

## **National Schools Individual and Team Finals - April 2023**

The National Schools Individual and Team Finals took place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton. Warwickshire Schools had players taking part in every individual event, and the under 16 boys team finals.

### **Individual Championships**

#### **Under 11 Girls:**

Charlotte Wong won group C, beating all four of her opponents with ease. Charlotte progressed to the quarter finals where she had a competitive battle with Violet-Lily Marquis (Bedfordshire) losing 2-3 (8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 1-11).

#### **Under 11 Boys:**

This was Nokulus Lam's first National Competition, and it was great experience for him. Although Nokulus did not progress to the knockout stages from his group, he won several of his group matches and enjoyed his day.

#### **Under 13 Girls:**

Hazel Lam (who is still under 11) played in the under 13 girls' competition. Again, this was great experience for Hazel, including playing the number 1 seed Brooke Morris from Greater Manchester, who went on to win the title.

#### **Under 13 Boys:**

Aarif Li comfortably won his group, progressing to the knockout stages. He proceeded to beat Rowan Kumar 3-0, Jake Davidson 3-0, and then Adam Alibhai 11-6, 11-3, 14-12 in the semi-finals, to progress to play Pablo Ramirez Roija in the final (a repeat of the under 11 final from last year). The match was once again a very close encounter but Aarif came out on top this year winning 11-4, 10-12, 12-14, 11-5, 12-10 to become the under 13 boys' champion!

#### **Under 16 Girls:**

Esther Lam won her group with ease and progressed to the knockout stages. In the last 16, Esther beat Jyothirmayi Ghanta 3-1, followed by another 3-1 win against Zarita Lo. Esther then faced number 1 seed Tianer Yu, losing 0-3, but a great result to reach the semi-finals.

### **Under 16 Boys:**

Despite being seeded number 2 in his group, Starry Sheung topped the group, beating Fred Jones 3-1, along with all the other group matches. Starry then faced Andrew Man (West Yorkshire) winning 3-1. In the quarter-finals, Starry played number 2 Cadet Isaac Kingham who was also the eventual winner of the under 16 boys, losing in straight sets.

### **Under 19 Girls:**

Hanne Pui Yu Chui finished second in her group behind number 3 seed Erin Green (Nottingham). Hanne won her other four group matches. In the knockout stages, Hanne faced number 1 seed and Finnish International Aleksandra Titievsckaja (who attends Grantham College in Lincolnshire), and despite the first set being 13-15, Hanne lost 0-3. Titievsckaja went on to win the under 19 girls' title.

Mia Chan (despite only being under 16) also competed in the under 19 event, and although she did not progress out of her group, she gained some valuable playing experience in the competition.

### **Under 19 Boys:**

Christopher Ho had a great performance in his group matches. Having won his first two matches against Thomas Nicol and Alex Gosling, Christopher faced number 2 seed Rhys Davies (Merseyside), to decide the group winner. Christopher played exceptionally well and was very unlucky to lose out 7-11, 11-8, 11-7, 3-11, 9-11. In the first round of the knockout stages, Christopher played Ching Jay Law, and lost in 4 sets.

Additionally, there were several Warwickshire players representing other school counties (Birmingham and Black Country), and their results are below.

Under 11 Girls	Kiko Dobson-Bailey	Quarter finals
Under 11 Boys	Mustafa Ibrahim	Last 16
Under 13 Girls	Sum Monica Chang	Semi finals
Under 13 Boys	Hassan Damji	Last 16
Under 16 Girls	Agnes Liu	Group stages
Under 16 Boys	Zain Hussain	Group stages
Under 19 Boys	Nathaniel Saunders	Quarter finals

## Team Championships

Warwick School under 16 boys had battled through the County, Zonal, and Regional Team Competitions to reach the National Team Finals. The team comprised of Starry Sheung, Rex Wong, Toby John and Yannic Fowler.

In the finals, Warwick School played three other schools, starting with Reading School. The match finished as a winning draw to Warwick School, with two wins from Rex Wong, and one win from Starry Sheung and Toby John. Starry was unlucky in his second match losing 2-3 against an awkward defensive player.

In the second match, Warwick School beat St Mary's College 6-2. Two wins for Starry and Rex, and one win each for Toby and Yannic Fowler. Yannic was also unlucky to not win his second match losing 9-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set.

In the final match, Warwick School faced favourites London Academy. There were some excellent matches between the two schools. Starry and Rex battled to win their matches, with Rex beating Fernando Frandes 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set. Unfortunately, Toby and Yannic couldn't quite get a win, but a losing draw (13-16 sets) against such a strong team was a brilliant result.

This meant Warwick School secured 4 points (with one win, and two draws), and finished in second place behind London Academy on 5 points. This was a fantastic achievement for the boys and the Warwickshire School, and they should be exceptionally proud of their success.

Thank you to Mr Pete Titmus from Warwick School who has supported and coached the boys in every round throughout the competition, and all the parents for their ongoing support.



L to R: Toby John, Starry Sheung, Yannic Fowler and Rex Wong.

### **Senior Schools Internationals**

After their success at the National Finals weekend, the following four players have been selected to represent England Schools in the Senior Schools Internationals from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at the University of Galway in Ireland.

Rex Wong – Under 14 Boys

Aarif Li – Under 14 Boys

Esther Lam – Under 16 Girls

Starry Sheung – Under 16 Boys

Well done to all the players who have represented Warwickshire Schools in the National Individual and National Team Finals. Good luck to those in the Senior Schools Internationals in June.

Kate Hughes  
May 2023