

# Junior British League

I just want to say thank you again for helping fund Jake for Junior British League Table Tennis.

JBL has now finished for this season so I can now provide some feedback on how the team did.

JBL consists of 2 weekends in Derby. September and February. The venue, Derby Arena (velodrome) is the most amazing venue that I have ever been to and for Jake and the team to play there is just amazing. I was speaking to several other coaches and they said that Junior British League is the equivalent of Wembley for Football or Wimbledon for Tennis. This is the pinnacle of the sporting calendar for table tennis so you can now image the atmosphere.

The team members I had were:-

Damien Gray - Sussex  
Micah Ajayi - Kent  
Charlie Cunningham - Sussex  
Jake

The division consisted of 6 teams who you play twice over the 2 weekends:-

Horsham Spinners  
Brighton  
Byng Hall – Our Team  
Ulster  
Rotherham Scorpions  
Ellenborough Boys TTC

The boys played very well and over all we finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. I personally feel this is a huge achievement for each of the lads being their first time in this type of tournament.

We also came away yesterday with an award, we were chosen for “ **Team of the Weekend**”. Basically this was voted by the official umpires, and some coaches for a team that has outstanding sportsmanship, outstanding team spirit, outstanding conduct..there are other criteria but these are just a few.

I thought initially this award was for their division 4a, I was totally wrong, this award was for **Boys Team of Weekend**, there was over 40 teams, over 200 players from all over England, the best juniors in country, best coaches in the country and we won it.

For me being the coach / parent and seeing the boys pick up this award means more than winning a title, it just proves that it is not always about winning. You can probably tell how proud I am of each of the lads.

**Mark Buckley**