



East Region

Looking forward

Information for anyone involved in table tennis in the East Region.



Welcome to the 2007/08 season

Over the past 18 months I have been able to work with many of you on various schemes, many to have been very successful. I welcome more opportunities to work with clubs, leagues, counties or county school associations to work to strengthen table tennis in any particular area. Examples of work in other areas include;

- Coaching in schools creating links with existing or setting up of new clubs
- Putting a Coach education courses on
- Grant applications to fund equipment, coaching in schools, coach education etc.
- Facility development

East Region Performance Centre

A second lot of performance centre assessments took place on Sunday 7th October 2007 At BATTs, Norman Booth Centre, Harlow. All players were assessed and the coaches will choose players to begin attending the centre from September. Each County or Premier club were invited to send up to five players. Forms were sent out to all county and premier club secretaries. C

Sports Coach UK Level 1 Coach Education course

The first Level 1 UKCC coach education course was held on Sunday 29th September at BATTs, Norman Booth Centre, Harlow. This was the first of 3 days of the course, which was filled to a maximum of 12 people. The first day focused on practical and theory learning based, whilst the second day due to take place in November will involved a First Aid Course and a Sportscoach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children Course. The last day will be for assessments on all students.

NCL/NJL

The National Cadet league is up and running this season with 12 teams entering, with a couple of new teams Tiptree TTC and TT on Sea, which have both come from PESSCL and Community Sports Coach projects in the region. Some of the players in the NETTS teams this year have also come through these programs.

East Region U18 Club Competition

On the 19th May 2007 the first ever East Region Club competition was held at De Vere NETTS, Earls Colne, Braintree, Essex.



There were 6 entries at the start of the week but unfortunately Bury St Edmunds TTC had to withdraw. The event went ahead with 5 teams, which were Colchester, Acle Pirates, Chelmsford and two teams from De Vere NETTS. Although with fewer teams than was hoped for the event was a huge success, with all players enjoying the day. There were many upsets in the results as well as some excellent games on the day. The number 3 player From Acle Pirates coming up with a couple of excellent wins to take particular note as well as a win from Stevie Pell over Andrew McEwan of De Vere NETTS.

The winning team with two matches to go looked to be coming from either NETTS 1 or Colchester. They played against each other in the penultimate game with the winner likely to win the competition. The first 4 games all went to a deciding game but it was NETTS who held their nerve to come out ahead 3—1, two more excellent games and the finished result between the two teams finished De Vere NETTS 4 Colchester 2. This meant that Colchester had to win their match against Acle Pirates 6—0, whilst De Vere NETTS had to lose their match against Chelmsford for Colchester to be able to pick up the title. Although De Vere NETTS had some nervy moments in the first few games they never looked like losing their first place. The team of Bradley Hudgell, Andrew McEwan and Ashley Skeggs ran out winners with Colchester in second and the all girls team of Holly Stubbings, Hannah Pitt and Stevie Pell coming in third, with Acle Pirates fourth and De Vere NETTS 2 in 5th place.

East Regional Trials

The East regional trials will take place this year on the 1st and 2nd December. This event is used as a talent identification process for the ETTA and the 9 regions. It provides an opportunity to see the local talent from all counties in action at the same time, including some players that may be off the radar that do not play in competitions etc.

There are 3 age groups for boys and girls, these include U11, 13 and 15's. Each county is allowed to send up to five players in each category. Can I please encourage all counties to try and fill these places as best as possible, to make sure we see all the players which are out there in the counties. Whether they are relative beginners in the U11 section or have just started out in the U15's. Entries must go through the counties but if you have a player from your club in mind then please try and contact your county.

The top players in each category will then get the opportunity to represent their region in the National trials event later in the year.

If you have any questions or think you have a player that may be suitable and do not know your county contact then feel free to contact me on 07889152342 or greg.yarnall@etta.co.uk.

Maybe your player could be spotted as the next Paul or Darius, please do try to send as many players as possible.



Club section—advice and tips

Put a recycle bin in your club

Goodness knows how many bottles and cans of drink are thrown away at the end of a table tennis night or tournament. Try and do your bit for the environment and recycle these by putting a recycling box out at your club.

Create a link with your local school(s) to help to get a continuous flow of young players coming into the club. Contact Greg Yarnall on 07886603413 or greg.yarnall@englishtabletennis.org.uk to try and organise to do this.

Set up a junior section in your club/league if you have not got one already

Run a fundraising day, with half proceedings to the club/league and half to a charity.

Set up an over 50's session, these prove to be very popular within most clubs/leagues

Any clubs wishing to be accessible to disabled players and to have training to be able to coach disabled players why not join the ETTA's 'Ability Program'. As part of the program the ETTA will put on a daylong Disability Awareness Course

Have a new members day where you can advertise a free taster session to the wider community, advertise through local papers and signs around the town. To help in promotion please feel free to contact me

Work towards achieving Clubmark status (Sport England cross sport club accreditation system). More and more schools, funding bodies, Local Councils are recognising this and some will only work with clubs with this accreditation. In the near future these places are likely not to work with un-accredited clubs at all.

Community Sport Coaches

We now have 4 separate CSC projects in the region, all of which are in Essex at present. These projects exist in Tiptree, Chelmsford, Halstead, and Southend on Sea. The coach in each of these School Sport partnerships (group of schools) completes between 10 and 15 hours a week.

To date between 3000-4000 young people have been introduced to table tennis with many of these continuing to play in clubs.

New CSC

There are soon to be two more Coaches appointed one in Bedford for 3 days a week as part of the dfes CSC funding. This funding focuses in particular on Key Stages 2-3, which is the older children in secondary schools. It has been found that this is the age when most children are dropping out of sport. To try and combat this funding has been made available to keep people in sport at this age.

The other post will cover coaching across Harlow and Davenant, 1 day a week will be spent in primary schools in the Harlow area, with links to BATTs. This funding became available through the Awards for All grant programme (anyone interested in doing something similar please contact me on 07889152342 or greg.yarnall@etta.co.uk). The other days coaching will take place in Davenant, with funding becoming available through the same programme mentioned above in the Bedford project.

More coaching taking place

In addition to this I know there are many coaches doing fantastic jobs in their local areas; including Peter Fordham and Maurice Fearn in Bury St Edmunds/Rougham, Malcolm Norris across Hertfordshire with a team of coaches helping him out. There is some excellent work in Norwich with the Kettles project and in Framlingham Earl with Peter Avennel.

All your work is greatly appreciated, you are helping to build the future of our sport. If there is anyone else that would wish to get involved in coaching or a club then please again let me know. All schools welcome table tennis coaching, as existing clubs also welcome feeders, coaches and helpers.

ETTA CONFERENCE 2007

There was another excellent ETTA Conference again this year, this time with a regional focus. There were many inspirational talks including UK Sport Chair Sue Cambell and Paralympic Swimming Gold medallist Marc Woods.

Also in the programme were many informative talks from people in high places. All of the presentations given highlighted the ever growing importance of the club structure and achieving Clubmark status. Highlighted by the ETTA a number of years ago with the Premier club programme, Sport England and the other main Sporting agencies have also recognised the importance and need of a strong club structure. Gaining Clubmark accreditation and joining Governing Bodies Premier Club schemes will provide more and more benefits to clubs as years go on, as well as being an important tool to help clubs ensure they have the correct guidelines and procedures in place, to be a successful club for many years to come.

The Conference also brought o light the fact that many funding streams, which have before gone through a national process will now go through the regions. An example of this is the Club and Coach fund, which work is soon to begin on. This will involve a hub club coach working across chosen clubs in each region. There will also be an opportunity for the coach to visit other clubs, to mentor coaches throughout the regions, to help improve standards of coaching. Pots of money were applied to Sport England on a regional basis and 8 out of the 9 regions across England were lucky enough to receive funding for a full time regional coach, including the East Region.

CSN's

CSN's were also highlighted as a key area for clubs to working with. CSN stands for Community Sports Network and is part of the delivery system for Sport in this country. Every local area should now have a CSN in place or be in place very soon. It is worthwhile trying to contact your local CSN if you can to see if you are able to work with them in any way. Funding opportunities are sometimes available through these avenues. Feel free to contact me with any questions or to find the contact for your local CSN.

Regional Commitees

As a result of the information gathered through the ETTA Conference a long awaited regional committee is in the process of being put together, aiming to bring together the key people from across the region.