

Tough at the Top!



Our team in the Premier Division of the Senior British League are engaged in a very tight struggle. After a great victory in their first match at Cardiff, it soon became clear that the rest of the season would not be plain sailing.

We predicted our first home match against Fusion would be exciting and it certainly lived up to our expectations. The home spectators were rewarded by seeing a superb fight back in the final two singles by **Jack Bennett** and **Ethan Walsh** to secure what could in the end be a valuable point for BATTs. As well as the excitement of the match our supporters enjoyed the entertainments that turned it into a fun afternoon.

The BATTs Bull made his debut appearance taking on challenges from anyone who dared. The Lightning Shoot Out was another popular event. Sharon was doing a roaring trade in the cafeteria and we even had some BATTs cakes (see photo right) specially designed for us by **Renate Weller**. The afternoon was professionally compered by **Chris D'Aguiar**.

We knew that the next match after



Fusion was going to be tough. Our team of **Michael Tauber**, **Adam Nutland**, **Jack Bennett** and **Peter Cleminson** put in a great effort but the Drumchapel Glasgow side, with two world ranked Chinese players, were too strong. Drumchapel have now won all their first four matches 8-0.

That leaves BATTs in a mid-table position but we are taking nothing for granted. Various issues of squad availability and injury have given team manager Neil a few headaches to contend with on team selection. **Ethan Walsh**, having played brilliantly to beat Emran Hussein in the crucial final singles, then discovered he needs to have his forehand re-configured and is resting from competitive play. This, coupled with Adam's unavailability for the Halton match, will give others in the squad an opportunity to shine.

The next two matches are away fixtures but we are looking ahead to our next home encounter which is on **Saturday 11th February**. We have another great afternoon planned. The match, of course, will be the centrepiece, and this time we will be



Inspired by Ethan Walsh, our second Ethan - with Ben and Jake - take on the BATTs Bull



up against the mighty Ormesby from Middlesbrough who, after three matches, had only dropped two singles. See page 4 for more information about the Ormesby match.

All photos on this page were taken by Roger Hance.

BATTS 2 Riding High



Above: Mateusz in action against Mitchell Jones (Peterborough). Right: Steve Beerling, Sam Chesterman, Joe Walker and Josh Dye, our squad in the first round of matches

Some magnificent performances by the BATTS second team in the Senior British League recently demonstrated that we are beginning to show strength in depth.

The standard of play in National A2 is consistently high, with not a lot to choose between the eight teams, all contending for a coveted place in the higher Championship division next season. After two rounds of matches that goal is beginning to look achievable for BATTS, thanks to their wonderful fighting spirit, pulling off some seemingly impossible victories.

We'd been given a very solid start in September. With **Steve Beerling** dropping only one singles during the first



four matches BATTS won two and drew two matches. Then, in the latest set of four matches held at BATTS on 12th/13th November our squad was **Peter Cleminson, Mateusz Zagajewski, Josh Dye, Sam Chesterman, and Joe Walker**. Every match was desperately close but the team was again unbeaten, dropping only a single point in the draw against Peterborough, who had been the early leaders in the division.

Peter was a great boost to the team on Saturday, and was unbeaten. On Sunday Peter was unavailable but it gave us a chance to include new signing Mateusz, who is now seen regularly

coaching and sparring with our A squad at BATTS. Mat justified his selection, winning 3 out of his 4 singles.

All this has left the BATTS 2 team top of the division.

Watch out for news of the next round of matches which are at Southampton on 11th December.

The BATTS teams in the Junior British League have also been in action. Our girls team have done very well to achieve a mid-table position in Division One, thanks to strong all-round performances from **Stephi Cross, Gracie Edwards** and **Alana Mansfield**. The two boys teams have struggled, but will keep fighting!

Latest Jack Petchey Awards



The latest Jack Petchey Awards were presented recently by Head Coach Peter Cleminson to **Ben Coleman** and **Cody Prentice**. They were chosen to receive these awards based on their attendance, and commitment to improving their skills.

BATTS

Singles League

Although we haven't seen much of Adam since he started building satellites for spacecraft in his new job he has started a very popular Singles League running on Tuesday evenings.

A simple informal structure that allows participants to play whenever they want to, it also has the attraction of a league structure and its own ranking system.

Results and rankings are all held on the ingenious 365 database so players can log in any time to see their progress.

Visit the 365 site here for more information and joining details:

batts.tabletennis365.com

Batts Table Tennis Singles League



BATTS Super Series: Round up



Darius Knight in action in the Senior Super Series - on his way to winning £500

photo Ben Flaum

We have continued with our winning formula of Super Series tournaments at BATTS this season.

Each of the first three tournaments reached the maximum entry of 48 and in the case of the Cadet event, we were full more than a week before the closing date.

The prize fund is an obvious attraction - we have awarded cash prizes of £1,855 so far this season - but we also get a lot of positive feedback from players about

the tournament format, which allows us to keep the competition flowing and gives plenty of matches for all competitors. Nobody gets eliminated at the group stage, and even players who finish low in their group still have a chance to shine in the knock out later on.

Another feature of our format - which we believe contributes greatly to the smooth running of the day - is that all competitors enter into one event on the

day. We don't attempt to have banded entry or separate events for girls/ladies.

It was particularly welcome to see that we had five girl competitors in our Cadet Super Series and five again in our Junior Super Series. In the Junior tournament the band two final was an all-girls affair with **Tiana Dennison** overcoming **Sarah Menghistab** in a close-fought match.

We were pleased to see plenty of our own players entering, and especially that some of our youngsters managed to get in amongst the prize money, as well as benefitting from playing against some very strong opposition.

The photos below show some of the recent prize winners.

We are always keen to look for improvements, and the next development will be a Mini-Cadet Super Series for Under 13 players. The date will be confirmed soon, but meanwhile you can find the entry forms for our next three Super Series events on the BATTS website:

Sunday 22nd January - Cadet
Sunday 12th February - Junior
Sunday 12th March - Senior

Entry can now be done entirely online.



Cadet winner William McCarthy



Cadet runner up Joshua Amanor



Cadet Band 1 runner up Diesel Harvey



Junior winner Joseph Hee



Junior Band 1 winner Tiana Dennison



Senior winner Darius Knight



Senior Band 1 winner Jack Stockdale



Senior Band 1 runner up Luke Jones

Congratulations

Tables Turned

Normally it's Neil presenting the awards but at last the tables have been turned - and deservedly so. One of our members nominated Neil to receive the Club Volunteer of the



Year award. The nomination will now go forward to be considered for a regional award. Thanks to all our members who came along to see the certificate being presented.

Transformation

Our top team in the National Junior League were unbeaten in the second round of matches held at Ellenborough on 26th November. Well done **Charlie, Fin, Jaz** and **Te** who put in great performances to climb the Division One table. The team had struggled in the previous matches in October but this time it all came good. Thanks to **Calvin Harvey** for managing our teams on this occasion.

New Venture



In an effort to keep membership fees down we have diversified. Other brands are available.

Onwards & Upwards

We are always happy to see our young players making progress through our coaching squads. Here are some of our recent promotions:

Promoted from Beginners to B Squad:

Freddie Cecil-Smith
Ali Graham
Cornel Swinfen
Dennis Swinfen
Sam Taylor
George Ward
Tom Weller
Ethan Willis
Jack Willis

Promoted from B to A Squad:

Callum Boyce
Ben Coleman
Matthew Neil
Benjamin Sivathanu

New Umpires



Two of our members have recently qualified as County Umpires, after attending an initial umpiring workshop at BATTs organised by Table Tennis England.

Congratulations to **Chris D'Aguiar** and **Alan Morley** who will now be seen wearing their smart blue blazers and providing much needed umpiring support to tournaments in the area.

If you would like to consider this yourself speak to Chris or Alan or visit the Table Tennis England website:

www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/organise/officials/

COMING UP @ BATTs

Senior British League Championship Division matches on **Sunday 11th December** (BATTs are not in this division but there will be some excellent table tennis - matches start at 10.30am and 2.30pm).

The BATTs Christmas Party will be on **Wednesday 21st December** from 6pm onwards. Free for all BATTs members.

NOT TO BE MISSED.....

Our next Senior British League Premier Division home match will be on **Sunday 11th February**. Come and support our team. We have some great entertainments laid on for all the family including **Leon the Amazing Magician** as well as all the attractions from last time (see report on p.1)

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