

# Youngsters in north London are making headway in badminton

by Lola Aroun

RECENTLY Burrough Sports Centre in Hendon North West London saw the 1st series of training sessions for the Middlesex Under 12 team and the preparation for the six counties badminton tournament.

'TIS ok saying that we have a good under 13, 15, 16 team but how did they get their?, it was because we were training them when they were under 12' stated Sheila Collins, the Chair of the Junior Committee Middlesex Badminton Association and organiser of the training sessions.

'We need, for the sake of the county, to train our under 12s so that they will beat the under 13's. We will be looking for children who are just under 12 simply because that is the age of the person that they will be playing against. Now obviously, if there is a good 9 or 10 year old that is better than our 11 year old then we will put them in. They are looked at for mobility.

Everyone here can hit shuttles, they are all wanting to learn, work and they are trying their hardest. But it is whether they can get to the shuttle faster than the opposition, that is what I will be looking for.

So if they have this natural ability to see the shuttle at an early age and be able to get to it rather than wait for it to come to them, then they will be the ones that will be highlighted'. Terry Anderson who manages a junior badminton club in North London stated 'I was very pleased that some of my pupils accepted the invite to Hendon today, I think that they have enjoyed themselves a lot. Furthermore I think that they have witnessed a high standard

13 eager beavers went through their warm up routines. As they went through smashes, drives, clears, drop shots, deceptive play, and play with and against adults it was clear to see that the future for badminton was indeed bright.

amongst a lot of the children here and good play all in all'.

When 9 year old Joanna Tang who has been playing for 4 years was asked how she felt she had performed on the night she replied 'I'm quite confident'.

It is so important that sessions like these take place especially if it introduces juniors to badminton activity at county level.

This years counties that are concerned are Yorkshire, Middlesex, Surrey,

Hertfordshire, Essex, and Hants.

The next few weeks will tell who from this list of hopefuls will be playing county level badminton and they are: Rose Wardlaw, Abdul Maalik Aroun, Jeremy Shaverim, Eric Tang, Joanna Tang, Michelle Wong, Dary Jacobs, Yoki Liew, Jan Gardner, David Foster, Robert Kettle, Swani Lukka and Akash Jhunjunwala.



above right: Sheila Collins



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