

Aberdeen and District TT Association

Development Report: June 2019 – March 2020

For 2020 AGM

It has been a shortened year but nonetheless a busy one! This report tries to summarise the many activities undertaken by ADTTA in the City and Shire to promote TT, attract more players and improve standards.

What does ADTTA do?	How successful?
Run the leagues and 2 major tournaments	Since 2012/13 the number of teams in the adult league has increased from 20 to 37, mainly due to teams formed from the junior and over 50s ranks, as well as thriving clubs such as Turriff, Alford and Stonehaven. NoS Open and NoS Confined are run successfully each year.
Coach in schools and at ASV to give children a taste of the sport	In 2019/20 we ran taster sessions in City and Shire schools and at ASV which were attended by over 2000 primary pupils.
Run the ASV high performance academy	Academy members were Scottish Champions at 2 age groups (U18 girls and U13 boys) with a runner-up in the U18 boys age group. The Aberdeen and District TT team are the current Scottish interleague champions. Sessions with top Scottish coaches are arranged regularly.
Develop over 50s TT	Over the whole of NE Scotland there are now regular over 50s sessions at 17 Venues catering for approximately 300 players every week at 24 different sessions. Coaches attend most sessions.
Help to give TT opportunities for the disadvantaged e.g. in sheltered housing, care homes dementia groups or ASN groups in schools	With the help of grants from Active Aberdeen Partnership and the Life Changes Trust we have introduced TT to 11 care homes/sheltered housing units in the last 2 or 3 years. Dementia groups have been supported and are enthusiastic about TT. In collaboration with Sport Aberdeen and ASV our coaches help at several events during the year such as Parasport festivals and ASN Racquets events.
Encourage new clubs and community sessions over the whole of NE Scotland	Thanks mainly to our new Development Officers, more communities are now able to run TT sessions on a regular basis – Peterhead, Fraserburgh, MacDuff, Inch, Banchory, Ellon, Newburgh, Newmachar, Rothienorman, Crathes amongst others have benefited
Access grant aid for development and equipment	ADTTA has been successful in attracting grants in the last 3 years from: TTS for communities and care homes in Shire TTS for junior development Active Aberdeen Partnership for sheltered housing/care homes in Abdn Sport Scotland for DO posts over 4 years Sport Scotland (A4A) for new tables
Encourage players to take coaching courses	Introductory, Level 1 and Level 2 courses are arranged in Aberdeen regularly although sadly L1 and L2 courses scheduled for April/May 2020 had to be postponed.

Acknowledgements

The Committee and no doubt all TT players in the area are very grateful to all the volunteers who have helped in many ways towards the successes of the past few years. It would not be possible without the coaches and assistants who have helped with juniors and over 50s sessions. In particular a sincere vote of thanks is due to Doug Farquharson and our 2 development officers, Catherine Inverarity and Rob Barsby, who have carried the message to communities large and small throughout the region.

Thank you!

What's next?

It is great to see more enthusiastic TT groups starting up all over the NE. Because many people have played TT in their youth we believe there is a lot of potential to increase participation in many more communities in Shire and also in the City. Introducing TT to schoolchildren and giving them the opportunity to take up the sport seriously should pay off in the longer term. There are 7 new teams in the Aberdeen leagues made up of junior or over 50s players – it is truly a “game for life”. Because of the increased interest in Aberdeenshire, eventually we may be able to start up a league between clubs which are well to the north of Aberdeen, reducing the travelling involved. Of course we will have to see what the effect of Covid-19 is on how we operate but we need to remain positive to maintain the momentum built up in the last few years.

Having active development officers is no doubt a key ingredient for progress but beyond that there needs to be a strong base of coaches and assistants to help with TT sessions in schools and at club nights or over 50s sessions. If you are enthusiastic about TT and would like to put something back into the sport then please volunteer. A first step is to take the introductory coaching course which is not at all difficult. Helping out need not be a major commitment but it may improve your own skills and you can be sure that it will help to build communities, improve their health and give everyone some fun!

Contact myself or any of the Committee if you are interested.

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