

Shaun Newcomb: 2008/9 Achievements in Table Tennis

In July 2008 Shaun started the season's Disabled Grand Prix series at the Disability Sport England National Championships with gold medals in all three parts of the competition (Open wheelchair singles, Class 4/5 singles and wheelchair doubles) and went on to win multiple medals in all four national events over the year, gaining a current (March 2009) ranking of 2nd place.

In October Shaun was elected Vice Chairman of the BTTAD, the British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities, sanctioned by the British Paralympic Association as the National Governing Body for disability table tennis in Great Britain. He now also sits on their Technical Services Group and on the Selection sub committee.

In November Shaun was presented with the ETTA's Equality Award at their National Coaching Conference awards dinner. The citation recognised Shaun's continued coaching of individual wheelchair players, his work at Salisbury Hospital's spinal injuries unit, with the ETTA as a course tutor on their Premier Club "Ability" programme and his serving on the ETTA's Equality and Child Protection Committees.

In spring this year he was presented with the New Forest Sports Council's Senior Disability Sportsman award and was one of three nominees for the Hampshire Disabled Sportsman of the Year.

In September Shaun will be assistant team manager for the England disabled table tennis team at the UK School Games, to be held this year in Cardiff.

Shaun is currently updating his ETTA coaching qualification to the UK Coaching Certificate and will be attending the level 2 bridging course later this month (May 2009).

In the local able-bodied leagues Shaun's team New Milton "B" finished a creditable fourth in the Bournemouth second division and in the Southampton league his team Waterside "B" won the first division. Shaun's side included two New Milton players, Brian Vibert and Alan Gordon and Kinson's Samantha Meredith and Simon Mitcheson.

In addition to the foregoing, as well as running his own Health Insurance business from home, Shaun is also the driving force behind securing bigger premises and improved coaching facilities for the New Milton club.