

Colebridge Young People's Club

Incorporating Colebridge Table Tennis Club

President: Lorely Burt (Baroness Burt of Solihull)

Chairman: Mr. Stephen 'Inky' Moss

Colebridge Annual Report 2017-18

In time honoured tradition, I would like to begin this year's annual report by offering my sincere thanks to all of my colleagues on the management committee, who, without their tireless efforts, Colebridge simply wouldn't be the club it is today. Each and every member, selflessly volunteer their time to help the club run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, creating a safe and friendly environment for everyone to enjoy and build lasting friendships. Whether you represent the club competitively or simply play the sport we all love for fun, without the management committee, this wouldn't be possible.

This year saw me take on the role of General Secretary (after some persuading) and I would like to offer my personal thanks for all of those that have helped me over the transitional period, in particular Kate Hughes, who's help and support has been invaluable. I would also like to thank Ben Willson, who had previously stepped up to the plate and taken on the role, albeit temporarily. Ben, however, will remain in post as the club's League and Membership Secretary where he continues to do an excellent job in a challenging and demanding role, in no small part to our flourishing membership.

Ahmed Reza, a new club member, led by example in agreeing to become the new Assistant Secretary. Kate Hughes re-joined the committee in the guise of Welfare Officer and was also instrumental in the club achieving 'Clubmark' and Premier Club status (more on this later). Roy Prosser, John Overton and Pete Roddy continue to maintain the clubs practical working, carrying out numerous repair and maintenance tasks, whilst Mike Evetts keeps all of our members up to date with the clubs achievements and news items with his fantastic web site management. Awais Mohammed continues to represent the junior membership on the committee alongside Edward Lynn who has once again provided top quality coaching for our junior membership throughout the year. Michael Rinnhofer remains responsible for our health and safety, alongside organising and maintaining our utilities. 'Evergreen' Neil Wheatley took on his usual multitude of tasks, ranging from fundraising opportunities, to developmental projects and general 'knowledge and understanding' of the club and its weird and wonderful intricacies.

Inky Moss maintained his position as our Club Chairman and oversaw all committee meetings with an ever decreasing waistline throughout the year, despite Kate Hughes best efforts, providing biscuits for us all on a regular basis. Inky once again not only carried out his chairperson responsibilities, but actively umpired for teams of all levels at local league, along with Regional and National tournaments up and down the length of the country. Whether it be Women's British League, Senior British League, Junior British League, County matches or International Schools, Inky is regularly selected by TTE to officiate and his passion for umpiring has shone through once again this season.

Correspondence courtesy of Mr. Ian Ferguson
367 Evesham Road, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 5JA
www.colebridge.co.uk | ian.ferguson@colebridge.co.uk | 07843 560628

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Our longstanding treasurer Mark Hadley, sadly decided to step down due to health issues after almost ten years in the post. His dedication, professionalism and commitment to the role were second to none during his tenure. As a result of this, another relatively new member; Anthony Ellis, was approached by myself and I am delighted to say that he accepted the position, assuring a smooth handover, and no doubt will be excellent in his new post.

Once again, I would personally like to offer a huge thank you to Mark and wish him all the best for whatever the future may bring.

Membership

Our membership has pretty much stayed the same as last year, having a total of 128 members compared to 130 in 2016/17. Hopefully this will quell some fears that the club is continuing to grow and therefore giving members less opportunity to play. We believe that we could accommodate 150 members if the need arose, but please be aware the committee are constantly monitoring membership and listening to your views and thoughts on the matter as we are all conscious of your concerns.

Our current membership is made up of the following:

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
<8	0	0
8-12	8	0
13-19	19	3
20-25	9	0
>25	83	6

As you can see we are still incredibly low with regards female members. The committee are trying to address this and will endeavour to increase female participation.

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Junior Performance

Nathaniel Saunders, 12, won a 1* title in Burton in early June. This time he won a cadet title and got to the semi-finals of the juniors. He finished 3rd in the English National Cup – U12' and was a finalist in the Nottingham 2* U13 event in May. Nathaniel is also the current Birmingham U13 schools champion. He is now no.4 in England U12's

Harry Simcox, 11, won his first Lillington U13 title on 12th May. He won both the U13 and U15 titles at our most recent junior club championships and is the current Birmingham Schools U11 champion and has now played his first full season in the Birmingham 3-a-side league. Harry was part of the Under 11 team from St. Lawrence Junior School who finished runners up in the National team finals. Harry is now no.22 in England U12's.

Cyrus Harris, 12, won the Consolation for Grade C in Lillington and got to the semi-finals of the U13 event. It is also worth noting he had some huge victories in National Cadet League, to include beating two top ten England girls; one U12 the other U13. Cyrus is now ranked no.73 in England U12's and rising.

Lisa Rinnhofer, 17 won the junior girls graded title recently at the Blackpool 4* and was a finalist in the main event. Lisa is probably the most improved player this season by virtue of her improvement in the national rankings. Lisa has had some great wins and has also managed to pick up a couple of tournament titles this season. Lisa had a magnificent win against Jody Bevington in the Birmingham Premier division when representing the B team and also beat Steve Smith Junior on the same evening. Furthermore Lisa reached the last 16 of National Junior Championships, competed in the Junior Girls National Cup and is now No.18 in England. At senior level, Lisa finished runner up in the Warwickshire Closed singles, was winner of the Women's doubles, and successfully helped Burton Uxbridge 4 become champions of the Women's British League Division 4.

Sophie Rinnhofer, 13, was a finalist in the consolation of the National Cadet Championships. Along with her sister Lisa, she came 3rd in the National Schools Team U19 Finals. Sophie has had some great wins on the national circuit this season and is now the no.20 in England Cadets. Sophie won the Junior girls singles and finished runner up in the Cadet girls singles at the Burton 2* event recently.

Hawley Ellicott, 17, won a 1* junior event at Burton in June, was a finalist at the most recent event in Lillington in May and has been a finalist in other country wide tournaments recently. Hawley represents Worcestershire and has been a vital part of their team this season. He also beat players in local league, to include; Michael Bree, Steve Bertie and Lester Bertie. Hawley won the A.O.Hill trophy, which has many great names on it; to include Desmond Douglas. He is now No.56 in England juniors.

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Henry Belcher, 15, remained unbeaten on debut this season for Colebridge in the bottom division. A fantastic achievement. He was supported by Harry and Jack Simcox who only dropped a couple of games on debut. Henry also made a restricted final in the most recent Lillington competition.

Jack Simcox, 14, played his part in helping his team this season. He was almost unbeaten and is the current Birmingham U16 champion. Jack has been injured recently but he will be back in training soon.

Ben-Rycroft Stanley, 15, won the individual title for National Cadet League, plays for Worcestershire and has pushed some very good players into uncomfortable positions this season. He nearly beat Lillington's top junior star Ricardo Bolanos at a 2* tournament several months ago and there is much more to come from this young man, who unfortunately is just recovering from an injury.

Many more youngsters are coming through and at our recent club championships, an 8 year old girl called Aisha Islam picked up two medals and looks like a real talent to watch out for.

Thank you to our other juniors who have been out there competing locally too; Amir Van Eekelen, Jake Crawshaw, Yoni Ehrlich and everyone else involved.

Senior Performance

Once again it has been an incredibly successful year for the club, in both team and individual performances. From the lower divisions of local league, right through to National Championships, some of our members have been outstanding.

Colebridge entered teams in 4 local association leagues this year, those being Birmingham & Solihull, Leamington, Bromsgrove & Redditch, along with Stratford where for the first time ever Colebridge made its debut. The most noteworthy performances were as follows;

Birmingham & Solihull

DIVISION	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Premier	Colebridge A	3rd	Ed Lynn 2nd
Div 1	Colebridge C	2nd	
Div 2	Colebridge E	1st	Vlad Constantin 2nd
	Colebridge F	3rd	Frank Cotter 3 rd Jake Crawshaw 4 th Chris Allen 5 th

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Div 4	Colebridge I	2nd	Henry Belcher 2 nd Jake Simcox 3 rd Harry Simcox 4 th
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Colebridge Aces narrowly missed out on Leamington's top prize, finishing runner-up, with Ben Willson suffering the same fate in the individual tables despite beating the eventual winner Ryan Lines twice during the season. Kate Hughes finished a credible 5th with some excellent victories, also 'doing the double' over Lawrence Sweeney and gaining an excellent win over Mark Jackson, both from eventual winners St. Georges B.

Awais Mohammed had an excellent first season in the Bromsgrove and Redditch league, winning the individual title in Division one with an impressive 46/48 record.

Away from the club, perhaps the most notable achievement was Kate Hughes incredible performances at the National Championships, where she won a bronze medal with her partner Evie Collier from Nottingham in the Women's doubles. Kate also completed yet another treble at the Warwickshire closed championships, winning the Women's singles, doubles (Lisa Rinnhofer) and mixed doubles (Ian Ferguson) titles respectively. Kate was also instrumental in the Warwickshire Senior A County side maintaining their premiership status and to top it all won the Women's British League Premier title. Not content with her achievements on the table, Kate was also selected to Captain the English team at the World Schools Championships in Malta and the International Schools Championships at Worcester University recently. An outstanding season and we as a club should all be extremely proud of her achievements.

Along with Kate, Paul Lenormand, Ben Willson, Lisa and Sophie Rinnhofer and Nathaniel Saunders were all selected to represent Warwickshire in their respective categories whilst Hawley Ellicot and Ben Rycroft-Stanley were selected for Worcestershire County. Ian Ferguson was selected but unable to compete due to injury. However, he assisted the Senior 1st team and took on the role of non playing Captain.

Ian Ferguson capped another successful year despite his latest round of injuries and was incredibly unlucky not to make it an 8th men's singles title at the Warwickshire Championships, narrowly losing out 12-10 in the deciding set to Lee Dorning, despite having a match point at 10-9! Equally, he missed out 11-9 in the decider at the Police National championships, where he was bidding for his 7th Men's singles crown. Despite the disappointment of those two losses, Ian managed to add a further two Warwickshire medals, winning the mixed and men's doubles County titles with Kate

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Hughes and Anthony Ellis respectively, along with the Veteran singles and doubles titles at the Police Nationals at his first ever attempt.

Anthony Ellis and Ben Willson continue to fly the flag on the National circuit, regularly competing in tournaments up and down the country. Both have rocketed up the National ranking lists and did Colebridge proud when they flew off to Vegas to compete in the World Veterans Championships in June. It should be noted that between them, Ben and Anthony have played over 500 games this season! Ben has accrued more than 350 alone, surely a record for any Colebridge member since the club's inception?

Craig Allen has seen his hard work with coach Edward Lynn pay off on a massive scale as he continues to produce excellent results both on the National scene along with competing abroad. He finished a credible 3rd at the National Championships and secured a fantastic bronze at the British Para Games. Craig added to his medal haul, winning yet another bronze at the recent Spanish Open. Craig is currently ranked 51 in the world (Class 9) and 2 in GB, results which have seen him recently selected for the British team. Hopefully with further guidance from Ed, Craig can turn those International bronze medals into silver or gold as he continues to mature and develop on and off the table. It should also be noted that Craig recently qualified as a Level 2 coach and also helped out as a volunteer at the World Cup hosted in London.

Colebridge Coaching Officer and Youth Leader Edward Lynn, added to his long array of accolades, by winning the Birmingham Closed Men's singles title and narrowly missed out on the Birmingham Premiership individual trophy, finishing a more than credible 2nd in the City's top division.

Off the table (development & fundraising)

As mentioned earlier in the report, in the event of our membership increasing dramatically and with more and more teams being registered for local leagues, ensuring that all members get their share of table time is becoming ever more difficult, so thought is being directed towards extending our building.

We had hoped that Network Rail, from whom we lease half of the railway side car park, would allow us to build an extension on that side, but they refused, so we are instead looking at using part of the fenced-off area on the other side. We are not optimistic that a useable extension there is practicable, due to the site's triangular shape and its proximity to the adjoining gardens, but we are seeking the advice of an Architect.

Off site, there are two developments that are worthy of mention. Firstly, in conjunction with Colebridge member, Rod Lewis, and Solihull Active, we have been instrumental in the establishment of a Community Table Tennis Club at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre in Solihull. The weekly sessions on

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Mondays from 10.00 to 12.00 have been so well attended that we are now seeking external funding to double the number of tables to eight, so that we can introduce one-to-one coaching.

The other project is the creation of a Table Tennis Centre at Nishkam School in Nechells, Birmingham. Our Youth Leader and Coach, Ed Lynn, is in the process of setting up his own centre for coaching at that school, but Birmingham, Solihull & District TTA, who, with support from Table Tennis England, are providing match tables, intend to use the Centre for Tournaments and League Matches. We understand that initially, the playing of all Premier Division matches on the same night each week will be trialled, with other Divisions added if all goes well.

Colebridge have been successful this year in three bids for financial assistance. Kate Hughes led the way in a £1000.00 bid from Persimmon Homes and was also instrumental along with Neil Wheatley in once again receiving the £750.00 Baron Davenport grant. Colebridge have also been awarded £3000.00 from West Midlands Police Active Citizens Fund, money that will be used to purchase equipment for the club and provide two projects; an after school initiative and a collaborative enterprise in Shirley Park over the Summer months, aiding and assisting members of the public by introducing them to Table Tennis.

Along with the huge changes on the committee, perhaps the biggest development has been the incredible building work we have had done throughout the year (hopefully with minimal disruption to the members). Club member Gareth Donn agreed to undertake the work and he has done an excellent job on the kitchen, toilets and hallway. We now have toilets with wheelchair access and changing facilities with hot running water for both male and female members.

In an effort to maintain the newly refurbished areas, along with the playing halls, we have also recently employed a cleaner who regularly looks after the club, alleviating some of the work that various committee members have undertaken for a number of years.

Kate Hughes led the way in the club achieving 'Club Mark' accreditation and also once again successfully gaining Premier Club status. The 'Club Mark' scheme is designed to set certain standards in the accomplished running of a club. Not only did we attain the qualities required, but we set a benchmark that Table Tennis England were so impressed with, we were asked if they could use Colebridge as an example of the calibre required to successfully achieve 'Club Mark' status. The time and effort Kate put into this was truly commendable and along with a number of other committee members, hopes to maintain our accreditation throughout the 2018/19 season.

Whilst the driveway is a constant cause for concern, we are attempting to keep it maintained far better than in previous years. Neil Wheatley and Ian Ferguson had a meeting with Ricki Grenfell who manages the company that utilise our land for their plant and building materials and it was agreed to conserve the driveway, guttering and car park on a far more regular basis than it has been historically. The driveway has been filled on two occasions since November and whilst we

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appreciate the temporary repairs are far from ideal, until we have a more permanent solution, we will attempt to keep it in as best a state as is practicable.

Social Events

Our two annual social events, the hard bat tournament and the Xmas party were once again well received and well attended. Ben Willson retained his hard bat title defeating Michael Rinnhofer in the final, whilst Jake Crawshaw overcame David Hatcher in the consolation event. Lee Hotham proved a popular winner of the single point competition.

The committee would like to thank all of those involved in the organising and running of these events, and the generosity of those that contributed not only their time but providing food and drink for those in attendance also.

Financial Report

Despite the large outlay of money for the club's refurbishments this year, the finances are still in a healthy position, due to both the regular income from the coaching sessions provided and the grants successfully applied for. The exact income and expenditure, along with the current balance will be detailed by the treasurer at the AGM.

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