

## Junior Match Secretary Report – 2022/23 Season Highlights

### Senior British League

Chelmsford entered a team into the Senior British League for the first time in many years (Paul Davison mentioned to me that there was a team a long while back). We played in the bottom division (as new teams usually must) of National C-3, at St Neots, and we finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams. Juniors Saul Chivers and Harry Chivers played the majority of the season, along with a few senior players, and both picked up many good results along the way – particularly notable was on the penultimate day when Harry Chivers beat Britannia's (who came 2<sup>nd</sup>) Joe Fortnum-Adams 3-0 who is a Top 50 ranked Junior in England. Harry Buckle also played on one day early in the season. We will likely enter a team again next season which will again likely feature some juniors.



### *1Senior British League*

### Junior British League

Aside from the combined Chelmsford-Colchester team entered in the 2021/22 season, I am not sure if there has ever been Chelmsford teams entered before in this very prestigious competition currently held at Derby Arena and run by Table Tennis England. So it was very exciting to have three teams entered this season (two Boys and one Girls). All the juniors had a great experience;

- Boys 1 came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 5 (the 6<sup>th</sup> division of 10 boys divisions, including Premier), featuring Harry Buckle, Harry Chivers, Saul Chivers and Charlie Craig
- Boys 2 came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 6, featuring James Donald, Charlie Craig, Wilson Tram, Nikita Tkachuk and Jamie Elliot (a special mention to Jamie of Buttsbury TTC who very kindly filled in when we were a player short on the final weekend, and gave some truly exceptional performances)
- Girls came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 4 (the 5<sup>th</sup> division of 5 girls divisions, including Premier), featuring Alesha Ellis-Austin, Emilie Guilloux, Annabel Sweeney and Elise Ando

It is likely we will enter at least one team again next season.



## *2 Junior British League*

### National Cadet League

Chelmsford entered three teams this season at Ellenborough (run by Gordon and Charles Izatt), one team more than the previous season. The Chelmsford team of Harrison Hill, Charlie Donald and Aidan Lees excelled to win the top division, with Dion Fernandes also playing on one day. The competition also facilitated the experience of many newer/younger players in the bottom division, including U10 Boys Yishai Choo and Ethan Li who gained much valuable match experience, and has gotten them England rankings in U10 Boys of 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively.



## *3 National Cadet League*

### National Junior League

The same as NCL, Chelmsford entered three (one more than previous season) teams at BATTs (run by myself, Shweta Lees and Amanda Chivers). The same team that won NCL (Harrison, Charlie, Aidan) also excelled by winning the top division of NJL too.



#### *4National Junior League*

#### Schools Competitions / Jack Petchey

At the Schools Team events, the KEGS U19 Boys team made up of Harry Chivers, Saul Chivers, Jamie Elliot and Joachin Mapes equalled the feat of the previous season by reaching the Regional round at Bristol. At the Essex Schools Individuals event held at BATTs and organised by Neil Brierley, Toby McLewin won the U19 Boys event, Harry Chivers won the U16 Boys event and Charlie Donald won the U11 Boys event, all Chelmsford League players. At the Jack Petchey Finals (Essex and London Schools) held at the University of East London SportsDock, Alesha Ellis-Austin excelled to reach the Final of the U16 Girls event, and Nikita Tkachuk reached the Semi-Finals of the U19 Boys event.



#### *5Jack Petchey Finals*

#### Chelmsford & District League

Obviously a lot of juniors competing here, in both the Adult and Junior sections, so I will not mention everything. It was once again nice to see a team in the top adult division comprised

entirely of juniors (Harry Chivers, Saul Chivers, Josh Bickles, James Donald), and they came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 7 teams. The team that came 2<sup>nd</sup> – Danbury C – also featured a junior; Toby McLewin. I would like to extend a fond thank you to Gordon Gatheral for continuing to run the Chelmsford Junior League and to everyone else involved including Paul Nicol and Paul Sturton for their mass management of teams. It is also great to see a return of Danbury teams in the Chelmsford Junior League, a fine example of the coaching work Louis Gunn and team are doing there since I left the role in his hands, and I understand Louis has expanded the club back to having two junior sessions per week. To have a grassroots local league just for juniors (the Chelmsford Junior League) is an amazing thing that I hope will continue and I am sure is the envy of many other leagues around the country who are not as blessed to have as many juniors playing table tennis in their area as we are. It would be nice to see the return of Notley junior teams as well as any other active clubs in the surrounding areas – it would also be nice to see Hullbridge (a thriving club run by Liam Squirrell and team) be involved, who are slightly farther afield but a comparable distance to other clubs that have been involved in the past such as West Maldon.

In the Annual Championships - extremely well organised by David Gatheral and team - Saul Chivers had an exceptional weekend to knock out number one seed Duncan Taylor and reach the Mens Singles Semi-Finals. On Finals Night, the crowd witnessed a fantastic performance from Harry Chivers who defeated Toby McLewin in the Junior Boys Final.



*6Chelmsford Junior League*

### Other mentions

Harry Chivers (16 yo) won the Open Singles title of the Brentwood & District League Annual Championships, beating current Chelmsford Mens Singles holder Keith Adams in the Semi-Final and Ian Wall in the Final. Harry is now ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the England ranking list for U17s.

Harrison Hill (12 yo) has had a season which I can only describe as prolific, winning multiple ranking events at Nottingham, the Cadet event of the Essex Trials (and later on representing Essex in the County Championships Cadet Premier Division), and even crossing boundaries

into other leagues to win all of the junior events and a divisional event in the Burnham & District League. Harrison is now ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the England ranking list for U12s. Harrison and Charlie (Donald) have both been invited to the National Championships taking place next month.



*7Harrison at Nottingham*

Emilie Guilloux (18yo) won the U21 Consolation Event at the inaugural Sussex Women & Girls 1\* Tournament.

I would also like to make special mention to a young boy from Buttsbury TTC, Charlie Ware, who I have had the fortune to watch in competition a couple of times this season and is a great talent at U11. His dad, Alex Ware, has also started up a new junior club in Hutton on Saturday mornings which I understand is already thriving and has welcomed the practice of several Chelmsford-based juniors.

Chelmsford TTC is in possession of some Girls Coaching Funding which we are hoping to utilise in due course to run some coaching days at local schools with the hope of introducing new girls into the local coaching sessions and league competitions.

On a final note, in follow up the excellent Junior 1\* Tournament that David held at Anglia Ruskin University last September, I have applied to Table Tennis England for permission to run a Junior 2\* Tournament at Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre this coming July.

Apologies if there are any gaping holes in this report and thank you for reading!



*8Essex Juniors 2nd team at the County Champions, made up of four Chelmsford League Juniors plus Ellianna from Colchester*

- Lee McHugh, CDTLL Junior Match Secretary