

LEWIS GRAY IS ENGLAND NUMBER 1!

Lewis Gray, 14, from Benenden and Yolanda King, 14, from Hastings, both members of the Angley School, Cranbrook-based Weald Club, and who next week are fighting for Olympic squad places at the British Olympics TTA observation/assessment camp, English Institute of Sport (EIS), Sheffield from 5th to 14th August, have both shot up the new England ranking lists published for the start of the 2008/9 season.

Lewis, a pupil of Angley School and the current national under 14 champion, moves from no.5 to the top spot in the cadet (under 15) boys' list, and from no.24 to no.17 in the junior (under 18) boys. Yolanda, the current English schools under 13 girls' champion, climbs from no.7 to no.3 in the cadet girls and from 15 to no.12 in the junior girls' rankings.

SE Region and Weald Club coach, Ken Muhr commented:

“As well as developing a wide range of skills, Lewis is now playing with increasing power and spin. He works very hard and is improving incrementally. I don't know just how good he will become but he is in contention for great things. Yolanda is very talented and athletic, and needs just a bit more self-belief and killer instinct to reach the top.”

Several other players who train at the South East Performance Centre, also based at Angley School, Cranbrook, feature strongly in the new rankings. Kirsty Wilson, of the Howard Club, Gillingham is no.17 junior girl (previously no. 26), and her brother Ross is no.11 cadet boy (previously 22). Howard Club colleague Harry Lumb is ranked no. 15 cadet (previously 29).

Helshan Weerasinghe, from Dartford, was born in England while his Sri Lankan parents were academics at Cambridge University, but cannot appear in the English rankings until he has naturalization. However, the British Primary Schools champion is listed in the national *ratings* as he is eligible to play in England, and features highly, being rated no.2 under 13 boy, and no.11 cadet boy (immediately above Ross Wilson).

In the under 13 rankings, Lauren Beaumont from the Howard Club, is no.11 girl, Katie Wilson is no.36 and Jack Bennett from Polegate, East Sussex is ranked no.19 boy. The Weald Club's Daniella Gray, sister of Lewis, is ranked no.40 cadet girl.

Finally, Chelsea Furnival from Hastings, who until last season attended SE regional training sessions, is no.15 cadet girl, while Jasmine Ould, of the Byng Hall Club, Tunbridge Wells, who is the only of the before mentioned players never to have attended SE regional squad training at Angley School, is no.17 cadet girl.

Meanwhile Yolanda King, who has just left Claremont School, St Leonards, and Kirsty Wilson, who between them lifted 2 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze while representing England at the Home Countries Schools International Championships, Cardiff, at the end June, have been selected to play for the South East Region in the

2008 UK School Games in Bristol & Bath from 28th to 31st August. Kirsty was a team gold medal winner in the same event last year.