

JASMIN OULD DOUBLE SINGLES CHAMPION AT KENT JUNIOR CLOSED

Jasmin Ould of the Byng Hall Club, Tunbridge Wells retained her two singles titles at the Kent Junior Closed Championships held at the Howard School Gillingham, on Saturday 2nd May , while Jide Owolabi (Lewisham) won the junior boys' singles.

Jasmin, who has just broken into the English cadet girls' top 10 ranking at no.10 in the new list, comfortably won the Kent cadet singles, beating Claire Harvey of the Meopham Club, Gravesend League, 11-5, 11-7, 11-3 in final. Although she never looked like losing, she had a harder time in the junior girls' singles final, dropping her only singles game of the Saturday, and being taken close in the first and third before beating Daniella Gray, of the Weald Club, Cranbrook (Ashford League), 11-9, 11-5, 10-12, 11-9.

Daniella got compensation for her junior girls' singles loss by winning the category 2 singles, with a close 12-10, 11-13, 12-10, 11-7 victory over Megan Sullivan of the Darenth Club, Sevenoaks. Both girls had 5 game battles to reach the final, Megan overcoming Claire Harvey 11-6, 7-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-8, and Daniella coming through from 2 games down to beat Lauren Beaumont of the Howard Club, Medway, 6-11, 6-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-7. Lauren Beaumont beat her club mate Katie Wilson 11-9, 11-4, 13-11 to claim the under 13 girls' singles.

In the best match of the day, the tall Jide Owolabi, from Deptford School, Lewisham scrapped through 9-11, 11-2, 13-11, 9-11, 12-10 against the diminutive Ross Wilson (Howard Club) to become Kent junior boys' champion, in a contrast of effortless power against Wilson's sharp hand speed over the table. Jide looked to have it all sown up when leading 8-4 in the 4th game, but Ross came back with a flurry of fearless attack to take 5 consecutive points and then the game. However, Jide maintained his composure throughout, and looked the safer player at the finish.

In the junior boys' semi-finals, Jide had beaten James Glass of Canterbury in straight games, as had Ross against Phil Thomas (Medway). Wilson, the new England ranked no.9 was clearly the top player in the cadet boys' singles, ultimately triumphing over Gregory Kaddock, Lewisham, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5. However, the Deptford School boy Gregory, in turn won the category 2 junior boys' singles with a final 11-7, 11-5, 11-7 win over Andrew Lockwood, of Byng Hall, Tunbridge Wells, although he had been severely challenged in the semi-finals by Sam Smith (Bromley League) before edging through 12-10, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Dan Lawrence, who is both a member of the Kemnal Club, Bromley League and the Weald Club, Ashford League, looped his way to victory in the under 13 boys' singles, his final opponent being Kemnal Club mate Oliver Gunns, who he beat 11-4, 11-7, 6-11, 12-10. Oliver was a conclusive winner of the under 11 boys' singles, conquering Luke Savill (Howard Club), 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 to take the title.

Ross Wilson and Jide Owolabi combined to triumph in the junior boys' doubles, being given some trouble by second seeds Darren Richardson (Maidstone) and Joe Risby (Bromley) in their 12-10, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5 success. Andrew Lockwood (Tunbridge Wells) and Jack Hartland (Medway) were the steadier pair in their 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-3 cadet boys' victory over Kemnal club pair Daniel Chen and Dan Lawrence. The junior girls' doubles went to Claire Harvey (Gravesend) and Megan Sullivan (Sevenoaks), but they were made to work hard – 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6 - by under 11 aged girls Jessica Wen (Ashford) and Katie Wilson (Medway).