

REPORT ON KENT JUNIOR CLOSED 2010

from Ken Muhr

12 year old Dan Lawrence, a member of the Angley School, Cranbrook based Weald TT Club, lifted 4 titles at the Kent Junior Closed Championships at Howard School, Gillingham on Saturday. And then the Tonbridge youngster, who is also a member of the Kemnal Club, Sidcup, won two more titles at the Kent Senior Championships on Sunday!

The diminutive but big top-spinning Dan defeated Luke Savill of the Larkfield Club, Aylesford 11-8, 8-11, 11-4 to win the under 13 boys' singles, adding the under 15 boys' singles trophy with a 11-8, 11-1, 11-6 final result over Shaun Guttridge (Chatham Club). Then in the category 2 junior (under 18) boys' singles final he overcame GB Deaf Olympics table tennis team member James Meyer (Bromley), 11-4, 11-3, 11-7, the latter having put paid to a good run by George Cox (Weald) in the semi-finals.. Dan teamed up with Daniel Chen (Bromley) to win a closely contested cadet (under 15) boys' doubles final 11-8 in the 5th game against Shaun Guttridge and Thomas Windram (Kemnal Club).

Dan's only loss on Saturday was 8-11, 5-11, 7-11, in the junior boys' singles semi-final to Weald Club colleague Lewis Gray from Benenden. He carried on his winning ways on the Sunday to lift the under 21 men's singles with a final 11-5, 11-8, 13-11 success over James Glass (Canterbury), following this up to beat Peter Ives (Bromley) 11-8, 11-8, 13-11 for the Kentish man trophy. He suffered his only singles loss on Sunday when he was knocked out of the men's open singles by British ambulant disabled international Will Bailey, from Groombridge. In all, Dan played 28 singles matches over the weekend, losing only two.

England junior international Lewis Gray, a pupil of Angley School, Cranbrook, making a rare appearance at the county championships, took the junior boys' singles in straight games, 12-10, 11-5, 11-3 over Sam Smith from Tonbridge. Smith had done well in putting out the second seed James Glass 9-11, 11-7, 11-7, 12-10 in the semi-finals and then leading Gray 10-7 in the first game of the final.

With Weald club-mate from Cranbrook, Zach Ferris, Gray took a second title in closely beating Medway pair Sean Weddell and Shaun Guttridge 15-13, 11-8, 11-8 in the junior boys' doubles final. Lewis's sister Daniella comfortably won the under 15 girls' singles, overcoming the runner-up Evie Foster (Chatham Club) 11-7, 11-4, 11-3. However Daniella in turn was well beaten 6-11, 5-11, 10-12 by Jasmin Ould (Byng Hall Club, Tunbridge Wells), who thereby retained her junior girls' singles title

Evie Foster got some consolation for her under 15s loss, by claiming the under 13 girls' singles, 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7 over runner-up Kirsty Blundell (Larkfield Club). Likewise, Luke Savill was the winner of the under 11 boys' singles, 12-10, 11-9, 11-1 over Robert Stewart (Kemnal Club, Sidcup).