

Table Tennis Ulster

February 2010



Ulster players dominate at Cardiff Grand Prix

Paul McCreery, Na Liu, Amanda Mogeey and Ashley Givan continued their trail of success winning eight titles between them at the recent Cardiff Table Tennis Grand Prix. Never before has a Northern Ireland squad been so dominant at a Grand Prix event.

McCreery (17 years) is having a fantastic start to 2010 after winning both the Munster Open and Fermanagh Open. In the Men's Singles quarter final, McCreery had a tough encounter against former Irish International and current TTK Greenhouse Coach (based in Wales) Alan Monks. With the match poised at 1-1, McCreery found himself 6-10 down in the third, however dug deep to clinch the set and finally the match winning 3-1. Next for McCreery was Welsh Senior Number 4, Stephen Gertson. McCreery dominated in this match eventually winning 3-0. McCreery then faced the in form Stephen Jenkins, the Welsh Number 3 in the final who had beaten Chinese star Yongbo Zhang at the semi-final stage. The final was a fantastic display of attacking

table tennis incorporating deft touches and incredible looping rallies from the back of the court. Jenkins went 2-1 up but McCreery fought back to win the fourth. With the match now poised at 2-2, the crowd were gathering to witness a fantastic match. Jenkins steamrolled to a 5-1 lead and then called a nervous time out leading 6-3. This was to benefit the Ulster man who came back to the table focused and relaxed eventually winning 11-8 to take the coveted title and the prize fund.

McCreery, who is supported by Sport NI, was equally as successful winning both the Men's Band 1 singles and U21 Singles. In the Band 1 Singles, McCreery defeated Polish Player Thomas Rzeszotko in the final after dispatching Welsh International Patrick Thomas in the semi-finals. McCreery also defeated Patrick Thomas 3-0 in an entertaining U21 final.

Na Liu (Belfast), currently part of the UK Olympic Table Tennis Elite Squad in Sheffield, grabbed the Cardiff Women's title, defeating

her Ulster partner Amanda Mogeey in the final. However it was the semi final which produced the match of the event with Amanda brilliantly eliminating the Welsh Number 1 and UK Olympic team member Naomi Owen 3-0 in the semis. The manner of this win deserves to be noted with Amanda never in danger of losing, dominating play with tactical skill and displaying a fine nerve on the big points to outclass her World ranked professional opponent.

Amanda had further success winning both the Women's Band 1 singles and restricted singles. Amanda defeated Sanja Clements 3-0 in the final of the Band 1 Singles, after defeating Chloe Thomas (Wales) in the semis. The restricted singles (for individuals between 21-40) was a mixed event. However Mogeey rose to the challenge defeating the Men's fifth seed David Arrowsmith in a close 3-2 final even after her energy sapping Women's singles exploits.

Ashley Givan (Dungannon), aged 14 years, took both the Women's Band 2 and Band 3 titles, at the prestigious Cardiff arena, proving that she is one of the hottest properties on the Irish and UK circuit for her age group. Ashley was unlucky to meet her in form teammate Mogeey in the Ladies Singles in the Quarter finals.

Stephen Slater in his first

Singles in the Quarter finals.

Stephen Slater in his first outing at a Senior British Grand Prix acquitted himself very well, finishing 2nd in the Band 6 singles, losing out to Alan Monks. Stephen also reached the quarter finals of the Band 5 Singles and accounted for David McBeath in the Open Singles. Stephen showed that he has the capability of beating the best with his determination and powerful stroke play.

Mark McGuiggan had a very successful run in the Men's Singles reaching the last 16 taking out 3 quality players and running the number 4 seed Stephen Gertson very close in the process. Mark also reached the quarters of the U21 Men's Singles and showed maturity in his play and a pleasing progression throughout the 2 days play. Mark has shown that he is now capable of bigger and better things and tournaments like this can only be good for the talented Raskarkin man.

Neil Irwin, also in his first outing at a Senior British Grand Prix event found the going tough, however had some good wins, and will have learnt a great deal from his experiences playing against seasoned GP players. Neil treated each event with the same focus and displayed maturity beyond his years against older and more experienced opponents.



Paul McCreery being congratulated by NPC Brian Orr

Table Tennis Ulster

Ulster Junior Closed Results



the U21's defeating Ashley McBride in an entertaining match.

Roisin O'Reilly defeated Susie Ferguson to be crowned U17 Girls Champion whilst Darren Reilly defeated Adam McIlmoy to win the coveted U17 Boys trophy.

Annalise Walker was victorious in the cadet girls with Sally McConkey enjoying a good tournament finishing in 2nd place.

Phillip Jamison and Emma Ludlow were the big winners at the Ulster Junior Championships held in Fivemiletown with both players victorious in the elite section. Jamison was a double winner on the day also winning the U21 singles.

All players were guaranteed plenty of matches with the round robin format that tournament Referee Tony Phillips had devised.

The elite event kickstarted proceedings on the day. Phillip Jamison finished on top of the boys section with the Reilly brothers Darren and Kieran finishing in 2nd and 3rd position respectively. The elite girls section provided some shocks with Emma Ludlow excelling finishing in first position with Rebecca Irwin in 2nd and favourite for the title Roisin O'Reilly finishing in 3rd.

Jamison after winning the elite section in the morning defeated James Dawson to be crowned U21 Champion. A very successful day for Jamison. Rebecca Irwin claimed more silverware in

2. Ashley McBride
3. Amy O'Brien

- U17 Boys
1. Darren Reilly
 2. Adam McIlmoy

- U17 Girls
1. Roisin O'Reilly
 2. Susie Ferguson
 3. Lucinda Fannin

- U14 Boys
1. Kieran Reilly
 2. Edwin Lewis
 3. Trevor Knox

- U14 Girls
1. Annalise Walker
 2. Sally McConkey
 - 3= Cherith McBride
 - 3= Emma Ludlow
 - 3= Erin Thompson

- U12 Boys
1. Jonathan Porter
 2. Ryan McConkey
 3. Eric Shekleton

- U12 Girls
1. Laura Finn
 2. Hannah Lynch-Dawson
 3. Emma McSorley

- U10 Boys
1. Iain Dick
 2. Ethan Duffy
 3. Mark Tweed

- U10 Girls
1. Leah Shekleton
 2. Megan Carson
 3. Amy Finlay

In the largest event of the day, Kieran Reilly was successful in the cadet boys defeating Edwin Lewis.

Jonathan Porter once again dominated in the U12 Boys defeating the talented Ryan McConkey in the final with Laura Finn defeating Hannah Lynch-Dawson in the U12 Girls.

Iain Dick came out on top in the U10 Boys defeating Ethan Duffy. and Leah Shekleton defeated Megan Carson in the U10 Girls final.

Results

- Boys Elite Event
1. Phillip Jamison
 2. Darren Reilly
 3. Kieran Reilly

- Girls Elite Event
1. Emma Ludlow
 2. Rebecca Irwin
 3. Roisin O'Reilly

- U21 Boys
1. Phillip Jamison
 2. James Dawson

- U21 Girls
1. Rebecca Irwin

“THE ELITE GIRLS SECTION PROVIDED SOME SHOCKS WITH EMMA LUDLOW EXCELLING FINISHING IN FIRST POSITION WITH REBECCA IRWIN IN 2ND AND FAVOURITE FOR THE TITLE ROISIN O'REILLY FINISHING IN 3RD”.

Irish Boys win premier division at Junior British League

“PAUL MCCREERY WAS AT HIS DEVASTATING BEST GOING THROUGH THE ENTIRE WEEKEND UNDEFEATED, A MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT CONSIDERING HE WAS PLAYING AT NUMBER 1 IN THE TEAM”.

The Irish Boys team represented by Paul McCreery (Ulster), Sam Hanley (Leinster), Ashley Robinson (Ulster), Sam Logue (Leinster) and Marcus McDonnell as NPC, performed magnificently at the recent Junior British League to win the premier division title for the first time. Going into the second weekend, the boys were level on points with Burton Uxbridge at the top of the table and therefore knew the tough task that lay ahead of them.

Paul McCreery was at his devastating best going through the entire weekend undefeated, a magnificent achievement considering he was playing at number 1 in the team. Over the course of the league, Paul won 18 out of his 20 matches and is sitting proudly on top of the averages with all of his colleagues in the top 10 of the individual averages.

Ashley Robinson also excelled winning 9 of his 12 matches, with 2 vital wins coming against fellow title contenders Burton Uxbridge with an excellent win over English international Lewis Gray.

This was a fantastic team effort, with all four players rising to the occasion taking scalps off higher ranked opponents and seasoned English internationals. This is a massive boost for the players in the run up to major competitions such as the Six Nations, Austrian Youth Open and the European Youth Championships.

The girls team of Ashley Givan (Ulster), Rebecca Kenny (Leinster), Sara Dolan (Leinster) and Sara Timlin (Connacht) with Arthur Brett as NPC, found the going tough. Despite having a slender lead after the first weekend in Division 1, the

girls dropped a few points and finished in third place, narrowly missing out in promotion to the premier division for next season. Ashley Givan topped the averages for the Irish girls team winning an impressive 65% of her matches playing at number 1 in the team. Ashley, who still is only a cadet has many more years of this competition to come.

Irish Boys Team

Paul McCreery (Ulster)
Sam Hanley (Leinster)
Ashley Robinson (Ulster)
Sam Logue (Leinster)
NPC: Marcus McDonnell

Irish Girls Team

Ashley Givan (Ulster)
Rebecca Kenny (Leinster)
Sara Dolan (Leinster)
Sara Timlin (Connacht)
NPC: Arthur Brett



Winning Irish Junior Boys team pictured with non playing captain Marcus McDonnell

McCreery and Mogey on top form at Fermanagh

17 year old Paul McCreery (Crossgar) scored a magnificent hat trick of successes at the Stiga Fermanagh Open at Fivemiletown college on Saturday as combination bat specialist Amanda Mogey (Carmoney) took the ladies title while Kevin Devaney (Ballina) and Peter Clarke (Annahilt) won the class two and veterans classes respectively.

Munster Open champion McCreery has often saved his best performances for forays outside the province but this time he really showed what he could do on home soil. He was just a different class and won the Mens singles without dropping a set. In the quarters the talented Pole Maciek Szymanski felt the wrath of the Crossgar teenagers ferocious attacks as did the much improved Sam Logue in the semis. The Queens destroyer Daryl Strong dumped Irish national champion Gavin Maguire out in straight sets but then lost his semi to left hander Conor Nolan after losing momentum at the start of the fifth. In their last four encounters McCreery and the hard-hitting Nolan had fought out close five setters but this was different as the super fit topspin magician mesmerised Nolan with flashing forehands, breathtaking backhands and deft touches to run out an easy straight sets winner. The adversaries then joined forces to win the doubles and McCreery completed his Lakeland rout with a four set victory over a game Logue who had taken out fellow Dubliner Daniel Keenan in straight sets.

Amanda Mogey never fails to impress and she badgered a series of opponents into sub-

mission with a fine display of power table tennis. Mogey was too strong for Sara Timlin (Connacht) in the semi final easing to a 3-0 win, whilst Ulster team mate Ashley Givan defeated Leinsters Sara Dolan by a similar scoreline. In the final, Mogey dominated throughout culminating in a 3-0 win over Dungannon topspin ace Ashley Given who is an ever growing threat to the Ulster Number 1.

Greystone league stalwart Randolph Loney raised local expectations when he scythed his way into the class two semi finals but then met Devaney, an allround player at the vanguard of Connacht table tennis, who put the Portadown defender to the sword. The other semi was a great match with Burke and fellow Connacht player Dennis McDonagh going toe to toe but the veteran was fastest to the draw when it mattered and won through. Battler Burke found himself in another five set marathon with Devaney but this time lost 11-4 in the decider.

In the veterans class Dromore Chemist Jim Stirling produced a shock after leaving Irish international Robbie Davis (Dublin) puzzled with his sidewinder returns to win in straight sets in the preliminary groups. The knockout stage was not for the fainthearted as Willie Cherry gained revenge over Kevin Devaney for a recent Ulster Open defeat, Norman Nabney had to concentrate to see off the swift footed Ted Mahaffy, Clarke beat No1 seed Karim Sabir (Athlone) and Kieran Burke dispatched Cavan farmer Cyril Fannin. In the semis Cherry halted Nabneys challenge comforta-

bly while a tiring Clarke struggled through in five against Burke. After listening to wise tactical advice from his Annahilt team-mate Wallace Mahaffy Clarke just piped Cherry to the title after five bruising sets.

In his closing speech Fermanagh Table Tennis Association Chairman Alex Gordon thanked tournament referee Tom Mitchell for ensuring all players competed within the laws of the game and also the McConkey family Rachel, Jamie and Stuart who ran the top table with great professionalism and skill.

Fermanagh Open Results

Mens singles

Semi Finals

Paul McCreery (Ulster) bt Sam Logue (Leinster) 3-0
Conor Nolan (Leinster) bt Daryl Strong (Ulster) 3-2

Final

McCreery bt Nolan 3-0

Ladies singles

Semi Finals

Amanda Mogey (Ulster) bt Sarah Timlin (Connacht) 3-0
Ashley Given (Ulster) bt Sarah Dolan (Leinster) 3-0

Final

Mogey bt Given 3-0

Veterans singles

Semi Finals

Willie Cherry (Ulster) bt Norman Nabney (Ulster) 3-0
Peter Clarke (Ulster) bt Kieran Burke (Connacht) 3-2

Final

Clarke bt Cherry 3-2

Under 21 singles

Semi Finals

McCreery bt Ashley Robinson (Ulster) 3-0
Logue bt Daniel Keenan (Dublin) 3-0

Final

McCreery bt Logue 3-1

Class 2 singles

Semi Finals

Kevin Devaney (Connacht) bt Randolph Loney (Ulster) 3-0
Burke bt Dennis McDonagh (Connacht) 3-2

Final

Devaney bt Burke 3-2

Open Doubles

McCreery/Nolan bt Logue/Robinson 3-0

“MUNSTER OPEN CHAMPION MCCREERY HAS OFTEN SAVED HIS BEST PERFORMANCES FOR FORAYS OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE BUT THIS TIME HE REALLY SHOWED WHAT HE COULD DO ON HOME SOIL.”



Amanda Mogey—Senior Ladies Champion

Table Tennis Ulster

Allianz Ulster Primary Schools' Team Results

Three days, three venues, lots of table tennis, plenty of medals. That is the story of this week's Ulster Primary Schools Team Championships. We had some problems with postal deliveries which meant some schools failed to receive invitations, and others had previous commitments, so entries were down on last year. In the west, Kesh dominated by sheer weight of numbers, in North Belfast the experience of Kilcoan told, and in East Belfast honours were spread fairly evenly. The two main events in Fivemiletown were fought out between Drung and Kesh, each gaining one win, and at Alexandra the Sacred Heart Under 9 boys teams competed with each other to decide which colour of medal they would get. From beginners to experienced players, everyone had a good day and they all left clutching a medal.

Western Division

U11 Boys
1. Kesh PS

2. Drung NS

U11 Girls
1. Drung NS

U11 Mixed
1. Kesh PS
2. Tempo PS

U10 Boys
1. Kesh PS

U10 Girls
1. Kesh PS

U9 Boys
1. Kesh PS

U9 Mixed
1. Kesh PS

South Eastern Division

U11 Boys
1. Downey House
2. Carryduff PS

U11 Girls
1. Carr PS

U10 Girls
1. Carryduff PS

U10 Mixed
1. Downey House

2. Lisnasharragh PS

U9 Boys
1. Cairnshill PS 'B'
2. Holy Rosary PS

U9 mixed
1. Lisnasharragh PS
2. Carryduff PS

North Eastern Division

U11 Boys
1. Kilcoan PS 'A'
2. Kilcoan PS 'B'

U11 Girls
1. St Therese of Lisieux PS
2. Seaview PS

U11 Mixed
1. Cavehill PS
2. St Therese of Lisieux PS

U10 Boys
1. Sacred Heart PS 'A'
2. Sacred Heart PS 'B'

U10 Mixed
1. Kilcoan PS
2. Cavehill PS

U9 Boys
1. Seaview PS 'A'
2. Seaview PS 'B'

“THREE DAYS,
THREE VENUES,
LOTS OF TABLE
TENNIS, PLENTY
OF MEDALS. THAT
IS THE STORY OF
THIS WEEK'S
ULSTER PRIMARY
SCHOOLS TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIPS”.



Players showing off their medals after an enjoyable days play

Table Tennis Ulster



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Upcoming Events

March

6	Senior National Championships
13	TTU Ability (3), Cavan
13	Jun/Cadet 6 Nations, Scotland
17-21	German Open
20	TTU Development Camp, Glen burn/F'town
20	TTU Elite Squad Training, R'port
26/27	Senior Inter Pros, Connacht
27	Ulster Jun Team Event, Ballymena Academy

April

3	TTU Ability (4), Newbliss
3	National Training Camp
6-8	Easter Training Elite Squad, R'port
7-10	Luxembourg Open
9-11	Primary School 6 Nations, Guernsey
10	TTU Development Camp, Glen burn/F'town
10	Ulster Ranking 4, B'mena Academy
17	Junior National Championships
24	Ulster Squad Training, F'town

Other Stories

Cavan Junior Graded Entry Form

Entries are now open for the Cavan Junior Graded to be held at **St Joseph's Hall, Ballyjamesduff on 13 March**.

This event is aimed to provide good matches for players at beginning/grass root and junior development levels with all players guaranteed to play at least five matches during their session.

The closing date for entries is 9 March.

Ulster Ranking points are available at this events.

Ulster Junior Team Event

Entries are now open for the Ulster Junior Team Event to be held at **Ballymena Academy on 27 March**.

Teams will consist of 3 players. Teams can be mixed boys and girls or age groups. Entries can be from a club, a region or mixed regional/club players.

The closing dates for entries is 23 March.

Entry forms for both events can be found here:

<http://www.irishtabletennis.com/itta/news/article/ulsterupdates/>

Women's British League

Two Ulster players, Amanda Mogey and Ashley

Givan represented the Irish Women's team in the premier division in the recent Women's British League. The team finished in fifth position in an extremely competitive division with Mogey having the highest winning average of the Irish players.

Safirs Open

Ashley Robinson (Clogher) along with Sam Logue (Dublin) represented the Irish Junior Boys team at the recent Safirs Open in Sweden. Ashley recorded some good wins against high quality European opposition and this experience will be vital for him as he develops into an international player.