

Surrey County Notes (May 2005) by Chris Andrews

The piece de resistance of table tennis tournaments is here on our doorstep, on the 23rd July at The Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Ten players battle it out for the title of BBC Masters Champion. These are however no ordinary players, three of them are former World No.1's. Also the ten players in question have won 8 World Championship titles, 2 Olympic titles and 22 European Championship titles between them (by titles I mean singles, doubles, mixed doubles or team).

At the European Championships Joanna Parker was England's most successful woman. Joanna beat four players ranked higher than her including the World No.111 Elena Kovtun of the Ukraine. In the men's doubles Darius Knight and his playing partner met Vladimir Samsonov and Kalinikos Kreanga in the 1st round. Unfazed by truly World Class opposition, England's fifteen year olds won the first end 11-9, before eventually losing 3-1 to the pair who finished 2005 European Championships runners-up.

At the National Championships Joanna Parker lost in the final of the under21's to Kelly Sibley, while Darius Knight went out of the under 21's in the semi-final. They partnered each other in the mixed doubles and reached the semi-final, as well as this they both reached the semi-final in the men's and women's doubles.

In the British Junior League Darius Knight was the top Surrey player on 80% and his team Southfields Elite were the top Surrey team coming fourth in the Premier Division. Caroline Linz was Surrey's top junior girl. Sarah Holmes was Surrey's top Women's British League player and the team she plays for, Spicer Ladies were Surrey's top team. Sutton at home won the Division 3 title. In the men's Veteran's British League, Ian Girdler was the top Surrey player in the Premier Division and Graham Spicer 1 was the top Surrey team and they play in Division 2. Kim Mudge was Surrey's top Women's Veteran's British League player and her Combined Counties team was the top Surrey team.

In the County Championships, Surrey was relegated from the Seniors Premier Division even though Darren Blake won all eight of his matches in the last weekend.

Adam Laws has won three Championship titles since returning in February from China this year: The Aldershot Men's Singles, the Guildford Men's Singles beating Terry Haley in the final having already beaten Marc Burman in the semi-final and the Maccabi GB beating Gary Tendler in the semi-final and Eli Baraty in the final.