

Ramsbottom Table Tennis Academy

***April 2010 Newsletter***

www.tabletennisacademy.co.uk

# **More New Members**

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Another aim of ours has been to have the first session just for ‘beginners’ and the second for those who have improved their TT skills. Because we have always wanted to encourage new members we haven’t restricted which session everyone came to.

For the first time since we started the Academy we have had to put new enquiries on to a ‘waiting list’ because, especially the first session, is getting full. Not only is it hard for our coaches to give everyone the attention we want to it is also unfair on everyone attending and we are not happy with this.

***This is what we want to do.***

The first session will be for beginners and our coaches will go through the register to see who they want in the first session. The coaching in this session will be using

the *BUTTERFLY SKILLS* manual which our coaches have just purchased on order to improve your basic TT skills.

The second session will be using our programme where we concentrate on a new stroke/skill each week.

***How will we do this?***

Through these next 12 weeks before we break for summer holidays (last session 2nd July) we plan to, by mutual agreement, move anyone coming to session 1 and if we feel they would be better off coming to session 2 to ask them to change. Likewise if anyone coming to session 2 and we feel they would be better off in session 1 we would encourage you to change. If you can’t change then we will still give you coaching at your level, either the Butterfly Skills or our planned session.

Because of this increase in numbers and our aim to have everyone coming to the most appropriate session for their skills we can no longer accommodate anyone coming for BOTH sessions.

We hope you will agree with this change but please contact us if you have any concerns.

## Improved Sessions

**In the last few weeks you will have noticed the numbers attending Fridays have been increasing. This has always been our aim to fill all of the tables in both sessions.**

Castle Leisure Centre recently bought a new table tennis table and we have been able to use that in our sessions to increase them to 8. Because of the funding that we have received we have the funds to purchase a new table which we are going to get in the next few weeks. We will have a look at the space we have in the hall to see if we can set up 9 tables to give us even more capacity. Watch this space!

## IMPROVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

As you are probably aware we do have a Club Membership Form which all of you have completed giving us basic contact information about you and especially emergency contact details. As far as a ‘club membership’ goes that’s all we do.

We have already talked about the increasing numbers attending our coaching sessions. One of the biggest difficulty we have in trying to plan the sessions is that we have no idea from week to week how many are coming. At our recent Committee Meeting the idea was floated about having a club membership.

***How would we do this?***

We would ask for payment of each full session i.e. the next one is 16th April to 2nd July in advance. For this period it would be 12 weeks at £2.50 = £30.

***Why do we want to do this?***

At the moment the sessions are a sort of ‘pay and go’ arrangement rather than having ‘ownership’ of a membership to our Academy. We would like you to feel that you are a member of the Academy. *We have no desire to charge a membership fee.*

By paying in advance it also enables us to plan the sessions better because we will know from week to week who is coming through the door. I’m sure some of you attending the first session’s recently will have seen our difficulty in coping with the numbers which does not give you value for money. It also makes it very difficult for our coaches to plan the sessions properly.

***When do we want to do this?***

We would first of all like your feedback about this idea. Please email Keith if you have ANY concerns.

Once we have your feedback and there were no major objections we would plan to start this on Friday 3rd September; the start of the autumn session.

At the end of this new session will be the end of our second year! Where does the time go?

By the end of the summer session those of you who have been with us from the start will have had your club shirts for two years. In that time most of you will have grown some.

This season some of you have played in competitions/local leagues and whilst our shirts give is a club identity they are not the table tennis specific shirts (Stiga, Butterfly, Joola and the like) as some of you will have noticed.

We plan to get new shirts for everyone during the summer break; ready for starting back on the 3rd September. Looking through the catalogues the colour will have to change. They are mainly red, blue, black and yellow. We will let you know what colour we decide on.

We were very fortunate to get some funding last year for new club shirts. In the funding application we based the cost on our current shirts so it won’t cover the full cost.

From our first enquiries about the shirts we envisage that we would need you to contribute somewhere between £5 and £10. We will get the best deal we can.

If any of you want to get matching shorts we can let you know the specific name of the shirt we get and our supplier and you can order direct.

The only slight problem is that sizes only start at adult xxs which is about child size 11to 12. There are a few of you smaller than that so, if not too big we would have to get you the smallest size and hope you soon ‘grow into it’.

## NEW CLUB SHIRTS

*…the idea was floated about having a club membership*

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For the newer members who have just joined us our ‘scheme’ for getting a shirt is that you come to our sessions at least four times before we get you shirt.

We have to order at least four at a time and in view of our plans to get specific TT shirts during the summer break we don’t propose to get any more of our existing shirts.

However we do have some spares and listed here are the sizes we have.

If you have been to four of our sessions and we haven’t asked you about getting a club shirt please let Keith know and you can have one.

All we ask for is a contribution of £2 towards this shirt.

SIZE QUANTITY

Age 7 to 8 1

Aged 9 to 10 1

Aged 11 to 12 3

Adult XS 2

Adult Small 1

The same applies to your own bat. If you have been four times then you must be keen to improve your TT skills. We do then insist that you get your own bat so you become familiar with the same one.

There is a whole range of different ‘blades’ you can get and even more different rubbers. We would only get a ‘beginners’ bat most suitable for your standard.

A bat and cover cost £15 and you can order them from Keith.

## Some more about club shirts…and your own bat







Competition Play

Some of you have played in Local Leagues, the ETTA Cadet League and a 1star Junior Tournament with very good success considering this is our first year experiencing competitive play.

**BURY LEAGUE**

Callum and Nick played in the 5th Division supported by our coaches Paul and late arrival Neil who has proved to be far too good for this division. Their results are:

Callum played 18 and won 15. Nick played 21 and won 10. Paul played 36 and won 34.

Neil played 42 and won 42! The team finished top of the division by a clear margin and will be in division 4 next season.

**LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE JUNIOR LEAGUE**

13 year old Nick was called upon to play in this under 16’s league at short notice. He won both his matches playing at this higher level. Well done Nick.

**ETTA NATIONAL CADET LEAGE**

As the event says it is just for cadets so, unlike the local leagues, playing people of the same age. We had a squad of six and each played in two out of the first three fixtures. It was agreed before hand that the best three in terms of results would play in the last fixture but because of holidays and other commitments we couldn’t quite do that. The squad of six was Callum, Danny, David, Nick, Tom and Reece. Callum, Nick and David played the last fixture.

We were in division two of three divisions and finished fourth out of eight teams. An excellent result in our first attempt.

Competition Play…cont’d

**ETTA NATIONAL CADET LEAGE…cont’d**

The individual results are as follows:

**Name Played Won %**

Callum 28 23 82

Nick 28 15 54

Tom 13 6 46

David 28 12 43

Reece 16 5 31

Danny 12 3 25

The age qualification this year was anyone must have been born on or after 1st January 1995 so we presume that will change to 1996 next season. Callum, Nick and Reece would still qualify to play in the Cadet League next season. We have every intention of entering next season so get practicing everyone and you may be our next ‘superstar’

End of Spring Programme 10 Sports Challenge

**BUTTERFLY SKILLS AWARDS**

As well as having two levels for coaching all our players will be trying to gain Butterfly Skills Bronze Awards. This we mentioned earlier in the IMPROVED SESSIONS article.

All players will have an individual record card with the tasks to be achieved indicated.

There are three distinct levels of achievement in the Bronze category. You are aiming for certificates and a prize. Full details will be explained to you at the first session back on 16th April.

**SUMMER FRIENDLY MATCHES**

Already a number of these are being arranged at the moments. Details to follow.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

There will be no coaching on Friday 7th May. Unfortunately the hall is being used for Local Elections. We will remind you nearer the time but please take note of this date.

This is to take place in Bryan’s Garden, 851 Burnley Road, Bury BL9 5JT on Friday 9th April at 6pm to 830pm. For those who didn’t come to the last one it involves 10 ‘fun sports’ and you will need to bring your TT bat with you. Please come in suitable casual wear. For more details contact Bryan on 0161 797 5082.

Summer Programme

…and finally

For those parents who want an update on Keith’s new Grand Daughter, Eva May here is a photo of her this week with her Mum. She is now just over 15 lbs and has more than doubled her birth weight and is just over 4 months old.

