

# Table Tennis Ulster



March 2010

## Ulster retain Senior Interprovincial Title!

Ulster (sponsored by STIGA), retained the Senior Inter-provincial table tennis title at Castlebar in fine style with a brilliant final 6-4 victory over old enemy Leinster, with no less than three of the five player squad being still in the junior ranks.

Ashley Robinson (15 years) from Clogher was the star of the show with a pair of senior scalps in the final with exceptional wins over National champion John Murphy and leading junior Sam Logue. Robinson's raw talent was recognised by the National Body at the Championship Dinner when he was awarded the new Tommy Caffrey 'Player of the Tournament' trophy.

Top Ulster male Paul McCreery (17 years) from Crossgar was equally impressive as he continued his meteoric rise with vital wins over Murphy, to reverse the

2010 National Championship Men's final score line, and over the 2009 Irish champ Gavin Maguire.

Ulster anchor Daryl Strong (Queens) gave his customary consistent performance by taking out Maguire, after being match point down. Ulster's female starlet Ashley Givan (14 years) from Dungannon secured the Ulster gold medal with an impressive five set win over Sabina Devereux.

New cap Gillian Richardson, replacing injured pair Amanda Mogeey and Claire Nelson, was at ease as Ulster ground out easy wins over Munster (9-1) and Connacht (8-2), under the dynamic leadership of Andy Dennison, replacing former Ulster Coach Jing Yi Graham.

Mark McGuiggan (Ballymoney) led from the front for the Ulster Under 21

side, but his team could only manage Bronze, while he was justly recognised by being short-listed alongside Leinster veteran Kevin Mackey and Ashley Robinson for the Caffrey Trophy.

The U21 side were extremely unlucky to lose 5-6 to Munster after leading 5-2 and losing 3 matches in the fifth end, however were too strong for Connacht winning 8-2.

Leinster proved to be a step too far with Leinster running out as 6-2 winners. McGuiggan and Andrew Loane won one each for the side.

Leinster dominated the Veteran Category, leaving Norman Nabney's Ulster squad back in bronze medal spot.

The Veterans were also unlucky to finish in the bronze medal position after losing several matches in the

fifth set.

However Ulster continued its supremacy with that momentous Senior title, adding to its Junior Inter-pro gold success in 2009.

Stiga Irish Inter-provincial Table Tennis Results:

**Senior:** 1. Ulster; 2. Leinster; 3. Munster; 4. Connacht.

**Veteran:** 1. Leinster; 2. Connacht; 3. Ulster; 4. Munster.

**Under 21:** 1. Leinster; 2. Munster; 3. Ulster; 4. Connacht.

*Picture courtesy of Josephine Givan*



The Ulster Senior Team with their medals and Interprovincial shield

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# Table Tennis Ulster



## Givan crowned Irish National Senior Champion!

Ashley Givan was crowned Irish Senior National Ladies Champion with Paul McCreery crowned National U21 Men's Champion.

Givan who at the tender age of 14 displayed maturity beyond her years to win the Ladies Singles Title at this prestigious event. Givan's route to the final was not easy, with Givan having to face Fiona Dennett (Cheshire) at the quarter final stage.. Last time these two players met, Dennett was the victor, however it was Givan who came out all guns blazing showing why she is regarded as one of the most talented players to come through the junior ranks. Givan eased to a 3-0 victory against Dennett to set up a semi final clash against Sara Dolan (Leinster). Givan steam-rolled to a comfortable 2-0 lead, however Dolan fought back to bring it back to 2-2 resulting in a fifth set shoot-out. It looked ominous for Givan when Dolan took an 8-6 lead. A time out was immediately called by her coach, and Givan took the next 4 points to lead 10-8. Dolan won the next point, however that was to be her

last point won as Ashley clinched the next point to win 11-9.

Givan then faced fellow Irish junior team mate Rebecca Kenny (Leinster) in the final. Ashley was always that one step ahead of Kenny dominating in the rallies with excellent top spinning and counter punching to win 3-0 and clinch her first Irish Senior National Title.

Unfortunately number one seed Amanda Mogeey had to pull out on the day due to a neck injury whilst fellow Ulster and Irish team mate Claire Nelson is also currently sidelined due to a knee injury. Table Tennis Ulster wishes both girls a speedy recovery.

The Men's contest was eagerly anticipated with the likes of Paul McCreery, John Murphy, Conor Nolan, Daryl Strong, Peter Graham, Keith Knox and Gavin Maguire all in contention with claiming the title. Paul McCreery Irish National number 1, fresh from his winning exploits in Fermanagh and Cardiff justifiably was seeded first with John Murphy seeded in sec-

ond position. McCreery eased through to the quarter finals where he met the talented Declan O'Brien from Munster. Paul duly won 3-1 to set up a semi final clash against Ulster team mate Keith Knox. Paul dominated throughout this match with some excellent play from both players, however McCreery was the more consistent of the two with McCreery time and time again producing winners from all angles.

Meanwhile in the other half of the draw, John Murphy was steadily making progress. Murphy faced Peter Graham (Belfast) in the quarter-finals. A great match ensued between these two players who have had some classic battles in the past. After some high quality play, Murphy edged home 11-9 in the fifth to set up a semi final clash with Daryl Strong (Ulster). Murphy was always that one step quicker and all though Strong bravely fought, it wasn't to be with Murphy closing the match out in 3 sets. Strong is to be commended for a fantastic season and fully deserves his top 4 ranking in Ireland.

This set up a final clash between McCreery and Murphy; perhaps the most eagerly anticipated match of the day. McCreery went out all guns blazing winning the first set after Murphy had taken a sizable lead. However, Murphy upped his intensity to win the next 3 sets after a fantastic display from both players. Murphy has a fantastic record at this event with this being his third

Men's Singles National Title.

However, McCreery picked himself back up again, winning the U21 Men's singles title defeating Daniel Keenan (Leinster).

The pairing of McCreery and Graham reached the final of the Men's Doubles losing out in a tight match to Murphy and Conor Nolan.

### Results

#### Men's Singles

1. John Murphy (L)
2. Paul McCreery (U)
3. Daryl Strong (U)
3. Keith Knox (U)

#### Women's Singles

1. Ashley Givan (U)
2. Rebecca Kenny (L)
3. Sara Dolan (L)
3. Clodagh McCullagh (L)

#### U21 Men's

1. Paul McCreery (U)
2. Daniel Keenan (L)

#### U21 Women's

1. Sara Dolan (L)
2. Rebecca Kenny (L)

#### Men's Doubles

1. J. Murphy/C. Nolan
- P. McCreery/P. Graham

#### Women's Doubles

1. F. Dennett/S. Dolan
2. R. Kenny/S. Kenny

#### Restricted Singles

1. Kevin Devaney (C)
2. Conor Fahy (L)

*Picture courtesy of Josephine Givan*



Senior Ladies Champion

# Table Tennis Ulster

## 3 Gold Medals by Ulster Players at Junior Six Nations



Ireland won a fantastic 3 Gold medals at the recent Junior Six Nation Championships—2 in the team event and one in the individuals.

First to register Gold was the Cadet Girls Team of Ashley Givan (Dungannon) and Edel O'Reilly (Cork). Under the guidance of NPC Louise Long, the cadet girls were undefeated, beating England 4-1 to take Gold.

Next up was the Junior Boys, fresh from their win at the Junior British League. The trio of McCreery, Robinson and Logue maintained their excellent overseas form to also pip England to the Gold, winning all 5 of their matches.

Paul McCreery registered another impressive performance, taking gold in Sunday's Individual event. With wins over compatriot Ashley Robinson in the Quarter Final and England's Lewis Gray in the Semi-Final, McCreery faced local home crowd favourite Sean Doherty. Having dropped the first two sets, McCreery showed steely determination to claw his way back into the match,

taking the 3rd set 11-5, before levelling at 11-7. This set up a thrilling last set where McCreery held his nerve and justified his No.1 seeding winning 11-9 to become Junior 6 Nations Champion. McCreery is also reigning UK School Games Champion and is having a fantastic season not just domestically but overseas.

In the Cadet Girls, new National Senior Champion also progressed to the Individual Final. Givan defeated England's Charleigh Kirby in a close 3-1 match in the semi-final.

Her final opponent was Vicki Smith, whom she beat in the team event. However Smith proved too strong for Givan this time around, taking the match in four sets, after some thrilling rallies.

However Givan will be happy with Silver, adding to her already significant medal tally in 2010.

### Results

#### Junior Boys Team Event

1. Ireland
2. Scotland

3. England

#### Junior Girls Team Event

1. England
2. Wales
3. Ireland

#### Cadet Boys Team Event

1. England
2. Wales
3. Scotland

#### Cadet Girls Team Event

1. Ireland
2. England
3. Wales

#### Junior Boys Singles

1. Paul McCreery (Irl)
2. Sean Doherty (Sco)
3. Lewis Gray (Eng)
4. Dan O'Connell (Wal)

#### Junior Girls Singles

1. Chloe Whyte (Eng)
2. Natalie Slater (Eng)
3. Alice Loveridge (Gue)
4. Chloe Thomas (Wal)

#### Cadet Boys Singles

1. Igor Morais (Eng)
2. Lewis Williams (Wal)
3. Scott Barton (Sco)
4. Jared Patel (Eng)

#### Cadet Girls Singles

1. Vicki Smith (Eng)
2. Ashley Givan (Irl)
3. Edel O'Reilly (Irl)
4. Charleigh Kirby (Irl)

*Picture courtesy of Con O'Ceadaigh*

“PAUL MCCREERY REGISTERED ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE, TAKING GOLD IN SUNDAY'S INDIVIDUAL EVENT”.

## Jing Yi Graham's Presentation Lunch



Jing Yi receiving her leaving gifts from Table Tennis Ulster President Tony Phillips

the end of her long association with Table Tennis Ulster. Everyone enjoyed an excellent lunch and Jing Yi was presented with an inscribed Tyrone Crystal bowl, a photo frame that included an iconic photograph of Jing Yi coaching and an M & S gift card. She spoke warmly of her time with the Branch and thanked everyone who contributed to her leaving presents.

Perhaps those who know her would like to drop in to her new venture, Café CoCo in Bow Street, Lisburn. We wish her every success.

A number of close friends of Jing Yi met at the Malone House restaurant on Friday 26 February to mark

## Ulster Junior League

The Academy Strongtower club based at Ballymena Academy was the host for the recent Ulster Junior League event.

After an action packed day, Glenburn walked away winning both divisions with both teams undefeated in their respective divisions.

The Glenburn A team consisting of Annalise Walker, Emma Ludlow and Laura Finn were too strong for their rivals winning in convincing fashion remaining undefeated in their division to add to their all ready bursting trophy cabinet.

However there was success for the home team when the Academy Strongtower Leg-

ends team of Adam McIlmoyle, Peter Neeson and Jack Neeson finished in 2nd place in Division one. Academy Strongtower have recently benefited from coaching from top Irish player Amanda Mogeey and the progress can be seen through recent Co. Antrim league results and performances from the players throughout this tournament.

In division two, it was a similar story with the young Glenburn C team consisting of Ulster Development Squad members Rebecca Finn, Megan Carson and Adam Barr remaining undefeated to win gold. The talented young Islandmagee squad (Iain Dick, Mark Tweed, Jonathan Armstrong)

finished in 2nd place.

Overall, a great days play was had and thanks must go to Tony Phillips and Norman McBride for the successful running of this tournament.

### Results

#### Division 1

|     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| 1st | Glenburn "A" |
| 2nd | AS Legends   |
| 3rd | Glenburn "B" |
| 4th | AS Wizz      |
| 5th | AS Median    |

#### Division 2

|     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| 1st | Glenburn "C" |
| 2nd | Islandmagee  |
| 3rd | AS Thunder   |
| 4th | Glenburn "D" |
| 5th | Glenburn "E" |



# Table Tennis Ulster

## Allianz Ulster Primary Schools' Individual Results



“THREE DAYS,  
THREE VENUES,  
LOTS OF TABLE  
TENNIS, PLENTY  
OF MEDALS. THAT  
IS THE STORY OF  
THIS WEEK'S  
ULSTER PRIMARY  
SCHOOLS  
INDIVIDUAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS”.

### Alexandra – North Belfast

#### U12 Boys

1. Zac Wilson (Cavehill)
2. Ian Dick (Kilcoan)
3. Mark Tweed (Kilcoan)

#### U12 Girls

1. Emily Hill (Kilcoan)
2. Maeve Neeson (St Therese of Lisieux)
3. Katy Wallace (Cavehill)

#### U10 Boys – Section 1

1. Curtis Davidson (Holy Cross)
2. Peter McMullan (Sacred Heart)
3. Jake McCully (Victoria)

#### U10 Boys – Section 2

1. Adam Barr (Seaview)
2. Paul O'Neill (S. Heart)
3. Nathan Coard (Victoria)

#### U10 Girls

1. Emma Baird (Kilcoan)
2. Jade Trickett (Seaview)
3. Kerrie McMaster (Seaview)

#### U9 Boys

1. Eamon Clarke (Holy Cross)
2. Dylan Brown (H. Cross)
3. Blain Vokes (Seaview)

#### U9 Girls

1. Lucy Kane (Kilcoan)

#### U8 Boys

1. Jack Dick (Kilcoan)
2. Harry Quiery (Kilcoan)

### Glenburn – South/East Belfast

#### U12 Boys

1. Joe Laing (Carryduff)
2. Fiontann Quinn (Holy Rosary)
3. Sam Kinnear (Ballynahinch)

#### U10 Boys

1. Thomas Trainor (Downey House)
2. Ross Murry (B'hinch)
3. Oran McGrath (Holy Rosary)

#### U10 Girls

1. Rebecca Finn (Carryduff)
2. Megan Carson (Lisnasharragh)
3. Amy Finlay (L'sharragh)

#### U9 Boys

1. Conor McCauley (Cairnshill)
2. Matthew Hudson (Cairnshill)
3. James Smyth (H. Rosary)

#### U9 Girls

1. Katy Wills (D. House)

#### U8 Boys

1. Owen Cathcart (Holy Rosary)
2. John Clarke (Carryduff)
3. Callum Kelly (Holy Rosary)

### Fivemiletown—Southern

#### U12 Boys

1. Ryan McConkey (Clontibret)
2. Dylan Duffy (Clontibret)
3. Dylan Murdock (St Clare's)

#### U12 Girls

1. Hannah McCabe (Bailieborough)
2. Molly Parkinson (Kesh)
3. Lauren Ogle (Kesh)

#### U10 Boys

1. Jake Irvine (Kesh)
2. Aaron Thompson (Kesh)
3. Dylan Johnston (Kesh)

#### U10 Girls

1. Leah Shekleton (Bailieborough)
2. Chloe Alexander (Kesh)
3. Alexandra Armstrong (Kesh)

#### U9 Boys

1. Samuel Frazer (Kesh)
2. Daniel Murdock (St Clare's)
3. John Fitzpatrick (Kesh)

#### U9 Girls

1. Zara Flack (Kesh)
2. Tiffany Woods (Tempo)
3. Jessica Long (Tempo)

#### U8 Boys

1. Ethan Duffy (Clontibret)
2. Joshua Murdock (St Clare's)
3. John Crawford (St Clare's)

#### U8 Girls

1. Claire Shekleton

# Table Tennis Ulster

## Cavan Junior Ability Results

“THIS EVENT IS AIMED TO PROVIDE GOOD MATCHES FOR PLAYERS AT BEGINNING/GRASS-ROOT AND JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEVELS”.



Players from Drung TTC with their winning trophies

Castleharan Table Tennis Club hosted a very successful Junior Ability Tournament with 36 players all competing in their respective divisions.

This event is aimed to provide good matches for players at beginning/grass-root and junior development lev-

els. A fantastic days table tennis was had with all players getting a good number of matches.

### Results

- Division 1  
1. Eric Shekleton

2. Oisín Reilly
- Division 2  
1. Kris Foster  
2. Bryan Shekleton

- Division 3  
1. Dylan Scott  
2. Jason Forde

- Division 4  
1. Lucinda Fannin  
2. Iain Dick

- Division 5  
1. Hannah Lynch-Dawson  
2. Mark Tweed

- Division 6  
1. Lydia McConkey  
2. Jonathan Armstrong

- Division 7  
1. Jack Dick  
2. Taidgh Hazzard

*Picture courtesy of Donald Dawson*

## Current Ulster Junior Rankings - Top 8

### U17 Boys

1. Paul McCreery
2. Ashley Robinson
3. Stephen Slater
4. Darren Reilly
5. Kieran Reilly
6. Neil Irwin
7. Adam McIlmoyle
8. Andrew Gordon

### U12 Girls

1. Jonathan Porter
2. Eric Shekleton
3. Ryan McConkey
4. Mark Gordon
5. Zac Wilson
6. Shane O'Reilly
7. Ben Sullivan
- = Iain Dick

### U14 Girls

1. Ashley Givan
2. Annalise Walker
3. Sally McConkey
4. Emma Ludlow
5. Erin Thompson
6. Amy Robinson
7. Hannah Lynch-Dawson
8. Cherith McBride

### U14 Girls

1. Neil Irwin
2. Kieran Reilly
3. Edwin Lewis
4. Jonathan Porter
5. Trevor Knox
6. Stephen Fawcett
7. Ryan McConkey
8. Andrew Gordon

### U17 Girls

1. Ashley Givan
2. Roisin O'Reilly
3. Susie Ferguson
4. Annalise Walker
5. Lucinda Fannin
6. Cherith McBride
- = Sally McConkey
8. Emma Ludlow

### U12 Girls

1. Laura Finn
2. Hannah Lynch-Dawson
3. Emma McSorley
4. Rebecca Finn
5. Leah Shekleton
6. Megan McConkey
7. Megan Carson
8. Emily Hill

# Table Tennis Ulster



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Table Tennis Ulster is sponsored by STIGA and Fitzgerald Table Tennis. The STIGA agent for Ireland is Tommy Fitzgerald and can be contacted at 00353-1-8428744 or by email at [tfft@eircom.net](mailto:tfft@eircom.net). You can also view a range of his products at [www.tfft.ie](http://www.tfft.ie). STIGA sponsor a number of Ulster's elite players and will have a stand with all the latest equipment and clothing at most of the major tournaments held in Ulster throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events

| April                                     | May                                    |
|---|--|
| 3 TTU Ability (4), Newbliss               | 1 Junior Interregionals                |
| 6-8 Easter Training Elite Squad, R'port   | 15-16 Wolverhampton GP                 |
| 7-10 Luxembourg Open                      | 22-20 World Team Championships, Moscow |
| 9-11 Primary School 6 Nations, Guernsey   |  |
| 10 TTU Development Camp, Glen burn/F'town | <b>June</b>                            |
| 10 Ulster Ranking 4, B'mena Academy       | 19-20 Hereford GP                      |
| 17 Junior National Championships          | 25-27 Senior School 6 Nations, Ireland |
| 24 Ulster Squad Training, F'town          |  |

## Other Stories

### Stiga Newbliss Junior Graded Entry Form

Entries are now open for the Stiga Newbliss Junior Graded to be held at **Newbliss Presbyterian Church, Newbliss on 3rd April 2010.**

This event is aimed to provide good matches for players at beginning/grass root and junior development levels with all players guaranteed to play at least five matches during their session. Ulster Ranking points are available at this event.

The closing date for entries is 31st March.

### North Antrim Open—Ulster Ranking 4

Entries are now open for the North Antrim Open at **Ballymena Academy on 10th April.**

This event will be based on a round robin format similar to the format used at the Ulster Championships and Antrim Open. Ulster Ranking Points are available at this event.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in each of the four categories.

The closing dates for entries is 8th April.

Entry forms for both events can be found here:

[www.ttulster.co.uk](http://www.ttulster.co.uk)

### Luxembourg Open

Three Ulster players will be making the trip over to the Luxembourg Open on 7-10th April. This event has both a team and individual event and represents an excellent chance for all players to compete in numerous high quality matches. Na

Liu heads over as an individual, whilst Paul McCreery and Ashley Robinson will compete for the Irish Mens team alongside Dubliners John Murphy and Sam Logue. We wish all the players the best of luck.

### British Primary Schools 6 Nations Championships

Four Ulster Development players have been selected to represent Ireland at the upcoming British Primary Schools Championships to be held in Guernsey on the 9/11 April.

The players selected are as follows:

Jonathan Porter, Ryan McConkey, Mark Gordon and Laura Finn.

Congratulations to all players selected and we wish them every success!