

## **LEWIS GRAY PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT AT BRIBAR BRISTOL GRAND PRIX**

15 year old Benenden boy Lewis Gray, a pupil of Angley School, Cranbrook, was named player of the tournament after winning both the band 2 and band 3 men's singles events at the Bribar Bristol UWE Grand Prix, held at the University of West England, Bristol over the weekend.

The Weald TT Club member and England junior no.4 had his greatest success in the men's band 2 singles. However, after comfortably reaching the final, including dispatching his father Diccon 3-1 in the first round, he only just survived an epic encounter with 14 year old lefthander, Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex), the England no.1 cadet (under 15) and no.6 junior (under 18).

In a match full of brilliant rallies, Gray found himself 2 games to 1 and 3-8 down to Zilesnick, but he made a brilliant comeback and then took a crucial spectacular multi-shot point at 10-all before winning that game 13-11. However, in the deciding game Zilesnick again went ahead 6-2, and had 2 match points at 10-8. But once more Gray was the man to triumph when the pressure was greatest to record a 11-9, 9-11, 9-11, 13-11, 12-10 victory, the crowd giving a standing ovation to both players

Lewis also won the men's band 3 singles, beating Dan O'Connell of Wales 11-8, 11-9, 11-8 in the final. He had a good win over Richard Marshall (Devon) in the last 16 of the men's under 21 singles, but was then dispatched in 3 close games in the quarter-finals by the England junior no.7 Sean Cullen (Derbyshire), who he has never beaten. And he went down 3-1 to Ashley Willetts (Hampshire), the England no.37 senior, in the last 16 of the open men's singles. His father Diccon very narrowly lost 11-9 in the fifth game to Dave Randall (Hampshire) in the semi-finals of the veteran's (over 40s) singles.