

14-year-old Ould sets national record

This year's London Open, a Table Tennis Grand Prix event, held at the Redbridge Leisure Centre over the weekend of the 6th & 7th December, was the highest standard ever, with the top international players from China, Poland, Norway, Lithuania, Germany and Romania all competing for the titles. The England number one woman Joanna Parker was playing in a home event for the first time this year having been away most of the time on international duties, along with top seeded world ranked men, making this one of the best events this country has seen on home soil, until the possibly the English open next year.

Jasmin Ould, of Byng Hall Table Tennis Club in Tunbridge Wells, set a new record at the London Grand Prix when she became the first person to win a Player of the Tournament twice – a fantastic achievement as her two awards were at successive Grand Prixes. Very well done Jas!

Her performances included:

Having defeated Norwegian No.3 and No.5 Junior girls in the group stages of the Under 21s and Band 3 categories, Jas was the runner-up in the Women's Band 3 Singles and lost in the semi-final of the Women's Band 2 Singles. In both events she lost to Klaudia Szadkowska from Poland, the 26 year old who was the former Polish Junior No.2. Ould was the only player to take a game off Szadkowska, in her storm to take the Band 2 and 3 winner titles.

Ould's best performance came in the Women's Open Singles where she qualified through the group stage to the main event, eventually losing to Sarra Wang (England Senior no.11) in the quarter-finals after defeating a defender Melissa Wright (the England Junior no.4) 11-1 in the forth set.

Byng Hall Table Tennis Club coaches Jurate Brazaityte and Gary Howes are extremely pleased that the hard work is paying off as Ould is cruising through the ranking list, having jumped from No.17 to No.11 on the Cadet list and from No.39 to No.28 on the Junior list since the start of the season. This is just the beginning as the coaches have high hopes for Jasmin.

The Byng Hall youngsters, Andrew Lockwood and Adam Simpson, also took part in the London Open, which was their first Senior Grand Prix tournament. Although they have only won match each, the benefits of attending this truly international event is already showing the results as Lockwood proceeded to beat an experienced senior player Peter Duke at the Super League tournament held at the Byng Hall Club the following day.

Alex Reeve of Byng Hall Table Tennis Club has delivered excellent performance at the second round of the National Junior League hosted by the Byng Hall Table Tennis Club, having dropped only two games and those to members of the Globe Academy, who are currently at the top of the division. Alex total average is currently 85% which puts him in the 4th position, with the top 3 positions being filled by the Globe Academy.