



# TT Kidz is a Hit at Kelham Island TTC



Themes: clubs, children and young people

After forming in January 2023 Kelham Island Table Tennis Club have completed their first TT Kidz project, delivering in the heart of Sheffield. The clubs co-founder Simon Athey reflects on their TT Kidz project and what's next in their clubs' journey.

## The Project

Kelham Island TTC delivered the 8-week TT Kidz project free of charge, due to being based in the inner-city area of Sheffield. After advertising with local schools and across the city, the project saw 9 participants – 66% of which were girls – attend the course. Participants ranged in age from 6-12 years old and were a mixture of beginners and more experienced players.



Whilst working through the weekly plans deliverers Simon and Liam adapted the drills and games where required to suit their participants' individual needs. Although this was challenging at times, they were able to provide a fun and rewarding experience for the children who took part.

The 8-week block ended with a league match style environment of children vs parents, encouraging playing as a team and sportsmanship.



*"My daughter and her friend have loved it, each session was different and really motivated the children, they now want to play every week".*

*Parent of Participant*



*"My two sons had a fantastic time at TT Kidz, they have both said that table tennis is the highlight of their week".*

*Parent of Participant*

## What's Next?

At the end of the 8 weeks Simon and Liam encouraged the children to continue attending the club with their parents, as their venue is open 7 days a week for anyone to play at any time. However, due to the success of the project and the desire of the children to continue playing table tennis, the club aims to create a junior section in the summer.

*"It's inspired us to start a junior section [within the club]. We couldn't let them go and say bye".*

*Simon Athey  
Kelham Island Table Tennis Club*



Simon is part of discussions with other Sheffield clubs with junior sections to come together and better coordinate their activities to create better opportunities for young people in Sheffield.

A collaboration has been agreed with Sheffield Table Tennis League for the 24/25 season, whereby the joined-up clubs of Sheffield are putting forward teams into National and regional competitions as 'Sheffield Juniors' rather than as individual clubs.

*"Rather than have our own sections and be protective of them, we're going to create a society for them".*

*Simon Athey  
Kelham Island Table Tennis Club*



It is also hoped that in the future the clubs could share their coaching resources with each other, to create opportunities and pathways to develop young people in their table tennis journey.

This collaboration will bring the city together under one banner, potentially having a single point of access and shared opportunities available for young people in the city.

