

## Adam Topples Darius in the Senior Super Series



**The first in our Senior Super Series tournaments on 4th September was a phenomenal success. We were treated to a fantastic display of skill and effort from our own top players. You couldn't wish for a clearer demonstration of how hard work on training pays off.**

For Adam, the payoff was tangible and richly-deserved. At the outset of his semi-final clash with top seed and England number 5 Darius Knight it was obvious that Adam was hungry for success. Earlier in the evening he had given notice of this in his dominant dispatching of other highly seeded players including a straight sets win in the quarter final against the number 5 seed Niall Cameron. Adam's semi final encounter with Darius Knight was a truly spectacular tussle with outstanding rallies throughout the match. After a storming start, in which Adam took the first game 11-2, Darius gave notice that he was not giving up the fight, and came back to take the second game 13-11. The next three games were all desperately close. Adam was never going to beat Darius by sheer power, and he showed ingenuity and flair at the right moments to seal his

victory taking the fifth set 11-9. Immediately after his marathon struggle with Darius, he had to face Chris Doran in the final. Adam gave Chris a good run for his money but the England number 6 was just too strong in the end, winning in four games.

While Adam was leading the way for BATT'S, our other top coaches were not far behind. Peter Cleminson showed us that he is going to be a force to be reckoned with in the coming season. He had two superb matches with higher seeded players, only just losing 8-11 in the final set to number 3 seed Mike O'Driscoll, and then another astonishing five-setter with Ryan Fellows who was seeded 7.

We were delighted to see so many club members turning out to see the magnificent play. As the competition gained momentum and the atmosphere became electric, it was clear that everyone would be staying to the final. We were grateful to have offers of help from so many of our younger members during the evening. In particular, I must mention the enthusiastic young umpiring team of Benjamin, Declan,

George, Jess, Jaz and Matthew who kept coming back looking for more matches to umpire.

The unique competition format ensures a fast and furious turnaround of matches. The attractiveness for competitors and spectators alike is that there is a much more even run of play, with all the tables in use almost continuously. But at the same time, the closing stages contain all the excitement of the semi-final and final of a normal knock-out tournament. We are putting all the entrance fees into the prize fund, and we are confident this will make every event very attractive for all participants.

Here are the top 12 finishers.

1	Chris Doran £300
2	Adam Nutland £150
3	Darius Knight £75
4	Mike O'Driscoll £50
5	Ryan Fellows
6	Peter Cleminson
7	Steve Beerling
8	Niall Cameron
9	Neil Charles
10	Zoltan Hosszu
11	Luke Walsh
12	Costas Papantoniou

The band one winner (£50) was Ben Warner.

**We now look forward to our first Junior Super Series on Sunday 4th October and then the first Cadet Super Series on Sunday 22nd November. We expect both tournaments to be full, so check with us first if you would like to enter but have not yet done so. Then we have the next Senior Super Series on Friday 4th December. Entry forms for all these are on our [website](#).**

# Tough at the Top - but BATTs are Flying



Michael Tauber photo Mike Loveder

It was destined to be a momentous weekend for BATTs. Finally, after many years out of the top flight, we were back in the Premier Division of the Senior British League, and ready to host the first round of matches. Eight teams would be battling over the weekend to establish their positions. The weekend had far more significance than the opening weekend of Premiership football. Under the current Senior British League set up, each team plays not one, but four matches over the weekend.

There are only four of these weekends during the season, so failure at the outset could leave us potentially staring relegation in the face.

The BATTs line up had been established by a huge amount of talent-mining and negotiation by Neil. We knew that if we did not import some international-standard players we would stand no chance of making an impact at this level, and it would have effectively wasted all the superb efforts of Jimmy Walsh and his young team last season to gain promotion. On the other hand we really wanted to give our younger players a chance. So, for this first set of matches, we had 22 year old Michael Tauber, the second ranked player in Israel as our number one. Michael has just moved to France where he is playing as a full time professional. Our number two was Tobias Bergman from Sweden. Tobias is no stranger to the Senior British League, having played for two other clubs. Tobias, age 27, was Sweden's number 2

junior and played professionally in Sweden but has recently started running his own club in Stockholm. Adam, our number three, needs absolutely no introduction, and the number four slot was to be shared by Jack Bennett and Ethan Walsh who had both played a key part in securing promotion from the first division last season. Jack Bennett, based in Sussex, is now number 39 in the England senior rankings, and has just started studying for a degree at Derby University.

Saturday saw the BATTs squad up against two of the strongest looking teams in the division. In the first match they would be playing the reigning champions Ormesby whose formidable team included England number 5 Darius Knight, former European number 1 cadet Gavin Evans who has played professionally in Germany and Belgium, and two other top 20 England players Tom Jarvis and Danny Lawrence.

Many of the games were closely matched, but both Gavin Evans and Tom Jarvis played outstandingly to remain unbeaten. The only successes for BATTs were from Michael Tauber, who overcame Darius Knight in a thrilling and very close 5 set match and Adam who convincingly powered past Danny Lawrence.

The second match pitched our team against Nottingham Sycamore, even stronger than Ormesby, with two top ten England players and a new signing from Bulgaria – Petko Gabrowski – ranked 329 in the world. Michael Tauber scored our only win, beating the England number 7 David McBeath. The final match score 7 – 1 didn't really reflect the closeness of the play, with 12 sets going to 9 or deuce.

Our team on Saturday night were bruised but not broken. The two matches on Sunday looked like giving BATTs a chance to pick up some badly needed points. The first was against London Academy. This was never going to be easy. Our opponents fielded the Japanese player Ryota Kawai who, a few weeks earlier, had caused a sensation by reaching the final of the Liverpool Grand Prix (and beating Adam on the way). Their number one was the highly experienced and talented Dexter St Louis, a Trinidadian international who last year had been world ranked 290. Matt Ware, their number 3, is another very experienced competitor, currently England ranked 10. Their number 4, Steve Beerling, is often seen training at BATTs, and is currently England number 25.

Michael gave us a great start, beating Kawai in 4 sets. It then looked set to be a neck and neck struggle all the way,



Jack Bennett photo Mike Loveder

until Jack Bennett played with superb determination and persistence to overcome Matt Ware. It could have gone either way, but Jack's temperamental control gave him victory at deuce in the fifth set. That made it 3 – 1 to BATTs, but then Michael Tauber had no answers to the steady power of Dexter St Louis. Still this match could have gone either way. In the next game, Adam had to face Riota Kawai, and played brilliantly with great flair to win in four sets. So BATTs had finally notched up their first point – with at least a draw guaranteed. Tobias and Jack finished with two fine wins giving BATTs a 6 -2 victory.

Adam then took the bold and generous decision to allow his two younger players, Jack and Ethan to both play in the final match and dropped himself. The Kingfisher team looked more vulnerable. A sensational win by the England Junior number 3 Marcus Giles to beat Michael Tauber made us wonder for a while whether Adam's tactic may have backfired, but Ethan and Jack steadied the ship with two excellent wins and we finished up winning 6 – 2 again, putting us in a relatively good position to face the remaining teams in the next round at Nottingham on 7th November.

It was good to see plenty of visitors at BATTs over the weekend. Those who didn't make it missed some amazing matches.

You can get a flavour of the action by visiting our [Facebook page](#) where there are video clips.

We had some welcome and unexpected

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visitors. Snooker star Ronnie O'Sullivan, who has often appeared at BATTs, brought his son Ronnie junior along to see the action, and chatted to some of the teams. Then the younger spectators were treated to some real magic – from the table tennis magician Leon Thomson.

As always, the BATTs stalwarts Neil and Sharon, together with Lucy, made sure the whole weekend ran smoothly and with a constant flow of refreshments for the players, officials, and spectators.

For a more comprehensive report on the weekend's play, including interviews with some of the players, visit the [Table Tennis England website](#).

Tables > Seniors 2015-16 > Premier Division 2015-16

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SR	GR	Points
1	Nottingham Sycamore I	4	3	1	0	3.57	2.24	7
2	Drumchapel Glasgow I	4	3	1	0	3.00	2.19	7
3	Ormesby I	4	2	2	0	1.67	1.51	6
4	Fusion I	4	2	0	2	1.29	0.98	4
5	BATTs I	4	2	0	2	0.88	0.94	4
6	Cardiff City TTC I	4	1	1	2	0.60	0.75	3
7	London Academy I	4	0	1	3	0.45	0.62	1
8	Kingfisher I	4	0	0	4	0.14	0.31	0

Last Updated: 13 Sep 2015

The SBL Premier Table after the first weekend's matches. For more details and results see [Table Tennis 365](#)

## Congratulations

Not much of a summer break for our busy tournament players. The **Liverpool Grand Prix**, held at the end of August saw some great performances by our representatives. **Luke Jones** had some excellent wins to take him to the semi final of the Band 6 and also the last 16 of the Under 21 and Band 5 events. **Ethan Walsh** also reached the last 16 of the Under 21s losing only to the England number 6. But his best performance was in the Mens Singles where he also reached the last 16 by beating John Murphy, the Irish number 4 senior who was seeded 9 in the tournament. **Adam Nutland** lost narrowly to Ryo-ta Kawai in the quarter final of the Band 1 event and also reached the last 16 of the Mens Singles losing to the Scottish number two ranked player. Adam also reached the semi finals of the doubles, playing with **Peter Cleminson**.

**Alana Mansfield** (see photo below) has also been very busy on the tournament circuit. Among her recent successes she reached the final of the U13 event at the Cliffdale Chandlers 2 star at Grantham. Alana is now ranked 9 in England at U13, having risen an astonishing 48 places since the beginning of this year.

**Ryan Fellows** won the men's singles at the Scunthorpe 1 star tournament. Since Ryan has been training regularly at BATTs he has risen from 109 to 30 in the Men's England ranking.

**Sam Chesterman** won the Junior Boy's singles at the Hunts 2 star and reached the final of the Cadet singles.

**Joe Walker** has had a string of excellent wins, and has leapt a further 36 places up the cadet ranking. Now at England number 55, Joe has his sights on further improvements this season.

**Jimmy Walsh** and **Peter Radford** (see photo below) were selected to represent England at the 6 Nations Vets championships held in the Isle of Man in September. They both came away with a clutch of medals - Jimmy was in the gold medal winning O40 team won a silver medal in the doubles event. Peter gained silver medals in the O70s team and individual events.



## Snippets

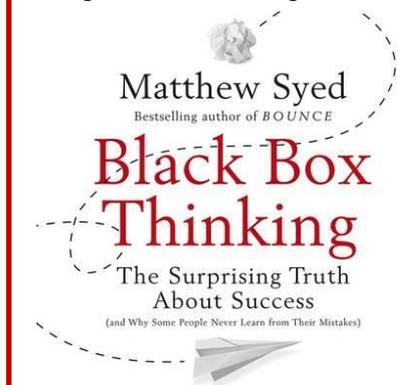


I noticed a review of an interesting documentary film called *Topspin* featuring the preparations of the USA team leading up to the 2012 Olympics. I'm not sure if the film is available here but let me know if you find it. The full review was in the [LA Times](#).

Closer to home, there is a new quarterly independent newsletter about table tennis in England. First edition looks great - a mix of current news with a generous helping of nostalgia. You can join the mailing list by emailing Harvey Webb:

[harveywebb17@gmail.com](mailto:harveywebb17@gmail.com)

If you have heard me speak about Matt Syed's book *Bounce* you will not be surprised to know I was very excited to hear he has written another book. I have heard that *Black Box Thinking* is every bit as good as *Bounce* so I'm looking forward to reading it!



It looks like our new LED lighting at BATTs is going to save us around 27% on our electric bill, which was running at about £10,000 per annum. We shall have a clearer (brighter?) estimate by the end of the year.



# Ethan's Chinese Takeaway

Ethan Walsh, who recently reached the number one position in the Cadet rankings just a few months after his thirteenth birthday, had a fantastic opportunity to visit China for three weeks with a selection of other players from the England Youth Squad. Accompanied by coach Chris Turner, the party trained alongside Chinese players and had a chance to experience, at first hand, the coaching methods that have helped to keep China as the top nation in table tennis for many years.

On his first day back training at BATTs I took him aside to interview him about his experience in China.



*The England squad in China with their coach Chris Turner*

## What was your timetable table each day?

Most days we played for six hours starting at 8.30am and finishing at 5.30pm with a 3 hour break in the middle of the day. On some days we were taken on trips, including one to see some ancient monuments and another when we visited Shanghai.

In the mornings we spent most of the time practising, and in the afternoons we would be multiballing (each other) and playing matches.

## Did you not get multiball from the coaches?

A little, but they tended to do this with the Chinese students.

## Were there other nationalities involved or just English and Chinese?

Yes, I met players from Germany, Canada, Slovakia, Slovenia, Barbados, Peru and USA!

## Did you notice differences in coaching methods in China?

There were quite a few differences. In some ways the coaching was more simple

– the coach would set a straightforward exercise which we would work on in pairs. They didn't use so many complicated sequences of strokes in their routines.

Another difference was that they didn't spend so much time demonstrating. This meant that during the training period we had quite a lot more table time.

## Did you learn any Chinese?

I learned a few words!

## What was the food like?

Some of it was like the food we have in Chinese restaurants over here, but other things were plainer. It was good, really.

## Did you notice any improvements in your play?

Yes. I think I have improved the power in my forehand, both speed and spin. Also I think I am moving around the table more quickly.

## Did you notice any other differences in how the Chinese attitude to table tennis differed from how it is treated in England?

Definitely. Over there they treat the sport much more seriously. They are more determined and more intense in their training.

## Has the experience made you adjust your own ambitions?

If anything it has made me even more determined to do well and reach the top. I definitely want to play for England.

Thanks for your time Ethan!

Graham Frankel

## What's @ BATTs

### Sunday 4th October 10am - 3pm

Junior Super Series - last chance to enter. **£375 prize fund!**

### 31st October/1st November

Essex Selection trials for Juniors. Contact Arthur Clark if you would like to be considered to play for Essex this season.

### Sunday 22nd November 10am - 3pm

Cadet Super Series. **£215 prize fund!**

### Friday 4th December 7pm - 10.30pm

Senior Super Series **£625 prize fund!**

### Xmas Social

Natasha Walsh is hoping to arrange a visit to *Bounce* the famous table tennis bar in London. Date has not been fixed yet but contact Natasha to register interest: [njwalsh@live.co.uk](mailto:njwalsh@live.co.uk)

### Sunday 20th and 27th December

First ever BATTs Club Championships — see Adam to register.

Entry forms for all the above competitions (not the BATTs Club Championships) are on our website in the section [TOURNAMENTS](#)

