

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

England triumph, at the World Team Championship, held at Guangzhou, China. Joanna Parker played at No.1 or No.2 throughout the tournament and won 11 of 15 matches. England beat eight Countries in a row to win the Second Division Championship and get them promoted to the top flight for 2010 where they will face the likes of China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea to name but a few. The England Ladies finished in 25th place, a good improvement from 2006. The Countries our England ladies beat were Slovak Republic, Canada, Luxembourg, Indonesia, Denmark, Australia, India and Estonia. The fact that Emma Vickers playing at No. 3 lost all her matches shows how much England relied on Joanna. The players Joanna beat which ranked higher in the World than her were: Australia's Miao Miao World ranked No .108, Canada's Zhang Mo World ranked No.138 Australia's Lay Jian Fang World ranked No. 148 and India's Poulomi Ghatak World ranked No.212

Darius Knight also went to Guangzhou, China for the World Team Championships. Darius won 5 out of the 10 matches he played in. The England Men were also in the Second Division Championship and they finished overall in 30<sup>th</sup> place. With Darius at No.2, England beat Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Nigeria and Australia. The players Darius beat which ranked higher in the World than him were: Nigeria's Segun Toriola World ranked No.106 and Australia's William Henzell World ranked No.130.

Abdul Wuraola won the Veterans event at the Doncaster Open Butterfly Grand Prix where Matt Pernet was runner-up in the Men's Band 2 event and also runner-up in the Restricted.

Surrey dominated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cippenham Group to Group 2 star Open Championship. Berkshire and Middlesex players all fell by the wayside in what was to be an all Surrey final. Second seed Geoff Grange loss 3 straight twice to newcomer Alain Choo-Choy, first in the group stage and then later in the quarter-final. Although to be fair, Alain is an ex-International. The final was between Alain and Darren Pumford. In the end the young gun was just too powerful for the experienced hand and Darren won. Darren also beat fellow Surrey player Ben Larcombe in the semi-final.

In the Wandsworth and District Table Tennis League York Gardens A hold the top spot.