

## **Sponsorship deal for Olympic Hopeful Matt**

**The John Lewis Superstore at Southampton have agreed a four year sponsorship deal with London Olympics 2012 table tennis hopeful 17 year old Matt Ware from Poole.**

Matt recently returned from Italy after representing England in the European Youth Table Tennis Championships and was presented with his first cheque on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July at the store in Southampton.

Following the handover of the cheque, Matt had a fun knock-up with the Managing Director and then with some staff and customers. This was filmed by a Meridian TV camera crew in the sports section of the Southampton Store.

The filming continued on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July at the Bmth Sports Table Tennis Club and Matt was filmed playing against Tony Clayton (ex England International and Commonwealth player) and also Paul Belverside (ITV Meridian Sports Reporter). Matt, Tony and Matt's dad Geoff were interviewed about Matt's progress in reaching Number 14 in the English Senior Men Rankings and of his prospects for the years to come. The Crew then went on to the Ware's home in Parkstone, where they filmed Matt's haul of trophies and medals.

It is understood that the film will be broadcast "post Beijing Olympics", when the torch is handed over to London, and will portray the story of Matt's endeavours to reach London 2012.

Matt is a member of the British Table Tennis Federation's talent elite squad who train in Sheffield on a regular basis, and he holds a British Olympic Association silver passport which identifies him as a possible 2012 contender.

In September Matt starts a two year Sport BTEC national diploma at Brockenhurst College, two days a week, which allows him to spend the rest of his time working hard on his Table Tennis at the English Institute of Sport headquarters in Sheffield. However, next up for Matt is the Liverpool Grand Prix on 17<sup>th</sup> August followed by his participation in the UK School Games representing South West England (together with Hannah Hicks and Garth Kinlocke) to be held in Bath and Bristol over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> –31<sup>st</sup> August.

This coming season, Matt will be playing for the London Progress Club in the Premier Division of both the Senior and Junior British Leagues and also hopes to sign up for Mariedals Bordtennis Klubb, to play in Sweden's Div 2. Matt is also on the short list for selection to the Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Pune, India in October.

All in all, a busy year ahead for Matt!