

England Juniors Travel to France for Coaching with Normandy Youth

Earlier this year in May, we made an exciting connection with the French group from Cherbourg, thanks to the efforts of Stephen Daykin and Philippe Chantreux, who had seen several of our Juniors in action at the Worthing Big Weekend. After productive discussions

with Matthieu Gardenat, the Normandy Regional Coach, we arranged for 12 of our Juniors to travel to Rouen, France for a weekend of international coaching and team-building.



Journey and Arrival

Following a full day of travel on Friday, our group arrived in Rouen eager and ready for the experience ahead. Our heartfelt thanks go to the incredible support team—John Geddes, John Edmondson, Kevin O'Rourke, Michelle Roe, and Stephen Daykin—who ensured a smooth and safe journey for all involved.

Coaching and Collaboration

Saturday kicked off early with a warm breakfast generously provided by our French hosts. The day began with a welcome talk from Matthieu, followed by a group warm-up and a series of intensive practice drills. Most of the coaching sessions focused on shooting techniques, with some promotion-focused exercises also included.

The French coaches were welcoming and encouraging throughout, helping to create a positive and engaging environment. Communication flowed smoothly, thanks to Marine and Kevin, who stepped in to interpret where needed and helped our Juniors feel confident and included.



Our Juniors

The players representing England with pride were: Amy Geddes, Amiee Rickman, Ayva Law, Issy Satchwell, Erica Bennett, Alex Read, Alex Warren, Matthew Butcher, Ethan Roe, Nathan Huntley, Jayden Davies, George Partridge.

They participated with full enthusiasm, embracing every opportunity to improve their skills and learn from their French counterparts. Marine, our translator for the weekend, played a crucial role in supporting both players and coaches alike.



Afternoon Matches

After a delicious lunch—once again kindly provided by our hosts—the afternoon was filled with friendly triples matches, mixing French and English players. The matches gave our Juniors the chance to apply what they had learned in the morning and build valuable international friendships along the way.

A highlight of the afternoon was a fun and competitive knockout-style shooting game, which tested everyone's accuracy and composure. We wrapped up the day around 6:30pm after a full schedule of activity.



Sunday Skills and Strategy

Sunday brought another early start with a round of doubles games, where players continued to benefit from the coaching tips and tactical insights shared throughout the matches. The weekend concluded with an exciting pointing and shooting team game that kept everyone on their toes.

Reflections

This coaching exchange has been an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Both players and coaches came away having learned new skills and techniques. More importantly, the weekend fostered friendships, cultural exchange, and a shared passion for the sport. All Juniors have a plan for their own development.

We're incredibly thankful to the Normandy team for their warm hospitality, enthusiasm, and dedication. We look forward to continuing this international collaboration in the future

