

Peter's Back - And How!

A few weeks of intensive training paid off handsomely for our coach **Peter Cleminson**. It was a brave decision to enter for the London Grand Prix at Redbridge on 9th May. This was Peter's first Grand Prix for 12 years, and he had a fantastic run, culminating with a superb win against England number 7 Chris Doran in the last sixteen of the main event. This was an epic struggle, and a desperately close encounter. The crowds left the other matches in progress to see Peter finally winning the fifth set 14-12.

We can look forward to a lot more from Peter, who is determined to continue training, and he received great support in this from our Head Coach **Adam Nutland**.

Adam himself had a prominent part to play in the London Grand Prix with some very tough matches at Redbridge. He finally secured his position as overall winner of the Band 1 in this season's Grand Prix series.

Peter and Adam entered as doubles partners for the first time and reached the semi-final, losing very narrowly in five sets to the number one seeded pair Kenichi Matsubuchi (Sweden) and Matt Ware who went on to win the event.

Some other fine performances by BATTs players at the London Grand Prix included **Ethan Walsh** who reached the semi finals of the Under 21 event, before falling in four sets to Jack Bennett. Ethan also finished second in his group in the men's event before losing to a talented Swedish visitor who went on to reach the quarter finals after toppling Ryan Jenkins.



Peter in action at the London Grand Prix.
Photo: Mike Loveder



Eyes on the ball.
Photo: Mike Loveder



Luke Walsh. Photo: John Upham

Luke Walsh won the Band 2 event, beating another of the Swedish visitors in the final. That left Luke in fourth position overall in the Grand Prix Band 2 series.

It was great to hear from Adam that there was an excellent team spirit among the BATTs players in this important event - plenty of mutual support by all our representatives.

New Look

We hope you like our new design - we are grateful to Steve Beerling for brightening up BATTs news.

Read more about Steve on p2

Star Winners at BATTS



While our senior players were battling it out at the London Grand Prix, some of the younger hopefuls took up the challenge closer to home, when we held the last of this season's series of BATTS 1 Star Junior/Cadet tournaments. It was a very busy weekend, directed almost single-handedly by referee Arthur Clark who performed miraculously to keep the many different events running. The competition again attracted entries from a very wide area, and it was great to see some excellent performances from our own players. In the boys U13 event, **Ray Yan** performed spectacularly to beat **Jaycee Chan** in the final. Ray reached the final only dropping a single set on the way, and brushing aside some strong players including Harry Boston who is ranked 39 places higher than Ray. The final was a very close match with some superb rallies, and Jaycee put up a great fight, despite suffering from having

many tough encounters on the previous day. Jaycee had performed excellently on Saturday to reach the final of the U14 event.

We also had two winners of consolation events. **Samadhi Udamura** did very well to beat Erin Greensmith of Durham in the U13 girls final— a three straight win against a player ranked 16 places higher. And a great win for **Isaac Hughes**, entering only his second tournament, to battle through and take the U14 boys consolation title.

Joe Walker had also been competing in the London Grand Prix on Saturday but returned to BATTS on Sunday for the U15 event and was unlucky to lose narrowly in a very close quarter final against Fraser Donnelly of Ellenborough.

Callum Boyce and **Alex Tate** both reached the quarter finals of the U13 boys consolation.



Photo: Mike Loveder

Meet Steve: DESIGNING WITH SPIN

You may have noticed **Steve Beerling** training at BATTS and sparring with some of our A Squad juniors recently. Steve, who is 32, grew up in Ramsgate but now - conveniently for us - lives in Hertford. A former England Junior international, Steve previously spent two years playing table tennis full time in France.

His latest England senior ranking is 30 and he was playing for Bournemouth in the Senior British League Premier League as well as in the National League in Belgium.

Steve is training hard and has had wins this season against Matt Ware and Kazeem Adeleke (England numbers 11 and 12).

When he's not playing, Steve is a graphic designer working as an Art Director for a contract publishing company in London.

We were very happy to take up Steve's offer to add a bit of zing to the design of BATTS News.

Steve doesn't have much time to relax but he is football fan, following the fortunes of Ramsgate FC and Liverpool.

Alana and Ethan on the medal trail



Alana in action at Tipton.

It has been a whirlwind few weeks for **Alana and Ethan** (and their parents) as they have been on the tournament circuit competing in the final events of the season. And their efforts have been duly rewarded. The National Schools Championships at Tipton was a very strong event, with most of the top juniors in the country competing. Ethan won the U13 event, beating



Ethan at Tipton.
Photo: Mike Loveder

Louis Moyes in the final. Alana finished 3rd in the U11 girls, losing to top seed Ruby Chan of Yorks in the semi-final. Next port of call for Alana was the Darlington 2 Star. Driving a 500 mile round trip would deter many but Alana made it worthwhile by carrying off the U11 title and finishing runner up in the U13 event.

Just a week later and it was on the road again - this time to Grantham for the Chandlers 4 Star. Both Alana and Ethan entered this, and Ethan performed exceptionally well to win not only the U13 but also the U15 event, in which he was seeded number 4. For Alana, this was her first 4 Star tournament and she also performed very well, getting through her group and then winning the Band 2 event.

Ethan has now been selected to represent England in the Schools International tournament to be held in Perth at the end of June. Later in the summer he will be packing his bags for an even longer trip - to train in Shanghai, China with the England squad.

COACHING AT ST NICKS



Adam, Peter and Graham have been making occasional visits to St Nicholas School, spurred on by the enthusiastic welcome from Phil Baines, the Head of PE. You may recognise some familiar faces among the Y8 pupils at our last visit. Great to see that a local school has 6 indoor tables and the pupils are keen to use them.



BRAIN CHANGING

Another useful snippet from Matthew Syed's great book *Bounce*. He describes a coaching session at Cippenham Club when their coach Ken Phillips was teaching a new player about spin. The secret is to break down a complex set of skills into component parts, and to focus on each part until it begins to become automatic.

Anyone who drives a car will appreciate that clutch control has to be learned steadily but after much practice it can be done without thinking.

Matthew then explains how scientists have shown that this learning process actually changes the brain.

If you want a brain-changing experience at BATTS, see one of the coaching team!

SWEDISH LINKS



As a result of Adam's appearances for one of the leading Swedish clubs this season he has now arranged a series of Training Camps at BATTS by a group of players from Hammarby Table Tennis Club. This will provide a great opportunity for some of our own players to train with the Swedish visitors.

The Training Camps will be held on **15th - 18th August** and play on each day will be from 10am—4pm.

Entry is restricted to members of the BATTS "A" and "B" Squads, and places will be limited, allocated on a first come first served basis. Cost is £10 per day, and you can sign up for any or all of the days - payment is needed to confirm the booking. Contact Graham to reserve your place or for more information.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Joe Walker is this month's ladderclimbing star. Joe's excellent wins during April sent him shooting 49 places up the national cadet list. Other BATTS players with significant ranking improvements, also in the cadet list, were Ray Yan (who rose by 16 places) and Isaac Hughes (14 places).



WHO WILL BE FIRST TO 100...?

Since the beginning of 2015 we have notched up more than 1,500 visits by our three coaching squads. These are players who have attended most

NAME	VISITS
Luke Jones	49
Louis Henderson	48
Diesel Harvey	47
Jaz Harvey	45
Ben Sivathanu	45
George Campbell	42
Matthew Parker	42
Declan Garner	40
Ray Yan	39
Charlie Read	38
Alana Mansfield	37
Callum Boyce	36
Joe Walker	31
Marc Bull	29
Jessica Jarvis	28
Harvey Lane	28
Jasmine Chan	27
Kamran Virdee	27
Jaycee Chan	26
Tom Whirlledge	26

HARLOW LEAGUE

Teams are being established for next season's Harlow League. Let Neil know if you would like to enter, and also if you are prepared to be a captain.

TT ON STAGE

An interesting-looking play is about to open at the King's Head Theatre, Islington. Not a Game for Boys by Simon Block. Once a week three cabbies seek small respite from their daily lives in a local table tennis league. Tonight they must win or face the unthinkable oblivion of relegation but can the team survive the pressures on its individual members? Does this sound vaguely familiar....? For more information visit www.kingsheadtheatre.com



ENTER NOW

- As announced in the last edition we shall be starting our brand new BATTS Junior Open League for all junior and cadet players of any standard.
- This competition is open to any juniors and entries have started arriving from clubs and schools in our region.
- Numbers will be limited so don't delay entering!
- Six Saturday afternoons have been set aside- starting in September and finishing in March.
- Full details and the entry form are on the BATTS website.
- Contact Graham if you have any questions.



What's @BATTS

- 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

