

Annual Press Report 2014-15 (By Chris Andrews)

England won a historic 1-2-3 in the Commonwealth Games Mixed Doubles in Glasgow with our Joanna Drinkhall winning Gold with husband Paul.

At the European Team Championships in Lisbon Darius Knight won his matches as England beat Turkey 3-0 and Finland 3-2.

In the Table Tennis Ashes just before the Commonwealth Games England beat Australia 7-3 with a 5-0 win in the Men's event and a 2-3 lost in the Women's where Joanna won her Singles match.

In the Paralympic Slovakia Open, Bratislava, Aaron McKibbin won the bronze medal in the Mens's class 8 Singles.

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 won the Cardiff Satellite Grand Prix Men's Singles title. The NatWest Jersey Open saw Darius Knight win the doubles with Mike O'Driscoll.

Darius Knight is to become a mentor for Sky Sports living for Sports programme. Joanna Drinkhall is featuring on the May page of the Women in Sport calendar having finished fourth in an online public vote.

The Junior Nationals in Preston saw Marcus Giles reach the final where he was beaten 3-1 by Helshan Weerasinghe. Isabelle Joubely reached the semi-finals of the National under-14's girls Singles event and the Finals of the National under-14's girls Doubles event. In the National under-12's girls Singles Danielle Kelly reached the quarter-finals. Marcus Giles came third at the Junior Masters National event. Ranked sixth Isabelle Joubely came fourth at the Cadet Masters and in the round robin event she beat the Champion Kate Cheer.

In the Senior British League Darius Knight was Surrey's top player with 82% and Ormensby the team he played for won the Premier league. Marcus Giles was Surrey's top player in the Junior British Premier League on 70 %. Janice Lee was Surrey's best player in the Women's Veteran's Premier League.

Darius Knight won the Men's Singles at the Hunts 2 star Open at St Ives beating Scotland's Gavin Rungay in the Final. Isabelle Joubely did the double winning the Girl's Junior Singles and the Girl's Cadet Singles. Kinga Oryl won the Women's Band One event and was Runner-up in the Women's Singles.

A young cadet 1st team were relegated from the Premier Division. However the Cadet 2nd team came second in Division 1B. Surrey Senior 1st team were mid-table in Division 1B. 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, Isabelle 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! In the Veteran's Division 1B Surrey were relegated yet the 2nd team came second in Division 2B. After 27 years in the post Ron Langheim is stepping down as captain of the Surrey County Veterans.

At the Cippenham Autumn Festival One star tournament Federica Tazartes won the Girl's under-14's event.

In February the Horsham Spinners 2 star saw Shaquille Webb-Dixon win the under -18's event.

At the Jack Petchey Individual Finals Isobelle Joubely won the girls under-16's event and Jessica Monis was Runner-up in the girls under-19's at the same tournament. At the Jack Petchey Team Finals Wallington County Grammar won the under-13 Boys event.

In London South 5 of 6 teams qualified for Surrey. Every borough had a tournament. In the girls events Royal Russell won the under-19's, Newstead Wood won the under-16's and under-13's, while Barnes Primary won the under -11's. In the Boys events Wallington won the under-19's and under -13's with Whitgift winning the under-16's and Barnes Primary taking the under-11's event.

In the schools Tournament Wallington boys won the under-13's and Barnes Primary won the under-11's boys & girls events. In the individuals Danielle Kelly won the under-14 girls. Federates Tenate won the under-13s girls Robert Pelc won the under-13 boys and Charlie Cunningham won the under-12 boys.

Nine of the county's leading cadets battled it out. The top three players were 1. Samuel Pang, 2. Kushal Patel 3. Matthew Hazell.

In the Croydon League Wickham Park A stormed to the title by never losing a match with a 22 point winning margin. Simon Phillips was top of the averages on 91%. Burymead B won the Guildford Premier Table Tennis League with Matt Pernet of Burymead B winning all of his matches. Headley A won the Haslemere and District League Division 1 title. Pawal Papaj finished top of the league for Fernhurst on 90%. Crusaders A won the Sutton and District Table Tennis League with Mickel Miller on 96% winning 49 of 51 matches! Graham Spicer 1 retained their League title in the Thames Valley Table Tennis League for the third time in a row. Steve Duggan of Teddington 1 was top of the averages. York Gardens D were the surprise package of the Wandsworth League Division 1 as they won the league with Laikram Persaud top of the league on 93%.

A new club has opened 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. The Petersfield Table Tennis Club will be using the first floor function room at the Petersfield Rugby Club clubhouse at Penns Place, next to the Taro Centre. For more information contact Tony Smith on 01730 816401 or by email at tony@sobertone.com.

Joanna and Paul Drinkhall have had a lovely baby boy and called him Douglas Drinkhall. 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. Jack Harrington President of the Guildford Table Tennis Association passed away aged 84. He was untouchable at senior level winning the Men's Singles title 8 years on the trot and also taking the doubles title for seven of those years. He was a wonderful man, kind and gentle, a wise and dedicated President, the trusted elder statesman and a highly successful player. For his full obituary please go to the obituaries section of the Surrey Table Tennis Association Website.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Tom Taylor Woodward, aged 67, after a long illness. Tom played table tennis for the Challoner club in Guildford for over 30 years and was a regular player in many of the Guildford Associations Tours to the Channel Islands, along with his wife Lesley.

Mike Holloway who was the driving force behind Earlsfield TTC and more recently South Mitcham TTC in the Wandsworth & District league has died. Since the 1970's he has supported his son Steve who peaked among the England Top 10 seniors and remained a leading Surrey player for many years.