

28 June 2005

## The 2004-05 Season's Highlights:

- Another good year in the Aldershot and Camberley District Junior League
- Success for our U18 boys' team in the ACDBL adult league
- More trophy success at the Surrey Schools B.A. team tournament
- Another Swifts member becomes an international player
- Three titles out of five in debut season in Surrey league
- Three members ranked in national top 20
- Many Swifts win county honours with Surrey and Berkshire

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# SWIFTLINES

## Swifts Win Four Local League Titles

We had a good season in the Aldershot and Camberley District Badminton Junior League again this year, though not quite as good as last season's record-breaking feats!

We entered sixteen teams in eleven divisions and won four of them. Our teams came second in six divisions as well.

Things were tougher this year because, with only one exception, all our B teams were entered in the same division as the A team. This was a deliberate attempt to get better games for our players rather than win easy titles and, in general, it worked.

Our A teams won the U16 girls' and mixed

divisions (though only one other team entered the former). In the U14 mixed division 1 our A team won, with the B team in second place.

Our girls easily won the U14 girls division 1 with an enviable record of played 8, won 8. The B team came second in this division too.



**Swifts' U18 Surrey Schools Badminton Association team tournament winners**  
The players are (l-r) James Buffham, Adam Dudley, Rachel Nurse, and Ellie Crossley (and yes, the shield is upside down!)

## Success in Surrey and Adult Leagues

Our teams have not just been competing in the ACDBL junior league. We have also had teams entered in the Surrey junior league (at U13 and U15 levels) and boys' and mixed teams in the ACDBL adult league.

Perhaps the most conspicuous success was the U18 boys' comfortable win in division 2 of the Men's

4s league. After only two seasons in the league, to win this competition against adult players is truly magnificent. Well done to all the boys!

Our U15 girls won the Surrey junior league, while our U13 mixed and boys' teams also won their league titles.

This was the club's first entry into the Surrey

league and to win three titles out of the five divisions entered is a pretty good start.

We entered six teams in the Surrey Schools B.A. team tournament in April, with considerable success.

Our U18 A team (pictured above) won its age group, while our U15 and U13 A teams both managed runners-up places.

## Surrey Schools Badminton Association Dates for your Diary

News is just in of the dates for next season's SSBA tournaments. They will be experimenting with the format and holding mixed events on separate days this year. The team tournament is on 23 April.

2 October— U13 & U17 Open and Standard Sin/Db  
16 October— U11 & U15 Open and Standard Sin/Db  
27 October— U18 Open & U19 Standard Sin/Db/Mx  
15 January— U13/U15/U17 Open and Standard Mx  
19 February— U12/U14/U16 Open and Standard Mx  
26 February— U12 & U16 Open and Standard Sin/Db  
5 March— U14 Open and Standard Sin/Db



**Swifts member-turned reporter Kirsty Walker**

***Kirsty Walker's description of life as a Surrey squad member.***

***"It was a brilliant day"***

***If you have some news for the members or would like to write an article about your badminton experiences please get in touch with the Swifts committee (details on page 4)***



***Proof is just in that badminton can be a dangerous sport after all—or was this just a crushing defeat?***

## Club Sessions for the 2005-06 Season

The club session dates have been decided for next season. The first day back for the new season will be Saturday **10<sup>th</sup> September** and the other club sessions will be on the following dates:

September — 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>  
 October — 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 November — 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
 December — 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>  
 January — 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
 February — 4<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>  
 March — 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>  
 April — 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
 May — 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>

We plan to hold a club tournament (probably handicap) on 24<sup>th</sup> September (singles) and 1<sup>st</sup> October (doubles), and the club graded tournament will be on 18<sup>th</sup> March (singles) and 1<sup>st</sup> April (doubles).

The club session on 17<sup>th</sup> December will be the Christmas party fun session, as usual.

Please return to the same session you were in at the end of last season unless you have been notified otherwise.

There may be a play-in to help decide transfers between the sessions.

## Playing for Surrey in the Shires League Finals

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May I had to leave early in the morning to go to Leicester to play in the Shires League U13 Finals. We were playing at Babington Sports College. We had come second in our qualifying group, so we had qualified (not by much though!). I, my sister and our dad spent what seemed an age driving in the car. (OK, so it was an hour and a

half, but hey! time goes slow in a car).

The team members (including myself and Edward Thomas) cheered and banged on the floor with shuttle tubes as encouragement to our team members. My sister Justine joined in as well, even though she wasn't playing.

The facilities were of the

usual sort: toilets, chocolate, shuttles, hall, other food and drink, which made the day a lot easier.

Surrey lost to Notts (6-4) and to Middlesex (7-3) but we beat Norfolk (6-4) meaning we took our well-earned 7<sup>th</sup> place. At the end we were given trophies (as runners-up in our group) and a certificate. We had to cope with photos as well, but that didn't matter as we all had fun in the process. It was a brilliant day and I won't forget it for a long time.

## Rankings

Congratulations to Michael Daw, Edward Thomas (U13s) and James Buffham (U15) who all finished the season ranked by Badminton England among the top twenty singles players in England in their respective age groups.

## Swifts' Jubilee Success

The final event of the season around these parts has always been (since 1977) the Jubilee tournament, and this season has been no different.

There was a very high level of entry this year, making it much more difficult to win than in recent years but that did not stop Swifts members from carrying off five out of the fourteen event trophies as well as four run-

ners-up places.

In fact, the entry was so high that another venue had to be found for the U10s. As it was the U16s and U18s did not finish playing until around 10pm.

The 60 or so Swifts players entered in the tournament also carried off a total of eight of the minor prizes (Plate and Bronze trophies).

## International Doors Open for Michael Daw

My trip to Belgium was great. When we landed at Brussels we had to wait for the people flying from the north of England and then went straight to the leisure centre and started training.

We eventually got to check in at our hotel at 10:30pm – my Mum back home was a bit worried! – it was 9:30pm UK time. However the hotel was very good. The only down-side to it was that we had a two-bed room with three people in it and the break-

fast was disgusting. The actual food during the tournament was no better either which was surprising considering the way we've had chats from dieticians!

The tournament started early on Saturday morning when we had singles. It took all day to just play three games. I was lucky because it was a KO competition – if you lost your first game you played no more that day! The atmosphere in the arena was really good.

On the Sunday I had the singles QFs. Playing was really good because the whole team was cheering and supporting me. After that I had my doubles. I partnered a boy from Middlesex and we lost in the final to a German pair. In the mixed we got to the QFs but I got really bad cramp. The physio came on but couldn't massage it away and we had to pull out.

The trip was great and I would certainly do it again if I got asked.



**Michael playing at the Olve U13 tournament**

***Michael Daw's account of his England international debut in Belgium.***

***"the breakfast was disgusting"***

## Goodbye to Swifts

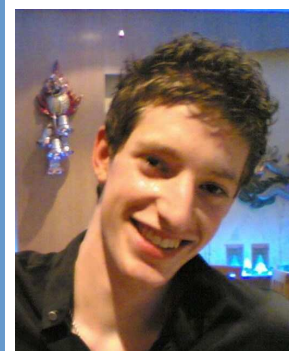
I began playing badminton when I was 5 years old with my dad, who knew Alan Rice, a coach at Swifts. Alan suggested I join Swifts, which I did at the age of 6. The head coach at that time was Mike Cripp, and he and his team of coaches taught me the principles

of the game and developed my skills.

I started playing matches for the U10s and carried this right through until the U18s. When I was 14 I was fortunate to be picked to play for Surrey and I have achieved gold, silver and bronze medals at ESBA

tournaments. I am still an active team member for the U19 squad and I have played matches against Irish and Danish teams.

Without the dedication of the coaches at Swifts, past and present, I would not have had the badminton success I have.



**Adam Dudley looks back on his many years as a Swifts member**

***He attributes his success to the dedication and efforts of his coaches at Swifts***

***Has anybody ever been a Swifts member for longer than Adam? Only Matthew Chivers springs to mind. Do you know of others?***

## New Names and Old Faces

A warm welcome to the new full members who joined us this year: Stirling Burrow, Claire Calder, Laura Fitzpatrick, Kiran Flora, Tim Keene, Ellen Phillips, Furhaan Raja, Anthony Ridley, Matthew Robinson, Adam West, Simon Hinton, James de Souza, Jamie

Ellis, Ellie Crossley, Michael Morrison, Ryan Tinslay and Sean Murphy.

We hope you will be with us for some time to come and have a lot of fun while developing your skills in the sport.

Leaving us after many years membership are

Siobhan Gill, Natalie Smith, Fiona Stewart, Michael Hopkins, Adam Dudley, David Grant, Liam Lancaster, and Jamie Warwick.

We wish you all happy times and a good badminton future. Please do make sure you keep us posted with your news.

## About Swifts Junior Badminton Club



Chairman	Clive Dean
Secretary	Christine Meades
Treasurer	Terry Chivers
Match Secretary	Cliff Buffham
Publicity	Tina Thomas

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Swifts Junior Badminton Club has been teaching young badminton players the fundamentals of the game of badminton for almost 30 years.

From small beginnings we have grown to be one of the largest and well-organised clubs in the area and currently have around 80 members.

We feel very strongly that our players should be taught the correct technique from the start, so things like grip, footwork and strokes are shown from the beginning. But we recognise that it should also be fun so we try to blend this with various fun games, for the younger members in particular.

The club recognises that it has a responsibility in teaching the children various social skills as well - how to integrate with other children, how to be a team member, how to interact with adults etc. So by the time they leave us they are good, all-round players.

The club runs two sessions on Saturday mornings throughout the season on six courts at the Lightwater Leisure Centre. The first session, 10am - 11:30am, is aimed at the older children. The second session, 11:30am - 1pm, is for the younger ones. The age range is from 6 to 18 years of age. We encourage (but don't force!) parents to get involved in the coaching if they are players and also welcome help in running the various league or tournament teams or occasionally helping with the committee.

We publish a weekly email newsletter covering our members' competitive activity and also publish *Swiftlines* several times a year.

We keep all members fully posted on news of local and Surrey tournaments, and those members that are really keen enter national tournaments run by Badminton England and other counties as well.

## Vacancies for New Members



**Christine Meades,**  
our hard-working Swifts  
club secretary

There are still vacancies at Swifts for new members – so tell your friends if they are interested in playing badminton at the best club in the area!

New members can join at any time and we have a scheme whereby you can see if you like it for three sessions before becoming a full member.

Players are welcome at all ages from 6 years old right up to under 18s.

We give coaching for all ability levels – many of our players are in county squads – and we have had several international stars!

The emphasis is on skills development and fun!

This year we held our inaugural club tournament for all members and we hope to introduce more new ideas next season.

Club sessions take place most Saturdays in the badminton season (September

to May) and we have a big programme of league matches for competitive players.

But you don't have to be a top player to benefit from Swifts membership – many of our players just enjoy the club sessions and never enter a tournament.

It is easy to join or to get more details – just contact Christine Meades at the email address or telephone number given above.

## Adult Badminton

If you are leaving Swifts because you are too old, you may be interested in the scheme, being run by the ACDBL to help you find a place in an adult club. Just ask us for details. Dave Brown is able to coordinate with the clubs on your behalf.