

YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – BEN TOWERS



Ben is 15 years of age and has been a member of Chatham Table Tennis Club for 3-4 years. He is enthusiastic, friendly and volunteers for anything that will help the club progress. On the table he has improved his skills and worked his way up the Medway and District Table Tennis league divisions and is currently an accomplished Division 1 player. At the AGM he was unanimously selected as a junior leader of the club. Ben has been the club's webmaster for over 3 years creating a wonderful site from scratch which is professional in appearance giving information to both members and non members. In addition he edits the club's newsletter called BATCHAT collating articles from members and editing them. Ben has the ability to interact with all ages, listen to what people are saying, deal with any requests acting as part of a team and independently. He has also passed his Butterfly skills (gold) and junior umpire awards.

ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – CAROL RODWAY



Over the past 12 months Carol has become a vital part of Bishop Auckland TTC. She started coming to drop off her son, stayed to watch and then started joining in finding that she enjoyed playing table tennis. She is now the club secretary: taking minutes at meetings; distributing information; taking the registers at each session; collecting first time forms and subs; balances the books at the

end of the night; distributes the newsletters and talks to the parents. Carol organises the club lottery each week, on top of this she is also the one who co-ordinates the food, and raffles at all the club social events.

Carol now plays in the local league and is team captain for the junior team in the same league ensuring that the boys have transport to and from their matches. She gets to the venue and sets up the hall, makes sure the club tea and coffee supply is stocked and every week bakes cookies or cakes for the visiting teams.

In addition she has become a UKCC level 1 coach, attended an ETTA disability awareness, works in primary school feeder clubs delivering sessions and acts as cover when other coaches can't make sessions. Carol has also recently sat her county umpire paper and has signed up to do a NVQ level 2 in activity leadership to help her coaching and the club.

Carol even did a sponsored walk over hot coals to raise money for the club and was also present for over 10 hours of the club's 24 hour charity ping-pongathon. She is also the one who brings the "human touch" to a lot of what the club does buying birthday cards and get well cards for members. She is the happy smiling face you see first as a new player in to the sessions.

UNSUNG HERO AWARD – BARBARA (BABS) BLANCH



Babs joined The Oaks (formerly known as St Albans Social club), Acton Green, in September 1952. Immediately she volunteered for the committee and, although extremely shy, found herself being given the position of 'hostess' – her job being to welcome new faces through the door. Since then she has never stopped working for the club and has always been the main point of contact for potential new members. In addition she has carried out virtually every job there is to be done including Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Club Coach, Press Officer, Development Officer as well as running and chauffeuring the teams, organising annual championships and dinner dance/social events.

Over 61 years later, although having had a tough time health wise over the past 8 years, Babs is still going strong, answering telephone enquiries, administering the junior membership/fees and assisting with the weekly junior coaching sessions. Many of our members have said the reason they came along to The Oaks was because of the 'friendly voice on the end of the phone'.

She was elected Life President in 2000, the club having lost its Life President in 1999 when her husband, Eric, died through ill health.

The club moved premises 11 times and has been down to just 6 members yet Babs never gave up her determination, enthusiasm and spirit to move the club on to what it is today. Keen to maintain the club's reputation as a club for the local community and to encourage all ages and all abilities she has been adamant that the objects of the club be adhered to 'to provide facilities for its members to develop their personalities in a pleasant and sociable atmosphere', which it has.

She qualified as a club coach in 1989, has held many positions within the local league including secretary and results secretary.

Babs vast experience as a competitor, having been the first lady to play in the Acton & District Men's 1st Division and at County Veterans level provided the club with the perfect role model. On a more personal basis many of our members have been grateful for the friendship and advice offered to them by Babs and Eric when confiding their own personal troubles. Loyalty to the club and thanks for what the club has always offered is shown by so many of our former members keeping in touch with Babs, even a couple of founder members have commented on how the Oaks was like a family to them.

One of the main reasons The Oaks is still going strong today has to be attributed to the never ending commitment and hard work of our Life president, Babs, she is truly our Unsung Hero.

EQUALITY AWARD – CHRIS TURNER



Chris Turner's role as Disability Officer for the East Midlands finished in May 2013 with the finish of the Playground to Podium programme. Whilst employed in this role Chris frequently went over and beyond what was required to make sure that disabled players in the East Midlands received the support and coaching they needed. Since leaving the ETTA Chris has continued to run his regional squad sessions and support the ETTA's work with disabled people on a voluntary basis. In December 2013 the ETTA were asked to select a team, including Team Coach and Team Manager, to go to the INAS FED World Championships in Hong Kong. This event is for players with a learning disability. Chris was appointed Team Coach and set about writing a training schedule, nutrition guide and lifestyle for the team to get the players into the best physical and mental place for the event. He also organised training camps including overnight stays so the players could get to know each other and himself (and the Team Manager) so they could feel confident travelling such a long distance with him. More importantly he kept the parents of the players on board. The 10 days trip was a

great experience for the players who performed really well and brought home a bronze medal. The players were treated as professional sportspeople and reacted accordingly and enjoyed an all round experience that will remain with them.

ADULT COACH OF THE YEAR – MATTHEW PORTER



Matthew Porter is a UKCC Level 2 and ETTA Level 3 table tennis coach. After moving to the Bishop Auckland area he became Chairman and the driving force behind Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club (BATTTC).

At BATTTC Matthew has nurtured an environment where table tennis players can play socially or, if they want to, they can pursue more competitive table tennis. He has also encouraged volunteers to take a more active part in running the club.

Over the past 12 months Matthew has used his experiences in different aspects of table tennis, from administration, playing and coaching to developing a comprehensive coaching programme that has accounted for the differing needs of BATTTC. This approach has resulted in:

- 7 volunteers becoming qualified UKCC Level 1 coaches. He acts as a mentor coach to the newly qualified and aspiring coaches in the club, helping them to develop their skills.
- 2 of the coaches who are under 18 were asked to represent the ETTA at the Young Coaches Academy in Loughborough run by Youth Sports Trust.
- As a result of Matthew's coaching work with the under 18s:
 - ✓ A junior boys' team won the Level 2 and level 3 Sainsburys School Games
 - ✓ 6 players attended an international table tennis tournament in Hungary representing County Durham where they won a silver medal, all the players came from BATTTC.
 - ✓ 3 players qualified for the ETTA National Championships
 - ✓ Several players are now on the junior national ranking list
 - ✓ Players from the club are winning national 1 star and 2 star events
 - ✓ Teams are competing in national junior and cadet leagues

Matthew doesn't just focus on BATTTC members as he is acutely aware of the need to increase participation in table tennis. He has, therefore, delivered coaching sessions in 10 of the local primary and 5 secondary schools in Bishop Auckland as well as other schools in Newton Aycliffe encouraging children to be actively involved in table tennis. This has resulted in BATTTC setting up 2

Satellite clubs in Newton Aycliffe and Barnard Castle where the sessions have been useful in increasing participation of young people in all clubs.

Additionally Matthew has set up an informal adult's session that he attends and offers more 'ad hoc' coaching and an over 60s session he has established is increasing in popularity.

Anxious to create pathways into table tennis for all Matthew brought in an ETTA Disability Officer for a training event which was opened up to all clubs in the North East.

Always keen to keep his coaching up to date Matthew attends any CDP that is appropriate and in the past 12 months was accepted on to the County Durham Sports and SportsCoach UK 'coaching champions programme' as one of the top 20 coaches from County Durham and Tees Valley and the County Durham Sports Inclusive programme looking to improve the disability coaching in County Durham.

Matthew also acts as Durham County Senior Coach and has worked hard to develop county sessions which have resulted in the formation of a weekly regional development session at Bishop Auckland. He also gives up his time to help transport players to national events, run community event sessions in supermarkets and shopping centres and charity event which have all helped to encourage a huge increase in participation in table tennis in the area.

In 2013 Matthew was voted as County Durham Coach of the Year at the County Durham Sport and Physical Activity Awards 2013 beating more established coaches to win.

JOINT WINNERS YOUNG COACH OF THE YEAR – JORDAN GABRIEL AND SAM ROCK



Jordan Gabriel

At just 18 years of age Jordy is already a UKCC Level 1 coach and will be attending the UKCC Level 2 course at St Neots in 2014. An accomplished junior player at local, regional and national level, Jordy's achievements over the past year are as follows:

- Coached improving players at Wensum TTC on their Friday evening coaching session
- Attended the majority of Regional Development Centre coaching sessions in Norwich on both Mondays and Wednesdays

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- Runs a Satellite club at the school where he used to attend, City Academy Norwich
- Has assisted Mark Dare at a number of Active Norfolk Playground to Podium and other disability coaching sessions, which he really enjoys and shows a fantastic attitude.
- Attended Coach Education Day at Wensum TTC
- Attending Equity in Coaching and Managing challenging Behaviour Courses in 2014-02-04 coaches young people on a 1 to 1 ad hoc basis
- Attends national tournaments with junior players
- Most of his work is on a voluntary basis

One of the parents (Richard Stokes) said: “working with Jordy has been a great asset to the coaching sessions on Tuesdays. Jordy provides an excellent role model for my boys. Being young, fit and skilled, he is seen by them as the sort of sportsperson they want to become. In the sessions you can see the respect in which he is held the boys listen to his instructions and are keen for him to watch them and give praise. He also follows your approach by making the events fun as well as demanding. His enthusiasm for table tennis is plain to see and this rubs off on the kids.”

Sam Rock

Sam is already a UKCC Level 2 coach and is hoping to progress to UKCC Level 3 in the future. Sam’s achievements over the past year are as follows:

- Attended the majority of Regional Development Centre coaching sessions in Norwich on both Mondays and Wednesdays
- Attended ETTA Coach Education Day at BATTs TTC, Essex
- Attending Equity in Coaching and Managing Challenging Behaviour Courses in 2014
- Coaches Oscar (14) and Louis (10) Moyes on a 1 to 1 basis, both of whom have had good success in 2013
- Coaches the Norfolk County Junior and Cadet Teams
- Much of Sam’s work is on a voluntary basis
- Attends national tournaments with junior players

Mark Dare is already confident about allowing Sam to take much more responsibility at sessions and he reacts well to the responsibility. Sam’s ambition is to become a full time coach in the future.

CLUB OF THE YEAR – KNIGHTON PARK TABLE TENNIS CLUB



Knighton Park Table Tennis Club is the only dedicated table tennis venue in Leicestershire located to the south of the Leicester. The club, which has been established for many years, bought and refurbished its current venue in 2012 with help from grants from Sport England and the ETTA. It is a fully accessible centre with space for 6 tournament tables or 10 tables for general play and coaching.

Open 7 days a week the club is an ETTA Premier Club, Ability Club and has achieved Clubmark. In addition they have been involved with the Ping! your City project and also the Ping Pong Care Campaigns.

The club provides coaching and support for all ages and all abilities with special one day memberships for new players. They have a full programme of coaching in local schools across Leicester and enter teams in local, county and national competitions. In addition they provide a venue for the ETTA to deliver courses and workshops.

RUNNER UP CLUB OF THE YEAR – BLITZ TTC



Blitz Table Tennis Club is based in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire founded in September 2009 by young up and coming coach Paul Johnson. Paul had seen that the local Gainsborough Table Tennis League was rapidly decreasing in size due to a lack of interest in Table Tennis in the area, and decided to act

by starting up a club. Already a qualified coach and experienced player he set about his task by hiring out a sports hall at local secondary school. Things started off with 2 sessions a week of coaching, all done on a group basis to varying abilities.

In addition to the coaching, a team was entered in the East Midlands division of the National Cadet League, with Blitz coming 3rd in a very successful first year.

In April 2010, Blitz started to look to expand into Primary Schools, with Marton Primary School being the first primary school target . In June 2010 the club then moved premises, due to the increasing rise of costs of the hall, to North County Primary School. They were then able to open the club on 3 nights of the week.

In September 2010 they entered 3 teams into the Gainsborough Senior League, and two teams into the National Junior League. The A team coming 2nd in the first division and the B & C teams (mostly junior players) finished mid table in the 2nd division. The club then continued to expand into more schools, with the aim of trying to increase the number of children playing table tennis at school.

By September 2012, the club found that they had out grown their current venue. This meant that the club had to find another venue, which came in the form of a new secondary school that just opening. The club is now rapidly expanding, with help from its very keen and active committee and boasts 8 teams playing in the local league, and 3 teams in the National Junior League in addition to its own Inter School League Competition, and runs the Lincolnshire division of the NJL.

Blitz TTC are an Ability Club and also currently working towards achieving their Clubmark status.