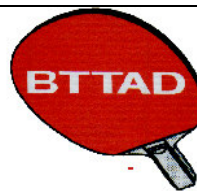


**BTTAD
NEWSLETTER
November 2009**



Hello from the New Editor – Louise Stotesbury

Following the last AGM of the BTTAD I volunteered to be on the committee. Having been involved via Joe's membership since he embarked on his table tennis career I was more than happy to offer to give something back to an organisation that has given him so much. It is an organisation that has at its heart the good of all its members and one that I am proud to be associated with. I hope that the continuing production of this newsletter will help to keep members updated and complement the aim of the association of increasing participation in table tennis of all disabled people.

MEDALS GALORE by Peter Taylor



Eight players from the Great Britain Para Table Tennis team competed at the Polish Open. The team won 12 medals in total, with each player winning at least one medal. The tally was three golds, 4 silvers and 5 bronze. It was the first international event under the leadership of the newly appointed Performance Manager, Gorazd Vecko and he couldn't have wished for a better debut. Gorazd was delighted with the performance of the squad, he said "I am very happy with them. They are trying to improve their skills and show that they are good players. There was a very good team spirit and the players supported one another."

Sue Gilroy took the bronze in the Women's Wheelchair Open; this event is open to all women wheelchair players. The Men's Class 7 final was an all Great Britain affair. Joe Stotesbury took the gold in this event with a great win over his higher ranked team mate Paul Karabardak. Paul recently won the bronze in the European Championships in the same event, so Joe's victory therefore was even more impressive.

Sara Head, from Wales, took the silver in the Women's Class 3 event. Sue Gilroy continued her success with silver in the Women's Class 4 singles. Kim Daybell took the bronze in the Men's Class 10.

Rob Davies lost in the third place playoff to finish a credible 4th in the Men's Class 1/2 event. This is a very good performance as Rob is a Class 1 and had to compete against Class 2's as the two classes were combined.

Others to just lose out for a bronze and finishing 4th were Claire Robertson in the Women's Class 4 and Farrel Anthony in Men's Class 7. Jane Campbell lost in the quarter-final of the Women's Class 3.

British success continued in the team events. In the Men's Class 7, it was almost an all British final with three out of the four players coming from the Great Britain squad. Farrel Anthony partnered with a Czech player reached the final and met the Great Britain pairing of Paul Karabardak and Joe Stotesbury. With Joe and Paul having won the gold and silver in the singles, on paper it looked a good bet for the British team. Farrel however had different ideas and the British pair had to settle for the silver medal – Farrel having a great win over Joe to help win the final.

The Women's Class 3 team of Sara Head and Jane Campbell took the Gold. Rob Davies, partnering with a Korean Class 2, won the bronze in the combined class 1 and 2 team event, Kim Daybell also won a bronze in the men's Class 10, his partner coming from Mexico.

Claire Robertson had a good tournament, combining with Sue Gilroy in the Women's Combined Class 4 and 5 event, she showed great fighting spirit and in the semi-final against Mexico with the match score 2 all, she narrowly lost the deciding game 11-9 in the fifth. This meant the British ladies had to play for a bronze in the play off against France. The British pair took the match 3-1, only losing the doubles.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS AT LEICESTER by Jacqueline Smith

On Saturday 25th July I traveled to Leicester on the National Express Coach from Stansted for 5 days of table tennis competitions. Sunday morning we started off with classification, division singles and the open ceremony; after lunch more classifications and then a free evening.

Monday saw the singles competition and I won bronze in my division (one) having beaten Paula who finished 4th and Karen 5th. Jessica won silver and Victoria, as usual won gold.

Tuesday was classification of men's and women's doubles. Paula was my partner; Jess and Victoria paired up and we also had Jane and Jenny who played well. This was followed by a day off on Wednesday.

Thursday morning was mixed doubles classification. My partner was Simon; Victoria played with Adam, Paula with Jeff and Jessica with Neil. In the afternoon ladies doubles was won by Jacqueline and

Paula in 5 grueling games against Jessica and Paula who had to settle for silver. Karen and Emma plus Jenny and Jane played really well together.

In the mixed doubles competition on Friday morning Simon and Jacqueline won silver beating Jeff and Paula, Jessica and Neil plus Karen and Daniel, Victoria and Adam won as usual. In the men's doubles Adam and Jeff took gold while Simon and Neil took silver. In the men's singles Adam took gold, Simon silver and Jeff bronze. Neil came 4th.

Altogether the North West took 21 medals.

Helen, Ian, Howard, Jane, Nadia and Jenny played well in their divisions. We also enjoyed meeting Grant and Matt and Karen Smith who gave us a very nice exhibition and allowed us to play with them.

The volunteers were great, making sure that everything ran smoothly including the packed lunches and plenty to drink. On Friday evening we enjoyed the closing ceremony. After packing I was on the coach home to Stansted Saturday lunchtime.

Footnote: 8 of us went to Czech republic from July 5th – 14th representing GB. I was the flag bearer for the team and enjoyed the experience.

.....It Was Special

There was a real buzz in the hall all week at the table tennis events within the Special Olympics National Summer Games at Leicester. The Chairman of Special Olympics Leicester, Ted Cassidy MBE, was really taken with the vibrancy and camaraderie of table tennis compared with other events. There are after all not many events when the general volunteers resplendent in their orange shirts line up to clap the players and officials into the centre every morning.

The 61 players were matched in numbers by the sports officials, general volunteers and centre staff who all combined to make it a memorable event in which all involved will cherish their participation.

Special Olympics is for all with learning disabilities and therefore there is a wide range of ability between players; however all

enjoy the cut and thrust of competition epitomised by the Special Olympics Oath – ***“ Let me win but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt“.***

48 players won medals with 10 of them winning medals in 3 events. 2 players were unbeaten all week. Adam Thompson (North West) won gold in Division One in all his 3 events, whilst Patrick Cox (East Midlands) – at just 15, the youngest player and playing in his home county-won Gold in his only event - Division 3 male singles - definitely a player to watch as he moves on to play in the UK School Games in September as a standing disabled player. An unexpected success in the female doubles Division One was the win of Jacqueline Smith and Paula Latham (North West) over their regional colleagues, Victoria and Jessica Bromley – the individual gold and silver medallists.

All regions except Northern took home medals, but in Pamela Lowther, they had the Lady Player of the Championship; Stephen Welsh (Grampian) was voted the Male Player. The North West won the most medals – 22 - but Scotland West gained only gold, 3 of them, whilst all the 7 Grampian players won at least 2 medals each.

Media coverage was considerable, especially in the region, with players and coaches interviewed for press, radio and TV. The players also loved having the opportunity to play our visiting exhibition players, Magan Tahir - the Dutch international Paralympic wheelchair player and SOL Ambassador, Karen Smith – the local England Veteran Ladies number 1, who also umpired, and the GB Paralympic coaches Greg Baker and Matt Kenney. There were queues of players wanting to have a go at playing these stars and we had to restrict them to a few minutes each, but they relished it.

All in all, an event to be savoured. Many thanks to all who were involved in any way for making it so very special.

Mike Smith

The 2009 Deaf Olympic games or Deaflympics as they are known were held in Taiwan between the 5/9/09 and the 15/9/09. The event is held every 4 years and was first held in Paris in 1924. The event now covers 20 sports and has about 4000 participants, plus around 1500 administrative staff and coaches from 81 countries. The opening and closing ceremonies were arranged by the same team that orchestrated the Beijing Olympic games opening/closing ceremonies.

The Great Britain Table Tennis squad comprises of 4 players plus their coach. The players are all ETTA ranked players and are left to right James Meyers, Martin Strutt, David Evans (coach) Nick Gilmour and Andrew Calloway player/ manager.

By Andrew Calloway



Editor's Note: Andrew, we look forward to an account of Taiwan for the next newsletter

National Junior Games

The Table Tennis competition at the National Junior Games, held at Stoke Mandeville from 23rd – 26th September attracted 51 competitors. The standard varied from very good to total beginners who were there to have-a-go.

The most impressive winners were Jack Pegram, Lewis Jones and Joe Land. There was also a lot of competitive table tennis with the closest event being the Girls Wheelchair Class B competition in which Rachel Edwards successfully defended her title coming from a set behind to defeat Lucie Bouron 7-11, 11-6, 16-14. The Girls Wheelchair Class C event was equally exciting with Hen Freeman defeating Justine Moore 7-11, 13-11, 11-5 in the deciding match.

The boys' event produced 2 exciting finals in the Class B competition. In the ambulant section Michael Pope came back from a set and 7-2 down to win the final against Ben Fox 6-11, 12-10, 11-8. In the wheelchair event Jamie Carter showed similar composure to recover from losing the first set, winning the final 8-11, 11-8, 11-7 against Connor Brockbank, improving on the silver medal he received last year.

The Class A competition featured repeat victories for both Chloe Osborne and Daniel Grummitt.

(Full results of all competitions on back page of newsletter)

More medals for the Great Britain Para Table Tennis Squad as they continue their success in Germany by Peter Taylor

Great Britain Para Table Tennis team followed their success in the recent Polish Open with another set of impressive results at the German Open. The team won 12 medals in total; 4 golds, 4 silvers and 4 bronze. Over 250 players took part in this tournament with many of the top players in action.

Sue Gilroy took the bronze in the Women's Wheelchair Open and finished with silver in the Women's combined Class 4 and 5. Claire Robertson took the bronze in the same event.

Cathy Mitton took the gold medal in the combined women's class 1 and 2, beating two of the French women in the process. Sara Head reached the final of the ladies Class 3 singles to take the silver and Kim Daybell took the bronze in the Men's Class 10 singles.

Paul Davies lost in the bronze play-off to finish fourth in the men's class 2, and so just missing out on a medal. Farrel Anthony and Joe Stotesbury both reached the quarter-finals in the Men's Class 7 singles.

British success continued in the team events. The Women's Class 3 team of Sara Head and Jane Campbell took the Gold. Scott Robertson, paired with a Norwegian player, took the gold in the men's Class 5 team event. Rob Davies, partnered with a German player, also won the gold in the men's class 1 team event. Kim Daybell partnered a German player to take the silver in the men's class 10 James Rawson and Arnie Chan took the bronze in the men's class 3 team.

To take 12 medals in this quality field was an impressive achievement. Now in post for nearly two months, the coaching staff of Gorazd Vecko, Greg Baker, Matt Kenny and Neil Robinson has made a great start. Already jubilant with the results in the recent Polish Open, the team and squad have continued their success at the German Open and must now be regarded as one of the leading nations in disability table tennis – especially when one considers that several of our world class players were not involved in Germany.

Training the Chinese Way

In the summer of this year Wil Bayley took the adventurous decision to travel to China and experience training with some of their players. I interviewed him on his return and this is what he had to say:

I have long admired the Chinese and their success in table tennis and faced with the looming summer months with nothing much to do, as well as never

having been someone that can sit still for very long, I thought 'go for it'.

Fortunately some able-bodied players that I knew were training out there and they were able to secure me a place at a training centre. Visa obtained and flights booked I set off to experience Beijing post Olympics with the hope of discovering what makes the Chinese such incredible table tennis players and of course trying to improve my own game.

Arriving at Beijing during the rush hour was my first huge obstacle; I'm not sure what I expected but it certainly wasn't the chaos that surrounded me as I fought my way out of arrivals. As those who know me well would agree I'm not always the most organised person in the world or a fine-detail planner so I was somewhat at sea when I discovered that there was nobody on hand that could speak English or direct me. Several phone calls later and with the help of an interpreter I discovered that the journey to Szechwan where I would be training was some hundred and fifty miles further and that I needed to take a train. After first going to the wrong railway station (there are two in Beijing!), I finally arrived at the training camp in the early hours of the morning.

My accommodation, to say the least, was basic. The bedrooms all led off the main training hall and on being shown to my room I observed the concrete bunk that I presumed to be the bed and was shocked when my enquiry re a mattress yielded the response that nobody was provided with these.

For the next two weeks I trained according to the schedule of the Chinese hopefuls. Early mornings led to late nights dictated by an erratic electricity supply with players on and off court accordingly. When the power went down players retreated to their rooms and slept; when it came back on they re-emerged and trained relentlessly. Food, needless to say, consisted of rice with a few additions of vegetables and meat which players took to their rooms to eat. As the days went on I began to realise that I was often in danger of losing sense of day and night and overall time.

However, the standard of play was superb and provided me with the opportunity to stretch my own ability and to experience first hand what it is like to

strive for perfection, against the odds, in the able bodied game. Some fifteen days later tired, very foot sore and suffering from flu-like symptoms I decided it was time to return home. Thankfully, I had purchased an open return so it was possible to cut short my original intentions of staying for a month.

Did I enjoy the experience? Strange as it may seem, the answer to that is yes, I did. The over-riding and most positive experience that I took away was that you are able to train your hardest even when conditions are tough and you can always keep going and give it your best shot. I admired the tenacity and dedication of the Chinese and realised how lucky we are back at home to train in more luxurious surroundings. Working with the Chinese players has taught me incredible self-discipline and has inspired me to strive for the same high standards that they produce.

Editor's note: Watch out for the December edition when I hope to have caught up with Wil and found out how life in Sheffield, since his move in September, compares with his Chinese experience. LS

Typhoo Sports for All Disability Inclusion Courses

These courses are available through the English Federation of Disability Sport. They provide coaches with the skills and inspiration to include disabled people in their coaching sessions.

For more info go to www.edfs.co.uk or just 'google' the title above.

Membership – Are you a member of the BTTAD?

Members may be Full, Associate or Organisational. Being a member helps to support the aims of the association of:

**Increasing participation in table tennis for all disabled people;
Promoting opportunities in table tennis at all levels for disabled people;
Encouraging integration of disabled and able-bodied people in table tennis;
Working with the Governing Bodies to promote table tennis for all.**

Join the BTTAD now if you are not already a member.

Full membership £10 (Any person who has a physical, sensory or learning disability). **Junior Membership £5** (Any person under 18 on 31st January 2008, who has a physical, sensory or learning disability). **Associate Membership £7** (Able bodied people who are supportive of the aims of the association). **Organisational Membership (£25)** (Any organisation supportive of the aims of the association).

Contact Mike Smith for an application form. **Secretary Mike Smith** 207 Glenfield Road, Leicester, LE3 6DL
Tel 01162 858475 Email mike.gr.smith@tesco.net

And Finally.....

I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. Full details of competition results, the ranking list and calendar dates are on the following pages.

Please send articles for the December edition to: Louise.stotesbury@sky.com
or to my home address; 79 Woodside Lane, Bexley, DA5 1JL.

The Mencap Open Crewe October 2009

New venue Oakley Centre in Crewe. Coppenhall not available at present. Poor entry. Some very close matches Jack Hunter- Spivey had a great tournament. Paul Waumsley dominant in the standing events.

Results

Mens Class 1 – 5 Open Singles

Final

Jack Hunter – Spivey b Shaun Newcomb -6, 8, -7, 9, 6

Semi-Finals

Jack Hunter – Spivey b Jack Pegram 8, 7, -8, -9, 7

Shaun Newcomb b Tony Edge -9, 7, 9, 11

Third Place Play-off

Jack Pegram b Tony Edge w/o

Mens Class 6 – 11 Open Singles

Final

Paul Waumsley b Krysten Coombs 7, 5, 7

Semi-Finals

Paul Waumsley b Jeffrey Jarvis 2, 9, 8

Krysten Coombs b Adam Thompson -11, 11, 12, 11

Third Place Play-off

Adam Thompson b Jeffrey Jarvis 3, 6, 0

Mens Class 1 – 5 Doubles

Final

Tony Edge and Jack Hunter- Spivey b Shaun Newcomb and Jack Pegram 9, 8, 8

Third Place

Mike Prendergast and Oye Jemiyo b John Welsh and Jamie Rhind 3, 5, --4, 6,

Ladies Class 6-11 Doubles

Final

Victoria Bromley and Jessica Bromley b Jacqueline Smith and Jenny Turner 8, 7, 4

Mixed Class 6 – 11 Doubles

Final

Adam Thompson and Jeffrey Jarvis b Mark Spinks and Krysten Coombs 3, 16, 4

Semi -Finals

Adam Thompson and Jeffrey Jarvis b Victoria Bromley and Jessica Bromley 5, 5, 3

Mark Spinks and Krysten Coombs b Paul Waumsley and Ian Thomas 10, 5, 11

Third Place Play-off

Paul Waumsley and Ian Thomas b Victoria Bromley and Jessica Bromley 5, 6, 4

Mens Class 1 – 3 Singles

Final

Tony Edge b Jack Pegram 10, 3, 9

Third Place

John Welsh b Kye Jemiyo 7, 7, 9

Mens Class 4-5 Singles

Final

Shaun Newcomb b Jack Hunter-Spivey 6, 2, 5

Third Place

Mike Prendergast b Lee Hamill 8, 7, 7

Mens Class 6-10 Singles

Final

Paul Waumsley b Krysten Coombs 3, 5, 5

Third Place

Mark Spinks b Patrick Coxl 7, 6, 6

Mens Class 11 Singles

Final

Adam Thompson b Jeffrey Jarvis 8, 8, 9

Semi-Finals

Adam Thompson b Alistair Feltham 0, 5, 4

Jeffrey Jarvis b Duncan Feltham 3, 2, 5

Third Place Play-off

Duncan Feltham b Alistair Feltham 7, -9, 7, -9, 10

Ladies Class 11 Singles

Final

Victoria Bromley b Jacqueline Smith -12, 1, 7, -9, 9

Third Place

Jessica Bromley b Jenny Thomas -9, 4, 8, 7

DSE Open July 2009-11-02

Stronger entry than usual with the majority of elite squad playing. Class 11 depleted due to international event at the same time.

Results

Mens Class 1 – 5 Open Singles

Final

Scott Robertson b James Rawson 2, 8, 9

Semi-Finals

Scott Robertson b Shaun Newcombe 9, 3, 7

James Rawson b Robert Davies 7, 9, 7

Mens Class 6 – 11 Open Singles

Final

Will Bayley b Paul Karabardak 7, -8, 5, -7, 8

Semi-Finals

Will Bayley b Kim Daybell 5, -10, 2, -1, 7

Paul Karabardak b Farrel Anthony 8, 6, -8, 13

Ladies Class 1 – 5 Open Singles

Final

Jane Campbell b Claire Robertson 6, 11, 7

Semi-Finals

Jane Campbell b Leanne Stephen 7, 0, 4

Claire Robertson b Cathy Mitton 9, -12, 7, 11

Mens Class 1 – 5 Doubles

Final

Shaun Newcomb and John Welsh b James Rawson and Jack Pegram 8, -7, 8, -5, 8

Semi-Finals

Shaun Newcomb and John Welsh b Scott Robertson and Nico Anderson 7, 3, 4

James Rawson and Jack Pegram b Robert Davies and Paul Davies 3, 6, 10

Mens Class 6 – 11 Doubles

Final

Will Bayley and Joe Stotesbury b Kim Daybell and Krysten Coombs -8, 7, 5, 12

Semi -Finals

Will Bayley and Joe Stotesbury b Paul Karabardak and Andrew Harper 8, 8, -7, -7, 5

Kim Daybell and Krysten Coombs b David Wetherill and Chris Brown 2, 7, 5

Ladies Class 1 – 5 Doubles

Final

Cathy Mitton and Leanne Stephen b Jane Campbell and Hannah Coulthurst 9, 8, -7, 8

Third Place

Dzaier Neil and Betty Jeffrey b Claire Robertson and Lucie Bouron -9, 4, 4, 7

Mens Class 1 – 3 Singles

Final

Jamie Rawson b Paul Davies 9, 7, 6

Semi -Finals

Jamie Rawson b John Welsh 6, 7, 8

Paul Davies b Robert Davies 6, -9, -10, 6, 6

Mens Class 4 - 5 Singles

Final

Scott Robertson b Lee Hamill 0, 3, 1

Semi-Finals

Scott Robertson b Alan White 3, 6, 2

Lee Hamill b Shaun Newcomb 10, 5, -7, 9

Mens Class 6-10 Singles

Final

Will Bayley b Paul Karabardak 7, -8, 7, -8, 3

Semi-Finals

Will Bayley b David Wetherill 5, 5,, -7, 3

Paul Karabardak b Joe Stotesbury 4, -13, 6, 7

Mens Class 9-10 Singles

Final

Kim Daybell b Jason Evans 9, 7, 8

Mens Class 11 Singles

Final

Simon Green b Andrew Crocker 4, 7, 5

Third Place

Tom Williamson b Oliver Quayle 11, 5, 6

Ladies Class 1 – 9 Singles

Final

Jane Campbell b Claire Robertson -8, 5, 8, 3

Semi-Finals

Jane Campbell b Dzaier Neil 9, 10, 5

Claire Robertson b Cathy Mitton 7, 6, -8, 9