



GAPS OLYMPIC LEGACY LAUNCH NIGHT

GAPS Newsletter

December 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Year in Review

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter which is coming to you as a valued funding partner of the Grantham Academy for Primary & Secondary Schools (GAPS)

Your funding has helped GAPS to provide dedicated coaching sessions in six primary schools and one secondary school in the Grantham area this year as well as to run a twice weekly training academy for children wishing to take their coaching to the next level.

Based at Clifedale Primary School in Grantham and supported by headmaster Robert Young, GAPS is run by local table tennis coach John Mapletoft who visits the participating schools to run coaching sessions as either after school clubs or as part of the school curriculum. These sessions are intended as an introduction to the sport for children who might otherwise have never had the opportunity to try their hand at one of the fastest games in the world.

The progression of the children's' interest and skillset is supported by the opportunity for them to attend the GAPS training sessions which are run twice weekly at Clifedale Primary School. The sessions run for four hours and are split into two different

classes to allow the coaches to support the different abilities of the children attending.

Your funding helps GAPS to pay for world class coaches to attend and pass their skills to the younger generation, we are currently lucky enough to have the support of Commonwealth Games double gold medalist Gareth Herbert (pictured above at the club's Olympic Legacy launch night). We are also supported by experienced ETTA UK Level 2 coach Russell Winfield as well as several local high achieving players who mentor the children at the sessions.

GAPS is keen to introduce the children to competitive sport so as well as ensuring that match play is an integral part of their training sessions, players are encouraged to enter local tournaments. If none were available, we have organized them so that children get a sense of what taking part in a sport is really about.

Your funding has helped us to achieve this and more during 2013 and we hope that you will be pleased with the way that we have used your generous donation. Please read on to find out more about GAPS and how your continued support would help us in 2014.



Our Constitution

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Our Constitution

As you would expect, our club has a set of objectives that mold the way we operate.

Please read on to understand our ten objectives:

- 1) To increase participation in the sport of Table Tennis in Primary and Secondary schools within the Grantham & District area.
- 2) To set up Satellite clubs in line with the 'Sport England' recommendations.
- 3) To provide training and playing facilities for its members.
- 4) To provide equal opportunities for successful participation by all sections of the community by operating an inclusive policy in the academy and satellite clubs.
- 5) To work with the Grantham Development Group to help deliver their vision for the district.
- 6) To provide a progression route for all members of the academy using



certification on completion of required criteria.

- 7) To provide a progression route for all members of the academy into local table tennis clubs such as Cliffedale Chandlers and other clubs within the Grantham & District area.
- 8) To establish and run junior leagues within the district.
- 9) To promote and maintain the highest standards of technical competence and safety in the sport using International Table Tennis

Federation (ITTF) Guidelines.

- 10) To uphold the rules of the sport and promote team working, leadership and fair play.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

If you would like to help us with our objectives by providing funding or a few hours of your table tennis experience a week, please contact us to learn more about how you can do this.

JOHN MAPLETOFT
01476 565521



Where are we playing today?

We currently run clubs table tennis clubs in seven schools in and around Grantham.

Barrowby C of E Primary School

Friday lunchtime club

Cliffedale Primary School

Tuesday lunchtime club

Thursday afterschool club 3:20pm – 5pm

Colsterworth C of E Primary School

Monday breakfast club

Belmont Community Primary School

Tuesday afterschool club

Denton CE Primary School

Curriculum lesson

The National C of E Junior School

Afterschool club

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Friday Breakfast club

Monday Afterschool club

GAPS Training Sessions: (by invitation only)

Monday 5pm-7pm (improvers)

Friday 5pm – 7pm (beginners & improvers)

Friday 7pm – 9pm (improvers & advanced)

IN BRIEF



Supporting the Olympic Legacy

In September we launched our support for the Olympic Legacy. Local news watchers will know that we have two Olympic Torchbearers at the academy who proudly donned their official tracksuits once again and brought their Olympic torches to the club.



The children were able to hold the torches that they had cheered down the streets the previous year.

As a club, we understand the importance of engaging children in sport at the grass roots level.



The participants of the 2013 Schools Christmas tournament

2013 Christmas Tournament

This year saw the inaugural Schools Christmas Tournament in association with Cliffedale Chandlers Table Tennis Club & Grantham and District Table Tennis League. It was held on Saturday 14th December 2013 at the Table Tennis Centre on Trent Road and thanks to the activities of GAPS in and around Grantham schools, the tournament saw a record entrance of 52 players in the under 9yr and under 11yr categories.

The tournament was funded by GAPS and awarded prizes for the top three players in each category together with awards for the Most Improved players on the day.

Trophy winners were:

Under 9 Boys: Bronze - Jai Mistry Moulton (Cliffedale), Silver - Jake Sutton (Cliffedale), Gold - Sam Oliver (Great Ponton);

Under 9 Girls: Bronze - Alice Rossington (Barrowby), Silver - Emily Winfield (Huntingtower), Gold - Stefania Popa (Cliffedale);

Under 11 Boys: Bronze - Connor Auckland (Cliffedale), Silver - Frazer Winfield (Huntingtower), Gold - Joshua Kettle (Cliffedale);

Under 11 Girls: Bronze - Amber Halsey (Cliffedale), Silver - Jessica Maltby (Cliffedale), Gold - Evie Milford (Cliffedale);

Under 13 Boys: Bronze - Trafford Mason (Priory Ruskin), Silver - Daniel Duggan (Priory Ruskin), Gold - Flynn Connolly (Cliffedale);

Under 13 Girls: Silver - Sarah Henderson (KGGs), Gold - Alex Robinson (Walton Girls);

Most improved on the day - Under 9 Boys - Tomas Miller (Colsterworth), Under 9 Girls - Cerys Horner (Belmont), Under 11 Boys - Ethan Wen-Lefman (Barrowby), Under 11 Girls - Uisun Shin (Cliffedale), Under 13 Boys - Mitchell French (King's)

IMAGES FROM THE TOURNAMENT



Uisun Shin receiving her award for Most Improved Player on the day from Kerry Nix

Our Goals for 2014

In 2013 we set out to reduce the void left when sports funding was cut for Lincolnshire Schools Partnership.

It was our aim to introduce young children to table tennis and help even 'unsporty' kids to enjoy the benefits that you get from taking part.

It was also our aim to encourage children to progress in the sport if they enjoyed it, showed a willingness to learn and demonstrated the attitude and talent that would benefit from specialist coaching.

We believe that we have set out on the road to achieving this and it is our aim to continue with this in 2014.

The contributions that we have received from our supporters pays for things such as:

- Rental of halls to hold training sessions
- New equipment such as bats, balls and table tennis robots
- Fees for professional table tennis coaches
- Expenses for County standard knocking partners for the children

It would be impossible to run the academy without funding for these essential items and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind donation this year.

In 2014, we would like to expand the presence of the academy and increase our support in areas such as:

- Subsidising a junior Butterfly League
- Providing bursary funds for disadvantaged children
- Fund more local, interschool tournaments
- Focus on developing girls' table tennis in Grantham
- Provide more professional coaching

Eventually, we would like to be able to develop and support a training program for upcoming coaches and umpires, taking the promising players of today and turning them into the mentors of tomorrow.



GAPS would like to thank all of the above organisations for their support during 2013, we couldn't have done it without you!

