

Jersey Table Tennis Boys Primary School team shine in Cardiff



Jersey boys, Jordan Wykes (11), Philip (10) and David Quinn (8) and Jacob Gosselin (10) achieved a magnificent result in the British Primary School Championships in Cardiff on 1 – 3 April 2011. They defeated the home nation, Wales, a first for a junior side beating a UK country and finished in an excellent fourth position behind England, Scotland and Ireland. In fact they had a real chance to take the bronze medal instead of Ireland but Philip, playing at number 2 just lost out to the Irish number 1 after leading having 3 match points at one stage. Jordan Wykes had an excellent run in the team event winning 14 out of 16 singles, just losing to the England and Scotland numbers ones, Hugo Pang and Chris Wheeler. It was the first time that David had attended this event and he showed great potential with wins against Wales and a key singles win against Guernsey. Jacob also performed well with wins against Isle of Man and Wales. Philip had a number of good wins and he saved the best till last in the team event beating the Guernsey no 3 at a key stage of the match to secure a draw for the team.

The team event started with the most difficult match, England the eventual winners. The highlight for Jersey was Jordan's victory against England No 2 Tom Jarvis. Next came Wales A, another big challenge but the Jersey boys rose to it. Philip beat the Welsh no 1 in straight sets and Jordan did the same against the no 2. After David lost, Jacob made it 3 -1 with a great win. Philip and Jordan won the top doubles in straight games but the Welsh took the second doubles making it 4 – 2. Jordan then beat the Welsh no 1 11 -9 in the fifth and Philip recorded a 3 – 1 victory over the Welsh number 3 and Jersey had taken the match.

Jersey then faced Ireland in a key match and once again Jordan led the way with 2 singles wins but Philip just went down to the No 1 and this forced Jersey to split its doubles pairs. The tactic did not

pay off and Jersey lost both doubles. Philip picked up a win against the Irish No 3 but David and Jacob found the Irish players too strong and the match was lost.

The Jersey players picked themselves up and had a great 9 – 1 win against Wales B with Jordan, Philip and Jacob all unbeaten. They then followed a must win match against the Isle of Man and once again Jersey had the answers. Jordan got two straight sets wins, supported by one win each for Philip, David and Jacob. A key doubles win by Philip and Jacob ensured another win for the Jersey boys.

Next was the very strong Scotland and only Jordan could pick up a win in the 9 – 1 defeat but he did take the Scottish no 1, Chris Wheeler – the eventual singles winners, to 5 games.

All was set for the final match, the Jersey – Guernsey battle. Jordan started with a great 3 – 0 win over Sol Bower whilst Philip lost to Sam King. Jacob lost to Jack Ives but David won his first inter island singles with a 3 -1 victory over Ben Fosse making it 2 – 2. Philip and Jordan won the top doubles but David and Jacob lost their doubles so it was then 3 – 3. Jordan had a straight games win over Sam King but David lost to Sol Bower making it 4 – 4. Jacob lost to Ben Fosse so it was up to Philip to win his match against Jack Ives to secure the draw. He responded to the challenge with a great 3 – 0 result and honours were shared.

On Sunday 3 April the individual events were held. The boys were placed in groups of 4. Jordan finished top of his group and Philip finished second so they both progressed to the main knockout event. David and Jacob each finished in 3rd position and went into the consolation event. Jordan was drawn against Guernsey No 1, Sam King, and was unlucky to lose 3 – 1. Philip drew the Scottish No 2 and rose to the challenge just losing 11 – 9 in the 5th game, playing some great table tennis in the match. In the consolation, Jacob lost in the first round whilst David had a good win over Jack Walters from Wales. David also put up a great fight in the quarter finals before losing to Sam Callister of the Isle of Man over 5 games.

It was a great weekend for the Jersey teams and Craig Gascoyne, JTTA Development Officer, said

“I am so proud of the boys, to beat a British Nation is a great step forward for the future of Jersey Table Tennis. What is interesting is that Jordan, Philip, David and Jacob are all young enough to compete in this event next year. We now have some real talent who deserve all the opportunities to succeed.”