

Welcome to the ETTA's Annual Volunteer, Club and Coach Awards for 2013. Following you will be able to read all about our winners for this year and some of the citations that have been submitted by their colleagues to support their award. We had a large number of entries and it was a very difficult decision to choose the winners in each category.

The ETTA owes a huge thank you to everyone receiving an award today because all their commitment and hours of work make table tennis a more successful sport.

## Jordan Bone

### Young Table Tennis Volunteer of the Year



Jordan is aged 15 and has been involved with Plymouth Life Centre Table Tennis Club since it started on 29.03.12. and although being young in years has shown a real maturity in assisting with the coaching, especially when working one to one on the robot drawing on his player knowledge and the coaching skills he has learnt. He is able to work with all ages and abilities but it is his enthusiasm and his ability to engage with the younger member that has had the biggest impact. He is always willing to help in whichever way he can and many of the senior members seek him out for the odd tip and a game on the tables. His infectious personality and his willingness to learn have really helped in creating a fun and enjoyable atmosphere where people have shown real progression. It is very hard to find reliable volunteer coaches but we have a real asset in Jordan and it would be nice to reward him for his efforts and the contribution he has made to sport.

# Lucie Bouron

## Junior Table Tennis Personality of the Year



Lucie is a very dedicated and exceptional young athlete; so much so that she has been nominated for TASS sponsorship for both Table Tennis and Wheelchair Basketball. She has progressed admirably in her table tennis in a time in her life when academic demands are considerable. She plays table tennis in 2 local leagues and is winning matches against non disabled opponents. She also competes in national and international competitions.

Lucie is keen to develop her sporting prowess and travels all over the country, in addition to studying for 4 A Levels, to ensure she can compete at every possible opportunity. She spends an average of 5 hours a week training and 6 hours competing. She actively supports her local disabled sports centre and local special schools in demonstrating disability sport – archery, athletics, basketball and table tennis. Although focused on her own development Lucie still finds time to mentor and encourage younger members of her club and school, She is planning to train as a UKCC level 1 table tennis coach in 2013.

Lucie is considered to be an ambassador for disability sport locally and is using every opportunity to encourage other disabled young people to become involved in sport. She was invited as an inspirational speaker to the 2011 Berkshire County Athlete Assessment Day and her speech was well received by athletes, coaches and NGB representatives.

Lucie's ultimate aim is to represent her country in the Paralympics at Rio 2016.

### 2012 Achievements;

- Maidenhead Closed Table Tennis Championships – runner Up Ladies Doubles
- BTTAD Open Table Tennis Nationals – women's individual wheelchair – semi finalist
- DSE National Table Tennis Championships – women's wheelchair semi finalist
- No. 8 in Ladies Wheelchair Table Tennis Ranking List even though still a junior
- Step into Sport Camp at Loughborough University – nominated by Project Ability School (Arbour Vale)

# Will Bayley

## Disabled Table Tennis Personality of the Year



Will first started playing table tennis aged 7 when his grandmother bought him a table whilst he was recovering from cancer. At the age of 12 he joined Byng Hall TTC in Tunbridge Wells going on to represent Kent in the county championships.

In October 2011 Will returned from the European Championships with a gold medal in the singles and silver in the team. He won the European Players' Player of the Year Award at the end of 2011 and opened 2012 with the announcement of his number one ranking in the world.

London 2012 saw Will take silver in the singles and bronze in the team events, and who will forget his joy at winning in the semis of the singles when he launched himself into the arms of Gorazd, his coach, or the despair when he subsequently lost in the final.

One of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet Will is the best role model for disabled table tennis.

# Lindsey Dare

## Adult Table Tennis Volunteer of the Year



Lindsey was a founder member of Wensum Table Tennis Club back in March 2003, and has always played a vital role in the club, all of which is on a voluntary basis. The following are tasks she has undertaken in her 10 years at the club:

- For the whole 10 years, Lindsey has taken overall responsibility for teams at Wensum TTC in the Norwich & District Table Tennis League. The club currently has 12 teams, and Lindsey is the first point of call for Team Captains when there are any issues, liaising with players and other captains to ensure teams run smoothly.
- She opens and closes the club up to 4 days a week. This entails going straight from work and staying until the club closes, which can be up to 11.30pm. This is an even more remarkable achievement in that she works from 7am to 6.30pm most days.
- Running the coffee bar/tuck shop for Wensum TTC when there are competitions at weekend, spending many hours cooking and serving hot and cold drinks and snacks to people at the club.
- Running the annual Club Tournament every season.

Lindsey also sits on the committee of the Norwich and District Table Tennis League, where she is:

- A divisional secretary, looking after a division with results, averages and tables for the League (she had previously undertaken 2 divisions).
- The link person between the league and Wensum TTC.
- One of the organisers of the annual senior and junior league tournaments

Lindsey also sits on the committee of the Norfolk County Table Tennis Association, where she:

- Junior Secretary, arranging Junior and Cadet county matches and teams each year.
- Arranging and running Junior and Cadet County Trials each season
- Organising and running the Norfolk Schools event every year.
- Helping to run the annual Senior and Junior Tournaments on behalf of the county.
- Running the National Junior League and National Cadet League at Wensum TTC, Norwich.
- Organised the Norfolk School Games 2012
- Ran the Norfolk Village Games 2012
- Helped husband organise tournaments for Active Norfolk

Without Lindsey's dedication Wensum TTC and table tennis in Norwich and Norfolk would be in extreme trouble. We feel this dedication, coupled with the fact that Lindsey holds down a demanding full time job as well, makes her a very deserving nominee to the awards.

# Colin Dyke

## Unsung Hero



Without doubt, Colin's long dedication to table tennis in Reading and Berkshire needs to be showcased.

Back in 1985, two major table tennis clubs in Reading decided to join forces to form a new club that would cater for national- and international-class table tennis players – as well as for people who wished to play at a more modest social level.

Colin was a member of the “social” Woodley TTC when it amalgamated with the inspirational Omega TTC to form Kingfisher TTC. He was one of a small group of volunteers who physically built the new clubhouse from ground level.

Colin was the new club's first General Secretary. Because Kingfisher was a purpose-built, 24/7, four-table venue with a social area, changing rooms, showers, meeting room, etc, the time and effort required of its Secretary was considerable. And Colin did not disappoint – neither did he falter in the onerous work required of him. But this was just the start...

Colin's dedication to table tennis, to Kingfisher, to the town of Reading and to the County of Berkshire has remained constant ever since. He was Kingfisher's Secretary from 1987 to 1998, Treasurer from 1998 to 2009 and Chairman from 2009 to the present time – a period of service spanning more than a quarter of a century! He has given 25 years' superb (some would say flawless) service without a break. This is one huge commitment to any table tennis club – let alone one that can boast, as at January 2013, no less than 174 members.

At the age of 76, Colin continues to play in the local leagues – Reading and Bracknell – performing well in the second-highest division of the former and in the top flight of the latter. He has managed the Kingfisher British League team which, this year, has competed in the Premier Division of the SBL. Here he has shown all the required skills of enthusiast and motivator.

Colin is also the Berkshire TTA Hon Treasurer and the Royal County's National Councillor.

And, if this were not enough to keep him busy on table tennis matters, he has been heavily involved over the last three years with the new project to build the anticipated, mouth-watering Reading Table Tennis Centre.

As Kingfisher Chairman, Colin's style of leadership, enthusiasm and infectious delegation really inspires other volunteer committee members. And, if you throw his personal phenomenal attention to detail into the melting pot, it is very easy to see how poor the local table tennis world would be without him.

## Alan Dockray

### Special Commendation

*Alan is a man in his early 70's and suffers from Parkinsons Disease (and has been for the last 10 years). His mobility is very restricted but his positive outlook is humbling. Alan took up table tennis 6/7 years ago to help his mobility and hand/eye coordination. Whilst he will probably never play competitive table tennis he lives in hope and his enthusiasm is contagious. Every club night Alan arrives at the venue at least one hour before anyone else and sets the hall up with 8 tables, nets and surrounds, ready for start of proceedings at 6.30pm. His only payment is that club members will give him a game of table tennis!! Alan has been doing this for at least 4 years and will continue to do so while he physically can.*

## Neil Brierley

### Runner Up Adult Volunteer of the Year

*Neil is an amazing humble man who provides hospitality second to none. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave. Whether you are local to the club or an international player who has asked if they can use the club he has the ability to make everyone feel warmly welcomed. He is involved at BATTs in Harlow, practically he opens the club, sets the tables out, runs the kitchen, makes everyone feel at home and does all the jobs that you don't realise need doing but are essential to the club running well.*

*Nothing is too much trouble for Neil to do for anyone. I have seen Neil welcome newcomers to the club and take the time to introduce them to everyone and also be a practice partner for them just so they are able to settle in. He is very aware when the coaching sessions are on and in that respect he looks after the coaches always giving them drinks and making sure they are well cared for and the parents of players too.*

*Nothing is too much trouble – he is friendly with the parents, players and anyone who walks through the door. He takes the time to get to know everyone and also gets involved in coaching some of the new beginners.*

*I believe that if Neil weren't part of BATTs in Harlow then it would not be the success it is today. He definitely is the 'Volunteer of the Year' because you don't realise that he fills in all the gaps to make the club work well. He is a negotiator and peacemaker and without him BATTs would not run as*

*smoothly as it does. All that work that Neil does behind the scenes enable participants at the club to participate and succeed in the sport. He makes our roles as coaches easier.*

## **Ian McCarthy**

### **Runner Up Unsung Hero**

*Over the past 40 years Ian has single handedly and continuously run the St Pauls TTC in Wandsworth, South West London. Moreover, for much of that time he has been instrumental in running the entire Wandsworth TT League. Last Thursday evening although the weather conditions were treacherous, it was business as usual at St Pauls TTC. All the facilities – tables, nets, scoresheets, match balls, screens, heating, lighting etc – were good to go. By 7.30pm the place was buzzing with league matches in progress and a dozen or so other members getting in some dedicated practice. This state of affairs is entirely down to Ian who has for all these years, taken pride and care to ensure that we could all have a great evening playing table tennis in an ideal environment. Visiting players and new members are made welcome and all cannot help but appreciate how well organized the club is and acknowledge its friendly atmosphere. That Ian has to travel for over an hour to get there does not dissuade his unswerving dedication to nurturing talent and enabling others to participate and succeed. His commitment is nothing short of inspirational. In short Ian is a star. He is truly an unsung hero.*