BATH JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS ACADEMY

The Academy has been established to provide coaching for promising juniors around the Bath area. Jointly funded by the League and parents, 10 two-hour sessions have taken place at Ralph Allen School (RAS) from September to December on Monday evenings.

The coaching has gone extremely well with all 12 participants completing the programme. Coach Eddie Roofe stated in his Report to the League that he was “really pleased with the improvements made by each player”. The parents too have been pleased with the results and all 12 juniors have signed up for a further 10 sessions in the Spring, funded by the League and parents on the same basis.

Five of the juniors competed in the Avon Junior Championships, enjoying the competition and performing well. Greg Rowland won the Under 13 competition. Looking ahead Eddie is introducing more advanced techniques and a competitive element in the next 10 sessions to prepare participants to play in the Bath League and National Cadet League.

Eddie Roofe has indicated that he would be happy to provide a senior coaching session on the Monday following the Junior Academy. The Coaching and Development Committee are currently investigating this, along with the need to improve the equipment at RAS.

The Chief Executive Officer of RAS has said the School would be very open to developing the relationship with the BDTTL, including being part of a Centre of Excellence with the possibility of some NGB funding to improve local equipment.