

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS 07-11-09

### **YOUTH LEAGUE HERALDS NEW ERA**

**The Stroud & District Table Tennis League has made a major step forward in revitalising Table Tennis in the Stroud area by re-launching a Youth League after a gap of over 20 years**

With the established Stroud & District Table Tennis League dominated by players no longer in their prime, focus needs to be on Youth development otherwise the League will gradually fall into decline. With many other sports and pastimes competing for young people's leisure time, it is vital that Table Tennis is strongly promoted and introduced at an early age and the Youth League will play a big part in doing that.

After-school clubs have been growing in number steadily since the Stroud High School club started in 2004 under the stewardship of Richard White (Development Officer at the time) and Coach George Novoth. Stroud High, Thomas Keble and Rednock Schools are now all very active as are the primaries of Chalford Hill and The British School in Wotton. Many other schools have lunch time sessions and some are looking to start after-school clubs.

The new Youth League bridges the gap between the school environment and the Stroud League and will introduce young people of all ages and skill levels to competitive Table Tennis. For many we hope it will be a stepping stone into the Stroud Senior league, County and National tournaments

Age range is 6-18 and the league is split into two divisions, Mini-Cadet (Under13) and Junior (Under18). There are two players per team and each team will play every other team at least once during the season. Matches will be spread across four or five different days during the season. On each day, all matches will be played at the same time at the multi-table sports hall at Stroud High School on Fridays following the after-school club session. Mini-Cadets will run from 4:30-6:30 and juniors from 6:30-8:30.

The first round took place on 20<sup>th</sup> November with an entry of 16 teams – report to follow next week

Full details are available from: [www.strouddtabletennis.co.uk](http://www.strouddtabletennis.co.uk), Leisure Centre, Bateman's Sports, Schools or the organiser: Jim Hurford SDTTL Development Officer, Tel: 01453 758968 or 07768 527743, Email: [hurfords@talktalk.net](mailto:hurfords@talktalk.net)