

## Two Titles for Dan Lawrence at Chesham

12 year old Dan Lawrence was the Angley School, Cranbrook based Weald TT Club's most successful player in competitive action last weekend. Dan, from Tonbridge, dropped only one set in 18 matches, in lifting two titles, and reaching the final of a third event, in the Chesham Junior 2 Star Open, at Chesham High School, Buckinghamshire on Saturday.

He won the U14 boy's singles, beating Georg Heath (Surrey) 11-7, 11-6, 11-7 and Vincent Stacey (Middlesex) 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-5 in the three way final. He also won the U16's beating Stacey 3-1 and Connor Neenan (Middlesex), the England no.21 cadet (under 15), 9-11, 12-10, 12-10, 11-9. However, he came second in the U18's, once more overcoming Stacey (in straight games) and losing his only and last match of the long day to Neenan, 9-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 6-11.

Unfortunately, Weald stars Yolanda King and Lewis Gray had a relatively disappointing time at the Junior British League at Fenton Manor Sports Centre, Stoke-On-Trent over the weekend.

Representing Irish Club Ballina in the Premier Division, 15 year old Yolanda King, the England no.4 junior (under 18) girl, won only 4 out of her 8 singles. Her best result was in again defeating the England no.1 junior and no.4 senior Karina Le Fevre (Cleveland), who she had overcome in the national championships final, 3-1 in the clash against league winners Ormesby. But Yolanda lost 3-1 to the England no.8 Chloe Whyte (Cleveland), her side crashing 5-1.

Playing Clifedale Chandlers, the St Bede's, Hailsham pupil missed a lot of easy smashes facing the England no.5, Mary Fuller (Yorkshire), going down narrowly in 5 games, and she was also 2 games up against the England no.2, Emily Bates, but again lost in 5, her team losing 4-2. She was also 2 games up against the England no.7, Natalie Slater (Staffordshire, playing for the Cippenham Club), but once more succumbed. However, she did narrowly beat Haylee Potts (Hertfordshire), but her side fell 4-2. Fortunately Yolanda took both her singles in her side's 4-2 victory over Burton Uxbridge. She ended up with a competition record of 10 wins to 6 losses (62.50%) to come 6<sup>th</sup> in the averages, and her team finished 4<sup>th</sup>.

Although professing to be playing well, 16 year old Angley School pupil Lewis Gray from Benenden, had an even more difficult time for Burton Uxbridge in the Boys' Premier Division, winning just 3 out of 10 singles. He did narrowly defeat close rival Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex), who has just displaced him as England no.4 junior, and he also overcame the England no. 7 Danny Lowe (Derbyshire). In addition, he went to a deciding game against the England no.3 David McBeath (Hampshire) and against the new national champion, Daniel Basterfield (Middlesex), ranked no.10.

However, he also lost to several other lower ranked players, and to both Irishman, finishing with an overall competition record of 9 wins to 11 losses (45%). Fortunately his Burton Uxbridge team-mate Sam Walker (Nottinghamshire) performed well for an 80% average (16 wins to 4 losses), helping the side finish 4<sup>th</sup>.