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The Youth and Development Manager of the European Table Tennis Union, Hungary's Zita Pidl, visited Guernsey from 22nd to 24th June 2007 where she met not only table tennis officials but also the Minister of Leisure and Sport and the head of the Guernsey Sports Commission.

Topics under discussion during three day visit included, political support for the organisation of a Eurokids Training Camp, the structure of Guernsey sport, government for the Association's activities, the British Schools Championships, an international mini cadet tournament and an ITTF Level One Coaches seminar. Guernsey, a British crown dependency in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy and is one of a grouping known as the Channel Islands.

Active

"Discussions with tournament sponsors, politicians, management committees and others involved with Guernsey sport and table tennis in particular were held", explained Zital Pidl. "The Guernsey Table Tennis Association has become very active lately; however, except one full time coach Rebecca O'Keefe, the association runs with volunteers only."

A major reason for the growth of table tennis in Guernsey is due to the leadership of the forward thinking national table tennis association president, Derek Webb who has certainly motivated the volunteers.

Doubled

"The association has doubled in size over the last five years", he said. "Volunteers are an essential part of all clubs, societies and associations and it enables members to give something back to the sport they love without being part of the main committee"

In 2006, the Guernsey Table Tennis Association organised a coaching seminar under the framework of the European Table Tennis Union Assistance Programme and in 2008 intends to organise a Eurokids training camp and ITTF Level One Coaches Course.

"The European Table Tennis Union is ready to support these activities through the ITTF/ETTU Development Programme", explained Zita Pidl. "The activities will be run with the help of our development sponsor, Tibhar.

Meetings

Zita Pidl also met with Phil Hunkin, the Guernsey Table Tennis Association's Vice President and on the subject of tournament organisation with Lionel Jones and Brian Le Cras.

Furthermore, officials of other national associations within the British Isles attended the meetings in Guernsey. Jersey's Geoff Reed, England's Alex and Val Murdoch, Scotland's Patricia Whitaker and Ireland's John O'Donoghue were also present.



(left to right) Rebecca O'Keefe, Zital Pidl, Derek Webb and Phil Hunkin in Guernsey *Photo By: Guernsey TTA*