

# Table Tennis Ulster



May 2010

## Ulster retain Junior Inter-provincial Title!

The Stiga Junior Inter-Provincial Table Tennis Championships took place in the Lakeland Forum, Enniskillen, where six titles and the overall Victor Barna Memorial Shield were up for grabs. Ulster were seen by many as slight favourites over Leinster and did not disappoint taking three team golds' in the Junior Boys, Cadet Girls and Under 12 Girls categories to win the overall shield for a third year running. Close rivals Leinster finished in second position, with Munster and Connacht in third and fourth position respectively. Paul McCreery, Ashley Robinson and Ashley Givan have the distinction of sharing in Ulster's senior and junior inter-pro double successes in 2010. Several of the team hail from Fermanagh and it was fitting that they should win in their home County.

The Junior Boys team consisting of Paul McCreery

(Belfast), Ashley Robinson (Clogher), Stephen Slater (Fivemiletown) and Darren Reilly (Cavan) delivered an impeccable performance to remain undefeated throughout the course of the day. The team were simply unstoppable defeating Leinster, Munster and Connacht in a series of emphatic 9-0 wins.

Once again Ashley Givan (Dungannon) remained undefeated to steer her Ulster cadet team into an impressive gold medal over the highly fancied Munster team. Ashley claimed three wins, with Annalise Walker (Belfast) winning two and Emma Ludlow (Belfast) winning one to secure the victory over Munster. The team went on to defeat Connacht 9-0 with Sally McConkey (Monaghan) gaining her first Ulster cap in this match. The girls continued their good form defeating Leinster 5-1 to become U14 Girls champions.

The U12 girls were mightily impressive to claim gold with national champion Laura Finn (Belfast) leading the way, however it was a real team effort from the four girls. The girls were particularly impressive against Leinster with Laura remaining undefeated, with both Hannah Lynch-Dawson (Cavan) and Emma McSorley (Belfast) scoring impressive wins over Elanya McGlone from Leinster. The team trailed 1-3 in games, however a spectacular run of wins ensured the girls claimed the gold medal. The girls were unstoppable against Connacht winning 8-1 whilst Munster proved to be a tougher task with Ulster winning 6-3.

The Under 12 Boys claimed the silver medal defeating Connacht, 9-0 and Leinster, 9-0 however were just pipped to the post by Munster who defeated Ulster by 5 games to 4. However,

Jonathan Porter (Fivemiletown) remained undefeated at these championships with a series of good wins against top quality opposition.

The Under 14 Boys and Under 17 Girls found the going tough however impressed to defeat Connacht to claim bronze. The Under 14 Boys were extremely unlucky to lose 4-5 to Munster with both Neil Irwin (Dungannon) and Kieran Reilly (Cavan) impressing.

Team Manager Jennifer Thompson was understandably delighted with the team and stated that each and every individual contributed to the overall success of the team.

### Results:

Junior Boys: 1. Ulster 2. Leinster 3. Munster 4. Connacht

Cadet Boys: 1. Leinster 2. Munster 3. Ulster 4. Connacht

Under 12 Boys: 1. Munster 2. Ulster 3. Leinster 4. Connacht

Junior Girls: 1. Leinster 2. Munster 3. Ulster 4. Connacht

Cadet Girls: 1. Ulster 2. Munster 3. Leinster 4. Connacht

Under 12 Girls: 1. Ulster 2. Leinster 3. Munster 4. Connacht

Victor Barna Memorial Shield: 1. Ulster 2. Leinster 3. Munster 4. Connacht



The Ulster Junior Team with their medals and Inter-provincial shield

## McCreery reaches Quarter-Final of Spanish Youth Open

Irish table tennis sensation **Paul McCreery** (**Ballynahinch**) produced the performance of his career to date at the ITTF World Junior Circuit event in Barcelona, culminating in a **top 8 finish** in this world standard event on Saturday.

McCreery was drawn in the Group Stage against **Dorian Nicolle** of France and **Lewis Gray** of England. McCreery caused a surprise by defeating Nicolle in straight sets, before claiming the group win with a 3-1 victory over England international Gray. This put McCreery through to the last 64 against **Otsuka** of Japan. Otsuka has a similar World Ranking to McCreery, but it looked like the talented Dundonald youngster had too much class as he raced into a 3-0 lead. Otsuka pulled two games back, but McCreery showed good maturity to close out the match on a scoreline of 4-2. In the last 32, he faced **Tristan Flore**, another French player. This was a classic ding-dong battle, with the players ex-

changing sets until the score reached 3-3 to set up a final set decider. **Flore, ranked 52 in the World Junior Rankings and over 200 places above McCreery in the Senior rankings** would have been expecting to progress here. However, McCreery again showed supreme battling qualities and some wonderful play to take the final set 11-8 and progress to the last 16.

This was very much uncharted waters for McCreery at this level of international competition. Facing Sweden's **Jesper Hedlund** however, he looked comfortable and doled out a straight sets defeat - 13-11, 11-9, 13-11, 11-7 to reach the **Quarter-Final**. Here he faced **top seed** and eventual runner-up **Patrick Franziska** of Germany. **Franziska is ranked 175 in the World Senior rankings** and he had too much for McCreery, winning 4-0. McCreery will be delighted to have reached the latter stages of a world-class international competition – many of the players in the Spanish Open were us-

ing the event as preparation for the Youth Olympic Games and are of World class standard. It also sets McCreery up for an assault on the European Youth Championships in Turkey later this Summer.

Speaking about McCreery's performance, ITTA Technical Director John O'Donoghue was delighted: *"This was an outstanding result for Paul. He beat some top quality players on his way to the quarter finals and he is the first Irish player to reach this stage of an ITTF Junior Circuit event. He has certainly had a superb season. He fully deserves all the success he gets as he works really hard and his commitment and dedication is second to none"*

Fellow team mate Ashley Robinson also travelled to this event putting in a good account of himself and will have benefited from competing at this level.

*Report courtesy of ITTA*

"THIS WAS VERY MUCH UNCHARTERED WATERS FOR MCCREERY AT THIS LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION".



Paul McCreery - Quarter Finalist at Spanish Youth Open



## Table Tennis Ulster

### New Job Appointments



Herbie Ross



Amanda Mogeey

Table Tennis Ulster is pleased to announce the appointment of Amanda Mogeey and Herbie Ross to new posts. Amanda will take up a joint appointment as part-time Administrative Officer and part-time Participation Officer, whilst Herbie Ross takes the post of part-time Participation Officer.

Amanda has been fulfilling the job of Administrative Officer on a temporary basis for the past year as well as the role of Regional Development Officer, so she has a thorough experience of what is required. In the past she has acted as Assistant Regional Coach and as part of her degree in Sports Studies at the University of Glamorgan she gained work experience on the 5x60 sports scheme where she coached and organised Table Tennis, Netball and Basketball. She

is an established Ulster and Irish representative player and a Level 1 Coach.

Herbie has a very varied experience in coaching and in running the successful Glenburn Club for 35 years. He holds a Level 2 Coaching Award. Since 1997 he has supervised the development and running of the cross-community Table Tennis Scheme for primary schools in Belfast, as well as serving at various times on Irish junior and Ulster senior management. In 2000 he was awarded the Northern Ireland Coach of the Year Award for Sports development.

We welcome both of them to their new positions and look forward to their contribution to the further development of Table Tennis.

Table Tennis Ulster has also made new volunteer coach-

ing and selector appointments following the departure of Jing Yi Graham.

Andrew Dennison has been appointed as Senior Team Coach for Ulster. Arthur Brett has taken on coaching responsibilities for the Western Elite Squad. Arthur has also agreed to be Ulster Junior Selector along with Herbie Ross.

### Fundraiser at Sainsbury's, Forestside

A fundraiser in aid of Ulster Junior Players was held at Sainsbury's, Forestside on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Many junior players and parents helped out on the day either bag packing in Sainsbury's or by carrying out demonstrations on the table set up in the mall in Forestside. Onlookers were amazed at the sheer speed and the consistency of our young players. Many children passing by had the chance to have a quick coaching session with our coaches and many vowed to join a club after witnessing the skills of our young players. Promotional

leaflets detailing local clubs were handed out increasing awareness of local clubs within the surrounding area.

Tony Phillips (TTU President) had this to say regarding the event:

*"Thanks and well done to all those involved in the bag pack and TT demonstration at Sainsbury's Forestside on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May. All your effort and hard work enabled us to collect much more than we expected and you obviously charmed the customers. Looks like we will want to do it again!"*

#### **Final Total**

£544.64  
€3.79  
5 pesetas  
1 watch battery!

This amounted to **£548.15** lodged in the bank account.

## Awards for Sport Grant



Table Tennis Ulster has recently received a generous Awards for Sport Grant from SportNI. This has enabled us to purchase new equipment bags filled with bats, balls and nets for coaches going into schools. Many schools do not have their own equipment so it is vital that coaches can supply high quality bats for the children to use.

Speed and agility bags have also been purchased which include mini hurdles, ladders, reaction balls and an instructional dvd which will be instrumental in players improving their speed, agility, co-

ordination and quickness.

An exciting purchase and a first for Table Tennis Ulster has been the addition of six new adaptable tables. These tables have 3 set levels and can be lowered or raised very easily. These tables are extremely useful for disabled athletes or younger children.

TTU has also been able to purchase the Dartfish system which is performance analysis software. The possibilities of this system are endless and it can be used in a training or competitive setting analysing both your own player and your opponent. We were lucky enough to secure the services of the full time British Table Tennis Federation's Performance Analyst Chris Loxston to provide a seminar

on how best to use the system. Many of Ulster's top coaches were present and individually had a go at setting up the camera and running the software. This is a fantastic piece of software and should benefit our players enormously in future.

We are extremely grateful to SportNI for their Awards for Sport Grant, as it has enabled us to provide new coaching sessions in local schools which may not have had their own equipment. The new tables will be excellent for use with disabled athletes which is an area which TTU will be hoping to expand within the next few months.

## All Ireland Schools Results

### Under 18 Boys

- 1st Colaist Choilm, Cork
- 2nd Blackrock College
- 3rd Monaghan Collegiate
- 4th At Alolsiius, Athlone

### Under 18 Girls

- 1st Colaist Choilm, Cork
- 2nd Victoria College, Belfast

### Under 15 Boys

- 1st Colaist Choilm, Cork
- 2nd High School Ballynahinch
- 3rd St Fintans Sutton, Dublin
- 4th St Josephs, Galway

### Under 15 Girls

- 1st Royal School Dunganon
- 2nd St Angelas College, Cork



Royal School Dunganon, Under 15 Girls Irish School Champions

### Under 13 Boys

- 1st Ballronan, Dublin
- 2nd St Finbars Bantry
- 3rd Monaghan Collegiate
- 4th St Alosiius, Athlone

### Under 13 Girls

- 1st Guardian Angels, Dublin
- 2nd St Angelas, Cork



# Table Tennis Ulster

## Fermanagh League Results 2009/2010

Fermanagh Table Tennis awards were presented at the annual dinner which was held in The Valley Hotel on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Over 80 people attended the dinner which came at the end of a very successful season for Fermanagh Table Tennis.

The Chairman, Alex Gordon from Fivemiletown, outlined the success of the local players at National level and achievements within the Fermanagh League. Reference was made to league players Jonathon Porter Irish No 1, Mark Gordon Irish No 4 and Ryan McConkey Irish No 5 in Under 12 boys. These 3 boys are just back from representing Ireland in the Six Nation Championships in Guernsey.

In the Cadet Girls Hannah Lynch Dawson from Drung finished the season as Irish no 4. Alex also mentioned the tremendous achievement of local players Ashley Givan who finished Irish No 1 at both Cadet and Junior level, and Ashley Robinson who finished the season as Irish No 2 at Junior Level. In fact, almost 50% of the Junior Ulster Squad was made up of local players.

It was the Ashfield team of Cyril Fannin, Jack Stephens, Jimmy Gillanders and David Erskine, which won the coveted Division 1 title which was closely contested throughout the season. But the most successful team this year was the Kilskeery Division 3 team of Jonathon Porter, Edwin Lewis and Trevor Knox who achieved the treble, winning the Division 3 league title and the Division 2 and Division 3 Knock

out Cup.

The trophies and cups were presented by the chairman's wife Deirdre Gordon. The league would like to thank all its sponsors during the year.

### Division 1

#### League

1. Ashfield
2. Drum A

#### Cup

1. Ashfield
2. Drum A

#### Singles:

1. James Dawson
2. Torsten Jentsch

#### Doubles

1. Thomas McConkey/James Dawson
2. Cyril Fannin/Jimmy Gillanders

#### Best Player

1. Jack Stephens
2. James Dawson

### Division 2

#### League

1. Drum B
2. Monaghan Youth

#### Cup

1. Kilskeery A
2. Kesh Hawks

#### Singles

1. Jonathan Porter
2. Edwin Lewis

#### Doubles

1. Simon Carleton/Andrew Browne
2. Brian Veitch/Andrew McMahon

#### Best Player

1. Mervyn Carleton

2. Tom Phair

### Division 3

#### League

1. Kilskeery A
2. Newbliss A

#### Cup

1. Kilskeery A
2. Newbliss B

#### Singles

1. Jonathan Porter
2. Andrew McMahon

#### Doubles

1. Stephen Fawcett/Andrew McMahon
2. Edwin Lewis/Ryan Gilmore

#### Best Player

1. Edwin Lewis
2. Jonathan Porter

### Division 4

#### League

1. Garvary
2. Drung

#### Cup

1. Drung
2. Newbliss C

#### Singles

1. Hannah Lynch-Dawson
2. Sally McConkey

#### Doubles

1. Hannah Lynch-Dawson/Sally McConkey
2. Jason Forde/Nathan Hall

#### Best Player

1. Hannah Lynch-Dawson
2. Sally McConkey

### Division 5

#### League

1. Newbliss E
2. Kesh Youth A

#### Cup

“THE  
CHAIRMAN,  
ALEX GORDON  
FROM  
FIVEMILETOWN,  
OUTLINED THE  
SUCCESS OF THE  
LOCAL PLAYERS  
AT NATIONAL  
LEVEL AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
WITHIN THE  
FERMANAGH  
LEAGUE.

# Table Tennis Ulster

## Fermanagh League cont...

1. Kesh Youth A
2. Newbliss E

### Singles

1. Darren Scott
2. Adam Bruce

### Doubles

1. Dean & Darren Scott
2. Adam Bruce/Jason Ogle

### Best Player

1. Darren Scott
2. Dean Scott

### Division 6

#### League

1. Kesh Youth B
2. Newbliss F

#### Cup

1. Drum C

2. Newbliss F

### Singles

1. Adam Bruce
2. Jason Ogle

### Doubles

1. Adam Bruce/David Frazer
2. Jason Ogle/John Fitzpatrick

### Best Player

1. Dylan Duffy
2. Adam Bruce

### Individual Awards

#### Fermanagh Best Player

Raymond Hassard

#### Non Fermanagh Best Player

Jack Stephens

#### Best Improved Player

James Dawson

#### Under 17 Best Player

Christopher Harrison

#### Under 14 Best Player

Edwin Lewis

#### Under 12 Best Player

Jonathan Porter

#### Under 10 Best Player

Ethan Duffy

#### Fair Play Award

Jamie McConkey

*Pictures courtesy of Alex Gordon*



Kilskeery A team with their hoard of trophies



Newbliss A team members who finished as runners up in Division 3

# Table Tennis Ulster



Contact us at:

**Table Tennis Ulster**  
**House of Sport**  
**Upper Malone Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT9 5LA**

**Phone: 028 90383811**

**E-mail:**

**[admin@ttulster.co.uk](mailto:admin@ttulster.co.uk)**

**Website:**

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



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 [tftt@eircom.net](mailto:tftt@eircom.net). You can also view a range of his products at [www.tftt.ie](http://www.tftt.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

### June

19-20 Hereford GP  
25-27 Senior School 6 Nations, Ireland

### July

3-4 Doncaster GP  
16-18 Junior British League Playoffs  
16-25 European Youth Championships,  
Istanbul, Turkey)

### August

22-23 Liverpool GP (provisional)

## Other Stories

### Eurokids Training Camp

Ryan McConkey has been selected to represent Ireland at the Eurokids Training Camp held at Lignano, Italy from 23rd - 30th May. This camp is organised by the European Table Tennis Union and is a fantastic opportunity for Ryan to learn from top European coaches and mix with athletes from different countries. We congratulate Ryan on his selection and wish him a successful and rewarding trip.

### Hasselt Open - Belgium

Three Ulster players have been selected to represent Ireland at the Hasselt Open in Belgium.

Neil Irwin, Jonathan Porter and Eric Shekleton have been selected due to fine

results over the course of the year. This is a three day event comprising of both team and individual competitions. TTU wishes the three players the best of luck for this event.

### Ballyclare May Fair

The Ballyclare May Fair Tournament shall be held on Friday 28th May at Ballyclare Methodist Church Hall commencing at 7pm. This is a historic event and is a popular favourite. There will be open singles, veterans (35+) and open doubles categories. Pre-registration is not essential however, the Tournament Organiser Andrew Foreman can be contacted at [awforeman@mac.com](mailto:awforeman@mac.com) for any further enquiries.

### Summer Schemes

Our Participation Officers,

Herbie Ross and Amanda Mogeey will be holding week long summer schemes throughout schools and clubs in Ulster over the next coming months. If your club would be interested in hosting such a summer scheme, please contact either Herbie: [Herbieross@ttulster.co.uk](mailto:Herbieross@ttulster.co.uk) or Amanda at [admin@ttulster.co.uk](mailto:admin@ttulster.co.uk)

### We Want Your News!

If anyone would like to publish a news item to be included in next months Newsletter, please send it along with any photos you may have to Amanda at [admin@ttulster.co.uk](mailto:admin@ttulster.co.uk)