

ADTTA Development Report 2022/23

Development Officer in North Aberdeenshire area

Having completed 4 years as Development Officer, Rob Barsby resigned in January 2023. After Covid restrictions were relaxed he and his wife Julie continued to deliver tasters and after-school clubs in Banff, Turriff, MacDuff and Peterhead amongst others, as well as to groups such as Cornhill Girl Guides which was a particular success. He has developed a useful package of templates and relevant information for those starting to form a TT club and has laid the groundwork for new clubs in several communities. Rob and Julie have also enthusiastically promoted disability TT.

ADTTA would like to record our sincere thanks to both Rob and Julie for all their hard work. But their sterling work will continue as we are delighted to welcome John Macdonald from the Peterhead TT club as the new development officer for the North Aberdeenshire area. John takes up the post at the beginning of June.

The clubs in Turriff and Peterhead continue to be well attended and of course teams from Turriff have featured well in the league this season.

Development Officer in South Aberdeenshire area

Dave Lomax has been very busy liaising with Active Schools and Community Sports Hub network to provide new tasters sessions and organise new after-school clubs, e.g. in Stonehaven, Inverbervie, Hatton, Oldmeldrum, Kemnay, Kintore and Newmachar.

Disability TT groups have been meeting regularly in Banchory, Stonehaven and elsewhere, under Dave's guidance.

Partnering with Aberdeen Voluntary Action and Parkinsons UK has established funding for a Parkinson's / MS and Cancer recovery sessions for a 18 month period in Stonehaven.

Clubs in Stonehaven, Alford and Rothienorman/Inverurie are doing well in the league and there are flourishing recreational TT groups in Banchory, Ellon and Crathes.

Inverurie TT Academy

A successful application was made to Inverurie Youth Sports Foundation (IYSF) in partnership with Garioch Sports Centre (GSC) for funding to form a 'TT Academy' with the longer-term aim of providing a pathway for juniors to higher standards of play.

IYSF has agreed funding for 2 years and Catherine Inverarity (Level 2 coach) has taken on the post for 6hrs weekly and will lead the project. The work includes engaging with the local primary schools to create the demand for an after-school club and coached sessions at GSC.

ADTTA is a main partner, and Dave Lomax has been attending regularly along with Chris Davenport and Dick Ferro but more help from volunteers is always needed at the Monday sessions.

The local primary schools have regular sessions at GSC with up to 35 pupils attending each day. Enthusiastic pupils from these schools, including several girls, currently attend the after-school coaching session.

Development Plan for 2023-2028

A new 5 year development plan has been published (see ADTTA website) and gives a good idea of the main aims of the Association in the medium term. Included is a list of over 50 different TT sessions which are currently active

across Aberdeen City and Shire. If you would like to help to promote TT in NE Scotland there are plenty of ideas for you in this document.

Schools in Aberdeen City

A separate report on the elite ASV Academy will be given by Chief Coach Max Singer.

During the year Max arranged with the 7 local primary schools near the Sports Village to give TT taster sessions for P4 – P6 pupils (Seaton, Riverbank, Sunnybank, Cornhill, St Peter's, Kittybrewster and Woodside) with the aim of attracting pupils to the ASV after-school sessions run during term-time on a Monday and Friday. The capacity is limited to 8 pupils by the space available at ASV. Expansion of this scheme would be possible given more space for more tables, more volunteer coaches and possibly extension of the sessions into the holidays.

Almost all Academies have tables and many run lunchtime TT sessions. At present Cults and Oldmachar Academies have coached sessions either after school or at lunchtime.

Adult and Disability Session at ASV

A joint session for working adults and also disability players is held at ASV every Tuesday from 5pm to 6pm, with ADTTA coaches available. This is also now open to secondary school pupils interested in improving their technique.

Evergreen sessions

In both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, the over 50s TT sessions are slowly returning to pre-pandemic numbers with most groups operating at reduced capacity, initially due to Government restrictions. There is still great enthusiasm for TT in this age group who appreciate the benefits to be gained physically and socially.

Coaching

A Coaching subgroup has been formed to manage coach registration and qualifications and to allocate coaches to sessions or clubs as required.

Two successful coaching workshops were held at Ellon and Westhill in November and January for those interested in refreshing their coaching techniques or learning more about what coaching entails. A total of 24 participants were able to practice a range of skills essential for coaching players at beginner to intermediate level.

A new initiative is starting in the autumn between ADTTA, NESCol and ASV to give some sports course students opportunities to take coaching qualifications during their years at College and then to involve these students in our TT sessions.

After much delay due to Covid, a Level 2 course is due to be held in Aberdeen in the autumn – dates to be announced by TTS shortly. A Level 1 course is planned for next winter in the Aberdeen area and all those interested in applying should contact me.

Battle of the Brits

ADTTA were invited to set up a TT demonstration area at this tennis extravaganza at P&J Live in December 2022. It was a fun event over 2 days and we attracted a lot of interest, with many people trying their hand at TT or watching some of our talented juniors giving demos.

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