

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NEW JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

There are many schools in the Bournemouth and District area where students regularly play table tennis either before the lesson time starts or after it has finished. Matt Ware, Coaching Officer for Bournemouth and District Table Tennis Association (BDTTA) and other BDTTA coaches have been invited in to those schools to coach and encourage participation in our sport. However, although it appears the students are keen to play the game, they have little experience of competitive table tennis where they can develop their skills. There appears to be no pathway for these young people to take in order to find their way into the senior league.

Following a series of meetings between groups representing Poole and District TT Association, BDTTA, Dorset TT Centre and a representative of Table Tennis England (TTE), it was agreed that a new junior league should be formed, in order to provide a competition framework for junior girls and boys under the age of 15 years, which could tap into those latent skills. Joola Ltd, through the good services of Bribar TT Ltd, has agreed to sponsor the league with table tennis balls and prizes (vouchers), for the first year of competition. They will review the arrangement at the end of that period. Other funding will be from TTE and fees paid by those who sign up to the league.

It was also agreed that the league would meet on a monthly basis, which will take place on Saturday mornings between 10am and 1pm, at the Dorset Table Tennis Centre, The Grange School, Redvers Road, Christchurch. BH23 3AU. There will be nine meetings, which are scheduled for - Term One: 14/10/17, 11/11/17, 09/12/18. Term Two: 13/01/18, 17/02/18, 17/03/18 and Term Three: 21/04/18, 19/05/18, 02/06/18.

The new junior league will be run by Matt Ware, who is an England International player, and his helpers, and be semi-autonomous for each league meeting, both for the purposes of play as well as funding. However, it has been agreed that the league will need to have a formal administrative structure. As both Phil Hadley and Gordon White were wearing two hats at the formation meeting it was agreed, in principle, that the Bournemouth Association (BDTTA) should be that administrative cover. Phil Hadley will Chair all further meetings of the group, Gordon will act as both Secretary and Welfare Officer and Tony Viney, will act as its Treasurer. In other words, the administration of the Junior League will be treated as if it were a sub-committee of the Bournemouth Associations Executive Committee.

Currently the only costs involved will be the future bookings of the Table Tennis Centre, which will be covered by player's fees taken in advance. Each young player will be registered with Table Tennis England as an Associate Player, so that all insurances required for this venture are in place. The new league will be invited to use the Associations Website for its league reports and promotion literature and will have its own heading on the Home page.

It is hoped that as many schools local to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Districts will support this new venture and would be prepared to advertise and encourage their younger students to enrol in the League. The date for the enrolment is set for Saturday 9th September at the Dorset Table Tennis Centre between 10am and 1.00pm. During this time there will be a table tennis exhibition match between two England International players, and coaching thereafter.

If you need further information, please contact Gordon White on 01202 428114 or 07716 880536 or email gwhite@lacelles.co.uk