

## National Championships: Adam Lives the Dream

It was a weekend to remember at the beginning of March when our head coach Adam Nutland made it to the quarter finals of the National Championships at Redbridge Sports Centre.

Adam told me he'd dreamed of getting to the final stages of this event since childhood, and so his dream became a reality, as he progressed to the last eight without even dropping a set.

The absence of one of the top seeds gave Adam a crucial bye in the second round but he then went on to dominate the talented Surrey player Joseph Langham-Ferreira in the next round. That victory resulted in Adam facing England number 3 Sam Walker in the quarter final match. Our man put up a courageous fight but Sam Walker, who trains and plays professionally in Germany, was not going to be denied his passage to the semi-final where he lost a close match to Liam Pitchford, who retained his men's title.

The other notable performance, from our point of view, was that of **Ethan Walsh**. Still only 12, Ethan finished second in his group to make it through to the knockout stage in the U21 event. It was a tough group, and Ethan did well to win two of his matches, including a victory against Jack Dempsey who is ranked 30 places higher than Ethan on the U21 list. Ethan then took a set from the England number 11 junior Jack Bennett and made him fight all the way for his quarterfinal place.

Despite his whirlwind success at the weekend, Adam was back running the coaching at BATTYS on Monday.

The organisers of the National Championships did a superb job of staging the event, and there was excellent live-streaming coverage of the weekend's play. Table tennis players have complained for years about the lack of TV coverage of our sport, so this is a significant breakthrough.



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Adam in action during his quarter final match against Sam Walker



Encouraging words from coach Mark Jarvis

All photos by John Upham

# County Championships Means BATTs Families at War!

At the recent round of Senior County matches on 21st/22nd March, we had plenty of representatives from BATTs, and some of them were battling against each other in promotion and relegation tussles.

Given our position almost sitting on the boundary of Essex and Hertfordshire and with roughly half our membership in each county this is inevitable.

The senior division one matches were held at Cippenham, Slough and the Essex team began the weekend with an outside chance of promotion to the premier division. The Essex line up included **Ella and Jared Patel**. In one of their first matches they found themselves facing the combined might of the **Walsh family** who were representing Hertfordshire and with a mission to avoid relegation. At the end of a very close battle the Essex team finally emerged victorious winning 6—4. But there were some good wins for the Walshes, with Ethan beating Anthony, Jimmy beating Matt, and Natasha overcoming Ella.

By the end of the weekend both teams emerged with honour. The Essex squad



Essex senior team: Jared Patel, Ella Patel, Matt Spero, Barbara Isyk, Anthony Kent

only just missed promotion, but won five out of their six matches. Meanwhile the Walshes finished on a happy note: they avoided relegation and notched up some more excellent wins during the later matches. The Hertfordshire squad included **Jess Jarvis** who also won a singles during her first outing for the senior team.

So it looks like the family wars could continue next season.....

## Looking Ahead....

### Coming up in the May edition

- ◇ **BATTs Head Coach makes his TV debut**
- ◇ **Harlow League end of season report**
- ◇ **Senior British League - report from the final matches**

# Jack Petchey Award for Jaz



**Jaz Harvey** was chosen by BATTs coaches as the worthy winner of the Jack Petchey Award for March.

Jaz, who was 14 in January, started playing table tennis only last summer, along with her younger brother Diesel.

Her exceptional progress and attendance led to rapid promotion to our "B" Squad.

Jaz continues to show outstanding commitment to improving her play, which was reflected in some excellent performances in the recent National Cadet League.

# Schools Links



Building links with local primary schools is one of our most important activities at BATTs. Table tennis is a sport for all ages but in our quest to find future champions the primary schools nearby are an obvious source. We have made a great start in this by developing a strong link with the PE department at **Harlowbury School**. During the last year, the school have been bringing whole classes of their pupils into BATTs for an hour of table tennis and fun activities with our coaching team. So far, three different year groups have taken up our offer and they have all enjoyed their visits. We are grateful to our regu-

lar Wednesday players for their tolerance during the hour when noise levels are somewhat less subdued than normal!

The project has begun to reap benefits for BATTs, because several of the Harlowbury pupils (including some in these photos) are now members of our regular coaching squads.

We hope to extend the idea to at least one other school in the near future. Meanwhile, Adam and Dennis have been visiting Churchgate Primary to run introductory sessions there.



## New Bats from Old

**Thanks** for all the second hand rubber - we are now establishing a good supply of renovated rackets suitable for beginners. Please continue to donate your used sheets of rubber.

If you have any spare blades to donate to the club they would also be very welcome. Leave items in the office for my attention.

*Graham*

## Lighting Update

The installation of our new LED lighting went fairly smoothly, thanks to a huge effort from Neil who plunged himself tirelessly into the project. The old lights have been generously donated to other clubs and it now remains for us to see how much we can reduce our power bills.

Please make sure you receive training in the new lighting controls before using them.

## Onwards and Upwards

**Our Cadets and Juniors** continue to make great progress in national rankings, resulting from the effort they make with training. Congratulations to the following who have improved their position in the national rankings by **10 or more places** in their age group:

**Callum Boyce**  
**Declan Garner**  
**Diesel Harvey**  
**Louis Henderson**  
**Isaac Hughes**  
**Justin Jeffery**  
**Luke Jones**  
**Alana Mansfield**  
**Josh Poland**  
**Karim Tadros**

We look forward to listing more names here in future months, as more of our "B" squad begin to enter tournaments.



## Tournament Diary

**Saturday/Sunday 11th/12th April**

U11 - U14 National Regional Qualifier

**Sunday 26th April**

Blackpool 2\* Cadet/Junior

Gloucestershire 2\* Cadet/Junior

**Saturday 2nd May**

Milton Keynes 2\* Cadet/Junior

**Sunday 3rd May**

Horsham Spinners 2\* Cadet/Junior

**Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th May**

**BATTs 1\* Cadet & Junior Open**

**Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th May**

Chandlers Junior 4\* Open

**Sunday 31st May**

Burton Uxbridge 1\* Cadet/Junior

Horsham Spinners 2\* Cadet/Junior

**Saturday/Sunday 6th/7th June**

National Cadet/Junior Championships, Sheffield

**Saturday 13th June**

Chandlers FE 2\* Cadet/Junior

Fusion 2\* Cadet/Junior

**Sunday 21st June**

Burton Uxbridge 2\* Cadet/Junior

**For more information, including entry forms for all these events visit the Table Tennis England website**

# Congratulations!



Our team in the **National Junior League** proudly displaying their runners up medals, after finishing second in Division 2. Well done **Alana, Casey** and **George**. Not shown in the photo is **Methmal Udamulla** who played in some of the earlier matches. **Jaycee Chan**, a regular member of our A Squad, was a member of the Ellenborough team who finished top of Division 1.



**Josh Dye** who has been training at BATTs and helping our coaching team for several months made his Essex debut in March playing for the second team. Josh played superbly to achieve a shock win against Dan Barna, who is more than 150 places higher than Josh in the U21 national rankings.

In the same weekend, Josh successfully completed the final assessment for his UKCC Level One coaching certificate.



**Charlotte Marsden** won 8 out her 9 matches in the final set of matches in the National Cadet League where she represents her "other" club Warren Springs.



An amazing month for **Joe Walker** who boldly venture north to compete in the Blackpool 4\* tournament. Joe did very well to reach the semi final of the Band 2 Cadet event. The semi was a very close match, with Joe just losing to Rhys Davies of Lancs who is ranked more than 100 places higher and went on to win the final.

The following week Joe played for Essex Cadets in the county matches and was unbeaten.

## What's @ BATTs



.....Play



.....Spectate

**Sunday 12th April**

10am - 1pm Open Club Session

**Saturday 25th April**

10am - 1pm Open Club Session

**Sunday 3rd May**

10am - 1pm Open Club Session

**Sunday 10th May**

BATTs 1 Star Junior/Cadet Open

**Sunday 17th May**

BATTs Super Series

**Sunday 31st May**

Grass Roots Tournament

**Sunday 7th June**

10am— 1pm Open Club Session

**Sunday 14th June**

10am— 1pm Open Club Session

**Saturday 11th July**

Grass Roots Tournament

**Sunday 12th July**

10am— 1pm Open Club Session

**Sunday 19th July**

10am— 1pm Open Club Session

**Sunday 26th July**

10am— 1pm Open Club Session

To see the full calendar of everything going on at the Norman Booth Centre see our website and click on "Calendar"

### COMING SOON....

We are planning an exciting new series of competitions for next season, suitable for all age groups and with great prizes. More details in the May edition of BATTs News.

### LET'S HEAR FROM YOU.....

We'd love to know how you could help make BATTs a better club.

Send your suggestions and comments to [grahamf.batts@gmail.com](mailto:grahamf.batts@gmail.com)