

Premier Division Here We Come!

A magnificent performance by our first team in Senior British League secured promotion to the Premier Division. Our heroic team kept their nerves in a titanic struggle at the play off weekend on 18th and 19th April when the result was in the balance right up to the end of the fourth and final match of the weekend.

Great credit must go to captain **Jimmy Walsh** for guiding and motivating his young team through many tough matches. It is a tribute to Jimmy's captaincy that the team had no weak link - none of the team finished with an average lower than 50%, and this despite **Luke Walsh** suffering from a severe back problem for most of the season. Special mention must also be given to the young players who put in such a huge effort to secure promotion: **Jack Bennett**, who finished the season on 73%, **Ethan Walsh** who was not far behind on 64%, and **Jordan Wykes**.

Jimmy and his young charges had qualified for the playoffs by the skin of their teeth. They finished third in their division but the top team were unable to participate in the playoffs as they already had a team in the Premier Division.

As far as BATTs is concerned, this is a highly significant achievement. It could mean a whole lot more than simply being promoted to the top division in the country.

There is a proposal for Premier Division matches to be played on a "home and away" basis, rather than maintaining the current system whereby matches are played at specific venues with all teams travelling to the host venue. That would be a very welcome development, but it is not yet clear when the change would be made.

Whatever happens with the playing format we can look forward to the opportunity of hosting major events with very high standard of play throughout. We can envisage a future when these matches will become important attrac-



BATTs A Team: Jordan Wykes, Ethan Walsh, Jack Bennett, Jimmy Walsh (capt). Luke Walsh (below)

tions, drawing plenty of spectators - many of them hopefully supporting our team. Along with the spectator appeal we can realistically expect a lot more attention from the media and that, in turn, would open up possibilities of sponsorship.

During the summer we will be engaged in careful planning for the coming British League season, so watch this space for further developments.



Meet Ryan.....

We have been happy to have **Ryan Fellows** working with our coaching team during the past few weeks. Ryan, aged 21, grew up in Wolverhampton and has been a friend and practice partner of Adam since the age of 14. He played for Woodfield in the current season winning 75% of his matches. Ryan has just broken into the top 100 senior rankings for the first time and recently reached the final of the Band 2 event at the Blackpool Grand Prix. Ryan is actively looking for additional coaching opportunities - he is very flexible and willing to coach either individuals or groups at all levels and any ages. Ryan can be contacted on 077845 36668 or email: ryanfellows7@hotmail.com



Exciting Times Ahead: New Competitions at BATTs



We are busy making plans for a range of new competitions at BATTs during the next season, starting in September.

During the past year we have noticed a shortage of competitive opportunities for our ever-growing numbers of junior players. Those in the "A" squad are regularly playing in tournaments or British League but there is very little for those in the other groups.

Our most ambitious plan is to create the **BATTs Junior Open Table Tennis League**, which will enable players from a wide area around the club to compete on a regular basis. The format is simple and has been used successfully elsewhere.

There will be two sections: one for Under 12s (up to and including Y7) and one for under 15s (Years 8, 9 and 10). Entry will be on an **individual basis** - there will be no teams - and matches will all be held on Saturday afternoons, starting on 19th September. During the next few weeks, more information will appear on our website and will be sent to parents, local schools, and other clubs and coaches in the region.

Another exciting development is one that will enable **all** our club members to compete for cash prizes in a series of **BATTs Super Series** tournaments.

The Super Series format will be familiar to many established players. It allows all participants to play a good number of matches, rather than running the risk of being eliminated after playing in just one group.

Our Super Series tournaments will take place at three different levels, each on separate days.

The **Senior Super Series** will be sched-

uled on specific Friday evenings, while the **Junior** and **Cadet** events will be held at weekends.

These will be pukka star-rated tournaments qualifying for ranking points, and the dates have all been agreed as part of the Table Tennis England programme so we can expect a lot of interest from players over a wide area.

Please contact me if you would like any other information at this stage, or if you would like to be on the priority mailing list for updates on either of these exciting initiatives.

Graham Frankel

Help Needed!

*Is there anyone out there who can help us create **online entry forms** for our new competitions? We are determined to reduce the labour involved in filling in paper forms and posting them with cheques but we have a gap in our technical knowledge. Contact Neil or Graham if you could rescue us.....*

Grass Roots: Book your Place Now

Grass Roots tournaments are the perfect way to give young players an introduction to competitive table tennis. These are informal competitions and open to any players under 15 (on the day of the tournament) and who have not previously been awarded "ranking points" from official tournaments/competitions. The next date to note is **Sunday 31st May** and you can register your entry simply by sending me an email. Entry fee of £5 can then be paid on the day.

BATTs opens at 9am, the competition starts at 10am and should be finished by 4pm. Plenty of matches for all competitors and loads of prizes!



Our cafeteria will be open all day serving drinks and snacks, and we plan to have a fun exhibition from some of our top players during the lunch break.

Don't delay making your entry be-

cause numbers will be limited.

If you can offer any help on the day please let me know. The photo shows some of the players at our last Grass Roots in October.

Graham Frankel

Join Our New Facebook Group!



We now have a new Facebook Group that will enable BATTs members to chat easily with each other and post other news, photos and videos relevant for BATTs.

Everyone is welcome to join but we recognise that some parents will not

want their children to use Facebook (and in any case there is an age restriction of 13). So we hope that perhaps some of the parents will themselves join the group and keep an eye on what is happening at BATTs. You can find the group easily by searching for "BATTs table tennis" on Facebook. The group is a "closed group" so you

will need to join it to participate. You can ask to join on the front page of the group or could be invited by an existing member.

As with all Facebook groups its success depends on it being used, so we hope to see you there....! We also welcome non-members in the Group if they want to hear our latest news.

Harlow League Treble



The Loris team: Calvin Harvey, Jiamin Herdon, Helen D'Aguiar, Dave Cammish, John Prop, Chris D'Aguiar

It was a clean sweep for BATTs in the Harlow League, with our teams finishing top of all three divisions.

Leading the way in the **Premier Division** were the Chimpanzees, who finished 8 points clear of their rivals. Congratulations to captain **Carl Johnson** ably supported by **Peter Radford, Keith Fung, Kuan Lim, Django Fung and Norbert Fullerton.**

Winners of Division One, by the massive margin of 23 points, were the Baboons who were unbeaten. **Mark Fielding**, the captain, was clearly skilled at managing his squad of 8 players, and as well as Mark (92%), three of his team (**Mark Allaway, Kim Cheung, and Phil Knights**) each won at least 80% of their matches.

Our heroes in Division Two were the Lorises, captained by **Dave Cammish**. Team member **Helen D'Aguiar** writes..... *The BATTs Loris team have not only won the second division but have remained unbeaten throughout the season, thanks in part to magnificent results from Calvin and Chris who had 100% and 96% win rates respective-*

ly. It all came down to the final game of the season for us and we needed a 7-3 win to ensure we won the division and our captain, Dave Cammish, had the honour of playing the game that clinched the title for us. We eventually went on to win 9-1, just to be sure! Unfortunately, due to my illness, I am unable to take much credit for our success but I supported the team whenever I could and I can honestly say I felt like a proud Mum when they won the title! We had been assured by a few that we would not beat Corinthians (which we did - TWICE) nor were we expected to win the division.

All in all it has been a great season for the team, captained brilliantly by Dave, and the spirit has been fantastic. I feel privileged to be a part of the team, albeit a very small part this year!

In addition to the league treble success there was a cup double for BATTs, with our Chimpanzees winning the Norton Cup against Allnutts and our Lorises winning the Consolation Cup against Water Lane C.



Purposeful Practice

This is the first in a series of tips about how to improve your table tennis. Not everyone wants to be a champion, but I hope you will find this interesting anyway. The first Bounce Byte comes - appropriately - from Matthew Syed's great book *Bounce*. Strongly recommended for all players or indeed anyone interested in sport in general.

Matthew describes brilliantly the difference between ordinary practice and "purposeful practice" which is practice with a specific purpose, and is aimed at trying to improve a particular skill. For many players, practice means bashing the ball back and forth for a while and then playing a series of matches. This results in little or no improvement in standard. Why is "purposeful practice" better? Simple - you are continually working to achieve a target of doing something better. Want to know more? Ask one of the coaching team and definitely read *Bounce*.

Hot Stuff.....



Sharon has made sure that table tennis is not the only hot stuff at BATTs.

Watch out for more exciting new products.

Congratulations



A phenomenal few weeks for **Peter Radford** who reached the final of the Western Masters Over 70 event, losing only to Brian Hill (former silver medalist in the O70 World Championships). Peter also lost to Brian in the semi-finals of the O60 event. A few weeks earlier Peter had reached the final of the O60 Southern Masters VETTS tournament. His scalps included wins against Tony Clayton, former England player and also against the legendary Herbert Neubauer.



Derek Balding has been selected to play for England Veterans in the O65 International Team Championships to be held in Leipzig in July.



Isaac Hughes was the unanimous choice of the BATTs coaches to receive the *Outstanding Achiever* award under the Jack Petchey Foundation scheme in April. 14 year old Isaac has made excellent progress since joining our coaching squad, and achieved some excellent results in the National Cadet League matches during the season.

We see a bright future ahead if he continues to put in 100% effort to his training and competition play.



Another great month for our Head Coach **Adam Nutland** who won the Band 1 event at the Blackpool Grand Prix and then achieved true stardom by featuring on the front of the London GP programme. If you can, try to get to Redbridge Sports Centre to support Adam!

Onwards and Upwards

More significant climbing up the ranking lists this month. The biggest leap was that of **Joe Walker** who improved his cadet ranking by 46 places. **Charlotte Marsden** is another rising star, moving up 24 places in the cadet list. Meanwhile **Luke Jones** has gone up by 17 places in the Junior rankings. **Ethan Walsh** retains his top position in the U13 boys but also improved his U21 ranking by 29 places.

Congratulations also to the following "A" Squad members on their selection for the National Championships (ages 11–14) to be held in June.

- Alana Mansfield (U11 & U12)**
- Charlotte Marsden (U14)**
- Jaycee Chan (U13)**

Jaycee Chan and Joe Walker also have reserve places in the U14, and Ray Yan in the U13 events.

What's @ BATTs

.....Play	WatchSpectate
Sunday 3rd May		
10am - 1pm Open Club Session		
Sunday 17th May	Watch	
BATTs Super Series		
Sunday 24th May		
10am - 1pm Open Club Session		
Sunday 31st May		
Grass Roots Tournament (see p2)		
Sunday 7th June		
10am— 1pm Open Club Session		
Sunday 14th June		
10am— 1pm Open Club Session		
Sunday 21st 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"		