

LEWIS GRAY/YOLANDA KING IN BRITISH OLYMPICS OBSERVATION SQUAD

13 year olds Lewis Gray and Yolanda King, both members of Angley School, Cranbrook based Weald Table Tennis Club, have been selected for the British Olympics Observation squad, where they will join 10 year old Helshan Weerasinghe, who was already a squad member and is also a member of the Weald Club.

The British (Olympic) Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) represents England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in developing with UK Sport a programme to achieve table tennis success in the 2012 London Olympics and the legacy. A Performance Management Group representing the four nations is responsible for the selection process for BTTF squads, of which there are three: Development Group of serious Olympic medal prospects; Talent Identification Squad who have the potential to achieve a place in the 2012 squad; and Observation Squad of players with the potential to push for a place in the Talent ID Squad and upwards, including the 2012 legacy.

Lewis Gray, from Benenden and a pupil of Angley School, and Yolanda King from Hastings, were selected for the Observation Squad as a result of their success at the Stockton on Tees Junior 4 Star Championships on 11th/12th November, at which players from 7 nations took part and BTTF selectors from the 4 home countries were in attendance.

Peter Charters, chairman of the England selectors commented, “We considered that Lewis and Yolanda both played very well and were deserving cases to be added to our list. The Observation Squad is the bottom rung of potential 2012 Olympics players. Lewis has shown character in coming back after a relatively lean spell, and although he still has technical weaknesses is a great fighter. We were also very impressed by Yolanda, who had some great wins and very nearly achieved several others.”

Weald Club coach, Ken Muhr, said, “We are delighted that three club members are in Olympic Table Tennis Squads, the only representatives from the South East Region so far.”