

ESSEX COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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Essex Coaching & Development Programme for Cadet and Junior Players 2013-2014

Essex Coaching and Development Officer, Stuart Gibbs, has embarked on an exciting new programme of coaching and development opportunities for cadet and junior players in the county. Stuart will be providing opportunities for young players in the county to train together and is determined to raise the standard of play within Essex. He is determined that the county's junior representative teams will once again, be leading contenders for national honours, as they were in his playing days.

Since taking up his position as Coaching and Developing Officer within the county, Stuart has organised pilot training sessions for cadet and junior players. These sessions proved to be very popular with young players and parents alike. Stuart was also anxious to involve the metropolitan boroughs of the county and not to restrict his programme to those players playing in the part of the county included in the ETTA Eastern Region. ECTTA are grateful to Paul Morris, John Mansfield and Mossfield TTC in Ilford for their support in helping this vision to become a reality.

Stuart has now formed a Junior Development Squad comprising 28 young players from Essex. This squad held their inaugural training session in April and will meet on a monthly basis at the Booth Academy of Table Tennis (BATTs) in Harlow throughout the forthcoming season. The ECTTA Committee are particularly grateful to Neil Brierley and the management team at BATTs for their wholehearted and generous support for the new initiatives that are taking place in the county.

Dates for the training sessions have been arranged as follows:

Sunday 1st September 2013
Sunday, 1st October 2013
Sunday, 3rd November 2013
Sunday, 1st December 2013
Sunday, 12th January 2014
Sunday, 9th February 2013
Sunday, 1st March 2014
Sunday, 6th April 2014
Sunday, 18th May 2014
Sunday, 1st June 2014
Sunday, 6th July 2014

Please note that the training dates for January, February and May 2014 have been amended in order that our young players can participate fully in the programme of training activities organised within the ETTA Eastern Region. Young players at our most recent development squad training session were reminded that training in Essex should not be 'instead of', but 'as well as'. The more time you are able to commit to training, the more you will improve!

Stuart is hoping to run additional training sessions in June and July this year. We are hoping to finalise dates with BATTs within the next couple of weeks. These dates will be posted on the ECTTA website so please visit this site regularly for updates. Players will also be contacted by email to inform them of the dates for June and July.

In addition to the Development Squad, a Performance Squad will be formed at the beginning of the 2013-2014 season. This squad will support those young players who will represent Essex in inter-county representative matches during next season. Further details of this group will be published on the ECTTA website as soon as arrangements and dates have been finalised.

ECTTA is committed to working in close partnership with the ETTA Eastern Region team. The new programme in Essex has the full support of ETTA Eastern Region Coach, Stephen Gertsen. Stephen said "It is great that juniors in Essex will have a regular opportunity to train together."

Further information regarding the training groups will be forwarded to parents/carers of the young players involved by email and will also be published on this website. Please check back regularly for new details.