

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

In a first for *Upton Voice* we are very grateful to parent Mr Newis for this comprehensive report on the recent schools' national championships in Badminton

'Upton by Chester High School Year 9 Girls Rachel Barrett, Alex Goodwin, Beth Newis and Laura Williams triumphed at the weekend to become the Center Parcs/ Badminton **England National Schools Champions for 2013/14**. This follows a second place last year and fourth place two years ago.

Having won the local area, county and regional rounds, the team went to Center Parcs Sherwood Forest to compete with the eight other regional winners for the title. Four matches therefore stood between the girls and the title.

The first round consisted of three boxes of three teams. The winners of each box to then play for 1st to 3rd, second in each box to play for 4th to 6th and the third in each box to play for 7th to 9th. The format for each match was two singles and three doubles.

Upton by Chester drew North London Collegiate in their first match and started with a confident 5-0 win (105 - 47 points). Second up were St Clement Danes and despite a narrow 20-21 loss in one of the singles matches, a 4-1 win (104 - 49 points) took Upton by Chester into a play off for a medal.



The afternoon session pitted Upton by Chester against Camborne Science and International Academy (Cornwall) and King Edward VII (Yorkshire) for the title.

First up were Upton by Chester and Camborne. Beth and Alex both had to play recognised BE tournament players in Kellen Moore and Amy Polglase in the singles. They both came up with confident victories 21-13 and 21-20 respectively. Between these two matches, Laura and Rachel gave a commanding performance to win their doubles match 21-10. So a victory in the first match was secured before going into the final two doubles, which again were won impressively to 12 and 17. This gave Upton by Chester another 5-0 win (105 - 72 points).

The second match allowed Upton by Chester a chance to catch their breath and saw a tight match between Camborne and King Edward VII. This match went down to the last doubles match with Camborne winning 21-18 and the match 3-2.

This meant that Upton by Chester only needed two games from the final match to clinch the title.

However, confidence was high with the result achieved by the Camborne team over King Edward VII. First up Beth took on Niphada Kamphuban and despite a close match at 14-14, Niphada edged the match with Beth trying a bit too hard to win. Laura and Rachel restored the score to 1-1 with a doubles win to 14 over their opponents. Alex was on next against Emily Newman and took the match to 13. So at 2-1 to Upton by Chester, victory was assured. Team manager Miss Green had not informed the girls of what was needed for the last match (although they may have worked it out for themselves) and Beth and Laura went into their doubles to win.

[Continues on page 2....](#)

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ..... continued...

This they did again to 13 and with the game point secured, Rachel and Alex rushed the court to celebrate with their team mates. However there was still one match to play. Alex and Rachel went on to court and finished the day as we had started with a clinical victory to 11. This gave Upton by Chester another 4-1 victory (98 - 72 points) and the title Center Parcs National School Champions.'

So the title was won 5-0, 4-1, 5-0, 4-1, which is an amazingly convincing victory in a national championship. (414 points to 240 points) Our warmest congratulations go to the girls who have worked hard for this success over several years, superbly backed up by their parents and Team Manager Miss Green. A truly superb team effort!

## MORE NATIONAL SUCCESS....

Four students from Upton-by-Chester High School have received awards in a national art and poetry competition for their depictions of peace.

On International Peace Day in 2012 the Islamic Society of Britain launched 'A Picture of Peace' for 7 to 16 year olds. The organisation received more than 1000 entries from schools all over the country and four pupils from the Chester school had their work acknowledged.

Stella Dixon was crowned overall winner of the competition and winner of the KS3 category, and Julian Sillett the KS4 winner. Mia Williams' work was highly-commended and Christopher Graham received a special award for his composition and DVD on the subject of peace.

Upton by Chester Headteacher Jane Holland, said: "We were delighted that our students swept prizes in all categories and that they were commended for the thought and depth of ideas in their artwork.

"They addressed an audience in Manchester Town Hall to explain their ideas about peace and it was a proud moment for their Religious Studies teacher, Karen Smale, and for me.

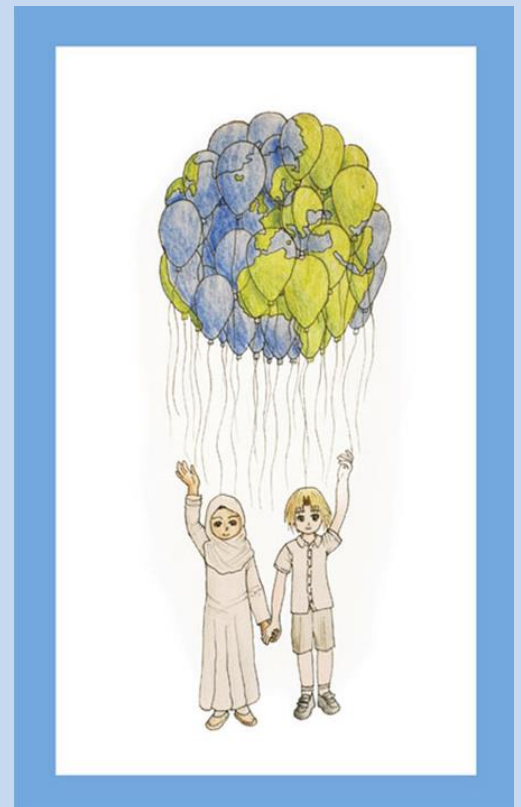
"Upton has promoted global peace and understanding for many years, both through our international programme and through Fair Trade, Oxfam and Amnesty groups. The school received the gold Cultural Diversity Quality Standard in 2012 and has a long running link with a school in Sana'a, Yemen.

"Well done to Stella, Julian, Mia and Christopher and to all our students who entered the competition and thank you to the British Islamic Society for the

opportunity for the school to be involved in Islam Awareness Week."

At a special ceremony which took place at Manchester Town Hall the school was awarded £200 worth of books and display materials after being crowned best school in the competition nationally.

The attendees listened to key note speakers and delivered their own thoughts, explaining the ideas behind their art work. Julie Siddiqi from The Islamic Society then attended a special assembly at the school where prizes were awarded and Christopher played his piano composition.



Stella's artwork is reproduced above.

[Continues on page 2....](#)

Commenting on Stella's piece, the judges said: "The two children holding hands and the balloons merging together to form the world, was a beautiful illustration of aspiration held by all children taking part.

"The detail in which the balloon's individual shadow made way for a uniformed world, with its patches still apparent, is a demonstration of the high level of technique we encountered."

Commenting on Julian's artwork, the judges said: "The blue pen drawing, with its incredible detail, showed that peace has many facets. It drew, quite literally, from all the traditions of the world and so, if you look closely, you will see the RIP of a grave stone and the yin and yang of the ancient east. A beautiful piece of depth and comprehensiveness."



**Julian's artwork is reproduced above.**

Year 11 student Nazeem Ali attended this event and was kind enough to write this account for *Upton Voice*:

'Students worked with the British Islamic Society on 'A Picture of Peace'. This is a national competition for schools across the UK for the Religious Studies department. Upton-by-Chester High School won every prize category from over 1000 entries.

The school was invited to Manchester Town Hall to give a speech and present the winning pieces.

At the Town Hall, we talked about the importance of religion and cultural diversity, and how as a community we need to work hard to reach equality.

All of the students that attended found this a really enjoyable event and it was lovely to see how proud Mrs Smale the Head of Religious Studies was, and also how proud our Headteacher was of our hard work and achievements.

Hopefully we will continue our hard work and together we can achieve equality and also create a more peaceful world.'