



■ ON THEIR FEET: Becky and Jon Price, who run the Big Blue Surf School, pictured in Welcombe.

Picture: Jo Tibbles 06066104

Double high for North Devon surfing coach

By **KATHRYN FELL**

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A NORTH DEVON surfer has received a double boost after launching a new academy and joining the English Surfing Federation coaching team in the same month.

Jon Price, owner of the Big Blue Surf school based in Welcombe, has launched the Bude Junior Surf Academy in North Cornwall for local children aged 8 to 16.

He has also just been made a coach with the English Surfing Federation looking after the squad's mental preparation. Jon runs the surf school with

his wife Becky, also a qualified coach, who provides surfing lessons for deaf students.

Jon said: "I was invited to assist the English Junior Surf team and started coaching with the English Surfing Federation team. After working on other projects with the head coach, I was asked to take charge of the mental preparation for the squad.

"I took charge last month and it is very exciting. Mental preparation is an area a lot of sports in this country have not developed."

Jon is British Surfing Association qualified, can also train and assess potential

coaches, and has been coaching for nine years. He set up the Big Blue Surf School in 1999.

He offers coaching for all levels from beginners to elite, and was delighted to launch the new surf academy.

He said: "The Bude Junior Surf Academy offers local children the opportunity to receive top level coaching at a reduced cost.

"We use the Bude beaches, Summerleaze, Crooklets, and Middle Beach, and we launched the academy to give something back to the community."

Becky added: "We enjoy being able to vary what we offer

and are delighted that things are working positively.

"I am a level two British sign language signer and the most important thing for deaf people is access to goods and services. There is no reason why they shouldn't surf like anyone else and it is important to teach them in their first language and offer the full experience of enjoying a surfing lesson.

"We have had great feedback and I am hoping to develop what I can offer."

For further details visit www.bigbluesurfschool.co.uk or call 01288-331764.