

BATTS Premier Challenge Begins at Home!



We had fantastic news recently about our campaign for the British League in the new season.

Earlier in the summer we were faced with a bit of a dilemma. Our heroic team, led by captain **Jimmy Walsh** had secured promotion to the Premier Division, but we also knew that the standard of play in the Premier would be vastly higher than Division One. It is somewhat similar to the situation in football, but in table tennis the gulf is even greater, with Division One operating on a regional basis.

Fortunately, now that our leading coaches, **Adam Nutland** and **Peter Cleminson** are going to be available for BATTs, we knew we would have the foundation of what could be a successful squad. With additional players becoming available, we knew that we would really want to have a Division

One team as well. We already had a team in Division Two but they had not been promoted.

Luckily, the negotiation for this was in Neil's capable hands, and we learned that our wish for an additional team had been granted.

Hot on the heels of this great news came another huge bonus. BATTs had been chosen to host the first weekend of matches in the Premier Division.

This means that on the weekend of **Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th September** we will have a feast of world-class table tennis on show at BATTs.

We know that this will draw in plenty of spectators, and we hope that our own members and their families will take the opportunity to cheer on our top team as they set off on their challenge against the country's leading players.

Play is scheduled to begin at 10am on both days. Entry will be free, and the cafeteria will be open all day.

During the lunch interval we plan to put on a **fun table tennis challenge** that can be entered by **anyone**, with prizes for the winners.

Later in September BATTs will also be hosting a set of Division One matches in which our second team will be competing. So that is another date for your diary: the weekend 26th and 27th September.

Our third team will need to travel to Northants for their matches, but it will give a great opportunity for some of our younger players, under the captaincy of **Josh Dye**, to gain valuable experience playing at senior level.

Log into our [Facebook Page](#) for updates.

Summer Fun at BATTs



A series of Summer Camps held at BATTs during the first week of August was a popular event for our juniors. The formula masterminded by Head Coach Adam proved to be a huge success: over the four days, 46 players notched up a total of 99 attendances. We were delighted to see our youngsters so keen to carry on improving over the summer. Adam, Peter and Josh did a superb job in mixing fun with serious hard work and plenty of competitions.

Membership Renewal Time!

As the new season approaches, it is time to update you about some important membership issues. Please read this carefully, because it involves all members of BATTs including the parents and carers of our junior coaching squads.

BATTs Membership – this section concerns our SENIOR members

BATTs Annual Membership is due from 1st September and it would be very helpful if you could renew as soon as possible to avoid us having to chase with reminders. We are pleased to confirm that the full adult membership rate has again been maintained at £144 with an additional £20 if you are registered to play in the Harlow Table Tennis League.

If you prefer, you can pay the annual membership by standing order at £15 per month. That does not include the £20 league fee which must be paid separately as a one-off amount by 1st September.

We strongly prefer payment of the BATTs membership (and HTTL fee if appropriate) to be made by direct BACS transfer into the BATTs bank account [Sort Code: 77-13-10 Account: 23166968]

If you prefer, you can pay by cheque or cash to Neil, Sharon or Graham but if you choose the monthly payment option this must be by standing order.

BATTs Membership— Junior Coaching Squads

The monthly fees for coaching will remain at the same level next year - full details are on the BATTs website.

Non-Members—Visitors Fees

Adult visitors fees remain at £5 per session. For juniors who take part in our coaching squads the fee will also be £5 per session.

Table Tennis England Membership – this concerns ALL MEMBERS including juniors

All members of BATTs, whether junior or senior, must also be members of Table Tennis England and this involves paying an annual fee direct to them. The level of membership depends on various things – in particular whether the member will be participating in any local or national competitions.

New rates for TTE membership have now been established effective from 1st August. If players representing the club do not register with TTE at the appropriate level any results cannot be entered and would be invalid. Even if you do not represent BATTs or play in competitions it is still necessary to join TTE to ensure you are covered by our insurance.

We shall be checking the TTE database to ensure all our members have joined, but please help us to avoid unnecessary chasing by visiting the following TTE page where you can find all the details for payment:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/>

SUPERCARGE YOUR TABLE TENNIS! BATTs PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP

All members of BATTs can take advantage of our **Premium Membership**, allowing you to receive **regular one to one coaching** with one of our top coaches. If you are serious about wanting to improve your play this is the way to do it.

Premium Membership is available to everyone who is a member. That means, for senior players, anyone who pays on an annual or monthly basis via standing order. For juniors, and members of our coaching squads (beginner, B or A squad) members are those who pay monthly via standing order.

There are **two levels** of Premium Membership that you can choose:

GOLD Membership: this entitles you to **four hours** of one to one coaching each month.

SILVER Membership: this entitles you to **two hours** of one to one coaching each month.

How much does it cost? – These are the monthly charges

FOR MEMBERS OF COACHING SQUADS	GOLD	SILVER
Beginners (currently paying £10 per month)	£90	£50
B Squad (currently paying £18 per month)	£98	£58
A Squad (currently paying £25 per month)	£105	£65
FOR SENIOR CLUB MEMBERS – additional monthly charge	£80	£40

How does it work?

When you sign up for Premium Membership you will be given access to a Record Sheet for your coaching. On completion of your one to one lessons the coach will mark your Record Sheet indicating the date and time of your coaching.

Can I carry over hours if I don't use them?

Yes, subject to the availability of coaches.

When and how can I sign up?

Any time! Simply make your payment into the BATTs account [Sort code 77-13-10 Account 23166968] or adjust your regular monthly payment. Send Graham Frankel an email [grahamf.batts@gmail.com] to confirm you have made the payment and he will send you the link to your Record Sheet.

Can I cancel at any time?

Yes. There is no ongoing commitment apart from the current month. Refunds will not normally be made retrospectively and we expect you to let us know if you wish to cease the Premium Membership.



BATTS Junior Open League Still Time to Enter



We are very pleased with the number of entries for our exciting new league competition for youngsters. The league starts on **Saturday 19th September** and is open to any junior (up to school year

10). All matches will be played at BATTs on Saturday afternoons starting at 1pm and finishing by about 5pm.

We have six afternoons booked between September and March, when prizes will be awarded.

Although this is a league, you don't need to find a team to join, because entry is on an individual basis. Full details and a registration form can be found on our website [HERE](#)

Don't delay if you would like to join the league - closing date is 4th September.

Dipping into TT History

There is a wonderful online magazine devoted to the early days of table tennis. Chuck Hoey has put together a fascinating collection. Some amazing material, including rackets that even our Fred would struggle with. Click [HERE](#) to see Chuck's latest edition.



Lessons from the Youngsters



Collapsing contentedly in the sofa at the end of our Grass Roots tournament on 31st May I began to start thinking about why I was so pleased with the day. There were many reasons. We had an excellent turnout of just over 40 young players from at least six different clubs in our area. Almost everyone expected had turned up, and we got through the day on schedule and with no major problems. It was a super effort from my colleagues in the BATTs coaching team, with Adam and Peter putting on a brilliant and entertaining lunchtime exhibition and other fun activities, and helpful support from Alan Morley throughout the day. It was also wonderful to see some excellent play from some of our recent recruits to the coaching squads. Most of our players were at least a couple of years younger than many of the visitors, and yet we had four of the eight quarter finalists, including the eventual winner Charlie Read who put in a superb performance to win the

final. This was Charlie's first tournament after starting to train at BATTs less than six months earlier. We shall be seeing a lot more from Charlie, and there are plenty of other keen hopefuls.

Apart from that, it was great to see how the players were all so keen to use any spare table to carry on playing at times when they were not involved in matches. Just confirms our view that table tennis is a fundamentally popular sport. There are some people who would have us believe otherwise – I wish they'd been there. And when we got to the knockout stage, almost everyone stayed on to watch the exciting finals – what a welcome change from other tournaments where the finals have been played to almost-empty halls.

All that was good, but perhaps the icing on the cake was to see the behaviour of the players. The tournament was tough and competitively

played, but there was something refreshingly missing. At various times, I wandered down the hall, watching the play on all 10 tables. At no time did I see any tantrums or rude behaviour, I didn't hear a single "cho" or "allez" or even a combination of the two. Also absent was the intimidation that is so sadly evident in other tournaments. The parents and coaches were of course interested in what was happening, and there was plenty of applause during the exciting knockout stages, but the applause was for excellent rallies and shots, not the monotonous slow hand-clapping that is often heard from coaches who somehow feel they are motivating their players or perhaps demotivating the opposition.

Maybe some experienced competitors could look in at our next Grass Roots – they might learn a thing or two from the youngsters.

Graham

Congratulations



Ethan Walsh performed superbly at Sheffield to win the Under 13 National Championships for the third time in June. He also came very close to winning the Under 14 title, but just lost in the fifth set having played more than 60 sets during the day. BBC Newsround were on hand and Ethan was shown playing in one of his finals, and then being interviewed by Denise Payet, winner of the girls U14 singles. Ethan also reached the final of the U14 boys doubles, partnered by Harry Dai (Yorkshire). Congratulations also to **Alana Mansfield** who reached the quarter finals of the U11 girls.



Joe Walker has turned in some outstanding performances at tournaments around the country. Some of his recent successes include: quarter finals of the cadet event and semi finals of the junior event at Bishop Auckland; quarter finals in the cadet and 3rd place in the junior at the Horsham 2 star; semi final of the cadet event at Burton Uxbridge.

As a result Joe has risen an astonishing 175 places in the cadet national ranking since January. But he is not resting on his laurels - there are more targets ahead.



Luke Jones and **Josh Poland** recently obtained their UKCC Level One coaching qualifications after attending the course held over 3 weekends at BATTs under the watchful eye of tutor Phil Ashleigh.



Our latest two winners of the Jack Petchey Award were Ray Yan (June) and Benjamin Sivathanu (July) shown here being presented with their certificates by Head Coach Adam Nutland. Winners are chosen by the coaching team based on their performance and attitude to training.

BATTs SUPER SERIES

**CASH PRIZES -
ENTER NOW!**

Starting in September we shall be running an exciting series of tournaments. Competitors will be guaranteed plenty of matches during each event, and there are CASH PRIZES to be won.

The first three are:

Friday 4th September—SENIOR

Sunday 4th October - JUNIOR

Sunday 22nd November - CADET

For more information and the entry forms see our website:

www.batts.org.uk/content/tournaments

We were delighted to learn that every BATTs player who entered the assessment day held in July was successful in gaining a place in the Eastern Region Development Squad. This means they are eligible to take part in the coaching sessions held through the year and potentially progress to the Regional "B" and "A" squads if they continue improving. So well done all: **Christian Brissett, Diesel Harvey, Jaz Harvey, Toby Morning, Cody Prentice, Charlie Read.**

