

# **LEWIS GRAY UNBEATEN IN SINGLES AT STOCKTON JUNIOR OPEN**

Following his triumph a fortnight ago in winning both the band 2 and 3 men's singles events at the Bristol Grand Prix and being named 'player of the tournament', 15 year old Weald TT Club member Lewis Gray successfully returned to competition in his own age group at the Stockton on Tees Junior 4 Star Championships at Thornaby Pavilion, over the weekend.

Gray from Benenden and a pupil at Angley School, Cranbrook, won both the junior (under 18) team event representing the Weald Club with Ping Ho (Middlesex), and the junior boys' singles.

For some of the competition he had to 'carry' an off-form Ping Ho to the team event final by always winning his 2 singles and then the doubles with Ho. Then in the final against DHS Greenhouse Progress (Middlesex), the England no.4 junior was the star in comfortably beating Daniel Basterfield and William Morais. However, Gray and Ho lost the doubles, meaning that Ho's 11-7 win over Morais was vital for a 3-2 team victory.

Although Lewis was the top seed in the singles, he did not have an easy time. In the final Gray defeated the equal 3rd seed Basterfield by 3 games to 1 after losing the first at 11-5. Gray's toughest match was his semi-final win against unseeded William Morias of Middlesex, after recovering from 2 games to 1 down to take the last two 11-4 and 11-8. In the quarter-final Gray also recovered from a 2-1 deficit to beat Scotland's Scott Barton, winning the 4th and 5th games 11-7 and 11-4 respectively.

Lewis's father Diccon Gray commented: "It is tough winning when you are expected to win, but Lewis has never been scared of putting his reputation on the line".

Another Weald Club member, Dan Lawrence from Tonbridge, reached the quarter-finals of the under 13 boys' singles, before going out to the eventual overall winner, Sam Mabey (Northamptonshire).