



2016 Open Day

Held at Ormiston Academy, Weds 13th July 2016, as part of their summer fair

Following the success of the Open Day at the Dome last year, Britannia and Ormiston Academy got together, resulting in an invitation for us to take part in their summer Fair. The school are trying to promote table tennis, having recently acquired some tables, and if it takes off, they like the idea of closer ties with Britannia as there may be some coaching opportunities. For the club, good neighbours are always a bonus, particularly when they have large sports halls, and the Table Tennis England national Table Tennis Day is July 14th - we are doing our bit to promote the sport locally.

13 club volunteers turned up to help move tables and screens from the Dome, and set up the robot, brought by Nigel Page. The format was not far from that of last year's Open Day, with the robot, coaching tables and a few frying pans for getting attention, with us not knowing how many would turn up but being well equipped to deal with modest or large numbers of youngsters.

Having met at 2pm, everything was set up by 2:30, and a few early birds wandered in, including the Principal and her Deputy. By 3pm we were in full swing, with up to 30 visitors at once either participating, waiting or spectating. The robot got a good workout and the coaches made a significant difference to several of the players style and progress. As testimony to how the day was enjoyed, a number of players who arrived early were still there at the end, and it was smiles all round when we were finally chucked out of the Hall, having to tear the last group of girls away from the last table as we packed up and said goodbye.

It is likely that some of the pupils who attended will come to the Sparrowhawks sessions as we were asked for details by plenty of them - indeed those people who didn't ask also got given flyers so keeping in touch with the club would be easy.

So in the end, both the school and the club seem to have got what they wanted from the day. Particular thanks to Mrs Bradbrook, the PE teacher who brokered the invite and joined in, and of course the club members who were able to volunteer and run the event. The organisation of the day was straightforward given the army of expertise that was so willing and available.