

# Danny the Champion of the World (Almost)!

## Ernest Bevin 2 Star Junior Open Report

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010

By Mark Smith & Rory Scott

With over 115 entries into the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Ernest Bevin TTK Greenhouse junior 2 star, the competition saw hundreds of very exciting matches across 4 age groups. This was despite about 20 players pulling out due to the severe weather conditions with heavy snow a couple of days before.

The girls event was pooled across all the age groups with Eda Aydin (Mi) winning the event, beating Denise Payet (Mi) into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a round robin group of 6 players. Eda managed to win the event without even dropping an end! Denise, however had a very tight encounter with England no. 1 U11, Kate Cheer (Sx), winning 12-10 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a count back for 3<sup>rd</sup> place between Kate, Tiana Dennison (E) & Denise Belcher (). They all beat each other & all matches between them were 3-0, so it came down to a points countback, with Tiana coming out on top (3<sup>rd</sup> position) with a +2 points difference, with Danielle on +1 (4<sup>th</sup> position) & Kate on -3 (5<sup>th</sup>).

The U11 boys (16 entrants) was fiercely contested with no. 1 seed James Corner (Mi) winning the title beating Bevin's Tyreek Edwards (Sy) in the semi-finals and Bejay Arjan (Sy) in the final 3-2. James Smith (K) was the other losing semi-finalist.

The U13 boys (44 entrants) final was between the top 2 seeds, Oliver Gunns (K) & Charlie Rahbani (Mi). A fast flowing final was won 3-1 by the underdog, Rahbani with some lovely off-the-bounce forehand topspins. Losing semi-finalists were Adam Corell (Sx) & Omar Khassal (Mi), Adam only losing out by 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Oliver.

In the U15s (a whopping 63 entrants) and U18s (an impressive 61 entries), Danny Lawrence (K) played countless thrilling matches, reaching the final in both events, with some very fast and flamboyant top spin shots. In the U15s, he comfortably beat Bevin's Joseph Langham-Ferriera (Sy) 3-1 in the semi-finals. In the final he faced Bevin's Lobsang Lama (Sy) who came through his semi-finals 3-0 against Baiden Thoroughgood (Mi-a 5<sup>th</sup> set winner over Senyo Owusu-Mi). The final was full of fast exciting top spin rallies away from the table, with Lobsang coming back from 2-0 down to level at 2-2. Danny made no mistakes in the decider, keeping an early lead to win the title 11-7 in the final game.

Danny had the opportunity to take the double in the U18 final, however he met his match against an "in form" Bradley Tuttle the number 1 seed and England no 14, who had to work hard against Danny's speed, but came through using his superior power to win the title 5-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7. Seeded at 2, Danny had won 5-set matches against the following players on the way to the final: Jamal Dennison, Adam Reed & Lobsang Lama. Bradley had an easier ride, not dropping a set until the final & this despite losing his bat & having to borrow one! Both semis were decided 3-0 with Danny beating Leon Thomson (He) (note no 'p' in Thomson, as I kept getting reminded) & Brad accounting for 4<sup>th</sup> seed, Tyla Anderson (Mi). Leon had a very good win over Surrey player, 3<sup>rd</sup> seed, Alois Clair & he beat Simeon Giles (Sy), who himself had a great win over 6<sup>th</sup> seed, Gobi Sriparan (Sy). Another player to impress was Victoras Burbulevicius (E), who beat Antoney Patten (Sy) & Daniel Pound (Sx), both of whom are way higher than him in the rankings. His run came to an end however, at the hands of 4<sup>th</sup> seed Tyla Anderson (Mi).

See below for full results:

U11s: James Corner (Mi) beat Bejay Arjan (Sy) 11-9, 11-6, 7-11, 4-11, 11-4

U13s: Charlie Rahbani (Mi) beat Ollie Gunns (K) 11-6, 5-11, 11-5, 12-10.

U15s: Danny Lawrence (K) beat Lobsang Lama (Sy) 11-2, 11-5, 6-11, 7-11, 11-8.

U18s: Bradley Tuttle (He) beat Danny Lawrence (K) 5-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-7.

Girls: Round Robin: 1<sup>st</sup> Eda Aydin (Mi), 2<sup>nd</sup>: Denise Payet (Mi), 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tiana Dennison.

