

# **Surrey Press Report (2017-18)**

**(By Chris Andrews)**

Surrey based Paul Drinkhall won a Bronze in the World Cup team event where England went out in the semi-finals to eventual winners China.

The European Veterans Championship in Sweden saw a magnificent win for Surrey player Ramesh Bhalla who beat Finland's Kai Merimaa 3-1 in the Final of the Men's Singles Over 80's to win Gold.

Whitgift School came 13<sup>th</sup> at the World Schools Championships in Malta in the Boys event and Danielle Kelly and her School Charles Reed also came 13<sup>th</sup> in the Girls event.

Aaron McKibbin won Bronze in the Singles at the Lignano Masters Open in Italy and Silver in the Men's Class 8 team event. Aaron McKibbin won Bronze at the PTT Slovakian Open in Bratislava in the Men's Class 8 event. The PTT Slovenian Open saw Aaron McKibbin win a Bronze Medal in the Team event with Ross Wilson (Men's Class 8).

At the Commonwealth Games in Australia's Gold Coast Surrey Based Paul Drinkhall won a Gold Medal in the Doubles partnering Liam Pitchford and a Bronze Medal in the Men's Team event.

Surrey based Paul Drinkhall beat former World No.1 Timo Boll in a League match in Malaysia

On his England debut Ollie Maric-Murray won Gold in the team event and a Silver in the Singles at the British Primary Schools International Championships where England beat Scotland and Ireland 9-1 and had 10-0 victories over Wales, Isle of Man and Guernsey.

Robert Pelc played in the Slovak Cadet Open in Bratislava for England. In the tournament Robert beat Kristian Uherik of SVK. He also partnered England No.1 Cadet in the doubles and Swedish Theo Abrahamsson in the team event.

Former Surrey Cadet Alexander Gillen played in the six Nations representing Ireland Seniors and made it to the podium by coming third in the team event.

Surrey based Paul Drinkhall reached the last 32 of the German Open where he lost to World No.9 Kenta Matsudaira.

Ollie Maric-Murray won the under-11 National Butterfly Schools Individual Championships beating Jakub Piwowar 3-2 (12-14, 11-3, 11-13, 11-9, 11-6) in the final. Ollie Maric-Murray is now ranked No.1 in the under-11's, No.2 in the under-12's and No.8 in the under 13's.

Whitgift School won the School Team Championship Nationals Boys under-19's title defending the title they won last year and Ernest Bevin College played in the finals of the Boys under-16's. Danielle Kelly's school Charles Reed Academy won the under-16 Girls event.

England South East were overall Champions at the School Games. The South East won Bronze in the Boys event, Gold in the Girls event and Gold in the Para event.

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Surrey based Paul Drinkhall makes an appearance in the International Table Tennis Federation top 10 points of 2017.

At the Nationals Surrey based Paul Drinkhall won the Men's Doubles with David McBeath beating Liam Pitchford and Sam Walker. Shaquille Webb-Dixon and Danielle Kelly represented Surrey in the under-21 Men's and Women's event respectively.

Ollie Maric-Murray did very well to come 4<sup>th</sup> in the under-12's National Cup when he is still in the under-11 category.

Danielle Kelly, Federica Bonato and Medha Verma all played in the Junior Girls PG Mutual National Championships in Wolverhampton, with Nahom Goitom playing in the Cadet Boys event.

Danielle Kelly played in the Junior National Cup but a knee injury forced her to retire from the tournament.

At the Crawley Grand Prix Sandra Go won the Women's Band 2 event, where Danielle Kelly was Runner-up in the Women's Band 3 event and Hiroyuki Asano won the Men's Band 5 event.

Danielle Kelly won the under-21's Women's event at the Nottingham Grand Prix, beating Mollie Paterson 3-2 in the quarters, Letitia McMullan 3-1 in the semis and Beth Richards (Wales) 3-0 in the final.

At the Blackpool Grand Prix Jamie Norton was runner up in the under-21's Men's final and runner-up in the Men's Band 3 final. In the under-21's Mens Singles quarter-final Jamie beat Scotland's Charlie Morton 3-0 and then in the semi-final he beat Ryan Choong of Lancashire 3-0, before losing to Wales' Callum Evans in the final.

Playing for Kingfisher I Marcus Giles was Surrey's top player in the Senior British League on 50% in the Championship Division with York Gardens I being the top Surrey team in the National A-2 Division. In the Girl's British League Danielle Kelly was Surrey's top performer on 30% in the Premier League for Greenhouse Academy 1. In the Veteran's Men's British League Simon Philipsz finished on 30% in Division 1A playing for Topspin Fusion. Graham Spicer were the top Surrey team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 3A. Graham Spicers second team won Division 4A. The team consisted of Jin Luo, Tony Needham and Jeremy Wu. In the Veteran's Women's Premier Division Sally Cimiotti played for Wheelers Fusion of Ladies. In the Women's British League the top Surrey player was Danielle Kelly on 64% playing for Fusion in Division 1 closely followed by Federica Bonato on 50% playing for Brunswick Fulham in the same Division. Graham Spicers were the top Surrey Women's team coming 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 3. In the Boy's British League Jamie Nordin was Surrey's top performer on 45% in Division 1 playing for Sussex Blades.

The South East came third at the Inter-Regional Finals. Emily Cheung won Bronze in the under-11's Girls individual event. In the Team event Emily Cheung and Caron Charles were runners-up for the South East.

Emily Cheung won the under-11's South East Regional Tournament for the second year in a row.

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At the Jarvis Sports Horsham Spinners Veterans 2 star tournament Leo Veinsreider won the vets Band 2 event.

At the Horsham Spinners 2 star boys under -18 tournament Surrey took places one two and three, with Jamie Nordin 1<sup>st</sup>, Reiss Vydelingum 2<sup>nd</sup> and Alejandro Ito Armedia 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ollie Maric- Murray was the under 13's Champion and Runner-up in the under 14's event.

At the Jarvis Sport Horsham Spinner TTC 2 star event Ollie Maric-Murray won Gold in the under-13's event and silver in the under-14's event. Reiss Vydelingum won the under-18's event when he was unranked at the time.

The Cadet Band 1 Tournament at the Jarvis Sports Horsham Spinners event saw Surrey have half the entrants in the event. Emilio Calcada won the Band 3 event. In the Circuit Band A Surrey came first second and third with, Juan Cordova, Akramul Islam and Danner Cordova respectively placed. Franklin Almonte won the Circuit Band B

At the Jarvis Sports Horsham Spinners 1 star Ikram Hussain won the Cadet Band 2. Samuel Raji won the Cadet Band 3. In the Junior Band 1 Surrey took the top four places with Tesfamaryam Ghezae the winner.

At the Jarvis Sports Burgess Hill 2 star Krish Chotai won both the under-12 and under-13 events with Daniel Clark being Runner-up in the under-12's.

Reiss Vydelingum won the under 18's Boys final at the Fusion 1 star event.

The National Cadet League saw Graham Spicer B finish top of Division 2 ahead of South Croydon. Justin Lam won all his matches.

In the National Junior League London Area South Croydon A were 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 and Graham Spicers were 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 1. On day 4 of the National Cadet League held at Horsham Spinners, South Croydon A finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1. South Croydon B team topped Division 2 and South Croydon C were top of Division 3. Overall after the four meetings, Graham Spicer were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 1 and South Croydon A 3<sup>rd</sup>. Graham Spicer A's team was Ollie Gray, Ollie Nutting and Justin Lam, while South Croydon's A team consisted of Henry Maric-Murray, Yuvathi Vijay and Anirudh Gandepalli.

In the National Cadet League at Cippenham TTC Angus Norman, Jon-Vai Chung and Luke Griffith were the winners of Division 1. Crusaders E team was promoted to Division 2.

Richmond Park Academy won the 2017 London South Schools under -13 Girls Team event. Tiffin School won the under-13 Boys Team event.

Surrey County Seniors are back where they belong. After a stunning set of results they gained promotion to the premier league from Division 1, beating Devonshire 9-1, Cornwall 7-3, Dorset 6-4, Middlesex 9-1, Avon 8-2, Sussex 10-0 and Hampshire 9-1. In fact the ladies Sandra Go and Danielle Kelly won 18 out 19 (95%) and the guys of Federico Viterbo, Andreas Pusch and Chris Bush also did very well. Surrey Senior 2<sup>nd</sup> team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 2B. Surrey Veterans 1 finished mid table in Division 1B. Surrey Veterans 2 also finished mid table but this time in Division 2B. Surrey Veterans 3 finished 7<sup>th</sup> in Division 2C

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and Surrey Veterans 4 just missed out on promotion in Division 3B. The Over 60's team came 9<sup>th</sup> in Division 1B. Playing in a tough Cadet Premier Division Surrey's 1<sup>st</sup> team came 7<sup>th</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team came 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 1A. In the Juniors Surrey finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1B

The results of the Surrey Junior & Cadet trials were as follows: Cadet Girls 1st Yuvathi Vijay Kumar, 2nd Estelle Kelly, 3rd Arianna di Giammarino. Cadet Boys 1st Howard Onweng, 2nd Nahom Goitom 3rd Jon-Vai Chung. Junior Girls 1st Danielle Kelly, 2nd Medha Verma, 3rd Federica Bonato. Junior Boys 1st Jamie Nordin, 2nd Robert Pelc, 3rd Damien Gray.

Congratulations go to the under 11 girls from Barnes Primary, under 11 boys from Whitgift, under 13 girls from Richmond Park, under 16 boys from Ernest Bevin and the under 19 boys from Whitgift and Epsom College who all qualified from the English Schools Table Tennis area finals to the regional finals.

The Surrey Closed had an International feel to it this year with players the calibre of Darius Knight and Abdul Wuraola playing. In the final of the Men's over 40's Number 1 seed Phil Snelson beat Simon Phililpsz. Michelle McGovern beat Diane McLellan in the Women's over 40's final. The final of the Men's under 21's event was a great match with Jamie Nordin beating Robert Pelc in 5 sets. The Women's under 21's was a round robin which was decided by one match in particular where Medha Verma beat Federica Bonato 13-11 in the fifth making Medha the Champion and Federica the runner-up. In the Open Men's final Darius Knight beat Federico Viterbo 3-1. In the Women's Open final Michelle McGovern beat Federica Bonato. Surrey's over 60's Closed Tournament saw Tony Needham beat John Callcut in the Men's final and Carmen Vajdi beat Sue Raymond in the Women's final.

Michael Loveder is the new Surrey Table Tennis Association Chairman.

Richard Pelc was named as Young Volunteer of the Year in the London Region.

Ian McCarthy won the London Pride Award for contribution to table tennis and Trevor Free won Volunteer of the Year for the London Region.

Terry Bailey Coach at Alexandra Blenheim Academy has been recognised in the local stage of the Pride of Table Tennis Awards.

Former England No.1 Joanna Drinkhall who has won a total of 14 National titles over the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles events as well as being an Olympian and Commonwealth Games Mixed Doubles holder helped out at a Surrey training session in December.

Ian McCarthy who has organised table tennis across South London for 50 years has decided to retire from organising the sport. Ian is a true legend of the Wandsworth league having held the positions of Chairman, General Secretary, Match Secretary Tournament organiser and Cup Competitions organiser over the years.

It is with sadness that I report that both Mike Dorrington, an over 80's player who played at Ashford and Graham Spicers and Mike Huband a member of the Wandsworth League & District Table Tennis Committee and their representative on Surrey Committee have died this year.

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Sadly I have to report of Lon Moir's death a former Chair of the Croydon League for many years and had a major presence at Monk Hill Table Tennis club. Lon Moir's Obituary is now on the Surrey website.

Carole Ingram sadly passed away recently. She was Secretary/vice-Chairman and chief organiser of the Guildford league for several years and also Chairman and Secretary of the Merrow club. She will be greatly missed.