

## Premiership Survival Thriller

Thanks to a superb performance by our top team, BATT'S has secured its place in the premier division of the Senior British League next season.

In the final match, played at home against our old rivals Fusion on 19th May, the tension was electric. Having lost to Cardiff 5 - 3 a week earlier, BATT'S needed to secure just one singles win from the Fusion match to ensure survival.

As expected, Fusion arrived with a strong team. The first four singles all went to our visitors. **Niall Cameron**, the Scottish international playing at number two for Fusion, rescued four match points to beat **Jack Bennett**. **Peter Cleminson** lost a very tight five setter to the talented defender **Joseph Hee**. **Steve Beerling** took the first set against **Lorestas Trumpauskas**, but the experienced veteran then stepped up a gear to win the next three comfortably. When **Ethan Walsh** lost to **James Smith**, the possibility of relegation loomed.

The next pair of matches also started badly. Ethan was up against Niall Cameron while Jack played Lorestas Trumpauskas. The outlook was grim. Trumpauskas had recently become the national O40 champion, while Cameron was buoyant after his win against Jack. Things went from bad to worse when both the BATT'S players went 2 - 1 down. But then, in a remarkable reversal, Jack and Ethan showed fantastic courage to counter the attacks of their opponents to win in five sets. In the final round of matches, Peter overcame James Smith in three straight, but very close, games, while Steve Beerling lost in four to Joseph Hee.

Despite losing the match BATT'S achieved what was needed, and great credit must go to Neil who masterminded the squad and looked after the teams during another season that included organising a vast amount of planning and travel.



The BATT'S team after their heroic match against Fusion: Steve Beerling, Ethan Walsh, Jack Bennett, Peter Cleminson

## Ten years earlier.....

The recent news of the sad and untimely death of Dame Tessa Jowell prompted us to recall that this much-admired MP visited us ten years ago. The visit was during the time when, as Sports Minister, she was involved in planning for the London Olympics. Tessa Jowell's 2008 visit was arranged by Harlow Council to mark the start of the first major refurbishment of our

centre, after BATT'S had moved from Burnt Mill School the previous year. Dame Tessa is shown here playing against BATT'S' youngest member at the time. Ethan's forehand has improved a bit since he was five, but he still sees scope for improvement. "I was rubbish," he said to me after his magnificent win against the Scottish international in the Fusion match.



# Oh so close for BATTs 2



BATTs 2 with their silver medals: Tony Halling, Josh Dye, Cliff Carder (Mr Motivator), Joe Walker, Sam Chesterman

**Our British League second team in National A-2 narrowly missed promotion to the Championship in heartbreaking fashion.**

Eleven wins from 14 matches left us with 22 points for the second season running and we missed out on promotion on games average alone.

The first weekend apart, we went on an amazing run of 9 wins from 10 matches but only a complete 10 would have been enough to take us up.

Big performances all season by stars **Steve Beerling** and **Peter Cleminson**

ably supported by **Tony Halling, Josh Dye, Sam Chesterman, Joe Walker** and **Ben Warner** at the first weekend. Sam finished the season with 15 victories and Tony and Joe had 13 wins apiece.

Special thanks to the ever-consistent **Tony Halling** who again achieved a fine playing record of 30 singles winning 60% including 5 out of 6 in the Premier Division.

The plan next season is to make a really determined effort to get that elusive promotion for BATTs 2 to the Championship Division.

# Ambitious debut

The BATTs 3rd team made an ambitious debut in the National B-3 Division of the Senior British League. They faced some seriously strong opposition, with several of the teams fielding international players, while some of the home-based players were ranked in the top 300 in England.

Despite finishing at the foot of the table, the team found it a super learning experience. By the end of the season, the matches were getting closer, and our players were happy to learn from their experience.

**Matt Taylor**, in his first season in the Senior British League, finished the season as the regular squad's most successful player, winning five singles.



The BATTs 3 team: Mimesh Pitamber, Matt Taylor, Chris Daguiar and Aris Kapsanakis

# BATTs Open Singles League

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The first season of the BATTs Open Singles League has been a tremendous success, with more than 70 players registered.

The playing format is the key to its popularity. Players can decide to play or miss a week as they prefer, so

there is no danger of letting a team down or having matches postponed. Another key feature is that as the Friday evening matches normally finish by 10pm we can mix senior and junior players of all standards.

The league uses its own ranking system, which ensures that almost every match is a close contest.

Yet another important feature is that it is a truly "open" competition. Players do not have to be BATTs members to participate.

**As well as all that, we offer the chance of cash prizes, not only for the strongest players but also based on progress. Our prize fund this season is £600.**

Next season we shall merge the Open Singles League with the BATTs Junior Open League. The junior version has been running successfully on Saturday afternoons for the past three seasons, but we are taking the opportunity to bring the two leagues into a single competition, taking advantage of the popular ranking

system used in the Open Singles League.

Matches will still be held on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, with the stronger players competing on Friday evenings.

Full details of the new season will appear on the BATTs website during the summer. Signing up for the season is very easy, by completing a simple online form.

Players who registered for the season finishing now will be reminded when registration opens, but if you didn't enter before or would like more information please contact Graham Frankel (see email p.1)

# Saturday Pingers

**The Saturday evening informal sessions are still running!**

If you would like to play at BATTs on Saturday evenings (6pm - 8pm) please contact Rob Pattison (07757 659045) or Bruce Richards (07718 808885).

# Swedish venture



A great opportunity turned up for **Joe Walker** and **Sam Chesterman** when they were invited to appear in Sweden for one of their leading clubs in the Swedish National League. BATTs has had several connections with Hammarby in recent years, and our juniors contributed to a fine victory for Hammarby. Sam won four and Joe two singles.

The photo shows Joe and Sam with their team mates Fredrik Nordahl and Viktor Kjellander

# Josh Moving On



*Josh in action at the London Grand Prix*

*Photo: Roger Hance*

After three years as part of our coaching team **Josh Dye** has decided to move on. Josh has made huge strides both as a player and a coach while he has been at BATTs. He achieved his most significant competition success only a few weeks ago when he beat Adam Harrison, England ranked 14 at the Nottingham Grand Prix. We hope that Josh will still be available to play for BATTs in our British League teams next season.

We wish him well as he continues to develop his coaching career.

# National Championships



*Charlotte and Ethan at the Nationals*



*Photos: Mike Loveder*

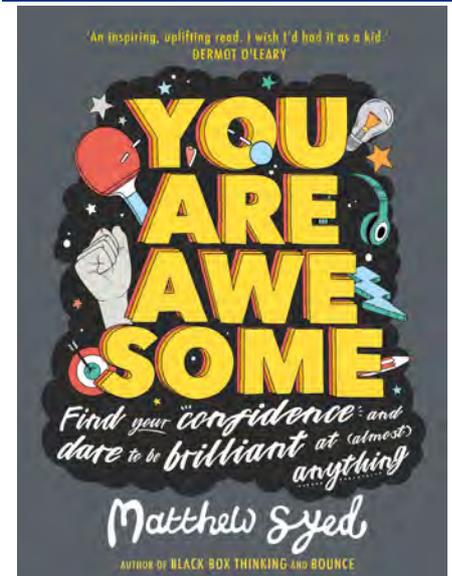
We were delighted to see some outstanding performances in the Cadet and Junior National Championships held at Wolverhampton at the end of April. **Charlotte Marsden** was right at the top of her game when she overcame two higher ranked opponents to win her group. She was then unlucky to draw the number one seed, and eventual winner, Charlotte Bardsley in the first round of the knockout.

**Ethan Walsh** reached the semi-final of the Boys Junior event before he too lost to the number two seed and eventual winner Joe Clarke. Ethan put up a superb struggle against Joe Clarke, with four of the six games finishing at deuce or 9.

**Sam Chesterman** also did well to win his group, before losing to Naphat Boonyaprapa, the number six seed, at the knockout stage.

In the doubles events Ethan, partnered by James Smith, just lost in a very close final to Shayan Siraj and Joe Clark. Ethan and Sam both reached the quarter final of the mixed doubles, partnering Charlotte Bardsley and Jasmin Wong.

# Awesome!



**Matthew Syed**, former England number 1 table tennis player and now a celebrated writer and journalist, has published a book aimed at the younger generation.

I am not given to over-statement, but this is **essential reading** for any young table tennis player, as well as their parents and coaches.

[www.youareawesomebook.co.uk](http://www.youareawesomebook.co.uk)

# Cadet Super Series: Sam's First Semi



Sam in his semi final

Our Cadet 2 Star Super Series on 13th May was another busy tournament attracting a very strong entry. We were delighted that 10 of our own players entered this time and there were some excellent performances. **Finley Cameron-Prior** had a great win against the number two seed **Oliver Maric-Murray** (ranked 35

in England) to reach the quarter final of the main draw where he went out to **Yacine Boubekeur**. The overall winner was **Adam Benmohamed** (Surrey), the number six seed.

In the consolation draw, 12 year old **Sam Taylor** was rewarded for his months of persistent hard work in training by reaching the semi-final. This is the first time he has achieved that in a tournament. We never expect less than 100% effort from Sam and he gave plenty of problems to **Abdul Hameed**, one of the Greenhouse contingent who is ranked more than 170 places higher than Sam.

## Harlow League

BATTS teams were again prominent in the honours at the end of the season. In the premier division the BATTS Sakis finished top after a close struggle with Water Lane. Two of the Sakis achieved over 90%, notably **Matt Taylor** who played 47 singles losing only once after the end of October.

In division one, our teams took the first, third and fourth places. Most of the regular players in those teams had impressive records but the most successful individual player was **Benjamin Sivathanu** who won 91% of his 58 singles and has surely staked a claim to a chance in the premier division next season. In division two, the Howler Monkeys just failed to claim the top spot despite the efforts of **Garry Hudson** (92%) and **Alan Bull** (80%).

## Future BATTS?

How about this for a futuristic view of what BATTS could become? Tiered seating with more table tennis room below. But this is not a new idea!

It was first published in the ETTA's *Table Tennis* magazine - in November 1953! For the full story, check out the [Table Tennis England News Archive](#).

# COMING UP @ BATTS

**Sunday 17 June**

Junior Super Series 2\*

**Sunday 24 June**

Service Training day for juniors

**Sunday 1 July**

UKCC Level 1 coaching course

**Sunday 15 July**

U13 Super Series 1\*

**Sunday 12 August**

UKCC Level 1 coaching course

**Saturday 15 September**

CPD Workshop for coaches

**Friday 28 September**

BATTS Open Singles League starts

**Saturday 6 October**

BATTS Open Singles League

**Sunday 7 October**

Cadet Super Series 2\* (TBC)

**Friday 26 October**

BATTS Open Singles League

**Saturday 27 October**

BATTS Open Singles League

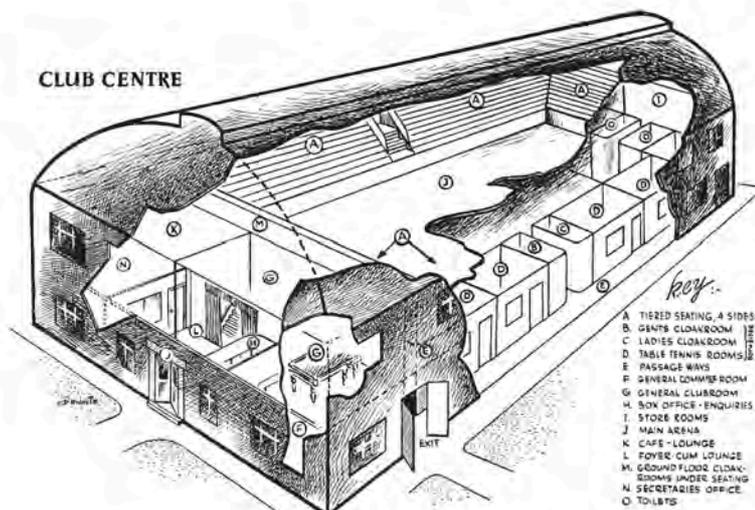
## Coaching Events Coming

If you know of anyone who would like to qualify as a coach, they should look into joining a new UKCC Level 1 course that will be held at BATTS starting on 1st July. For more information see the coaching page on the [Table Tennis England website](#).

Achieving the initial qualification is only the start of the journey to competence for coaches. They also need to attend regular workshops to maintain the coach licence. We have one of these coming up at BATTS on 15th September. For more information see the [Table Tennis England CPD page](#).

## Jack Petchey - Latest Winners

Congratulations to **Cassidy Fung** and **Alex Howard** who were chosen as our Jack Petchey Award winners for April and May. The awards are presented monthly to juniors for their hard work and commitment to training.



BATTS News is published by BATTS Table Tennis Club, Harlow

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