

## REPORT ON COTSWOLD 4 START JUNIOR OPEN

14 year old Yolanda King, a member of the Weald TT Club based at Angley School, Cranbrook, was unbeaten at the Cotswold 4star Junior Open Championships at Cheltenham over the weekend, winning both the cadet (under 15) and junior (under 18) girls' singles. Meanwhile her Weald club colleague, Lewis Gray, narrowly lost in the final of the cadet boys' singles.

Yolanda King, a pupil of St Bedes School, Hailsham, started her winning run of 15 consecutive singles wins with a scare. England cadet ranked no.3, she had to save a match point in the cadet singles group before edging out the England no.35, Ifunanya Okafor (Essex), 12-10 in the fifth game. Thereafter she comfortably won the group and reached the final via Rachel Trevorrow (Cornwall, England no.14), Tressa Armitrage (Hampshire, England no.13), and Abbie Milwain (Derbyshire, England no.7). Yolanda overcame the Welsh no.2, Chloe Thomas convincingly, 11-4, 11-6, 11-4 to lift the title.

In the junior singles, Yolanda, ranked no.8 in England, put out the Welsh no. 6, Megan Phillips, 9-11, 11-2, 11-9, 11-6 in the quarter-finals, and comfortably won the deciding game to beat the Welsh no.2, Natasha Rees, 11-8, 3-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-2 in the semi-finals.

Her final opponent was the England junior 2, Emma Vickers (Derbyshire), who had recently prevented her keeping her 100% record in the County Championships Junior Premier Division. However, on this occasion Yolanda served and top-spun very well, and quickly went 2 games and 8-2 up. Unfortunately she then played too safely and Emma sneaked the game 12-10. Things looked bad for the Weald Club player at 6-8 down in the 4<sup>th</sup> game, but she fought back magnificently to scrape through a long game, eventually taking the match 17-15, 11-4, 10-12, 14-12, and her first major junior title.

Angley School pupil Lewis Gray, from Benenden, also played well. England ranked no.2, he made it to the cadet boys' final with wins over Reece Tan (Essex, England no.4) in the last 16, Ross Wilson (Kent, England no.10) quarter-finals and Ping Ho (Middlesex, England no. 5) semi-finals. He then very narrowly lost, 12-14, 11-7, 11-4, 7-11, 9-11 to England's top player Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex).

Lewis lost to Zilesnick for a second time and by the closest of margins, 12-10 in the fifth game, in the quarter-finals of the junior boys' singles. In this second encounter Lewis dramatically saved 3 match points from 7-10 in the deciding game, before netting a service