

21 January 2006



**Kevin Scott competing in the European Championships in his heyday—the Swifts coach became one of Scotland's most-capped players over an eleven year period to 1995 and was Scottish singles champion three times. He played in the Commonwealth Games twice, the European Championships four times (reaching the quarter-finals of both) and the World Championships five times. He feels privileged to have played in the Far East, Europe, New Zealand, the USA and Canada and modestly describes himself as *not the most talented individual*. See page 3 for his views.**

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# SWIFTLINES

## Launch of Swifts' New Website

Work has been proceeding on our new website. Bob Ellis has kindly brought his skills to and time to bear on the task and, although the site is not quite in its finished state, it is certainly ready to be launched.

Some of you may remember that we had a website on the ACDBL site some time ago. However, not much of interest or use was placed on it, and it quickly became out of date.

The new site is intended primarily to be a source of information to the members. Another goal is to present a "shop window" to prospective members so that they can see what we are like as a club and decide whether they are interested in joining.

It is also a means of recording our achievements (and, of course, those of the members) for all to see.

Its style is similar to the new style of documentation that we have introduced this season to ensure that we have a consistent club image.

The URL (or address) of the site is [www.swiftsjbc.org.uk](http://www.swiftsjbc.org.uk) and you can store this in your web browser's favourites so that you can get to it in one click.

## Silver Club Accreditation Update

As you know, we have been busy on applying for accreditation under the Sport England and BADMINTON England Clubmark scheme as a Silver Club.

The original target was to apply by Christmas but there was simply not

enough time to fit in all the activities required.

Once there you can easily download all sorts of information such as a fixture list, membership forms, club policies, codes of conduct, procedures and so on.

If you need help finding venues for away club matches then you can print off both directions and maps.

There will soon be pictures of many of our members (and we are looking for more, so please let us have them) to show what a friendly club we are.

We also plan to post photos of our club committee members and coaches so you know how to identify them.

There are links to many other interesting sites relating to local, Surrey and national badminton so that you can find out information from all over the place.

You can also download copies of old competition newsletters and *Swiftlines*.

Summary results of matches can also be found for reference.

There is even a facility for the members, parents and coaches to discuss Swifts, badminton or any other issues in the discussion forum. We hope you will enjoy that too.

However, things have gone well and we now expect to be in a position to apply at the end of January or soon after.

We'll keep you posted.

**Some of our new members for this season:**



**Aaron Phelan**



**Catherine Leung**



**Luke Gauntlett**



**Jonathan Robertson**

## Swifts Players in the National Gradings

A large number of Swifts members are active on the national tournament scene this season. Some of them have had such success that they have attained a grade in the national BADMINTON England (BE) grading structure, as recorded in the youth section of the BE website.

In this scheme players start off ungraded and can gain promotion into grade 3B, then 3A and on to the dizzy heights of grade 2 (top 40 or so nationally) or even grade 1 (top 6 to 10).

The whole structure is designed for players who are at county level as a minimum—even the ungraded ones—and the tournament circuit is very challenging with England's best young players taking part.

Michael Daw, Edward Thomas (U15s) and James Buffham (U17) all started the season at grade 2 and were ranked by BE among the top twenty singles players in England in their respective age groups.

Kerri Scott was also at grade 3 (grade 3 is not split at U13 level).

### News of Past Swifts

Badminton does not come to an end when you leave Swifts at the end of your junior years, and many members go on to achieve excellent feats in adult badminton.

Hayley Connor continues to be a regular in the England U24 squad and plays in many international events.

Further down the scale but still highly noteworthy are the exploits of Helen Steer and Matthew Chivers.

Matthew plays in the Surrey 2nd team while Helen works in Hatfield and has established herself in the Hertfordshire squad.

Anna van Piggelen is a member of Surrey 3rd team, while Adam Dudley has played in the Surrey U19s this season.



**Jamie Ellis—a grade 3B player**

No other Swifts players were graded at the start of the season but things have changed already!

Starting with the older players in the U17 age group and working down the age groups, Leanne Brown is now a grade 3A U17 player while Ellie Crossley has attained grade 3B, also at the U17 level.

In the U15s Huw Batts and Jamie Ellis have both been promoted to grade 3B.

Our newest recruit, Jack Kinmond, is at grade 2. He started the season as the top-ranked English U13 English singles player.

Of the 24 graded players in Surrey at all age groups, fully one third of them are Swifts players. Not bad for a club at the very north-western corner of the county and away from the big badminton centres.

What is really encouraging is that only two of the players named are in the second year of their two-year age groups so they all have excellent scope to go on and achieve even greater things next season.

### Coaching

Swifts is renowned for its coaching and player development, but we need more qualified coaches.

In particular, another person qualified to lighten Clive Dean's load by leading training sessions would be very welcome.

If you would like to become qualified to coach, or know someone who is, and can commit to regular Saturday sessions please contact Clive.

## Kevin Scott's Retrospective

I have noticed many parallels between aspects of my past experience as a young player and with clubs like Swifts.

In fact, the badminton club scene that I grew up with in Edinburgh was very like Swifts. It graded players and provided something for everyone. This included players who wanted to practise and improve, but only play club matches (not tournaments), players who wanted to play matches and tournaments, but only within a reasonable distance and also the very serious player with aspirations (and the potential) to play at country-wide open tournaments and even at national level.

We have a similar situation in a club like Swifts today, with good club players and county players, going all the way to (for example) the likes of Michael Daw and Edward Thomas, who are currently being seeded in and winning at national age group events in doubles, which is a great achievement.

A more general point is that, regardless of the level that we aspire to or currently play at, badminton is a game that

can provide tremendous enjoyment. Not least, and apart from the social aspect, it helps to improve skills, coordination, fitness and concentration. As is often the case, I did not appreciate these factors until I was much older. Make no mistake, because of the variety of movement and hitting techniques involved, badminton also provides a great foundation for many other sports.

For me, it is essential to see the different levels and ages in a club, as it provides the natural 'feeder' system that allows any club to survive and grow and it is also good for younger players to see how the more experienced players perform certain shots etc. Remember, too, that watching better players is a great way to improve!

It does not matter what level you currently play to—or aspire to play to—there

### New Names, New Faces

A warm welcome to the new members (some are pictured in this issue) who have joined us this season:

Helen Calder, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Luke Gauntlett, Anna Gibson, Michael Green, Nick Halliwell, Jack Kinmond, William Manners, Aaron Phelan, Jonathan Robertson, Matthew

is something in badminton for all levels and improvement in itself provides a great sense of achievement—from suddenly being able to play a shot that you previously couldn't to beating an opponent that you never thought you would!

If it so happens that you want to try to go on to be a competitive tournament player or even a county or national player, then I would say, "go for it!". I can see plenty of potential in many current Swifts members. As always, much depends on having a clear approach and being sure of what you want to try to achieve and being willing to put in the correct level of focus and effort.

Most importantly of all at any age or stage of development - carry on enjoying your badminton! This is as true now as it ever was.

Robinson, Sarah Ward and Thomas Webb.

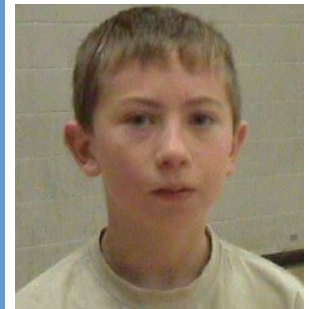
Rosie Keene has also brightened up the place by rejoining

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

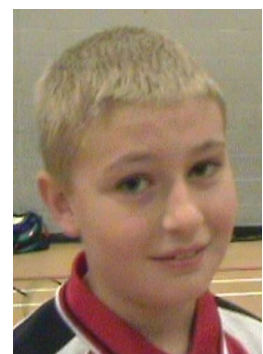
**Some more of our new members for this season:**



**William Manners**



**Nick Halliwell**



**Michael Green**



**Helen Calder**

## About Swifts Junior Badminton Club



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

For membership information contact:  
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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.

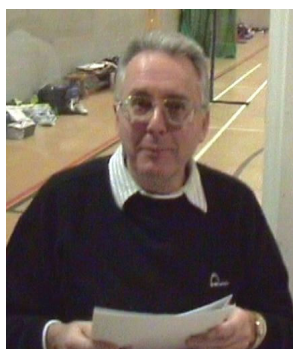
The club recognises that it has a responsibility in teaching the children various social skills as well - how to integrate with other children, how to be a team member, how to interact with adults etc. So by the time they leave us they are good, all-round players.

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.

## Waiting List for New Members



**Terry Chivers, the  
Swifts' club treasurer**

We have had a major influx of new players this season, especially at the younger end of the age spectrum.

As a consequence we have now opened a waiting list for new members. It is expected that we will be able to take on new players at the beginning of next season.

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!

Last season we held our inaugural club tournament for all members and we are introducing more new ideas this 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 have left, or 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.