

Ethan Walsh: National Champion!

It was a triumphant weekend for **Ethan Walsh** at the **National Championships** held at **Gillingham** on **6th May**, when he was crowned **National Cadet Champion** for the **first time**.

In clinching his victory Ethan showed his characteristic grit and determination to emerge victorious from a series of very close matches.

His opponent in the final was the Bolton player Amirul Hussain who has been at the top of the Cadet rankings since September, marginally ahead of Ethan. So it was a superb victory for Ethan to beat Amirul in the final. Ethan lost the first set 8-11, then came back to win the next four sets to claim the title.

Ethan also reached the final of the Junior Boys doubles, teaming up with James Smith (Kent). The pair had a spectacular win in the quarter finals, putting out top seeds Tom Jarvis and Luke Savill (England number 1 and 3 Juniors). Ethan and James lost in the final to Josh Bennett and Matt Leete.

Sam Chesterman also put in an excellent performance at the Nationals reaching the quarter finals of the Cadet Boys singles after a splendid win against the England number 4 Josh Weatherby. Sam's fine run ended when he came up against Joe Cope, the England number 5.

But Sam got his revenge against Joe in the Cadet Boys' doubles. Sam's partner was Amirul Hussain, and they took the doubles title by storm, dropping only two sets during the knock out stage and defeating Ethan and Joe in the final.

There was further doubles success for BATTs players in the Cadet Girls event when **Ilyssa Lacorte** (playing with Mari Baldwin) and **Gracie Edwards** (with Federica Bonato) reached the quarter final round.

Great to see BATTs players making an impact at national level.



Ethan on his way to the Cadet National title

Photo Mike Loveder



Sam Chesterman in action

Photo Mike Loveder

British League: End of Season Report

It has been time of change for the Senior British League Premier Division. This season, each Premier Division team played every match on a separate afternoon, either home or away. The new format could be important for the future of table tennis and we hope it will continue.

We were reasonably happy that our Premier team finished in fourth place, thus securing our place in the top flight for next season. The £1000 prize money was divided among the squad based on number of appearances.



Jack Bennett: consistent *Photo Roger Hance*

Our most consistent performer in the large squad was **Jack Bennett** who won 63% of his 16 singles.

Steve Beerling also put in a steady performance winning 55% of his 11 matches and we were very grateful to Steve for designing our brilliant posters.



Steve Beerling: steady *Photo Roger Hance*



Helshan: vital contribution *Photo Roger Hance*

Our international guest players made a crucial contribution and we hope that some of them may continue to be involved next season. **Michael Tauber** enjoyed 7 wins from 8 including a fabulous performance away to Ormesby. **Helshan Weerasinghe** also played a very important part in the team's success, winning vital matches playing at number 1 or 2 in the team, and he rounded things off with a great win over Filip Szymanski. Adam Nutland and Peter Cleminson put in some great performances at crucial moments and it was a pity that the schedule didn't enable them to appear more. Josh Dye made a memorable debut, winning both his singles against Halton.

We had excellent crowds at our home matches and we hope to build on this next season, continuing to add in attractive extra events to make it a fun afternoon for all members and their families.

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed to our efforts on the Premier home matches: in particular Chris and Helen D'Aguiar, Lyndon Griffiths, Brian Freer, Alan Morley, John Jennings, Dave Wright, Declan Garner and our photographer Roger Hance.

We shouldn't forget about our other teams in the British League - altogether BATTs had 6 teams involving 40 players.

For our second team, playing in

National A2 division, it was a case of so near yet so far. Our goal was very clear at the start of the season: promotion to the Championship division which, like football, is one down from the Premier. Our leading players in the squad performed consistently well, with the top three (**Tony Halling**, **Peter Cleminson** and **Steve Beerling**) all achieving 80% or better. But in the end we were pipped by a single point with Portsmouth taking the top place.



Tony Halling: All-rounder *Photo Roger Hance*

Our 3rd team was another large squad, and never settled into a consistent unit, although this gave a great opportunity for us to field some of our promising juniors. The star of the third team was **Tony Halling** who won 80% of his matches and no less than 7 "Player of the Match" awards. Tony thus made a great contribution to all three of our senior team, not only putting in a great effort but always willing to play whenever needed. If we had a "Player of the Season" award I know who I would vote for!

Our three junior teams all performed creditably but struggled against some very strong opposition. Joe Walker did well to win 62% of his matches in the boys' second team.

Preparations are now under way for next season, and we hope to see you at our home matches - dates will be announced soon.

More New Competitions at BATTs



Some of the early arrivals at our first ever Under 13 Super Series

During the spring we have been busy increasing the opportunities for our young players to compete, and we launched two new events in April.

Our first ever Under 13 Super Series was very popular. A full entry of 48 players from a wide area descended on BATTs to try and win some of the £205 prize money on offer.

We were very pleased that 14 of our own younger players entered, most of them getting their first taste of a one star formal tournament. Many of our visitors were experienced tournament players, so it was a tough initiation for the BATTs contingent, but **Ethan Willis** played well to reach the semi-final of the Band 2 event

Later in April we started another entirely new competition. **BATTs Junior Pairs** gives all our juniors from

beginners to A squad a chance to play for cash prizes in an informal competition. It runs on Saturday afternoons in a very flexible format. Players are put into a team of two at the beginning of the afternoon and they play two matches against two of the other pairs. Apart from providing a full afternoon's play this has enabled us to introduce our youngsters to doubles (each match consists of four singles and a doubles) and also give the chance for our beginners to see, at close hand, the skills of our more advanced players.

The photo below shows the winners of our inaugural session: congratulations to **Cassidy Fung** and **Harry Argent** who became our first Dynamic Duo!

There was yet another full entry for our last Two Star **Cadet Super Series** of the season. **Aadil Anand**, ranked 7

in England was the comfortable winner, but our own **Jaycee Chan** completed a fine season by reaching the semi-final of the main draw, before losing to Aadil.

Samuel Flaum and **Charlie Read** did well to reach the quarter-finals of the Band 2 in this tournament.

We are now actively planning next season's programme, and we have secured dates for some of the tournaments. Everything will be published on our website but please contact Graham Frankel (see p.1 for contact details) if you would like to be on our mailing list for future competitions.

BATTs Singles League

Another new competition is up and running again at BATTs. The Singles League is a popular format that offers much more flexibility than traditional leagues. You don't need to find a team and there is no reliance on other players or fit your arrangements around the availability of opponents.

The league is open to any players and you can turn up and play whenever you want to at the times when the competition is running. Currently the Singles League operates on Tuesday evenings starting at 8.15pm. Register by 5pm on the day to participate.

If you want to give it a try you can attend the first session free!

For more information speak to Neil (contact details on p. 1) or see:

<http://batts.tabletennis365.com>



Sponsorship Opportunities

When One Door Closes...

In April we received the news that our financial support from Sport England via Table Tennis England would be stopping with immediate effect. BATTs has received funding since becoming a Talent Development Centre in 2014. The recent news was disappointing, but not a surprise. We knew from the outset that the funding would never be permanent. We had anticipated a tapered reduction in support but Table Tennis England was faced with substantial cuts in their own funding and they could see no alternative but to reduce the number of funded centres.

At BATTs we are determined not to let this stand in the way of our continued development as a leading table tennis club. We are proud in what we have achieved in recent years. We can remain a Talent Development Centre, and we know that Table Tennis England have confidence in our potential. We shall continue our efforts to promote table

tennis and to provide a high standard of coaching for anyone who is keen to learn.

We have no immediate plans to curtail our popular coaching programme, nor are we going to ask members (or parents) to dig deeper into their pockets to help us - at least until we have explored other options.

We have been continuing to break attendance records in our coaching sessions and we have established strong links with local schools by providing regular and ad hoc coaching.

Given the popularity of our club in the local area, we are very confident that local or regional businesses may be interested in sponsorship opportunities. If you know of any local firms who may wish to sponsor BATTs please help us by putting them in touch with Neil or Graham (our contact details are shown at the bottom of this page).

HARLOW LEAGUE

Baboons Top of Tree

With 15 wins and 3 draws from their 18 matches, there was no monkeying about as the BATTs Baboons finished top bananas in the Premier Division of the Harlow League.

Josh Dye won all 27 of his matches with the troop following close behind. **Matthew Taylor** finished with 81%, **Keith Fung** 70% and **Calvin Harvey** 61%.

The BATTs Lorises had a fine campaign in Division 1, ending up third. **Kevin West**, **Chris D'Aguiar**, **Lee Barley** and **Mark Fielding** all made big contributions. The BATTs Howler Monkeys finished third in Division 2: **Bob Last**, **Garry Hudson** and **Alan Bull** all had great seasons. Please let Neil know your Harlow League plans for next season. New players are always welcome, and perhaps some suggestions for a new set of team names.

Jack Petchey Winners



Two of our most recent winners of the monthly Jack Petchey awards were **Ethan Willis** and **Sam Taylor**. Ethan and Sam both put in huge effort into their training, rarely missing a chance to play and always giving 100% effort. Other recent winners include **Harry Argent** and **Samuel Flaum**, both of whom show similar commitment.

COMING UP @ BATTs

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

BATTs Junior Pairs Competition

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Junior Super Series 2 Star

SATURDAY 1 JULY

BATTs Junior Pairs Competition

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 8/9 JULY

Top Edge Training Camp with Craig Bryant (see below) and Peter Cleminson.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 29/30 JULY

Top Edge Training Camp

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

UKCC Level 1 Coaching Course starts. Why not get qualified and put something back into the sport? Essex based candidates may be eligible for a substantial discount on the course fee. Email south@tabletennisengland.co.uk



Craig Bryant, former England international, currently ranked 12 in England, and top class coach, will be joining **Peter Cleminson** to run two weekend Training Camps at BATTs on 8/9 July and 29/30 July. You can sign up for any or all of the four days.

See www.topedgetabletennis.co.uk for more information or speak to Peter or Graham at BATTs.

BATTs MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal time approaches! If you are a senior BATTs member and pay your membership annually, please note that the renewal date is 31st August. The annual fee remains at £144 (plus £20 if you play in the Harlow League). Members who pay monthly, and parents of our coaching squads can ignore this: no change for you!

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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