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Guernsey, a Small Island with a Large Home for Table Tennis

By: Ian Marshall, ITTF Publications Editor

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One of Europe's smallest table tennis association; Guernsey, was the home for the Eurokids Training Camp from 9th to 15th February 2008; situated in the England Channel, the island has a population of sixty thousand and is a popular tourist destination for those desiring a quiet relaxing holiday.

Not only is it a favourite amongst the holidaymakers it is increasingly becoming a focal point for table tennis.

There is strong support of the local authorities and thanks to the boundless enthusiasm of all concerned, table tennis is developing at a rapid rate.

National Centre

The Guernsey Table Tennis Association has approximately one hundred adult league table tennis players and some one hundred children who receive regular coaching.

Furthermore they have a National Training Centre which houses sixteen to twenty table tennis tables and in addition possesses a balcony, space for physical training, offices, library, kitchen whilst being available twenty-fours a day.

Certainly table tennis is on a high in Guernsey.

Nearby

For the Eurokids Training Camp, the group stayed at the Hougue du Pommier Hotel, which was only a two minute walk to the National Training Centre; it proved a splendid home for the young players who were warmly welcome by all members of staff.

Analysis

A very important part of the camp was the video analysis that took place with an added ingredient being the visit of Rudi Sporrer who spoke about the system in place in Austria and the imminent rule changes.

Thirty-two players were originally nominated but illness and internal problems caused cancellations with the final number being twenty seven players and fourteen coaches (of whom six were female) under the direction of ETTU Youth Programmes Head Coach Jarek Kolodziejczyk.

Tradition

True to tradition sight seeing formed an integral part of the programme and a tournament in which Slovenia's Patrik Sukic finished in first place ahead of Serbia's Sasa Dumnic and the Czech Republic's David Reitspies; Slovenia's Nina Zupancic finished in seventh place and was the leading girl.

Thanks

A successful camp thanks in particular to the efforts of Derek Webb, Martin Stacey and Becks O'Keefe from the Guernsey Table Tennis Association; to Lionel Jones for organising the tournament, to and to the equipment manufacturer, Tibhar, for their continued support.



Jarek Kolodziejczyk faces the cameras *Photo By: Zita Pidl*

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