

## Dazzling French Defence



The BATTs team: Steve Beerling, Ethan Walsh, Jack Bennett, Rémi Bételu

**18 year old Rémi Bételu from France became the latest addition to our Senior British League premier division team just a few days before our first home match of the season.**

After a dream start to the season, when we had travelled to Cardiff and won the first match 8 - 0 we knew that Ormesby were going to be an entirely different proposition.

When Helshan Weerasinghe, who would have been our number one player, became unavailable we began to fear a very one-sided match. But, with about a week to go, Neil was able to sign Rémi. We knew little about him except that he was a full-time player and he had recently beaten Michael Tauber in an open tournament. Also, it was interesting to note that he was a defender.

On the match day, we were still doubtful whether our 18 year old defender would make much impression on the might of Viktor

Brodd (world ranked 177) and Darius Knight. But then came the dramatic news that Viktor Brodd was injured and would be replaced by the 14 year old Josh Weatherby.

This was beginning to look much more like an even contest and it turned out to be a real thriller for the 70 spectators.

Our young French defender made a great start in his first singles against Danny Reed, and the Ormesby player had to tap into all his reserves to win in 5 sets. On the other table, Darius Knight took less time to overcome Jack Bennett, needing only three games.

The next two singles were extremely close, and saw the debut of the 14 year old Josh Weatherby, who played superbly, almost toppling Steve Beerling. The more experienced BATTs player just scraped home at 9 in the fifth set. Meanwhile, Ethan Walsh made a tremendous start and in another very tight match he beat

Matej Mamut at 12-10 in the fifth set.

At this point the 70 spectators were totally enthralled, and at 2 - 2 it looked like any result was possible. The next singles between Rémi Bételu and Darius Knight was going to be crucial, and it could have gone either way. But the English player's attack was just too consistent for Rémi's defence, and Darius won 13-11, 10-12, 11-4, 12-10. On the other table Danny Reed was too strong for Steve Beerling winning three straight and putting the match almost beyond the reach of the BATTs team. After Jack Bennett won the first set against Matej Mamut, the draw still looked achievable but the Croatian stepped up a gear to win the next three sets. Then, the final set gave a superb victory to young Josh Weatherby, overcoming Ethan Walsh in four sets.

**It was a fair result in the end and we were happy to have given the large and appreciative crowd some wonderful entertaining table tennis.**

On 2nd December our team travelled to Glasgow to face Drumchapel who are one of the contenders for the Premiership title. Once again, Neil had to cope with availability problems, and decided to recruit another player from France. Mathan Simon, who plays for the same club as Rémi, was signed up for the Drumchapel match. Our line up of Mathan, Rémi, Steve and Ethan made little impression on the Drumchapel team that included two players in the top 10 national rankings and one of the leading Belgian players. Steve Beerling managed our only win, and the 7 - 1 defeat means that we are now likely to be involved in a play off, later in the season, to keep our place in the Premier Division.

**Despite this setback, we are looking forward to the visit of Urban TTC on 13th January. Don't miss it!**

# BATTS II - Promotion Hopefuls

The **BATTS** second team in the **Senior British League** are **locked in a very close fight for promotion to the prestigious Championship Division.**

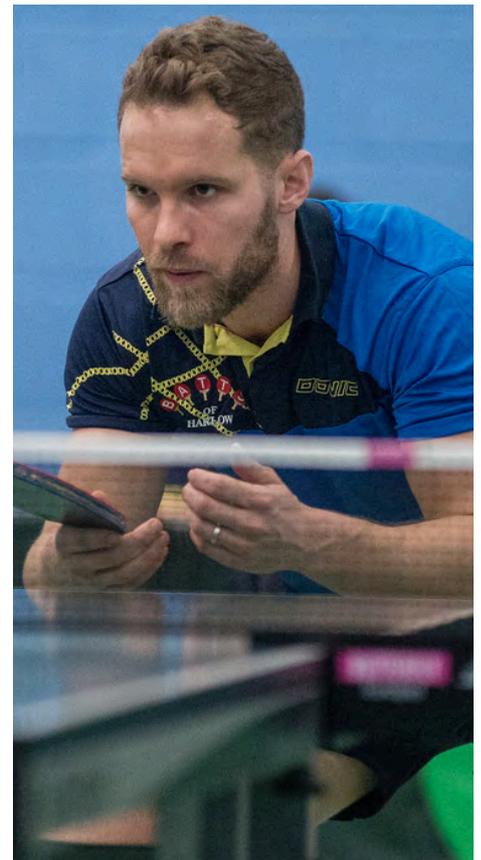
After the first two sets of matches, **BATTS II** are in 3rd place, thanks to some great performances by our squad. **Peter Cleminson** leads the averages of the **BATTS** team and much will depend on the availability of Peter and also **Steve Beerling** for the remaining matches.

**Sam Chesterman** and **Joe Walker** have played in all the matches so far and have performed creditably against very strong opposition.

The next two matches will both be played at **BATTS** on **Sunday 21st January**. At 11am we are due to play **London Academy II** and at 3pm we begin the crucial match against **Horsham** who are currently unbeaten at the top of the division.

**Please make a date to come along and support our team.**

Tables > Seniors 2017-18 > National A-2								
#	Team	P	W	D	L	SR	GR	Points
1	Horsham Blades I	8	8	0	0	5.00	2.16	16
2	Brighton TTC I	8	6	0	2	1.57	1.29	12
3	BATTS II	8	6	0	2	1.12	1.09	12
4	Godalming Simply Let I	8	5	0	3	1.25	1.16	10
5	Fusion II	8	3	0	5	0.76	0.83	6
6	London Academy II	8	2	0	6	0.71	0.86	4
7	Cippenham I	8	2	0	6	0.53	0.70	4
8	York Gardens I	8	0	0	8	0.38	0.58	0



Peter Cleminson

Photo: John Upham

## Saturday Night is TT Night - Thanks to Rob



**Rob Pattison** is a familiar figure at **BATTS** these days. Since his son **Ralph** (aged 9) got hooked on table tennis in January, **BATTS** has benefitted greatly from Rob's wise and helpful support.

As a successful athletics coach, **Rob** has a great understanding of the psychology of sports

performance. Apart from that, he has been consistently willing to help our younger players as they make their first steps in competitive play.

**Rob** has now begun a very welcome new initiative at **BATTS**: table tennis on Saturday evenings!

It's a very simple and flexible arrangement, and especially suitable for families or players who just want to have a social game. You can hire a table for a fiver, and play for as long as you like.

**Rob** is being helped in running the Saturday sessions by another **BATTS** member **Bruce Richards**.

To find out more or to book a table for Saturdays contact **Rob** (0775 7659045) or **Bruce** (0771 8808885).

Meanwhile, **Ralph** is now making rapid progress towards his 10,000 hours.

# “180!”



**We have got used to steadily rising attendance figures at our coaching sessions at **BATTS**, but one recent week in November broke all records.**

**During the week 13th - 17th November we coached groups from five different primary schools, plus a group of local Cubs and Beavers. Adding in our normal coaching squads the grand total in that week was..... 180!**

# Junior British League



Sam Chesterman in action at the Junior British League matches

Photo Chris Rayner

The **BATTS** first team in the Junior British League has made an excellent start, and is currently lying in 3rd place in the premier division, just a single point behind the two top teams.

**Sam Chesterman** has been our most consistent player, winning 7 out of his 8 singles. **Ethan Walsh** has also made a great impact, winning 6 out of 8.

**Joe Walker** has contributed a couple of very useful wins, and had a moment of glory when featuring on the programme cover (above).

The outcome of the league now hinges on the final matches which are going to be played on Derby in February.

## Summer Calm captured by local photographer Steve Langman



## Brothers Collect Achievement Awards

**Fin and Kyle Cameron-Prior** recently became the latest winners of our monthly **Jack Petchey Achievement Awards**.

The brothers, aged 14 and 12, were chosen by the coaching team for the effort they both put in and their regular attendance. Fin has notched up 100 sessions this year and Kyle is not far behind.

This hard work is beginning to pay dividends in competition: since May, Fin has risen 60 places in the Cadet ranking list and Kyle has entered the top hundred in the U13 list.

Fin has also made a very promising start playing in our second Junior British League team, winning 60% of his matches so far this season.



## Ethan's Olympic Fight



**Ethan Walsh** continued his quest for international honours on a trip to Split in November when he was selected to take part in a European qualifying event for the Youth Olympic Games.

Ethan put in a great performance against very strong opposition. All his opponents were highly ranked and Ethan came close to winning several matches. His best performance was against an Austrian who is ranked 45 in the World U18 list. Ethan narrowly lost in six sets.

There may yet be another chance for Ethan to qualify for the Youth Olympics. After that, Tokyo 2020 will be the next target....

## Adult Coaching



We are pleased to report that **Keith Fung** has launched an adult coaching class at BATTs running on Tuesday evenings. We have had many requests, especially from new senior members, about group coaching for adults and we are confident that this will become a firm fixture in our calendar. If you would like to consider joining Keith's group please contact Graham (contact details below) for more information.

## Ladder Climbing

We were delighted to note the progress made by our hard-working young players when the November ranking lists were published.

We now have ten players in the top hundred in the age group, and four in the top fifty.

This is only the beginning. As the youngsters begin to enter more tournaments their rate of progress will definitely increase.

We strongly encourage all players (and their parents!) to look into the tournament programme published by Table Tennis England and speak to Peter, Graham or any of the coaching team if you would like to check the suitability of tournaments.

We can also help on travel arrangements, where several players from BATTs wish to enter an event.

Here is the link to the TTE tournament programme:

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/tournaments/>

A word of warning. Don't fall into the trap of paying too much attention to ranking points. We have heard of situations where players have failed to enter a competition because they see a risk of losing points. Our advice is to keep competing at the right level, and don't become over-obsessed with ranking points.

## Harlow League Report

BATTs teams are challenging for the top spots in all three divisions of the Harlow League. The BATTs Sakis are currently leading the premier division, thanks to excellent contributions from **Matt Taylor** (94%) and **Peter Radford** (91%). The BATTs Lorises, unbeaten in Division 1 are in second place, as are the Howler Monkeys in Division 2.

There was a low entry in the individual league tournaments but congratulations to BATTs players **Benjamin Sivathanu** who won the Restricted Singles and **Garry Hudson** who won the Hope Trophy.

## COMING UP @ BATTs

**Sunday 10 December**  
Senior Super Series 2\*

**Saturday 16 December**  
Junior Open League

**Wednesday 20 December**  
Christmas Party 7pm

**Friday 5 January**  
Open Singles League

**Saturday 13 January**  
SBL Premier: BATTs v Urban TTC

**Sunday 14 January**  
Junior Super Series 2\*

**Saturday 20 January**  
Junior Open League

**Sunday 21 January**  
SBL National A-2. See page 2

**Friday 2 February**  
Open Singles League

**Saturday 10 February**  
Junior Open League

**Sunday 18 February**  
Under 13 Super Series 1\*

**Friday 2 March**  
Open Singles League

## BATTs Open Singles League

Our new league competition has been a phenomenal success. Fast, flexible and fun. At last, a league competition that is suitable for players of all ages and levels.

Thanks to the great rating system devised by **Chris Pickard**, players can track their progress after every match evening.

The current season finishes in May and there will be cash prizes at the end.

We are currently up to full capacity but contact Graham (see address below) to join the waiting list.

For more information about the Open Singles League, and to see the latest league table, visit the [BATTs website](#).

Make sure you are on our mailing list to get all the latest news from BATTs. Email Graham (see address below)

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