

LEWIS GRAY IN NEW ENGLAND SQUADS

14 year olds Lewis Gray from Benenden and Yolanda King from Hastings, both members of the Weald TT Club based at Angley School, Cranbrook, have been invited to join the new England Cadet International Squads for 2009, from which international selections will be made. Both players have already been picked for England several times, and Angley schoolboy Lewis Gray will be competing for his country in the Portugal Youth Open in Tavira this weekend.

The first new England training session for the boys will be over the weekend of the 24th and 25th January 09 at the England Institute of Sport (EIS) Sheffield. The girls will train together, again at Sheffield, over the February half-term, Monday 16th to Thursday 19th.

King and Gray both played in the second division of the Senior County Championships at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, Slough last weekend, but for different counties. Representing Sussex 2, Yolanda King won six out of six singles matches, dropping only 2 games. In the 8-2 success over Kent first team, she had a straight games win over Kirsty Wilson (Isle of Sheppey), but overcame Jasmin Ould (Tunbridge Wells) 3-1. Sussex 2 overwhelmed the Sussex third team 10-0, Yolanda again taking two singles, including beating Lisa Standen (who finished the weekend with 3 out of 7 singles wins), also a member of the Weald club, 3-1. Yolanda's side also defeated Buckinghamshire 7-3, Yolanda once more taking two singles.

Lewis Gray, making his debut for Kent seniors first team, won 5 out of 8 singles. He took two singles, including an excellent victory over high ranked Eddie Roofe, as his side beat Wiltshire 9-1. He also won two singles against Berkshire, his side again winning 9-1. Against Sussex 2 (Yolanda's team) he lost his two singles, including narrowly to the young Chinese player Da Shuai Zhang, Kent going down 7-3. And he won a singles but lost one as Kent beat Sussex 3, 8-2. Kent finished the table equal top with Sussex 2 but having played one more match.

Dan Lawrence was again unbeaten for the Weald Club in the National Cadet League at the Byng Hall Club, Tunbridge Wells. He won all his 9 singles as the Weald beat Battle B 5-4, Hastings 8-1 but lost 3-6 to Battle A. Jamie Pryor won two singles for the Weald, and Oliver Ferris, filling in for the sick Aaron Serfaty, won a singles on his representative debut. In the Junior National League, the Weald Club finished the weekend third, with Daniella Gray winning 6 out of 10, George Cox 4 out of 10 and Joe Watson winning two singles.