



### PREMIER CLUB STATUS FOR WILTSHIRE CLUBS

Swindon Pinehurst Badminton Club became the first club in Wiltshire to be awarded Premier Club status and they have now been joined by Phoenix (Trowbridge) Badminton Club. John Edwards, the South West Regional Development Officer, is presenting Swindon with their certificate on the 7th November and Phoenix have yet to arrange a date for their presentation. Congratulations to both clubs as it is a great achievement. There are other clubs, especially in the Swindon area, who are working towards Premier Club status.

### 43rd WILTSHIRE RESTRICTED CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 43rd Wiltshire Restricted Championships were held at Christie Miller on the 30th September 2007.

#### He's back... and he means business!

Back at the Christie Miller Sports Centre for 2007, this years Wiltshire Restricted Championships saw a wide field of competitors including the return of one of its most successful competitors. All of Wiltshire's top players turned out to do battle, while some of the up and coming players were hoping to claim a scalp or two during the event.

The return of Anthony Bush in the Doubles and Mixed events had an immediate impact on the tournament (Just how relieved most

of the players were that Anthony Bush didn't take part in the singles will never be known, considering his past record in the event!). Partnering Justin Andrews in the Men's doubles, they made short work of their early opposition – despatching a couple of his students in his first game, it was the first time they had played against him in competition, no quarter was given! – only meeting resistance in the final against last years winners, Sean Lock and Gary Davies (the only pair to get into doubles figures against them!) beating them 21-9, 22-20. Sean and Gary had made the final after a close fought semi against Ben Caldwell and Chris Penhaligon 21-16, 12-21, 21-19. The Mens Doubles Plate was won by Julian Price and Steve Maplestone, who beat Dan Boxall and Sam Elfinstone 21-16.

Seventeen players contested the Men's Singles knockout tournament. It was business as usual for most of the senior county players. Ben Caldwell made his way into the finals by beating Steve Maplestone 21-12, 21-12 in the first semi final, while the other semi-final saw Simon Woodhouse go through after defeating Chris Penhaligon 21-15, 21-19. The final had Ben Caldwell make it three singles titles in a row after beating Simon Woodhouse 21-13, 21-14.

The Mens Singles Plate was won by Stuart Wood, who defeated Simon Carter 21-18.

The Ladies Singles Tournament, disappointingly, had only five entries.

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*Stop Press*  
Over 50's vets beat IOW 9-3 but lost 11-1 to Avon I.  
Over 40's have loosing draw away to Avon  
Under 15's lose 23 – 13 away to Gloucestershire



## WILTSHIRE JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WCBA now has a junior development committee incorporating those involved with a serious interest in the future and development of junior badminton such as coaches and parents. The committee is being chaired by Graham Belbin, Junior Co-ordinator. One of their first aims was to promote Wiltshire County Junior Badminton and increase the attendance of juniors at county training via an Open Day. They succeeded at this and will aim to build on this success in the future.

## WILTSHIRE'S BADMINTON DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(Mary Woodman is our development officer and can be contacted on e-mail: mary.woodman1@btinternet.com)

## CHALLENGE SWINDON 'A FESTIVAL OF SPORT'

Over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Swindon Borough Council held their first 'Challenge Swindon' event. Many sports took part in the event including Dragon Boat Racing, Beach volleyball and speed climbing along with the more traditional sports of netball, tennis and football. Badminton was lucky enough to be included and attracted players of various standards. All players had a full days play at the Link Centre in Swindon with most of the competitors leaving exhausted! I coordinated the badminton event but thanks go to Steve Howard who helped run the tournament on the day. Building on this years success, the event has already been booked for next

year (31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008) so keep those dates free and enter into the spirit as I'm sure next years event will be bigger and better!

## GET ACTIVE WEEK – SWINDON, WHITE HORSE BC OPEN THEIR DOORS

Following on from Challenge Swindon, Swindon Borough Council held a Get Active week. During the 7 days many sporting clubs and organizations opened their doors and held taster sessions for members of the public. White Horse BC were one such club, they held a badminton improvers session at the Oasis. They had 13 attendees with several wishing to take their badminton to a higher level.

The comments they received were very favourable and is a testament that although all participants had arrived by 8pm they all stayed until the end at 10pm. Thanks go to their level 2 coaches John Willis and Anne Wilson for the coaching advice given on the night.

## WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS WINNERS

Devizes School won the Wiltshire Inter-School league and John Earney, WCBA Secretary kindly went along to present their winners medals. They have a very healthy after schools club run by coach John Murphy and have many keen children. The team consisted of 5 girls and 5 boys and they were the only team to use girls. The boys were in the lower (yr 10) age group and none of the squad had ever played competitive badminton before this year. They ran out winners in the Mid Wilts section over John of Gaunt, Dauntsey's and St Au-

gustines schools. The team were Charlotte Pegrum, Jess Bradley, Natalie Willis, Thomas Wright, Will Butcher, Matt Harvey, Kieran Parkinson and Paul Woodbridge. Many congratulations to them! Building on this success, Wiltshire will be adopting the BADMINTON England format for 2007/8 seasons National Inter-School competition and hoping to involve many more schools from across Wiltshire.

## '1<sup>ST</sup> 4 SPORT' LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSES

As from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, BADMINTON England have introduced the new UKCC endorsed 1<sup>st</sup>4sport Level 1 and Level 2 courses. Level 1 is still an Assistant Coach Award and Level 2 will qualify the successful candidate to coach independently. Wiltshire was the first County in the South West to run the new UKCC endorsed Level 1 coaching course. The course took place at Pewsey Sports Centre with 9 candidates all gaining their Level 1 assistant coach certificate. I have now organised a Level 2 course which is due to start 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007. If you are interested in attending this course or if you have any questions regarding the new coaching qualifications please contact me.

## SILVER ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP

A Silver Club Accreditation workshop was held in May with representatives from 7 clubs across the county attending. It was a successful evening and consequently 4 clubs have registered with Badminton England and are on the path to gaining their Silver Accreditation. Two



other clubs who have been working towards their accreditation prior to this workshop are well on the way to finalizing their portfolio and therefore Wiltshire will soon be happy to announce this achievement. Watch this space! Club Accreditation is the mark of a quality club. It demonstrates that the club has strong coaching and effective management in place and it takes equality and child protection issues seriously. If you would like to know more about the Accreditation process then please contact me.

### OPEN DAY - WILTSHIRE JUNIORS

On Sunday 20th May 2007, Wiltshire County Juniors held its first Open Day. The purpose of the day was to attract new players by making it free, fun and informal. The day was split into 3 age groups, Under 13's, Under 15's and Under 17's. In total 56 young players attended the sessions, these players coming not only from badminton clubs but from schools and leisure centres across the County. It was particularly pleasing to see so many of the younger age group attend, 26 in total with the youngest players being only 8 years old. The attendance by girls was also really encouraging with 20 of the 56 being female. In the older age groups there was also a very pleasing turn out from schools who offer out of school hours clubs, 14 players in total. Anthony Bush led the sessions and as always engaged the enthusiasm of all those who attended.

There has been some pleasing feedback from the parents:

'Just a note to pass on our thanks for the badminton coaching on Sunday at Pewsey. Both our daughters thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and it was very good for them to receive some excellent coaching from Anthony Bush.'

'My 2 children thoroughly enjoyed the Open Day and were truly inspired by Anthony Bush - as was I. I was busy making notes and will be incorporating some of the things he did into our coaching sessions'

'The kids really enjoyed it, Anthony Bush was brilliant,'

'I just wanted to say how much my girls enjoyed the Open Day in Pewsey yesterday. They are

Special thanks go to the adult and junior volunteers who attended the day and who helped making it such a success.

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## WILTSHIRE RESTRICTED

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The event, played in American Sections, saw last years winner, Lisa Turner, retain her crown, although, third placed Karen Dean narrowly lost 24-22 against her. Runner-up was Stevie-Lousie Boxall, while Kerry Matthew and Charlotte Reeves took the remaining places. The Ladies Doubles was far better represented with eight pairs contesting in two groups with the winners playing off in the final. Group A saw Veronique Manook and Julie Russell cruise through to the final. Wiltshire's youth was represented by the Under 17 pairing of Beth Woodman and Megan Gibson found the going tough against top senior county pairs but did enjoy an entertaining three setter against Kerry Matthews and Helen Dent eventually losing 21-19, 14-21, 21-17. Group B had Stevie-Louise Boxall and Emma Davies winning all of their games, beating Heather McCune and Nicky Robertson into second place. Lisa Turner and Charlotte Reeves did manage to take the first set off them before fading in the remaining games. The final saw the Manook/Russell partnership victorious, beating last years winners, Boxall and Davies 21-10, 21-14.

The most popular event of the day was the Mixed Doubles with seventeen pairs battling it out for the title. First seeds Anthony and Annie Bush lived up to their ranking by taking the championship. Anthony's second title of the day – his game certainly living up to expectations. The Bush pairing made the final by beating Ben Caldwell and Veronique Manook 22/20, 21-17 in the semi finals, whilst Sean Locke and Julie Russell knocked out Justin Andrews and Helen McCune 21/17, 24/22 to reserve their place. The 17-21, 21-14, 21-16 final result saw team Bush lifting the cup.

The Mixed Doubles Plate saw Jo Ferris and Julian Prior beating Helen Dent and Peter Wood 21-14 to take the honours.

It was good to see several younger players there competing at this level, but would be even better if we could attract more ladies for the Singles next year.

One familiar face was missing was this years event was 'the man behind the table' Tournament Referee Brian White, who, for the first time for many years, was unable to attend. His seat was kept warm by Wiltshire CBA Chairman Steve Howard and Steve Walters, who successfully ran the competition in his absence. The presentations were made by Jim McCune, Mid Wilts Association Chairman.

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## WILTSHIRE VETERANS 2007

This seasons Wiltshire Veterans Inter-district County Tournament, held on the five courts of the excellent Cricklade Leisure Centre, was as a keenly fought contest for the county's top over 40's players.

The tournament contested in the over 40's, 45's, 50's and 55's age groups with players from the Mid-Wilts, Salisbury and Swindon Districts. With only the Mid-Wilts Over 50s in with a chance of taking home some silverware from Swindon District, this highly entertaining day was made possible by some persistent badgering by the organisers, who had to call on many players from different districts to help fill in the gaps for some of the teams.

Although the Over 40's Swindon & District won by default, it was none-the-less a well fought event with the few Mid-Wilts pairs playing for pride rather than silverware. With Swindon's Grant Illing and Dave Singlehurst, in imperious form, helped the men to a clean sweep in the Doubles, although, Mid-Wilts first pair of Darren Jones and Steve Longdon put up strong resistance against Ian Hallard and Julian Prior taking them to three sets. Racheal Jackson and Jo Hillier took one set and came close to another, losing out in a

three setter against Swindon's Mary Woodman and Helen Dent.

The Over 45's, also won by Swindon District, could have been a different story had Mid-Wilts been able to field a full qualifying side. With Derek Lamb and John Fletcher winning both their doubles and Mid-Wilts ladies and all the mixed pairings, qualifying or otherwise, winning all but one of theirs, the Mid-Wilts Trophy cabinet should have had a trophy in it by the end of the day.

One of the tightest games in the Over 45 ladies was between Veronique Manook and Davina Griffin who beat Swindon's Jo Ferris and Karen Guar 22-20, 22-20.

Mid-Wilts eventually stopped a clean sweep of trophy's going Swindon's way by taking the Over 50's event. Some closely fought games, five of them taken to three sets, saw a Mid-Wilts victory over Swindon 7-5. 'Not for the want of trying' award must surely go to Swindon's Greta Howard who, with her partners, battled over 3 sets for all her matches, the last partnering husband Steve, in a fine tussle against John Earney and Sue Carr, losing 21-18, 19-21, 21-19.

Swindon completed the competition by taking the Over 55's title, winning 9-3. Mid-Wilt's Matin De Feu and Nigel Maryan fought well for their initial win against Geoff Hinder and Geoff Pascoe before losing in a close fought contest against Mike Fielding and Colin Reeves. Swindon's Miche Thrush and Jean Boorman won both their ladies fixtures including a three setter against Margaret Thomas and Margaret Edwards 10-21, 21-18, 21-19. With all the mixed matches going to Swindon it completed a good day for the home venues side.

Big thank you to Jo Ferris and Martin Limburn for organising many of the players and the venue and to those players who travelled a distance to compete for the Mid Wilts team.