

Surrey County Notes (October 2005) by Chris Andrews

At the European Youth Championships held in Prague, Darius Knight was part of the England team that won Gold in the u-16's team event. He also won a Silver medal in the u-15's Singles event and a Bronze medal with Amelie Solja of Germany in the mixed doubles.

After this Darius and Cleveland's Paul Drinkhall went to Canada to compete in the International Table Tennis Federation's World Junior Circuit Canadian Junior Open which is a u-18's event. Fifteen year olds Darius and Paul swept to the team event final where they faced two older boys from Chinese Taipei. England triumphed 3-1 against higher ranked opposition to win the Gold. Darius also a Bronze medal in the u-18's singles event and Bronze in the u-18's doubles partnering Paul Drinkhall.

Surrey's Chris Bush became the u-19's English Schools Champion from starting out as the 4th seed. To win this event, he beat Adam Frost and Stephen Denny. He was then selected with Tim Yarnell to represent England at the u-19's Schools International at Lilleshall in early July 2005. England won the team event beating Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Guernsey. Chris also won a Bronze medal in the u-19's singles losing in the semi-finals to Tim Yarnell.

Surrey talent Wing Yung Chan has moved from 8th on the National Cadet Ranking list to 4th having shot up nearly 600 points in the last few months. Earlier on in the season he was selected for the ETTA Youth Development Squad. Lately his involvement in the squad has been reaffirmed. The training camps held every few months has given him an opportunity to play with the top boys and girls in the Country, which helps him prepare for International trips. Wing has been taken on 3 overseas trips under the Youth Development Banner: the Spanish Cataluña Youth Open where he finished 4th; a Swedish training camp for 1 week; and the German Flensburg Oyster Cup where his team won the event.

After finishing in 3rd place at the English Schools u-16 Tournament, Wing Yung Chan was picked for the u-14's England team Schools International. His team came 2nd and he partnered u-13 Champion Kim Daybell. Wing came 3rd in the singles event and has now been picked for England for the German Open. He would like to thank everyone that has helped him this year and we wish him the very best for the future.

Surrey was well represented in the London Region team at the Inter Regional Competition. The following players were selected for London: Sophie Lucas and Helena Foylan in the u-11's event, Laura Higham in the u-13's event and Zane Smythe in the u-15's event. Helena and Sophie had an excellent day with some tremendous wins. Helena finished runner-up in the London Junior Table Tennis Finals and her success has been rewarded with an invitation to a training camp.

The County Senior 2nd team came 3rd in Division 2D unfortunately having to play the first day of the last weekend with only 1 lady player. Surrey's Junior 1st team finished 2nd in Division 1B and it was good to see Chris Lewis and Dorian Robinson playing for Surrey. With a few players on their debuts, coming 6th out of 10 teams in Division 2D was a good all round performance from the Junior 2nd team. The Cadet 1st team finished in 3rd place in the Premier Division and this was a shame as the boys played out of order on the first day and Wing Yung Chan remained unbeaten. In a tough division the Cadet 2nd team finished bottom despite having 2 draws and 1 win in Division 1B.

Darius Knight won the Wandsworth Sports Person of the Year Award 2004.

Graham Spicer have now won the Thames Valley League top Division for 13 consecutive times. In the 2004-05 season Merrow A won the Guildford League Premier Division title, Challoner C, Ash B, Cranleigh A and Effingham won Divisions 1-4 respectively. Forrester A beat Wickham Park B in the Croydon Table Tennis League Open Cup Final and Wickham Park E defeated Monk Hill F in the Handicap Cup.

The results of the Kingston Schools 10th Tournament held at Chessington Community School on the 22nd May 2005 were as follows:-

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| Boys under 11 winner | Nicholas Soloman |
| runner-up | Anthony Boyd |
| Girls under 11 winner | Helena Foylan |
| runner-up | Sophie Lucas |
| Boys under 14 winner | James Ma |
| runner-up | Andrew Ma |
| Girls under 14 winner | Kim Beard |
| runner-up | Linda Regan |
| Boys under 17 winner | Chris Bush |
| runner-up | James Ma |
| Girls under 17 winner | Emma Lucas |
| runner –up | Kelly Dicks |

World over 75 Silver medallist Gordon Chapman sadly died in mid-July and is missed by all who knew him especially those at Graham Spicer. Our thoughts go out to his family.