

Surrey County Notes (April 2015) by Chris Andrews

At the Cadet Six Nations event Isabelle Joubely won gold in the team event and she also reached the quarter-finals in the individual competition.

Darius Knight lost in the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles at the National Championships to Paul Drinkhall.

Ranked sixth Isabelle Joubely came fourth at the Cadet Masters and in the round robin event she beat the Champion Kate Cheer.

Without their number one player Surrey Juniors found the going tough in the Premier Division and found themselves relegated as much anticipated this season. The team consisted of Shaquille Webb-Dixon, Liam Grant, Richard Pelc, Isobelle Joubely and Federica Tazartes with Michael Loveder as non-playing Captain. Surrey Juniors II recorded an 8-2 win over Essex II and a 9-1 win over Bedfordshire. Despite a brilliant team effort Surrey lost 4-6 to both Oxfordshire and Berkshire to finish two points behind them both even though Surrey had a superior sets average. Had Surrey salvaged a draw with these two (just one more set) we would have won the division!

Samuel Pang was runner-up in the Consolation under -18's event at the Horsham Spinners 2 star, in March. In February the Horsham Spinners 2 star saw Shaquille Webb-Dixon win the under -18's event and Sophie Chiang come second in the under-10's event.

Nine of the county's leading cadets battled it out at Graham Spicer TTC on Wednesday 11th March 2015. The top three players were 1. Samuel Pang, 2. Kushal Patel 3. Matthew Hazell. A total of 23 games ended with 9 or deuce which show that it was not straight forward for many. Next season should be interesting as cadets develop their game further.

Isabelle Joubely finally received the Jim Forrest Memorial Trophy from Mike Kercher, President of the Surrey Table Tennis Association, which was awarded to her last June. This trophy is awarded to Surrey's Outstanding Junior of the Year, an accolade previously won by Joanna Drinkhall on her way to become England's number one lady.

Table Tennis Volunteer John Mullis received the royal seal of approval for his years of dedication. He is among this year's recipients of the Torch Trophy Trust Awards. The trophy was presented by the Countess of Wessex. John, aged 75, has been Secretary of the Croydon League for 29 years and is the vice chairman of the Surrey TTA. On top of the many duties this entails, John has worked to integrate a team of deaf players into the league.

A new club is to open in Petersfield. The local league, Haslemere and District Table Tennis Association, (HDTTA), identified some time ago that there was no proper table tennis club in Petersfield. There are a few pockets of playing activity locally at the Taro Centre and the Methodist Church Hall but no proper TTE (Table Tennis England) affiliated club. This is all now about to change with the announcement that Petersfield Table Tennis Club will be opening in the first floor function room at the Petersfield Rugby Club clubhouse at Penns Place, next to the Taro Centre. The club will hold two open evenings: on Monday, April 20th and Monday, April 27th, from 7pm to 9.30pm. Players, enthusiasts, potential new members, parents and others interested in seeing the new facilities, chatting to the organisers, having a knock-up and finding out more about the new club, will be welcome on these two evenings. The

club is looking to attract players of all ages and abilities for recreational and informal play throughout the year, and it is anticipated that Monday evening will be a regular club night. The club has also voiced its thanks to Petersfield RFC for providing it with a home. All standards and abilities will be catered for, and people of all ages are welcome. For more information contact Tony Smith on 01730 816401 or by email at tony@sobertone.com