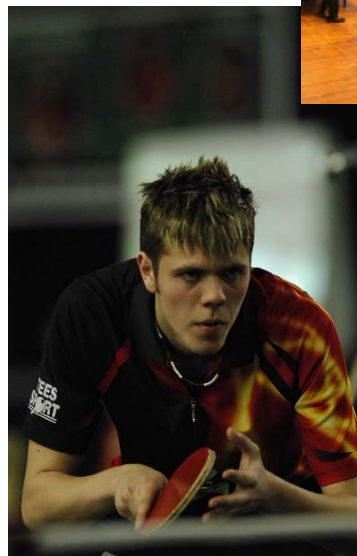


Sport Unlimited Case Study

Table-Tennis 'Robotics'!



CSP: PRO-ACTIVE NORTH LONDON

ACTIVITY: TABLE TENNIS CLUB

LOCATION: FINCHLEY, LONDON

Steve Bullough from SIRC consulted with PRO-ACTIVE North London about good practice examples for Sport Unlimited in North London and was signposted to a successful project taking place in Barnet. An afterschool Table Tennis club delivered at Finchley Catholic High School, in partnership with Urban Progress TPro Table Tennis Club, has been established. The development and delivery of the project is an excellent example of local strategic planning where the '5 hour' infrastructure group for Barnet, supported by PRO-ACTIVE North London, have identified needs and priorities of young people and matched those to high quality providers and partners to achieve results.

WHAT IS THE CLUB?

Following the success of Table Tennis in a breakfast club at the school, further equipment and resources were purchased in order to deliver an after school club, in partnership with the Urban Progress TPro Club, to sustain the participation levels. The equipment purchased included a 'Table Tennis Robot' which is an innovative way to practice and a resource which is highly enjoyable for the participants.

The Urban Progress TPro club is a premier club and participates in the British Senior League and several local leagues and they have several current junior British team champions. The Club is not only delivering Sport Unlimited sessions but aims to look longer term for the children who want to commit to the activities through the club as an exit route.

HOW AND WHERE IS THE CLUB DELIVERED?

The Club is delivered in after school sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays for almost 2 hours with the full support of the school and PE Department. The sessions have been evaluated and have proved successful. Several ways to improve future sessions were also highlighted including more tables, more staff to help to run the sessions and a larger venue due to the high numbers of young people regularly attending.

"We had good communication with the children - we promised and then delivered on those promises which was really important!"
Gergely, Urban Progress TPro

sport unlimited



"We had two exhibitions arranged by youth players who have been representing England. The young people were inspired by the players and realised it is possible to follow the pathways in Table Tennis through to whatever level they feel they can achieve."

Gergely, Urban Progress TTPro

WHO IS ATTRACTED TO THE CLUB?

The club is open to all males of all ages from Year 7 to Sixth Form and there has been a mix of young people from each year group. The registers from sessions suggest the participants are mainly from years 7-10 with some year 11. Table Tennis is an activity in which people can participate on an individual level or with partners / teams, therefore a range of different skills are required. Since the launch of the club, the numbers attending the sessions has risen to an average of 70 young people per session.

BENEFITS

The scheme has given young people the opportunity to participate after school which gives them more options to enjoy a game they like or have go at something they have never tried before. By putting on 2 sessions a week there are more opportunities to take part on a regular basis as they could find a suitable time in their timetable. The club aims to develop all the positive aspects that can occur with sports participation in this project with health, fun and social interactions high on the priority.

HOW ARE YOUNG PEOPLE SIGNPOSTED?

The original breakfast club was the main driver in getting existing players aware of the new after school club through a series of announcements by staff. Posters were also used to raise awareness. The positive attitude taken by the schools PE Department in delivering and promoting the club was really important and the club acted as a pathway from the breakfast club.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RETENTION

It is sustainable due to the fact that the equipment has already been purchased and the school PE Department and Head teacher are fully supportive. By having links with an external club the programme has a genuine exit route and from the autumn term, 14 young people have joined the club following the after school programme which has allowed a singles league to be developed. Thinking longer term, the club is committed to continuing links and offering pathways which are sustainable.

The development of one club member into competing at an international level shows the pathway progression which can be achieved. This sport will feature in Sport Unlimited plans for the next phase of the programme (March 09 onwards).

If you would like any further information, please contact Gergely at URBAN PROGRESS TTPro on 0208 440 5594



PE & SPORT
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