

## Table Tennis Spectacular Coming to BATTs

We are eagerly looking forward to our first home match in the Premier Division of the Senior British League, coming up on Saturday 14th December against Ormesby.

The BATTs campaign in this, the flagship competition of British table tennis, began in a rather bizarre fashion over a single weekend in October. Our team played their first fixture in Scotland on Saturday and then hopped over by plane to Belfast for their second match on Sunday.

The squad, and the non-playing captain **Cliff Carder**, deserve great credit for agreeing to such a punishing travel schedule. On the day before the first match, our expected player from France - **Paul Lavergne** - withdrew, giving Neil yet another massive organisation problem to find a replacement and change all the flight details.

It was a successful Saturday in Scotland, where our team notched up a 5 - 2 win against North Ayrshire. New signing **Josh Bennett** was the hero, winning both his singles and the doubles with brother **Jack Bennett**. **Nicholas Bastio**, the last-minute signing from France, also won both his singles. Sunday's match against Ormeau in Belfast was a much tougher proposition and after Jack Bennett won his first singles, all the rest went to the Irish club.

The current premiership table (see



Josh Bennett, who was the most successful player in the BATTs squad over the first two matches

below) will of course change dramatically as the season unfolds.

**Our visitors on Saturday 14th December will be looking for their first win this season after losing their first match to Urban.**

Apart from the spectacular table tennis there will be plenty of attractions to make a super family day at BATTs. During the morning we are holding a novel **doubles competition** - open to anyone - which guarantees fast-moving fun for everyone, with prizes on offer. Before the big match, our old friend the **BATTs Bull** makes a welcome return and will take on challenges from all-comers. We also offer a **free raffle** to all spectators at the big

match which starts at 2pm. Refreshments will be available from the legendary BATTs cafeteria.

**Entry to all events, including the match, is FREE!**

If you would like more information about the doubles competition contact Graham (details below).

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
1	Ormeau 1	2	2	0	0	6
2	BATTs 1	2	1	0	1	4
3	Fusion 1	1	1	0	0	3
4	Urban TTC 1	1	1	0	0	3
5	North Ayrshire 1	2	0	0	2	2
6	Ormesby 1	1	0	0	1	1
7	Archway Peterborough TTC 1	1	0	0	1	1



**Free Entry!**

BATTs VS ORMESBY

**SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER**  
**British League Premier Division**

Top-class Table Tennis in Harlow  
Free Raffle | Challenge the BATTs Bull to TT | Refreshments Available

Norman Booth Centre,  
Elderfield, Harlow, Essex  
CM17 0EY

Doors @ 1pm +  
Match @ 2pm

BRITISH LEAGUE  
batts.org.uk

BATTs News is published by BATTs Table Tennis Club, Harlow

Editors: Graham Frankel grahamf.batts@gmail.com 0777 150 6950

Neil Brierley

brierley2004@btinternet.com 0781 462 3879

www.batts.org.uk

Find us on **facebook**

# BATTS Cadets Unbeaten!



The BATTs Cadet Squad

Photo: Declan Garner

**Our two teams in the National Cadet League were unbeaten in the first round of matches, played at Ellenborough TTC on 10th November.**

The league includes nine clubs from a wide area, and there are a total of 16

teams split into two divisions. Our first team (**James Donald, Wilson Tram and Jeremy Davies**) were in the top division, and had wins against Mossford (9 - 0), Elm Green (9 - 0) and Woodford Wells (7 - 2). The BATTs second team (**Charlie**

**Donald, Josh Smith and Richard Dodson**), playing in the second division, beat Spins (9 - 0), Rosehill (9 - 0) and Mossford 2 (8 - 1).

The scores may suggest that the matches were one-sided but there were plenty of close games and we were delighted at the grit and determination shown by our players. The next round of matches will be at Ellenborough on Sunday 15th December.

The **National Junior League** is also held at the Enfield club. In this competition there are four divisions. We entered one team in the NJL and after two rounds of matches our squad is poised in a mid-table position in Division 3 having won three of their six matches. Our most successful player so far is **Xander Petch** who has won 78% of his matches, followed by **Alex Howard** 67%. Others in the squad are **Jack Fletcher, Ali Graham, and Cosmo Melvin**. The next round of the NJL is on Saturday 11th January, when our team will be aiming for promotion.

# Derby Debut for Kamari



Ethan Walsh on his way to beating Thomas Rayner (Ormesby)

Photo: Chris Rayner

**After an intensive weekend of five matches played at the Derby Arena in November, the BATTs first team finished equal second, level in points with four other teams, in the premier division.**

The BATTs team included **Ethan Walsh, Dan Hearne-Potton**, and two signings from Ormesby: **Joe Cope** and **David Gofton**.

The second team (**Finley Cameron-Prior, Ray Yan, Charlie Read and Kamari Jagdeo-Bailey**) had a tough

struggle in division six. Our lads were unlucky not to secure any points from their first round matches, but there were some hopeful pointers for the future.

Kamari made a successful debut at this level, winning three of his six singles. Kamari's victims included two players ranked considerably higher in the national junior list. Both teams now have plenty of time to train before the final matches are played on 7th March.



Kamari in action at Derby

Photo: Chris Rayner

# Open Singles: From Strength to Strength



The BATTTS Open Singles League continues to grow in popularity. We are now looking forward to our new series, which starts in January. By the end of the last series we had well over 100 players registered. The Open League format has many benefits. Perhaps the most attractive is its flexibility: no need to be part of a team, and you don't need to commit to playing every week. It also provides a family-friendly but highly competitive framework. We have a £1000 prizes for each series. The Open Singles League welcomes players of all ages and any standard, and you don't have to be a member of BATTTS to take part.

The unique rating system guarantees that everyone is matched against a challenging set of opponents every time. It means we always have a high proportion of very close matches.

Prizes at the end of the series are awarded in various categories: as well as the overall winners at each age group we also reward progress and



persistence.

At our last prizegiving we held a fun end-of-series tournament which was very popular - see Andy Webb's photos on this page.

We can now accept registrations for the next series. The simple online entry form, and further details including all the match dates can be found on our website on the [BATTTS Open Singles](#) page.



# Globe Trotting Django Triumphs in Miami



Nice to see one of our senior members competing successfully overseas. **Django Fung** took part in the ITTF World Veteran Tour in Fort Lauderdale, Miami in October.

Django, playing with his partner Henrik Vendelbo from Denmark, won the Over 50s doubles. They had a very tight struggle in the final, beating a pair from USA and Canada by 3 sets to 2. After being 2 - 1 down in sets they managed to turn it round by winning the fourth set 18-16.

It was a huge tournament including more than thirty events over four days.

# BATTS Tournament Roundup



Ollie Maric-Murray



Wilson Tram



Jeremy Davies

Our two autumn tournaments were both well-attended as usual, and it was great to see some BATTs players performing well against visitors from a wide range of other clubs and areas. Top seed at the U13 in September was **Ollie Maric-Murray** (South Croydon) and his consistent attack on both wings was too strong for all opposition. Ollie, who is now ranked number 2 on the England U13 list, fully deserved to carry off his £80 winning prize after beating **Larry Trumpauskas** (Fusion) in the Band 1 final. The Band 2 final was between **Kai Sun Yiu** (Crusaders) and **Wilson Tram** (BATTs). Wilson was unseeded, unranked, and playing in his first serious tournament! He played superbly to reach this final and gave his opponent, ranked 29 in England, plenty to worry about. Eventually Kai Sun emerged the winner in the 5th set. Another BATTs player, **Jeremy Davies**, won Band 3 beating **Edward Dyson** (Hampstead) in the final. *Photos by Andy Webb.*



Chris Doran



Jack Bennett



Finley Cameron-Prior

After a gap of almost two years since our last Senior Super Series, the adults were understandably beginning to feel left out! Thanks to the involvement of **Cristian Bernado**, who offered to handle the organising, our tournament on 13th October was a huge success. Cristian did a superb job: dealing with the administration of entries beforehand, running the event on the day, as well as taking photos. He was even gracious enough to give up his place in the tournament to allow him to focus on the organising.

From our strong entry of 48 players, only one of the top four seeds failed to reach the semi-finals of Band 1, when **Umair Mauthoor** was beaten by **Ferenc Horvath**. Ferenc is from Hungary where he was ranked 10 as a junior and has played in national leagues in Spain, Sweden and Norway. Horvath then fell to number one seed **Chris Doran** in the semi-final. The other semi-final saw a fine match between **Adam Nutland** and **Jack Bennett**, with Jack securing an excellent win. The Band 1 final was another great match, and the England number 6 had to work hard to beat Jack Bennett and secure the top prize of £500.

Two juniors reached the final of the Band 2 knock out and we were delighted to have a home-grown winner, with **Finley Cameron-Prior** putting in a fine performance to overcome **Owen Brown** (Sussex). The Band 3 winner was **Wiktor Delimat** who beat **Dan Zeffie** in the final.

More tournaments are being planned - see the [BATTs website](#) for details.

# Junior Coaching at BATTs

The last few months have seen an explosion of interest in table tennis at BATTs. This is great news for the club, but it is quite a challenge for the coaching team to keep up with the demand.

Through our coaching efforts we have introduced hundreds of young players into the sport, and we are keen to expand our team with new coaches. We welcome enquiries from anyone who would like to be considered. We expect all our coaches at BATTs to hold a valid coach licence.

There is an opportunity to sign up for a **Level 1 coaching course** which is being held at BATTs starting on 8th February. The tutor will be ex-England international **Mark Mitchell**. For more information

about this and other coaching courses see the [Table Tennis England website](#).

You are also welcome to contact our coaching team for more information about coaching at BATTs. For a no-obligation discussion speak to Graham Frankel (details below)



## WhatsApp Groups Linking BATTs Members



Among the bewildering range of social media apps it's nice to find something that has a real benefit for BATTs. We now

have two WhatsApp groups available, both proving useful for members.

The **BATTs Extracurricular Group** was created to allow club members to play table tennis at times when the hall is not being hired by other users. Members of the group meet mainly at weekends. The only restriction is the availability of one of the keyholders who must be prepared to open the hall, be present while it is in use, and to lock up at the end. Members can apply to join the group by sending your mobile number to **Bruce Richards** via email:

[bruce@famrichards.co.uk](mailto:bruce@famrichards.co.uk)

The **BATTs Junior Competitions Group** is aimed at the parents/carers of our keen juniors who are playing on the tournament circuit or who would like to begin entering tournaments. We offer plenty of opportunities for coaching and practice, but if a player wants to progress in the sport regular competing at the right level is essential. Unfortunately, many of the tournaments involve a lot of travel. This group allows parents to exchange information about future events. It is particularly helpful if several BATTs players are planning to enter a tournament, so they can support each other and perhaps even share transport. The group is administered by **Daren Donald** and you can apply to join by sending your mobile number to him at [daren.donald@gmail.com](mailto:daren.donald@gmail.com)

## COMING UP @ BATTs

**Saturday 14 December**

SBL: BATTs v Ormesby. See p.1

**Wednesday 18 December**

BATTs Christmas Party from 6pm

**Monday 30 December**

Cadet Super Series tournament

**Sunday 5 January**

Essex Junior Closed tournament

**Friday 10 January**

7pm BATTs Open Singles

**Saturday 11 January**

1pm BATTs Open Singles

**Sunday 19 January**

SBL: BATTs v Urban

**Sunday 2 February**

Under 13 Super Series tournament

**Saturday 15 February**

Senior British League Div A2

**Friday 21 February**

7pm BATTs Open Singles

**Saturday 22 February**

1pm BATTs Open Singles

For full details of hall bookings check the [BATTs website](#)

## County Schools Tournaments

Two tournaments will be held at BATTs organised by the English Schools Table Tennis Association. These are individual tournaments with events at various age groups, and players can enter according to the county where their school is based.

The first is on **Saturday 25th January**, for pupils at **Essex schools**. For more information contact Neil Brierley (see details below).

The following week, **Saturday 1st February**, it will be the turn of **Hertfordshire schools**. For more information contact Thamal Udamura: [esttaherts@gmail.com](mailto:esttaherts@gmail.com)

Another county tournament hosted at BATTs is the Essex Junior Closed on **Saturday 5th January**. This has events in various age groups and anyone interested in entering should contact Neil Brierley (details below).

BATTs News is published by BATTs Table Tennis Club, Harlow

Editors: Graham Frankel [grahamf.batts@gmail.com](mailto:grahamf.batts@gmail.com) 0777 150 6950

Neil Brierley

[brierley2004@btinternet.com](mailto:brierley2004@btinternet.com) 0781 462 3879

[www.batts.org.uk](http://www.batts.org.uk)



Find us on  
**facebook**