Christian Attree	Atharvi Salvi	Toby Hodges-Long	Cameron Warne	Thomas Wild
Matthew Biddle	3		11	9	11	8	3	11	11
Henry Sutton	5	10		11	4	9	6	11	11
Hayden Mitchell		11	10		10	9	5	11	11
Christian Attree	4	6	11	11		6	9	11	11
Atharvi Salvi	2	11	11	11	11		5	11	11
Toby Hodges-Long	1	11	11	11	11	11		11	11
Cameron Warne		9	5	8	1	4	6		7
Thomas Wild		7	10	5	10	5	5	11	

This is the section for our most recently recruited boys—all near beginners—and our youngest members. They should reflect that the very best players all start at the bottom. Only five years ago our new U15 national champion, Ollie Thompson, was in the bottom grade of this same tournament, as were players who were in grade A this year. You won't all get to be national champions in five years, but you will all improve as badminton players.



Toby was the clear winner but, although very young, he had a bit more experience than some of the others. Atharvi did well to be runner-up in his very first Swifts session—without any coaching at all.

Toby Hodges-Long and Atharvi Salvi

Swifts graded tournament results

Girls' grade A

Grade A girls' singles							
Group A							
Player	Pos	Georgia Beech	Holly Weston	Kaman Liang	Alice Brown	Sophie Martin	Stephanie Pipe
Georgia Beech			6	14	21	7	4
Holly Weston		21		13	21	17	3
Kaman Liang	2	21	21		21	21	13
Alice Brown		18	5	6		8	6
Sophie Martin	3	21	21	12	21		15
Stephanie Pipe	1	21	21	21	21	21	

The entry from our older and stronger girls was one of the few disappointments this year. There were some pretty feeble excuses for not entering, and playing in the U15 national championships was one of the weaker ones. I suspect some non-entrants really wanted to avoid getting their photo in the newsletter.

Anyway, Stephanie Pipe, who was the youngest player in this grade, emerged as winner while Kaman Liang was runner-up.



Kaman Liang and Stephanie Pipe

Swifts graded tournament results

Girls' grade B

Grade B girls' singles							
Group A							
Player	Pos	Emily Armstrong	Abby Law	Emily Mason	Isabel Phillips	Rianna Meme	Jessica Mallett
Emily Armstrong			7	10	2	6	8
Abby Law		11		11	4	10	5
Emily Mason		11	8		4	6	11
Isabel Phillips	1	11	11	11		11	11
Rianna Meme	3	11	11	11	5		5
Jessica Mallett	2	11	11	9	5	11	

This is a notorious group of hardened score sheet defacers who, this year, even went so far as to doodle on the score sheets of the grade A boys who were to follow them on the same courts. Isabel was a clear winner but the runner-up spot was very close, having to be decided in favour of Jessica on the result of the match between her and Rianna.



Jessica Mallett and Isabel Phillips

Swifts graded tournament results

Girls' grade C

Grade C girls' singles

Group A							
Player	Pos	Ellie Darlington	Jasmine Farrelly	Elena Koutas	Imogen Galvin	Helen Sproston	Holly Cullen
Ellie Darlington	1		11	11	11	11	11
Jasmine Farrelly	2	8		11	11	11	11
Elena Koutas		7	6		9	11	11
Imogen Galvin	3	6	10	11		11	11
Helen Sproston		6	6	6	3		11
Holly Cullen		10	9	4	3	5	

Grade C girls' singles

Group B						
Player	Pos	Jenna Biddle	Isabel Smith	Alice Sutton	Serena Farrelly	Emily Hammond
Jenna Biddle	3		11	11	8	9
Isabel Smith		6		11	8	5
Alice Sutton		4	10		4	4
Serena Farrelly	1	11	11	11		11
Emily Hammond	2	11	11	11	6	

Swifts graded tournament results

Girls' grade C

Semi-finals

Ellie Darlington	21 v 19	Emily Hammond
Serena Farrelly	21 v 15	Jasmine Farrelly

Final

Ellie Darlington	18 v 21	Serena Farrelly
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This grade was so big that it had to be split into two groups with knock-out semi-finals and a final. It was also the only grade, this year, in which we had a pair of siblings playing.

The two group winners played against the runners-up from the other group in the semi-finals. In the event, Serena Farrelly won her group while her sister, Jasmine was runner-up in the other so they had to face each other at that stage, with Serena winning and qualifying for the final.

Meanwhile the other group winner, Ellie Darlington beat Emily Hammond in the other semi-final, which was a very close match. So, the two unbeaten players (though Holly Cullen came within a point of beating Ellie at the group stage) met in the final with Serena emerging as winner.



Serena Farrelly and Ellie Darlington

Swifts graded tournament results

Girls' grade D

Grade D girls' singles

Group A										
Player	Pos	Maddie Godwin	Serena Lu	Aanya Nathwani	Neeve Galvin	Antonella Naumova	Marina Milsum	Rosie Duff	Megan Laycock	Daisy Murphy
Maddie Godwin	2		11	11	3	11	11	11	11	11
Serena Lu		6		10	8	11	11	11	10	11
Aanya Nathwani	4	7	11		5	11	8	11	11	11
Neeve Galvin	1	11	11	11		11	11	11	11	11
Antonella Naumova		3	1	4	3		11	11	10	11
Marina Milsum	3	9	9	11	1	11		11	11	11
Rosie Duff		10	8	6	5	7	6		8	11
Megan Laycock	5	10	11	8	5	11	10	11		11
Daisy Murphy		3	3	4	0	7	1	7	5	

Like the boys' grade F, this was a group of our youngest or newest players. In fact, Swifts' youngest and smallest member, Rosie Duff (U7), was playing in her first tournament in this group. As with the boys, they should remember that Samodani Wijetunge, who is now a grade 1 player in three age groups up to U17, Surrey U16 champion and playing in the U15 nationals while an U13, was in the equivalent group only three years ago.



Neeve was a clear winner, with Maddie as runner-up, but a lot of close games were played in this section.

Neeve Galvin and Maddie Godwin