

## Twin Power at BATTs



Talented twin line up (left to right): Woody, Sam, Toby, Ethan, Jack, Stavros, Panos, Xander

Photo Ben Flaum

**Among the recent recruits to our BATTs coaching squads we have managed to attract *four* sets of non-identical twins.**

The eight boys are all close in age - just 16 months separates them - and they all started playing table tennis as beginners during the past 18 months.

**Ethan and Jack Willis** are the veterans of the group. They joined BATTs in March 2016 and have made excellent progress. Ethan has already attended more than 100 training sessions and had his first tournament success in April, reaching the semi-final of the BATTs U13 Super Series (Band 2). Jack enjoys playing but he is also a very talented pianist and there are only so many hours in the day.

**Sam Taylor** was the next to arrive at BATTs, when still 10, in September 2016. We promoted him rapidly to the intermediate squad and is now

training three times a week as well as starting to compete in tournaments. We knew early on that Sam had a twin brother, and **Woody** often came to watch his brother play, but we all (including their parents) had a pleasant surprise when Woody announced that he would like to begin. He started in June 2017 and now has his sights firmly set on catching up with Sam, who recently became the first of the twins to reach the national ranking list.

**Toby and Xander Petch** appeared on the scene in October 2016. They have been a very welcome addition to the club, and are both now in our intermediate squad. As well as putting in 100% effort in their training they are great fun to have around, and have begun entering our competitions.

The fourth set of twins joined us in May 2017. **Panos and Stavros Apostolidis** signed up for regular

coaching after a series of visits by a group from their primary school, Kingsmoor Academy. They have made a very enthusiastic start. Unfortunately, Stavros managed to break his right arm while playing football, but he refused to let that stop his table tennis, and he cheerfully carried on, switching to his left hand for the early part of the summer!

The coaching team is delighted to see how well the twins have settled in, mixing well with each other as well as the rest of the non-twin players.

Looking to the future, it will be fascinating to follow their progress over the coming years. Above all, we hope they will continue to enjoy playing.

Further sets of twins (girls especially) will be welcome. If there are any triplets in Harlow, we may need to start thinking about that extension again.

# Clean Sweep for Aadil at BATTS JSS

**Aadil Anand aged 12 remarkably won all his matches in our final Junior Super Series (U18) three straight and is arguably the best player of his age in the country.**

I spotted him and his younger brother (aged 6 who has just started playing) on the swings in the playground as I was leaving after the tournament.

I went up to his mother and said how well Aadil had played. She surprised me by saying that BATTS was very special to her and it was where it all started.

I thought she must be confused and asked how so. She explained that Aadil idolised Jan-Ove Waldner before he had even picked up a bat. He spotted online that he was coming to England and got his mum to bring him to BATTS. Waldner talked to him and had his photo taken with him. At BATTS, they met John Dennison and started going to Fusion as it is close to their home.

The rest is history!

Sadly, after three years in England, Aadil's dad had to take the family back to India for a new work posting, so they have now returned to Mumbai.

**Neil Brierley**

*A new season of Super Series tournaments is about to start at BATTS. See our website for more information:*

[www.batts.org.uk/content/tournaments](http://www.batts.org.uk/content/tournaments)



*Aadil's prodigious speed and power took him to victory in the BATTS Junior Super Series. The photos below show him at the memorable BATTS event where it all started for Aadil. This was the visit - in August 2014 - by the two Swedish former world champions Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson.*



## World War 2 Veteran Still Pinging

**BATTS received a welcome visit recently from a veteran of World War Two.**

Len Quested is the 90 year old uncle of Helen D'Aguiar and was in England celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with his twin brother, Helen's father Ron, and the rest of her family. Len had emigrated to Australia in 1965 and was an active table tennis player for many years, taking part in both local and international competitions until his late 70s. He now plays socially, and was happy to knock a few rallies while on his visit.

Len's interest in table tennis goes back to the days before he emigrated, when he also became an expert in rifle

shooting (.22 small bore). Len tells us that the split second timing he developed in rifle shooting was very helpful in learning table tennis.

After beginning his working life as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy Len worked for Whitbread Brewery and then Ford before emigrating.

While he was on his emigration voyage he managed to win trophies in both table tennis and 12 bore Trap Shooting.

In Australia, Len worked as Owner-Driver delivering groceries for Woolworths. He enjoyed his visit to BATTS and looks forward to visiting again, perhaps when he reaches 95.



*Len Quested in action at BATTS in July*

# BATTS Coaching Team Set to Grow

We were very happy to see that four of our members had signed up to take their UKCC Level One Coaching course which started at BATTS on 20th August.

One of our ambitions is to find a female coach to join our team, and this looks like giving us an excellent chance.

**Sandy Nash** is currently ranked 33 in the England Ladies Veterans and her son Ben is a keen member of our beginners.

**Aris Kapsanakis** spars regularly with our A Squad and will be representing BATTS in the SBL this season.

**Helen D'Aguiar** is now adding the coaching qualification to her County Umpire award that she achieved earlier this year, and has already helped our coaching team during the regular visits from local primary schools.

**Jasmine Chan** has been a member of our A Squad for more than 3 years and she has held a long-term ambition to become a qualified coach.



*New coaches in training at BATTS. Left to right: Sandy Nash, Aris Kapsanakis, Helen D'Aguiar, Jasmin Chan*

## Non-Stop Summer of TT



**There was no stopping our coaching programme over the summer at BATTS this year.**

Recognising that many of our players would take a break at some point during the school holidays we decided to combine our A and B Squad sessions and include a longer session on Wednesdays each week during the holiday period.

This proved very popular. The daytime

Wednesday sessions made it possible for our own players to keep training but also gave us a chance to welcome visitors from further afield. This was win-win for everyone who benefitted from having some new practice partners.

**Peter Cleminson**, our Head Coach, did a remarkable job in keeping the sessions lively and entertaining for everyone and all the coaching team were very happy to see our regulars

making the visitors feel welcome. We were delighted to hear so many good reports from the parents of visitors saying they wished they lived a bit closer to Harlow!

Starting in September we revert to our regular pattern of coaching, and we hope to see our new friends again in the future.

The photo shows the players at one of the Wednesday groups.

We are looking forward to starting our campaign in the British League, and delighted that we can offer some of our junior and senior players their first opportunity to compete in the UK's leading league competition.

This season we shall be running three teams in the Senior British League and two in the Junior Boys section.

Our Premier Division side begins with a degree of uncertainty. Adam Nutland has decided not to play in the Premier Division and will be appearing for another club in the Championship Division. We have also lost Michael Tauber who is now fully committed to playing in Europe.

Much will be resting on the shoulders of **Helshan Weerasinghe**, with support from **Jack Bennett**, **Steve Beerling** and **Peter Cleminson**, to keep the flag flying for BATTs.

The second and third teams look more settled. BATTs II, competing in National A-2, will be **Tony Halling**, **Sam Chesterman**, **Josh Dye** and **Joe Walker**. There will be plenty of chances to come and support this team because all their matches will be played at BATTs (see right) Our newly-established third team, captained by **Chris D'Aguiar**, will be competing in National B-3 with matches at Wellingborough. Chris will have a wide choice of BATTs players to pick from.

Our first team in the JBL (**Ethan Walsh**, **George Hazell**, **Sam Chesterman** and **Joe Walker**) will be in the Premier Division which is bound to be tough. The second team will be **Diesel Harvey**, **Finley Cameron-Prior**, and **Samuel Flaum**. All matches are at Derby, starting on 23rd September.

## 10,000 Hours

To reach the top level in any sport you need a lot more than just talent. Commitment to training is essential. Here is a list of the BATTs Juniors showing the number of training sessions they have attended at BATTs in 2017. An impressive list indeed. Who will be the first to 10,000 hours?

1	Sam	Taylor	90	
2	Ralph	Pattison	86	
3	Ethan	Willis	77	
4	Harry	Argent	74	
5	Cassidy	Fung	73	
6	Finley	Cameron-Prior	72	
7	Diesel	Harvey	69	*
8	Ben	Sivathanu	68	*
9	Mithran	Patnaik	62	
10	Jake	Harvey	60	
11	Samuel	Flaum	60	
12	Charlie	Read	58	
13	Kyle	Cameron-Prior	58	
14	Marc	Bull	56	
15	Jaz	Harvey	55	*
16	Jack	Willis	52	
17	Ray	Yan	51	
18	Ben	Flaum	51	
19	Alex	Howard	46	
20	Stephanie	Cross	44	

\* These players have attended more than 300 sessions since Feb 2014

## GP Final

Congratulations to **Ethan Walsh** who reached the final of the U21 event (and he's still only 15) at the Liverpool Grand Prix in August. Ethan must now be getting close to his 10,000 hours.



## COMING UP @ BATTs

### Saturday 16 September

BATTs Junior Open League

### Sunday 1 October

Under 13 Super Series 1\*

### Friday 6 October

BATTs Open League

### Saturday/Sunday 7/8 October

SBL National A-2. BATTsII playing four matches over the weekend

### Saturday 21 October

BATTs Junior Open League

### Sunday 29 October

Cadet Super Series 2\*

### Friday 3 November

BATTs Open League

### Saturday/Sunday 4/5 November

SBL National A-2. BATTsII playing four matches over the weekend

### Saturday 11 November

SBL Premier: BATTs v Ormesby

### Friday 1 December

BATTs Open League

## BATTs MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all our senior members who have renewed early and without needing to be reminded.

For the rest of you, please save us the bother of chasing you.

The annual fee is now due and remains at £144 (plus £20 if you play in the Harlow League).

Members who pay monthly, and parents of our coaching squads should just continue with the regular monthly payments.

Please note that all members of BATTs, both senior and junior, also need to hold a valid membership of Table Tennis England.

If have not yet joined or need to renew please visit the TTE website here:

[www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/play/membership/](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/play/membership/)

We are notified of members who have not joined TTE so again it would be helpful if you could do this without us having to ask you.

Make sure you are on our mailing list to get all the latest news from BATTs. Email Graham (see address below)