

■ Emma Fielder, from Hinckley, has overcome the worst effects of scoliosis and now hopes to achieve her dream of becoming a badminton coach.



Emma aims to be sports coach

AFTER nearly a decade of living with a life-threatening condition, Emma Fielder is now on the road to recovery and following her dream of becoming a badminton coach.

The 19-year-old from Hinckley was told that she had scoliosis at the age of just 10, and was repeatedly told that her only option was to have metal rods fitted down her back and her spine fused solid. The condition sees sufferers' spine curve excessively sideways, and if left untreated can lead to fatal heart and lung problems.

She said: "When I was first told that I had scoliosis my whole world fell down around me. I lost so much of my confidence and I thought my only option was to undergo major spinal fusion surgery."

But despite being told that she could end up in a wheelchair Emma, from Stanley Road, decided against surgery. As the years passed the pain grew continually worse and by the time she reached 19, Emma was in daily agony, wore baggy clothes to hide her asymmetrical appearance, and struggled to play her beloved badminton for prolonged periods, as her spine had

begun to compress her lungs.

It was at this point that Emma's mother, Sarah, had decided enough was enough and, after much research online, found the Scoliosis SOS clinic in London. Despite being told once again that surgery was the only viable option, Sarah booked her daughter in for an intensive course of specialised therapy.

After four weeks of treatment using the ScolioGold method – a combination of internationally renowned non-surgical treatments – Emma's condition had stabilised and her posture, pain, physical appearance and lung capacity had all significantly improved.

She said: "I can remember thinking that I just wanted the nightmare to be over. I suffered for years in silence until my mum found the SOS clinic. I didn't even stop to think that it might not work, I just saw it as my ticket out of having surgery. I loved sports and the idea of having to stop playing, was soul destroying.

"When I completed the course and I was told that my condition had stabilised, it was a huge relief. My back now looks a million times better and I feel like I am so much stronger.

"I will always be so grateful to the SOS team - they are one very special group of people."