

# **WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER**

## **A Warm Welcome**

The club would like to offer a warm welcome to its newest member Blagovesta Gerova. Vesty, as she is known to her friends, hails from Sofia in Bulgaria and will play for us competitively next season. She is a multi-talented sportswoman but perhaps her major claim to fame is that she plays Women's Table Football where she is currently ranked No 2 in the world. The club's secret at finding these individuals holds no bounds.

## **Successful Season for our Flagship Teams**

The last week of the season saw our two flagship teams both attain wins to finish their premier division campaign on a high. Our A team managed a 6-4 win over Broadway A whilst our B team demolished Bedwell D by a score of 9-1. The club would like to congratulate Arron Beckett and Gabriela Tankel in particular on achieving personal averages of 90% and 72% respectively making them our two leading players in this the toughest division of them all. Added to this both Arron and Gabriela bagged 9 Player of the Match awards each, a great feat considering the strength of the opposition. Also to be congratulated is Alan Shelford whose 65% makes this perhaps his best ever season.

## **Match Report**

Warren H - Doug Livingstone, Carrick Livingstone, Kevin Yao

KLM A – Dave Saunders, Steve King, Bill Burnett

With neither team at full strength, the end result was very much in the balance. The first game was tight with Kevin and Bill locked together at two games all. Kevin missed three match points before finally clinching it 13-11 in the fifth. The next game saw Carrick take on Steve, with Carrick being too consistent coming through in straight sets. Then David took the first game against Doug who despite his back injury managed to finally deal with Dave's pimples and bat "twiddling" taking the game 3-1. Carrick and Bill ebbed and flowed with both players winning groups of points with Carrick once again proving too consistent winning in 4 sets. Kevin then lost to Dave and the doubles saw Carrick and Kevin who had lost their 100% the week before at Royston too quick around the table for Steve and Bill. So at the halfway stage Warren Spring were 5-1 leaders. After the doubles, game seven saw old team mates Doug and Steve take each other on. Steve took the game to Doug but good counter hitting meant that Doug just edged it by a score of 3-1. In a game of unforced errors Carrick and Dave's game went to a decider with Dave holding two game points on his serve at 10-8. However Carrick was allowed back in and he then made no mistake coming through 12-10. Game nine saw Bill win his first game of the

evening after Doug had thrown away a 9-5 lead in the third set. The final game of the evening had two players trying to dominate with top spin close to the table as Kevin met Steve. Both traded the first two sets before Kevin took the third and Steve the fourth. In the final set Kevin took an early 5-1 lead but Steve came back to level at 5-5. Kevin then took control to come through 11-7. So, a good 8-2 win for the team, with all games played in a friendly spirit and some excellent chocolate brownies from Dave.

*Thanks to H team captain Doug Livingstone for this report*

## **GAINSBOROUGH BLITZ 2\* TOURNAMENT**

There were no fewer than seven young players from the club taking part in this tournament and considering the very high standard all did well.

In the boy's U/11 we had two semi finalists in Danny Emery and James Hamblett who had both battled well to get to this stage. James progressed to the final with a 3-1 win over Danny where he then met the England No 3 Adam Szabo from Yorkshire. Despite a valiant effort he could not contain Szabo's power hitting and went down in straight sets. In the girls U/11 event, Maddie Whitley reached the final where she just overcame Lucy Bridle from Lincolnshire. Older brother George was determined not to be outshone by his younger sister and he too reached a final this being the Cadet Plate where he played a great five set match coming from 0-2 behind where he then changed his game to beat Che Gouldbourne from Yorkshire.



**James Hamblett R/U Boys U/11 event**

The girls U/13 event saw Ilyssa Lacorte in good form coming through as group winner. She then went on to beat Lucy Vernon (Staffordshire) in the Q/F setting up a S/F meeting with the England No 2 Darcie Proud (Lincolnshire). The first set could have gone either way but Darcie just edged it 12-10. From then on Darcie showed her class to run out a three set winner. Ilyssa also contested the cadet (U/15) event and whilst not qualifying out of her group did cause a major surprise by beating Kelsey Bradley (Cleveland) a much higher ranked player in the cadet rankings. This put Ilyssa into the cadet plate event where she again met Kelsey in the S/F although this time she could not repeat her feat of before. The cadet competition also saw Charlotte Marsden come through her group to set up a meeting with one of the top girls in the country Hannah Ward (Nottinghamshire) in the quarters. Charlotte who has hit a rich vein of form recently outplayed her opponent getting her tactics completely right. She met the England No 12, Chloe Lingard in the semis but could

make no impression on the hard hitting youngster from Lincolnshire. Charlotte also made it through to the semis of the junior (U/19) event (a feat in itself) beating two girls' ranked above her including the experienced Amy Gittings (Yorkshire) and Erin Greensmith (Durham). In the semi final she took on Bethany Farnworth the England No 9 junior from Lancashire and it soon became apparent that Beth was probably one of the strongest girls that Charlotte has played in her albeit brief career to date. That said she competed well before going down 3-0.

### **National Cadet League**

Our A team of Charlotte Marsden, Ilyssa Lacorte, Bruce Yao and George Whitley had a fantastic last weekend at the NCL, which was played at the Cippenham, Slough Table Tennis Club, coming through at the beginning of the weekend from last but one place in division one to finally finish third and in a medal position. The way was led by Bruce winning five from his eight games and Charlotte whose victories included the impressive Robert Pelc (Crusaders) who finished the campaign with a 90% average and Joe Barrowclough (Reading) who attained 80%.

That said, the team could not have arrived in this position without some great back up play from Ilyssa (four from eight) and George (three from six). The team deserves much praise for its final finishing position in what was a highly competitive division.



### **Our medal winning NCL Team**

**L-R; Bruce Yao, Ilyssa Lacorte, George Whitley, Charlotte Marsden**

Meanwhile our B team having been relegated from division two but strengthened by the inclusion of James Hamblett remained unbeaten in division three over five matches. James stood undefeated winning all his ten matches ably supported by Matthew Ronayne and Samuel Dermont who found renewed confidence by playing in a less strong division. Matthew and Samuel both finished on a 70% average.

Also in division three were our C team who were not at full strength owing to James playing up, Amar Parmar being unavailable and Sana Mohammed who has gone back to India to study. The loss of these players was felt as the team struggled all day only managing to win one match. Things to note from the day however were a fine performance from Danny Emery who finished on 90% losing just the one game, Maddie Whitley by not giving up regardless of the score and producing some

screaming forehands and Meth Wijeyekoon playing in his first NCL as a substitute and putting in a good solid performance.

### **Annual Club Tournament**

A full report of the club's annual tournament will follow later but here are the winners and runners up of the four events played.

Division One – Winner; Charlie Baines, Runner Up; David Kells

Division Two – Winner; Dave Saunders, Runner Up; Charlotte Marsden

Division Three – Winner; Ilyssa Lacorte, Runner Up; John Gallagher

Handicap – Winner; Ilyssa Lacorte, Runner Up; Paul Waterman

### **Summer League**

Young club member Danny Emery would like to play in the summer league and is looking for a team. If you can help Danny in any way please contact mum Marie whose email address is: [marieemery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marieemery@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Youth Triumphs over Experience**

In a recent division three match, it was noted that the Warren Spring team of Ilyssa Lacorte, Oliver Dorn and Danny Emery had a combined age of 33 years whilst the oppositions 'combined age totalled 229 years. Our team, sportsmanlike to the end did offer their opponents extra time to recover after each leg but still run out comfortable winners.

### **Lucky Mascots**

We were pleased to hear that two of our young members, Isabelle Lacorte and Maddie Whitley had been successful in their attempt to become mascots during the recent National Table Tennis Championships.

### **Junior Club Members; Maddie Whitley and Isabelle Lacorte with National Women's Champion Tin Tin Ho**

This resulted in them both appearing on TV during the televising of the finals shown on ITV 4. The photo shoot shows the girls with the Women's Singles Winner and National Champion, Tin Tin Ho.

