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Archway youngsters win medals at national U11-U13 Table Tennis championships

Eight young players from Archway Peterborough qualified for the U11-U13 national championships held at Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton last weekend and came back with four medals.

Hannah Saunders, Amber Lemmon, Laura North, Wilson Zheng, Li Hao Chen, Cindy Xiao, William Wu and Lewis Wu (part of the Archway HOPES squad for committed and aspiring players) all qualified for this elite event by right of their high age group, England rankings.

The event – run over two days – commenced with the U13 singles and doubles. Archway players acquitted themselves well, but as expected did not win medals and only Lewis, Hannah and Amber got out of their respective groups to reach the knock-out stages. Hannah did however reach the latter stages of the doubles alongside partner Alyssa Nguyen – losing a close match in the semi-finals to the eventual winners. Pride of place goes jointly to Laura North (Ravensthorpe primary school) and Lewis Wu (Coates primary school) who both battled superbly to win silver medals in the U11 girls and boys singles respectively. In addition, 7 year old Cindy Xiao (Woodston primary school) reached the semi-finals to claim an excellent bronze medal as did Amber Lemmon (Hampton Hargate primary school).

Laura had a superb tournament winning four group matches, then quarter final and semi-final beating higher ranked players on the way only to miss out 11-4, 11-8, 11-7 against England number 1 ranked U13, Alyssa Nguyen (Devon).

In the boys' event, Wilson Zheng did well to qualify from his group (beating England No. 2 Theo Kneip from Berkshire) only to go down 3-1 in the quarter final to top seed (and England No. 1 U11) Pablo Ramirez Rioja. Meanwhile, Lewis Wu made steady progress to make it into the final courtesy of two relatively straight forward wins in the knock-out stage against Ryan Goodier and Nishil Shah, showing maturity and court craft beyond his age. The final – against last years' U10 national champion – Teagan Khazal (London) was a hard fought affair and despite taking the first and rallying back in the fifth, Wu went down 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 11-5, 8-11 to the eventual champion.

Archway HOPES head coach Hong Hong Peebles said ***“overall some very good performances and we are of course pleased to win four medals. Our squad is very young and we have a lot to learn. We will go back to the training hall and come back even stronger next year”.***

ENDS

c.c. Alan Swan (Evening Telegraph), Wei Wang (Archway webmaster), Paul Stimpson (TTE), Peterborough & District TTL, Living Sport, Peterborough City Council

Further information: www.archwaytabletennis.co.uk

Come and join us at **Archway Peterborough Table Tennis Club** – contact Steve Williams ☎ 07957 132257



L-R Laura North (R/u), Alyssa Nguyen (Winner), Amber Lemmon and Cindy Xiao (Bronze medals)