

**Welcome...**

It's a new season and time for a new newsletter, same editor though! I hope you find this edition a thorough read, as past comments have compared this high profile rag to its sister publication *The Daily Star!*



**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

**Publicity:** Jonathan Kendall  
**Role:** Producing this fine work of Art!  
**Fav shot:** The Slice

**Fixtures Secretary & Selector:** Robert Hueting  
**Role:** Ensuring opposition don't turn up  
**Fav shot:** Stylish serve! So he thinks...

**Social Secretary:** Nicola Harrison  
**Role:** booking the pub  
**Fav Shot:** Cross court drop

**Members Rep:** Razinah Scofield  
**Role:** Taking complaints  
**Fav Shot:** Smashing backhand

**Junior Club Rep:** Dave Bartlett  
**Role:** Junior selection and drafting  
**Fav Shot:** Another net shot

**Young persons Reps:** Chris Fisher  
**Role:** Younger complaints  
**Fav shots:** Smash (typical!)

**A Selector:** Carl Graham  
**Role:** Quality control  
**Fav shot:** Flick Serve (ha-ha)

**Selector:** Richard Potter  
**Role:** Quality control,  
**Fav shot:** Another Serve lover!

**A Selector:** Dave Spring  
**Role:** Quality control  
**Fav shot:** Cross court net shot

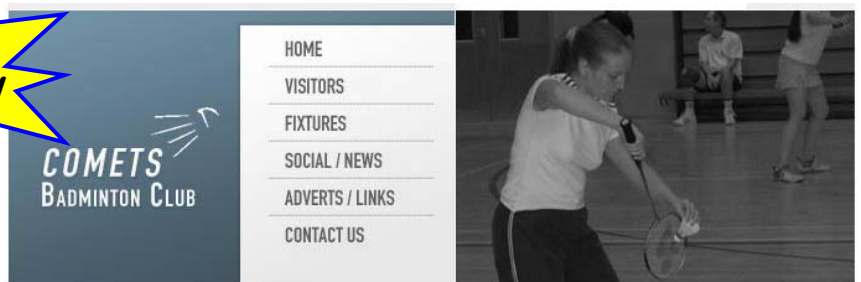
(Above) The new committee really hit it off at their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting! Can you guess who is who?

**Tales from the Big Chair** by Tracy Barnard

A very big, if belated, welcome to the new season. It was great to see so many people continuing to play over the summer – ready to hit the ground running come September. Here are a few quick updates:

- We are now limited to 4 courts on Thursdays. However, we have negotiated that playing time continues to 10.30pm so we do not lose any court time by not having the 5<sup>th</sup> court. Let us know whether this extra half hour is proving useful.
- Our new website is up and running, thanks Rob! See below – do visit it soon!
- The development club started on this month. For more information, see page 3 - let the committee know of anyone who may be interested in joining.
- We ran a trial of the new scoring system over the summer. It is likely that this will come into effect for the League matches next season – there is an article on page 4 to help you be prepared and answer your queries.
- See Nicola's social update on Pg3 – especially the venues for post-club drinks!

It's great to see so much good news in the gossip column – exam results, babies and engagements – I'm surprised we have time for the badminton! As usual, Jon has done an excellent job with the newsletter – any ideas as to what to include next time, please forward them on to him. Have a great season. *Tracy*



The new Comets website was launched over the summer. Please visit [www.cometsbc.co.uk](http://www.cometsbc.co.uk) and take a look. The website has two main objectives:

1. To be a source of information to existing club members. If you need to find out the date of your next match, view your team's position in the league using the link to the new online scoring system, check out the gossip in the latest newsletter, check on the planned social events or other news will all be easily accessible from the site. You will also be able to find services provided by members (restringing, coaching, physio etc), and links to other sites.

2. Provide information and contacts to help attract new members to the club. The web is now a key resource in attracting new people in the area to finding a club. The site provides a background on the club, information on when and where the club plays. It provides contact names and numbers. It is a key advertising billboard for the club.

The site will be continually updated to reflect life at the club. If you have any comments, would to like to advertise a service on the site, or would like to provide some content for a page please contact Jon K or Rob H.

Quick Jump

**Featured Sections**

 **ONLINE SCORING SYSTEM / FIXTURES**  
The leagues will be using a web based results system for the upcoming season. All the fixtures are now live on the sites. To see your teams list, select the league, then select your team. The County league has last years results in the archive section.

[View County Fixtures](#)  
[View SWH Fixtures](#)  
[Excel \(not updated\)](#)  
[Link for Captains](#)

**Welcome**

**Comets Badminton Club** (formerly Gosling) is the largest badminton club in Hertfordshire. It is a sociable but competitive badminton club which was established in 1979 at Gosling Stadium in Welwyn and moved to Hertfordshire Sports Village (HSV) in Hatfield in 2003.

Senior section (Thursdays 8-10pm, Sundays 7-9pm)  
Matches (Tuesdays 7:15-10:30pm)  
Development section (Sundays 7-9pm)  
Junior club (Sundays 6-7pm)

**Members:** If you are a member of the club, you should find whatever information you need using the menu above – from club news and upcoming social events to details of the fixtures and the various league rules. Let us know if you cannot find what you are looking for.

## The Player Profile

The Player: **Jette Clemow**

Favourite style of game **Ladies doubles!**

Your strengths: **Not badminton  
But I can lift my 3 stone son easily.**

Your Weaknesses: **Drinking too much wine!**

Annoying Habit: **Dreaming about being a better badminton player**

How long have you been playing: **Gosling/Comets Member since 1988 - I joined really young!**

Step forward or backwards after serve **I always step back after serve and remind myself afterwards that I should step forward.**

Interesting fact about you - outside badminton? **I'm half Danish which is where I get my really strong voice! I believe in sharing my badminton clothes with Richard.**

Funniest Moment on court: **Many years ago, before children when I played in a mixed match at Stevenage with a guy called Andy. My partner was in a bad mood and playing really badly (because I never do!) and we were losing, after a particularly good shot by me, I overstretched and my front fastening bra bounced open - it was quite embarrassing as you can imagine and of course I continued to play the point, however it amused my partner so much that his bad mood lifted and amazingly we came back to win the match.**

**I have absolutely nothing more to say until I've had another glass of wine!**



## This years Comets stars! Trophy Winners

### Straight Tournaments

Men's Singles	Nick Pinnock
Ladies Singles	Ronel Pieterse
Men's Doubles	Nick Pinnock & Hannes Pieterse
Ladies Doubles	Ronel Pieterse & Romana Rehman
Mixed doubles	Hannes & Ronel Pieterse



### Handicap Tournament Results

Men's Singles	Nick Pinnock
Ladies Singles	Tracy Barnard
Men's Doubles	Martin Gouldstone & Suraj Shah
Ladies Doubles	Kate Lester & Nicola Harrison
Mixed Doubles	Martin Gouldstone & Rhian Blowers

### Most improved Players

Men	Steve Prince
Ladies	Nicola Harrison

## Dates for your diary 2006

### Tournament dates

Straight Club tournaments will be announced in the New Year, watch the notice board (if we find it) for more information, don't worry we won't let you forget.



### Handicap Tournaments

#### Men's doubles

Won by Richard Potter & Oleg beating Bob & Raj

#### Ladies singles

Won by Helen Steer beating Romana Rehman

#### Men's Singles/Ladies Doubles

Taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2006

#### Mixed doubles

Taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006

**Attention**, as you may have **noticed** our **notice board has gone walkabout...** Does any body know its whereabouts or seen it any where else, please let the committee know if you do.

## Comets Teams Triumph Locally Once Again!!!!

### League results 2005 /2006

#### County League

- C Men's 1 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 7 teams  
A few wins and a few closely fought battles
- C Men's 2 Last - relegated  
Not the best last season for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, lack of strength and players took there toll, One to watch this season in the lower county league
- C Mixed 1 1<sup>st</sup> out of 7 teams  
Cracking team didn't lose a game, unstoppable!
- C Mixed 2 5<sup>th</sup> out of 7 teams  
Maintained there place in the top league for another season
- C Mixed 3 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 5 team  
Turned down promotion! They obviously know their limits
- C Ladies 1 1<sup>st</sup> out of 4 teams  
Another outstanding performance from the girls
- C Ladies 2 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 5 teams  
A solid performance with some tough games

#### SW Herts League

- SWH Men's 1 4<sup>th</sup> out of 6 teams  
Not a bad result with 5 main players, winning against the Champions in the last match ensured the team was safe!
- SWH Men's 2 - did well apparently, no report handed in
- SWH Mixed 1 4<sup>th</sup> out of 6 teams  
After 4 matches in 2 weeks secured there place in the league in next season
- SWH Mixed 2 - did well apparently, no report handed in
- SW Herts Ladies ? out of 5 teams  
Another team that relied on the subs bench but managed a respectable result

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

## The Adult Development Club – A New Beginning for Comets and Players Alike.

We are delighted to announce that the club was successful in its Awards for All application for funding to set up a development club. The club is now up and running with courts and qualified coaches, and we had our opening night on Sunday 12th November!

We have been lucky enough to obtain the services of **Kelly Matthews** – a former England international (interview in the next edition!) – who will be running the club, with the assistance of a pool of other coaches, including Steve Willis, Martin Haddon and Nick Goode. **We are currently advertising for members - so if you know anyone who may be interested, let us know and bring them along.**

The new club runs from **7-9pm on Sunday evenings in Hall 2 at HSV**. The club is aimed at people of all abilities and designed to be fun and sociable, providing people with a mixture of games and coaching.

The first year's coaching costs are covered by the Award for All funding – so it really is a total bargain at **£5 per session!** Its aim is to help new players wishing to join Comets develop to a reasonable standard before joining the main club. We hope this will improve the club nights for all members as well as strengthening our pipeline. If anyone wants more information, please speak to Rob, Mel or Tracy at club night.

### "SERVICE ERRORS WIND ME UP!"

By Carl Graham



The serve should be the least pressurised shot; because you decide when you start the serve, how to play it and where to place it. With practice it should become consistent and error-free. You should aim to make no more than 1 service error per game.

Many players view the serve as an attacking shot, it isn't. You should not aim to make winners from your serve. A good serve should be a setup shot; either forcing your opponent to lift the shuttle or to provide the opportunity to start an attack with a subsequent shot.

With the introduction of the new scoring system it is even more important to be consistent.

So in nut shell it's VITAL!! that you get it right.

However night after night I witness service mistakes including many of my own! Therefore I would like to suggest that members willing to participate make a donation to charity when they make service errors during any game on club night.

You can like me, donate 10pence per error or make a lump sum payment at the end of the night! A jar will be placed by the peg board and all proceeds will be donated to **Great Ormond Street Hospital** for Children. Hopefully we can improve the standards of our games and raise some money while doing so.

Or like Jon make a donation anyway because you don't make service errors!!!

### The Player Profile!!!!

How much do you know about you fellow players?  
Are you prepared to enter the hot seat?



The Player: **Richard Potter**

Membership: **2.5 years**

Occupation: **Shoe Retailer**

Favorite style of game: **Fast drives and aggressive mixed game, moving opponent around court.**

Annoying Habit: **Getting flick served, always calling the score.**

Your strengths: **Reasonable serve, receiving serve and round the head smash.**

Your Weaknesses: **I get flick served too often, not quick enough at the net.**

**No sneaky winning shots and bad footwork.**

Fav person to partner: **Matt Moore as he always puts in 100% and always seems to enjoy playing.**

Fav opponent: **Hannes as he is a difficult opponent who makes me think/guess about what he may do next**

Last thing bought on eBay: **A horse blanket**

Funniest Moment on court: **Playing a singles match against someone with a two-piece racket which came detached mid smash and fired the racket head across the net towards me.**

How long have you been playing? **I had picked up a racket at an earlier age but really started playing at 15.**

Interesting fact about you outside of badminton? **I got engaged last month to my now fiancée Severine.**

### Social Events by Nicola Harrison

**Hi Guys-** Just a quick note to let you know what's planned for Christmas and the new-year!

#### Beales Christmas Party

This has been arranged for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at the Beales Hotel.

**Curry Night & Top Golf Night** to be arranged sometime in the New Year, don't worry I'll let you all know

#### The ongoing social scene.....

And as always there are a few of us that gather down the pub after most club nights, the **Three Horseshoes** on Hatfield Road or the Comet Hotel opposite the Sports centre are favourites, so come along and say Hi and catch up on the gossip once a month.



## SIMPLIFIED NEW RALLY POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

The new scoring system, whether your for it or against it, what you need to know!

### Scoring System

A match consists of the best of 3 games of 21 points.

The side winning a rally adds a point to its score.

At 20 all, the side which gains a 2 point lead first, wins that game.

At 29 all, the side scoring the 30<sup>th</sup> point, wins that game.

The side winning a game serves first in the next game.

### Intervals and Change of Ends

- When the leading score reaches 11 points, players have a 60 second interval.
- A 2 minute interval between each game is allowed.
- In the third game, players change ends when a side scores 11. Points.

### Singles

- At the beginning of the game and when the score is even, the server serves from the right service court. When it is odd, the server serves from the left service court.
- If the server wins a rally, the server scores a point and then serves again from alternate service court.
- If the receiver wins a rally, the receiver scores a point and becomes the new server.

### Doubles

- There is only one serve in doubles (see attached diagram). The service passes consecutively to the players as shown in the attached diagram.
- At the beginning of the game and when the score is even, the server serves from the right court. When it is odd, the server serves from the left court.
- If the serving side wins a rally, the serving side scores a point and the same server serves again from the alternate service court.
- If the receiving side wins a rally, the receiving side scores a point. The receiving side becomes the new serving side.
- The player of the receiving side who served last stays in the same service court from where he served last. The reverse pattern applies to the receiver's partner
- The players do not change their respective service courts until they win a point when their side is serving.
- If players commit an error in the service court, the error is corrected when the mistake is discovered

Editor: Luckily we are not playing this wonderful scoring system this year and so we can discuss the benefits (if there are any!) of implementing it at the AGM meeting in 2007.

## Need Your Racket Restrung?

Greg Roantree, has learnt to restring rackets this summer and is offering his service to Comets members at seriously good prices.



### Gossip column-just to prove we do have a life off-court

Congratulations to **Emily C, Kate L, Emma S** On their A level exam results. They are off to study Architecture at Dundee University, Human Biology at Birmingham, and Maths at Warwick respectively. We wish them all the best for their degrees and hope to see them when they are visiting home. Keep in touch.

Well done also to **Angela, Rhian and Greg** on some excellent GCSE results, more 'A's than I ever achieved. Good luck with the A levels.

**Nick Pinnock** proposed to his girlfriend **Donna** on the Golden Gate Bridge while on holiday in San Francisco earlier this year. Even better news, she actually said yes!

**Hannes and Ronel Pieterse** became the proud parents of baby **Jonathan** on 15th August. He arrived weighing 3.82kg. All are doing well. Given the combined talents of his parents, it shouldn't be long before young Master Pieterse is tormenting opponents with his disguised backhand, cross court smash!

**Melissa Graham** also arrived on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to proud parents Carl & Catherine Graham, weighing in at 7lb 3ozs.

**Saying goodbye:** To **Jonathan Mooc**, who has moved to South London to reduce his commuting time to work, .....Any time you are in the area, do pop in and say hello.

**Warm re-welcomes:** To **Mette Adkins** and **Ian Johnston** who have both rejoined the club this season after taking a break.

## A Few Badminton facts...

- badminton's history dates back to Ancient Greece and the early Far-Eastern civilisations; versions of the game, sometimes using a foot instead of a racket, have been depicted on pottery around 3000 years ago, in China
- once known as battledore and shuttlecock, the game as we know it today took its name from Badminton House in Gloucestershire, England - home of the Duke of Beaufort
- the two most successful badminton countries are China and Indonesia which between them have won 70% of all IBF events
- crowds of up to 15000 are common for major badminton tournaments in Malaysia and Indonesia
- 131 countries are members of the IBF (International Badminton Federation)
- badminton is the world's fastest racket sport: a shuttle can leave the racket at a speed of almost 200 mph
- a badminton player can cover more than one mile in just one match
- the best shuttles are made from the feathers from the left wing of a goose
- 16 feathers are used to make a shuttle
- the biggest shuttle in the world can be found on the lawns of the Kansas City Museum - 48 times larger than the real thing, 18 feet tall and weighing 5000 pounds

Coming in the next edition

- The Post xmas party review
- Club History continues

The most entertaining players to watch, we review who to take tips from and who is talking hot air  
Web site update with the online league system in place