

## Surrey County Notes (May 2008) by Chris Andrews

Darius Knight wins a second hat trick of titles at the Nationals and therefore successfully defended the Under-21's, the Men's Doubles and the Mixed Doubles. Darius won the Men's Doubles with Paul Drinkhall and the Mixed with Kelly Sibley. For the third year running Darius beat Paul Drinkhall in the under 21 final. He also beat Daniel Reed in the semi-final which is a good win. Darius also triumphed over Europe No.1 18 year old in the Mixed Doubles where Paul partnered Surrey's Joanna Parker. Although Paul had his revenge by beating Darius in the semi-final of the main event.

Joanna Parker won the Women's Doubles with Kelly Sibley and was runner-up in the Under-21 event, the Mixed Doubles and the Women's event.

Top seed Surrey's Abdul Wuroala won the Veteran's event against Eddie Smith, although he lost in the quarter-finals of the Veterans Men's Doubles event alongside Jimmy Walsh.

After her exploits at the World Team Championships Joanna Parker is now up to her highest World ranking of No. 233.

Fusion 1 with Surrey's Simon Philipsz were crowned Champion's of the British League Division 1 South and OLOP 1 with Surrey's Chris Bush were Champion's of Division 1 South & Midlands. York Gardens II of Chris Martin, Marcia Ma, Wayne Matthews, Anthony Bostic, and Trevor Campbell won the British League Division 3 South title by one point. Crusaders of the British League Division 4 South & Midlands also won their title by one point with Ben Larcombe being one of their star players.

The Guildford league Table Tennis tournament attracted over seventy competitors and proved to be both a celebration of the old and the new.

The main event, the Open Singles, was won by the Veteran Ramesh Bhalla. Eleven of the top twelve players in the league were competing, but it was the unseeded Bhalla who rolled back the years in fighting his way to the final. Bhalla had a tough draw beating the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> seeds (Marc Burman, Richard Tanner and Graham Watts) on his way to the final. In the final he was matched against the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed, Matt Pernet. Having gone two sets to one down, Bhalla dug deep to take the last two sets to win the final in the deciding set.

A new face burst onto the scene in the shape of Godalming's FeiFei Pei, who achieved a quadruple crown of the Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles (with partner Lucy Lou), Junior Girls and Junior Doubles (with partner Conor Grant). The most impressive of these was the Ladies Singles where in the final FeiFei held her nerve to overcome the many time champion Maria Taylor Woodward. Woodward gained some revenge with her partner John Robinson, by defeating FeiFei and Matt Pernet in the final of the mixed doubles.

The Open Doubles was fought by four of the leagues best players, the Burymead pairing of Matt Pernet and Richard Tanner versus the Challoner pair of Adam Brewer and Nic Ravalec. Like so many matches over the weekend this produced an enthralling five setter with Brewer and Ravalec just losing out.

A keenly contested Veterans event was won by Richard Tanner who defeated Merrow's John Callcut in the final. Most bizarrely, Ramesh Bhalla, the Open Singles champion, was defeated in the last sixteen of this event by the battling Richard Seymour.

Barrie Gilbert was successful in the Premier Singles, Masters Singles and Premier Doubles (with his partner Gary Bonner).

Congratulations go to Ron Stracey, Carsten Horne, Jason Minoos and Gary Adkins for winning the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> division titles respectively. The junior boys event was won by the premier league player Ross Saxby with Scott Gotham impressing with victories in both the under fifteen and under thirteen categories.

A complete list of all the winners and runners up can be seen on the Guildford TT league website at [www.gttl.co.uk](http://www.gttl.co.uk). The Guildford League Tournament section of this column has been condensed from the report in the Surrey Advertiser.