

Surrey County Notes (February 2009) by Chris Andrews

England won a Bronze Medal in the team event of the World Junior Championships in Madrid, Spain. Darius Knight was part of the team that beat Sweden, Canada, Australia and Poland. In the Singles he made it to the last 16. He then teamed up with Germany's Amelie Solja in the Mixed Doubles to reach the last 16. As well as this Darius reach the last 32 with Paul Drinkhall in the Doubles.

At the Austrian Open, in Salzburg, Joanna Parker reached the last 32 losing to Reiko Hiura from Japan who has a World Ranking of 54. At the same tournament Darius Knight beat Thomas Keinath and Peter Sereda of Slovakia in the doubles in the team event with Daniel Reed although England did lose this first round match 3-2.

Joanna Parker qualified from the group stages at the German Open. However she lost in the first round to World Ranked No. 49 Wenjing Tan Monfaron of Italy.

The Cippenham series 2 saw Abdul Wuraola win both the Men's Singles and the Veteran Men's Singles while Catherin Chen was runner-up in the Women's Singles. Abdul Wuroala came second in the Cippenham Team Two Star Open Championship with his team Abdul Sports & Table Tennis Limited. At the 4th Horsham Super Sixteen tournament Abdul also ran away with the title.

Abdul Wuraola also won the Men's Band 1 event at the London Grand Prix and the Mixed Veteran's event, while Joanna Parker won the Women's Singles event. Fei-Fei reached the semi-finals of the Women under 21's event losing to the eventual winner Chinese Meihan Lui. This is no mean feat considering she has only recently had her 15th Birthday. This achievement is another mile stone in her table tennis career after winning the Guildford TTA Senior Women's Singles title at 14 years old.

Bristol's Open Grand Prix saw Chris Lewis as runner-up in the Men's Band 2 and Ben Larcombe as runner-up in the Men's Band 4. Abdul Wuraola won the Mixed Veteran's Singles.

In the Guildford League Premier Division Heishan Weerasinghe has been a revelation beating so many players which is unheard of for an 11 year old. One of his victories included former Olympian Alain Choo-Choy.

York Gardens wiped the board during the first half of season in the Wandsworth and District Table Tennis League, having the top three teams in the top flight although South Mitcham's Steve Holloway is top of the averages.