

Surrey County Notes by Chris Andrews (December 2014)

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

The Junior Nationals in Preston saw Marcus Giles reach the final where he was beaten 3-1 by Helshan Weerasinghe.

Darius Knight won the Men's Singles at the Hunts 2 star Open at St Ives beating Scotland's Gavin Rumgay in the Final. Isobelle Joubeily 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.

The Junior 1st team in the Premier lost two matches 6-4 and may well get relegated, whereas the Junior 2nd Team in Division 2D won 10-0 and drew 5-5 could get promoted. An inexperienced Cadet 1st team start their matches in January. Having won 3 of 4 matches the Cadet 2nd team in Division 1B could do well. The Senior Teams kick off in March.

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. The provisional dates for the London South Individual Competitions next term are as follows:-Under 11 and Under 16 Boys at Greenshaw High School in Sutton on Monday 9th February at 1.30.Under 13 and Under 19 Boys at Shirley Park Academy, Croydon on Thursday 29th January at 3.30. Please notice the later start time, which means a finish time about 7.30 probably. All Girls competitions at Stanley Park High School in Carshalton on Thursday 26th February at 1.30. (This venue is still to be confirmed). Three Surrey County Schools have expressed an interest including RGS Grammar and Sir Legionens.

At the Cippenham Autumn Festival One star tournament Federica Tazartes won the Girl's under-14's event and Matthew Hazell won the Boy's under-14's consolation event.

Joanna Drinkhall is featuring on the May page of the Women in Sport calendar having finished fourth in an online public vote.

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. Tom was a very fair but determined opponent who enjoyed socialising with his team mates and opponents alike and was well known and liked throughout the Guildford league. He was a devoted family man and is deeply missed by his wife Lesley, his son James and his daughter Maria (who are both talented table tennis players) and their families.