

LEWIS GRAY SPEARHEADS TOP BRIBAR JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE TEAM SUCCESSSES AT WOLVERHAMPTON

Yolanda King, 14, & Lewis Gray, 15, of the Weald TT Club, Angley School, Cranbrook, led their respective teams to title winning success in the second weekend of the Bribar Junior (under 18) British League held at Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton over the weekend.

Yolanda King, from Hastings and a pupil of St Bede' School, Hailsham, played at no.1 in the Girl's Premier Division for Irish team Ballina, who also fielded her South East Regional Squad colleague, Kirsty Wilson, 15 of the Howard Club, Gillingham, and sisters Susan and Chloe Nealan from Ireland. Despite losing 4-2 to Middlesbrough side Ormesby, Ballina secured the premier division title with successes over Draycott & Long Eaton (4-2), Grantham Tornadoes (4-2), AquaServ Club Mid Cheshire (5-1) and Kingfisher Reading (5-1).

Yolanda, ranked England junior no.10, won 8 out of 10 singles, including defeating the England no. 6 Mary Fuller (Yorkshire), playing for Grantham Tornadoes, the England no.8, Natalie Slater (Staffordshire), playing for AquaServ Club Mid Cheshire, the latter in 5 games from 2 games down, and England no.11 Reena Ardeshana (Lancashire, representing Kingfisher). Her only losses were to the England no.1, Karina Le Fevre (Cleveland/Ormesby) and the England no.2 Emma Vickers (Derbyshire/Draycott and Long Eaton). She finished 5th in the overall league averages, with 14 wins to 6 losses (70%).

Kirsty Wilson, England ranked 14, also had an excellent victory over Mary Fuller, and as well as defeating Reena Ardeshana. In the match against AquaServ of Mid Cheshire, she achieved a rare victory over her bogey player Rebecca George (Yorkshire) to secure premier division victory for Bellina. Overall she came 8th in the individual league averages with 61% from 11 wins to 7 losses.

Representing at no.1 Staffordshire side Burton Uxbridge 1 in the Boys' Division 1, Angley School pupil from Benenden, Lewis Gray, won 8 of 10 singles, helping his side comfortably top the league with victories over Irish Boys (4-2), Grantham Tornadoes (4-2), Sunderland (5-1) and Bridge The George (6-0), drawing 3-3 only with DHS Greenhouse Progress 2 from London. Lewis was beaten only by Irish No. 1 Ashley Robinson, and Raphael Marom (Greenhouse Progress) in 5 games.

Lewis also headed the overall averages with 16 wins to 4 losses (80%) and he and his colleagues Sam Walker and James Ward were also voted team of the weekend.