

Philip beats top English players to take Sussex U12 Table Tennis title



Philip Quinn

Just 3 days after his 11th birthday, Appleby Academy junior Philip Quinn beat the top English players in his age group to take the Sussex U12 table tennis title. Philip was unseeded in the event and had to beat a number of the very top UK boys to win the event.

Philip's first event was the U14 and he was drawn with the number 3 seed Adam Corell from Sussex in his group. His first match was against Corell and he played at the top of his game, using powerful topspin, to win 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 11-5. He also beat Anthony Close (Ellenborough TTC) 3 -1 , ranked 20 in U13 boys last season and followed up with another 3 – 1 win over Regan O'Neill (Kent) to amazingly top the group. Philip then faced Marcus Bracey (Sussex), number 2 seed in the U12 event, and won a tight match 3 -2. He lost the semi-final match was against Hugo Pang, ranked 2 in England at U13.

In the U13 event Philip qualified from his group but was unfortunate to be drawn against the No 1 seed in the quarter final and he lost 3 -0.

It was then time for the U12 event. In the group matches Philip had a convincing win over Liam Smith (London) but then lost to no 2 seed Marcus Stacey (Sussex) in a very tight match. This meant if Philip was to win the event he would need to beat the top 3 seeds. In the quarter final he met the no 3 seed Ben Foster (Kent) and again his powerful topspin ensured a 3 -2 victory. This set up the semi-final against No 1 seed James Smith (London Academy TTC), rated as the top prospect in his age group. Philip powered through the first game winning 11-7 but lost the second 17-15. He then recovered to take the 3rd game 11-9 and the 4th 11-5. In the final he met the no 2 seed Marcus Bracy (Sussex) who he had beaten in the U14 event but lost to in the group stages. Philip lost the first game 12-10 but recovered to take the next 3 games 11-5, 11-2, 11-4 to take the title.

Philip's brother David Quinn, another Appleby Academy junior, also played in the U12 event and he had a good win in his group against Medha Verma (London) but lost to Ben Foster (Kent) and Oliver Tyndall (Gloucester) 3 – 1. 8 year old David showed great promise taking games against older and

experienced opponents. David went into the consolidation event and met Liam Smith (London) in the semi final. His powerful game was too much for Smith and David won 11-5, 11-4, 11-3. In the final he met U11 no 2 seed Loran Gallen (London) and once again triumphed after losing the first game 11-7 but winning the next three 11-5, 11-8, 11-3. So it was success for both Quinn brothers in the U12 event.



David Quinn

After some good wins in the U13 groups and reaching the consolidation semi-final, David then played the U11 event. This was a round robin event with top English player James Smith as no 1 seed. David's first match was against no 2 seed Loran Gallen (London) and his attacking game was too much for Gallen, winning 11-5, 11-5, 11-8. Next was against the no 1 seed and top English player James Smith (London Academy TTC) . David continued with his attacking style but just lost out to the eventual winner. Finally David met Liam Smith (London) and sailed through 11-2, 11-1, 11-3 to take the runner up position. A great result for the 8 year old.

Philip and David's performance against the very top English players in their age groups sets up the real possibility that Jersey will come home with medals in the 2012 International Primary Schools competition. Historically Jersey has not challenged the big nations of England, Scotland and Ireland. There is now a real expectation that Jersey can return with the gold medal. The JTTA are looking for a sponsor to help ensure the team get the best preparation for this major opportunity.

The Appleby Academy also had two older junior in the U16, U17 and U18 events. Kelsey Le Maistre (15) held her own well in a mixed tournament with only 1 other girl! She had an excellent win against Lewis Bray (top 65 England ranked Under 18) 3-1 and almost caused a big upset in the Under 19s, going 2-0 up against 3rd seed Alex Forshaw before losing out in a tight 5-setter. Jack Mills (16) also had a good day; although unfortunately losing all his groups, he almost cause a major upset by losing 3-2, 11-7 in the 5th to Tyla Anderson, England number 24 Under 18. Mills made up for losing out in his groups by winning 2 consolation tournaments and reaching the semi-final of a third.