

Committee matters, well they're in charge anyway!! Can you remember who you voted for? NO? Nor can I, so let me introduce these rule enforcers.

Chairman: Tracy Barnard

Role: Pretty much everything except punctuality

Fav Shot: Back hand smash

Secretary & Selector: Melanie Spencer

Role: Palm top expert & high profile note taker

Fav Shot: A net one!

Treasurer: John Stobo

Role: Coin counting & loan sharking

Fav shot: Backhand drop

League Coordinator and a Selector: Graham Hall

Role: Quality control,

Fav shot: The one that broke my racket

A Selector: Paul Kaye

Role: Quality control

Fav shot: Flick Serve

Members Rep: Razinah Scofield

Role: Taking complaints

Fav Shot: Cross court drop

Junior Chairman: Dave Bartlett

Role: Junior selection and drafting

Fav Shot: Another net shot

Young persons Reps: Chris Fisher & Emily Crabb

Role: Younger complaints

Fav shots: Smash (typical!) / Killer net shot

Publicity: The editor!

Role: Producing this fine work of Art!

Fav shot: Anything off the frame!

Fixtures Secretary: Gilly Highley

Role: Ensuring opposition don't turn up

Fav shot: Stylish serve

Club Night Organiser: Carl Graham

Role: Opening the gates & controlling the troops

Fav shot: The one that bruises!

A Selector: Dave Spring

Role: Quality control

Fav shot: The scoop!



Can you guess who this is?

Answers to: jkendall@dial.pipex.com

Gill Bartlett, our longstanding Chairman, retires...

On 24th April 2005, Gill Bartlett stood down as Chairman of Comets Badminton Club and ended her long and successful badminton playing career, stretching back into the 1960s. Gill was one of those who played in the badminton tournament at Gosling Stadium in 1978, from which the club was founded – though she did not join the club until the following year. She has been a member since 1979, playing in the SMBL Medley, SWH and County Ladies and Mixed teams, as well as more recently the County vets team and has been the Chairman since 1992. Since then, her vision has played a significant role in developing the club – she was a force behind the decision to move to feather shuttles, enabling us to move away from the SMBL into the more challenging SWH and County leagues and also in setting up a junior club to encourage more young people to take up the sport.



The club were keen to thank Gill for all her many efforts and hard work over the years and raised a substantial sum from a collection to buy her a number of leaving presents – an engraved tankard, a Star Magnolia tree (whose flowers are white and in the shape of a shuttlecock – excellent idea from Paul Kaye) and a £50 garden voucher to put towards her new fuller time hobby!

She has used this to purchase a number of climbing plants to grow above the bench that the club purchased for her and Dave to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2001. These gifts were all presented at the AGM when she handed over the reins to the new Chairman, Tracy Barnard. She was also presented with lifetime honorary membership of Comets BC, in recognition of all she has done for the club over the last 25 years.

Gill has asked that we pass the following message on to club members. *'Thank you very much to everyone for their generosity both for our 40th wedding anniversary and my leaving gifts. I very much enjoyed my time at Gosling and Comets – playing badminton, meeting people and making new friends, who I hope to remain in touch with in the future. I am leaving with many happy memories.'*
By Tracy Barnard

Why does it look so easy when you're good?

Recently the Herts. Badminton Development officer Richard Doling attended our club to provide the opportunity for members to ask questions and receive tuition on the weak parts of their game. In the case of some, though (no names... Graham!) it was a chance to try your best to out-wit the ex-England star! Comets are planning to arrange similar coaching sessions in the new season, with Richard and other coaches, to sharpen our players and repeat the competitive success achieved last season.

Rich is seen here with Gail Emms, thrashing a fine looking brunette, if only I had known she needed a partner!



SOCIAL EVENTS!! By Razinah Scofield

BBQ! On Sunday 21st August

@ The Green Man Pub, Hatfield,

This event will run during the afternoon, family & friends welcome. Please see the club notice board for more information or email Razinah on

Razinahscofield@Renz.co.uk

Christmas Party we need your thoughts

Please see notice board for questionnaire and vote for your favourite option.

Comets Teams Triumph Locally Once Again!

League results 2004/2005

Team	Position	Division	
County Mixed 1	2 nd out of 6	1	
County Mixed 2	1 st out of 5	2	Promoted to Div 1
SW Herts Mixed 1	1 st out of 7	2	Promoted to Div 1
SW Herts Mixed 2	1 st out of 6	3	Promoted to Div 2
County Ladies'	1 st out of 4	2	Promoted to Div 1
SW Herts Ladies'	4 th out of 5	1	Relegated
County Men's 1	5 th out of 7	1	
County Men's 2	5 th out of 7	2	
SW Herts Men's 1	2 nd out of 6	1	
SW Herts Men's 2	1 st out of 6	3	Promoted to Div 2

5 out of Comets' 10 league sides won their divisions and were promoted at the end of last season. 2 more teams finished a close 2nd. We now have teams in the top 2 divisions of every league we enter, providing the best match play standard at any club in Herts.

Best ever results in County and SW Herts Leagues...

In the hotly contested County Mixed league, 2nd place for our 1st team is the best ever result by a Comets team, and confirmation that the club has arrived as a major force in this area. Team Captain Karen Willis said *"It's a huge achievement to finish 2nd in the county - for a large part of the season, we had two players out with calf injuries, and another who played on with an injured shoulder. This result shows the club's strength in depth - we used a large number of subs, who all contributed valuable points. Only Ware finished ahead of us, and their team is basically the Herts senior 1st team."*

County League

- Comets 2nd mixed team won division 2, edging out Hawks by a single rubber, so join the 1st team in division 1 next year.
- The Ladies easily won their division 2, with a 100% record, and are promoted. Both men's County sides stay put, after solid results in extremely tough leagues.

SW Herts League

- In the South West Herts league, men's 1 were joint top on matches, but narrowly missed out on the championship, losing out to Gadebridge on goal difference. (Certain New Zealanders' loyalties will be questioned next year...)
- Men's 2 came top after a close fight with Hastoe - this time goal difference went our way, so they're up to division 2 next year, while both SW Herts Mixed teams were promoted.
- The core of mixed 1 has played together for a number of years, stretching back to our Gosling BC times - experience told, as they won 8 out of 11 matches, taking division 2 by a whisker from Gadebridge 2 and Harpenden Rocketeers.
- Division 3 was far too easy for mixed 2 - they won all 8 matches (and lost only 9 rubbers all season) ... straight up to division 2.
- SW Herts Ladies were victims of a right saga in the top division... 3 of the 5 teams had identical Won/Lost records, so it went to goal difference again. However, due to a failure to meet the notoriously stringent SW Herts league rules, Comets had a match taken away, eventually leaving them joint 3rd out of 5, with worse goal difference. Bizarrely, this meant relegation, despite having been in a position to be champions. That one's going to an appeal...

The selectors, committee and all team players would like to thank the **captains** who kept these shows on the road so successfully this year.

Maltese style Badminton Tournament

FREE Half Board ACCOMODATION, FREE Lunch, Singles/Mixed/Doubles

Fellow members, it has come to my attention that Comets Badminton club has risen to new heights and been invited to attend an international friendly tournament in Malta. "Us? **INTERNATIONAL STANDARD?**" I hear you say!

We all have our moments, well some of us anyway! If you are interested in playing please contact Jon or put your name on the huge poster on the noticeboard **BY 7 th SEPTEMBER**. We need 3 ladies & 3 men to enter a team (we may be able to enter 2 teams) - these will be chosen by the selectors if we are oversubscribed.

If on the other hand you are purely interested in seeing the finer delights of Malta and watching a load of amateur Brits get thrashed at the hobby they thought they were so good at (i.e. being drunk & watching) please also contact Jon as we are able to take 2 coaches/officials per team. Email: jkendall@dial.pipex.com

Details: **26th-27th November 2005** (Accommodation is for 3 nights from 25th)

Costs £21 entry Flight cost approx £135

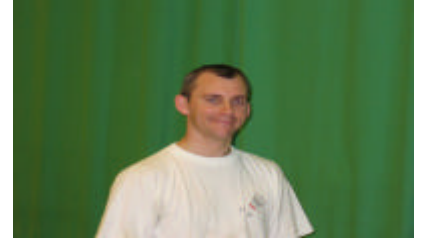
Coming in the next edition

- The selectors announce their squad- your thoughts
- Club History till present day - where do you feature on the timeline

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The Player Profile

How much do you know about you fellow players? Over the coming months I shall endeavour to find out. Are you prepared to enter the hot seat? Or would you like to ask the questions?



The Player: *Carl Graham*

Membership: *8 years and counting*

Occupation: *takes valuable time away from badminton /sport*

Favourite style of game: *Fast + Aggressive*

Annoying Habit: *overuse of flick serve (according to Jon). Calling time at the end of club night.*

Your strengths: *Consistency, anticipation, fitness*

Your Weaknesses: *More deception needed in game; more aggression attacking serves/service returns.*

Number of grey hairs: *substantially increased from partnering Jon*

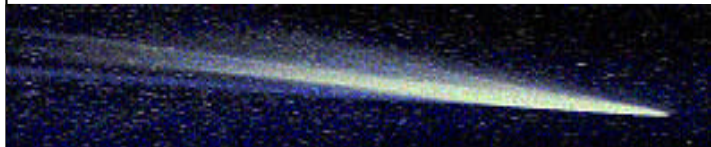
Fav person to partner: *Nick Pinnock*

Fav opponent: *Robert Hueting (Doubles); Dave Spring (Singles)*

Violence on court: *What are you trying to say?*

Last thing bought on eBay: *those quality Chinese rackets*

Step forward or backwards after serve: *forwards*



And finally... The Comet's Tale

Deep Impact - NASA fires washing machine at Comets

Hatfield, 4 July 2005

Scientists have reported success for Deep Impact - a NASA experiment in which a washing machine sized impactor was fired from a fly-by mother craft into Comets Badminton Club. The purpose of the mission was to mimic the very beginnings of time, through analysis of the effect of the impactor on Comets.

Initial observations had described the target as a "dirty snowball, travelling at thousands of miles per hour, in a distant elliptical orbit." The fly-by mother craft later added more detail - it was **Carl Graham** and **Warik Nazari** playing a particularly frantic men's doubles, diving on the floor a little *too* often.

The result was dramatic - TV news featured a huge splash crater formed after the washing machine impact, debris streaming out thousands of miles across the galaxy. And in the impact area itself, a previously unseen pure white zone became clearly visible.

A NASA spokesman said afterwards *"This experiment gave us valuable information about conditions immediately after the big bang. We can see how the universe looked in its first few moments. It is indeed true that, at the dawn of time, these players' t-shirts were pure white, with no sign of scuff marks. However, we cannot yet confirm rumours that the logo 'Gosling Badminton Club' was seen briefly on the surface of these ancient Comets"*

A source close to the players' domestic situations was incredulous that the garments had finally come into contact with a washing machine - *"These Comets would otherwise orbit the universe forever, eternally collecting galactic dust and grime, and becoming ever dirtier. To find pure white underneath is an enormous shock"*

For more information on Deep Impact, visit NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory at: <http://deepimpact.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/index.html>

Herts University's Customer Repulsion Laboratory, HSV, added *"This research is a valuable addition to human knowledge, and, here at HSV, we shall be conducting similar experiments shortly. To further deteriorate the badminton experience, we intend to fire small objects at the nets, in the hope of enlarging the existing holes. However, experiments can only commence if we can work out how to put the nets up properly"*

The most entertaining players to watch, we review who to take tips from and who is talking hot air

We are going live! Web site update!

NEWSLETTER: COMETSJUL05

(send your comments and articles to jkendall@dial.pipex.com)