

REPORT ON THE COTSWOLD JUNIOR 4 STAR OPEN TOURNAMENT 5 and 6 APRIL 2008

13 year old Yolanda King from the Angley School, Cranbrook based Weald Table Tennis Club played superbly to win the under 15 (cadet) girls' singles at the Cotswold Junior 4 Star Open Championships, Cheltenham, over the weekend.

Yolanda, a member of the British Olympics Observation Squad, had comfortable 3-0 wins over Megan Phillips (Wales) in the final and over Sophie Neil (Nottinghamshire), defeater of top seed Ayonija Sundarajan (Berkshire), in the semi-finals. She had her hardest test in the quarter-finals when coming through over 5 tough games against her South East regional squad-training colleague at Angley School, Kirsty Wilson, from the Howard Club, Chatham. Although Yolanda reached the quarter-finals of the girls' under 18 singles, she was disappointed to lose 9-11 in the fifth game to Hannah Avery from Wales, who she has previously beaten.

Kirsty Wilson also reached the quarter-final of the junior (under 18) girls' singles, before going out to Natasha Rees from Wales. She had a chance of reaching the banded junior girls' singles final when she led Megan Phillips (Wales) by 7-4 in the deciding game of their semi-final clash, before going down 9-11 in the fifth. Kirsty's brother Ross got to the boys' under 13s final where he lost to Igor Morais (Middlesex). He also reached the semi-finals of the cadet boys' singles. Another SE regional squad and Howard Club member, Lauren Beaumont, got to the semi-finals of the girls' under 13 singles.

Meanwhile at the Isle of Man, Dartford's Helshan Weerasinghe, who is also a member of the Weald TT Club and SE regional squad which trains at Angley School, was unbeaten while representing England at the British Primary Schools (Six Nations) Championships. England won the team event and Helshan won the individual boys' singles, beating the Welsh no.1 11-9 in the fifth game in the semi-finals and his England team-mate, Michael Siket (Worcestershire), 11-4 in the fifth game in the final.

Several Weald Club and South East Regional Cadet Squad players are taking part in the National Junior Trials at Derby next weekend.