

KIRSTY WILSON TAKES TEAM TITLE AT SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Kirsty Wilson, 15, from the Howard Club, Rainham who trains at the South East Performance Centre at Angley School, Cranbrook, lifted a team gold medal for England at the Home Countries Schools International Championships at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff over the long weekend, against players from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man and England. She also lifted the bronze medal in the individual event losing out to the overall winner, Alice Loveridge of Guernsey.

Kirsty was on good form in the under 16 girls. Representing England 'A' with Lucy Davidson (Derbyshire), they beat Isle of Man 5-0, Guernsey 3-2, Scotland 'B' 4-1, and Wales 'A' 3-2 to qualify for the team semi-finals. Kirsty lost only to the powerful and gifted topspin-looper, Alice Loveridge (Guernsey), and over 5 games to Natasha Rees (Wales) after being 2 games up and at deuce in the third game.

In the semi-finals England defeated Ireland 3-2, Kirsty winning one singles, but losing in 5 games to Rebecca Kenny. Then in the final against England 'B', Kirsty was on fantastic form, contributing two 3-1 singles wins over Rachel Baker (Lancashire) and Sophie Neil (Nottinghamshire) towards her teams 3-1 victory.

Kirsty came through her under 16 girls' singles group undefeated, and overcame Sophie Neil a second time to reach the semi-finals. Although she then again lost to the eventual title winner, Alice Loveridge (Guernsey), Kirsty fooled her opponent with some of her serves and attacked strongly.