

## **South West Region v Wales**

**Ruth Pickering, Emma Blachford and Finn Morgan-Bayliss** were selected to represent the South West Region in an U13 friendly table tennis match against Wales on Friday in Okehampton. This selection by Paul Whiting, the SW Regional Coach, is a tribute of the exceptional talent of these players and their progress at the SW Regional coaching centre at Portchester School in Bournemouth. All these young players play for Dorset County and also are in the National Cadet League, where Finn remains unbeaten and Ruth and Emma are also putting in winning performances.

In an absorbing contest, Finn won his two matches and helped the boys to beat their Welsh opponents by 5 games to 3. In closely contested games, the girls' team lost by 6 games to 3 against a very strong Welsh contingent.

Ruth, Emma and Finn all train at the Regional Coaching Centre at Portchester School, led by James Lewis, Mike Smith and Jo Kuzu. Since opening last September the centre has attracted many top junior players and promising younger players from the area. To have three local players in a six player team selected from the seven counties in the region is a mark of the tremendous work being carried out at the centre.

Mike Smith (Regional Coach) Feb 2011