**SWTTC Coaching Report 2014-15 Season for the AGM September 2015**

I would just like to express my sincere thanks to David and Martyn for all their hard work and enthusiasm during the past season. Both Martyn and myself had operations during the year but as a team we managed to carry on by pitching in and helping one another. My thanks also to our two hardworking ladies, Charlotte and Jenna, for providing many hours of their time checking in children, handing out forms and all those many duties we coaches hate.

Overall the season was a successful one. We have maintained good coaching numbers for most of the time and have tried out new ideas on how we group children during the sessions. We have had many new players join us and a number who have left us.That is to be expected. Sometimes the sessions are very busy but we have tried to accommodate all levels of play.

Last season we ran a Winchester Primary Schools Table Tennis League for several weeks followed by a tournament for those who had attended previously. The great majority of the youngsters had not played previously but they soon became accustomed to how to play the game and how to umpire. We had 5 schools joining us with one school providing a second team. The Mayor of Winchester joined us on two occasions, presenting awards at her second visit. We had a large photo on the front page of the Hampshire Chronicle which helped to promote our club.

As a result of the League we gained a number of new players who signed up for coaching so it proved very successful. We are holding another League this term and hope to gain many new players as a result. I would like to again thank Charlotte and Jenna for all their hard work organising the teams. A thank you also to Martin Healey for both organising and setting up and maintaining a Primary Schools section on the Winchester Table Tennis League. Many thanks to Jill Wilson and Russell Durham for all their assistance.

As a result of the coaching many of the children improved during the season so much so that they have been registered to play for South Wonston teams in the Winchester Table Tennis League. With adult guidance we hope they will continue to improve and make the top division soon.

The more the children receive coaching and the more they play the greater the improvement. Therefore some additional sessions were arranged at South Wonston Hall for a smaller number of players who were given more individual and concentrated coaching than is normally possible. David helped on a number of occasions and we agreed that such an approach resulted in rapid improvements being made. The club subsidised those sessions and I am very grateful for that.

We also arranged a 2-day coaching session for invited players during Easter this year. I organised the sessions and was very ably supported by Tressa Armitage. We had 17 attend on one day and 20 on another. A great success. Many thanks to Tressa for her help.

Other coaching sessions have been run in schools. I have coached once a week at Harestock Primary and am again there this term. I have also arranged a couple of sessions at Winnall Primary and am coaching this term at Pilgrims School in Winchester.

There have been a number of initiatives this year and hopefully player improvement will occur as a result.

How can parents help us to achieve further? Winchester area children are incredibly fortunate in the choice of sports they have available both for playing and coaching - and also in the non-sporting activities too. It is this which can frustrate coaches because it is often difficult to get together groups of children for coaching because the children have other commitments. Both David and I appreciate that for players to achieve their potential they need total dedication to table tennis and a huge parental support in terms of expenditure, taxiing their children to matches and tournaments and a host of other juggling. If we had a special wish it would be for that commitment!

Paddy Shephard

16.09.15