



WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

December Christmas Edition

James Hamblett wins Boy's U/11 title & Isabelle Lacorte is R/Up in Girls U/11 at London Academy.

James lived up to his No 1 seeding by taking the U/11 event at the recent London Academy tournament. James played good consistent table tennis throughout the day and although he had one or two "glitch" moments thoroughly deserved his title. He also managed to reach the final of the U/13 plate event but went down in five sets.

Isabelle produced a fine gutsy performance and like James really deserved to be on the podium. She also, reached the girls U/13 plate final before finally having to admit defeat.

The club took five young players to the event which featured over a hundred competitors. It turned out to be a fairly successful day for us, for as well as James and Isabelle's' efforts we also saw Ilyssa Lacorte come away with two victories in the U/15 and U/18 plate finals.



Arshbir in action at London Academy

Valuable experience was gained by two of our fast improvers, Victor Ramirez Rioja and Arshbir Singh. Both equipped themselves well on the day and both won matches against in some cases more experienced players.

Sorry You Are Leaving

After 35 years with the club, Rob Worrell is leaving us for a new life in Norfolk. I fondly remember playing with Rob for several seasons and together we won the division two title (just the two of us as our third player left after only two games) and then with "newcomer" Bill Price we formed a team which went on to win division one. Glory days in the premier followed and like both Bill and I, I am sure that Rob will take many happy memories with him. I would also like to offer my thanks to Rob for his successful mentoring of some of our youngsters who played with him in division one. I am sure that past names Robert Chapman, James Abrams, Matthew Hellon and Pooja Sharma (most still at University) and latterly Ilyssa would also join me in offering thanks.

We all wish both Rob and partner Karen all the best in their new venture.



A presentation was made to Rob (pictured right) by Club chairman Bill Price

Match Round- Up

It was that time of the season again as our two "flagship" teams met each other in a premier division contest. In recent seasons' the A team has just had the edge in matches and it was no different this time. Leading by example, 'A' team captain Arron Beckett finished the evening with a maximum taking his average so far this season to an impressive 93%. He was ably backed up by Charlie Baines who accounted for both Marek Mastalerczyk and Maciej Demski, and Stephen Sale who just got the better of Marek. The 'B' teams' Gabriela Tankel looked good winning two as her side went down 7-3.

Young Thomas Ronayne was the star for Warren K as our team just lost out 6-4 to league leaders Settlement Kestrels a team much favoured to end the season as division two champions. Thomas won two from three which included a win over Steve Lee one of the best players in that division. Our other win came from Mark Jones who just managed to edge out Steve's brother Kerry in five ends. Main man for Kestrels was the super veteran Jim Felstead (who never looks any older) taking all three.

Our youthful M team (I'll include "young" Jack Thorn on this occasion) took on League division three leaders Cornerstone A and came away with a more than respectable 5-5 draw. Teenager Samuel Dermont played the game of his life to beat Martin Hodder and take the Cornerstone's man's 100% record. Samuel also defeated Andrew Yates and came within a whisker of beating Simon Odell going down 11-5, 10-12, 11-9, 19-17. He was supported by Oliver Dorn who himself came away with two victories (including beating Simon) and the ever young Jack.

Cup Round-Up

Of the ten Warren Spring teams that entered the quarter finals of all cup competitions six came through to take their place in the semis. In the Willmott Cup (for premier division teams) both Warren A and Warren B came through whist in the McLaughlin (for division one) only the C team triumphed with both our F and E teams sent packing. It was a similar story in the McLaughlin Inter (for division two) where our only representatives in the semis will be our H team. In the Henderson (for division three) both our L and M teams survived with our M team once again defeating Cornerstone A to take their place alongside the L team in what could turn out be an all Warren final. Watch this space.

Annual Club Tournament

The 2017 Annual Club Tournament will take place over the weekend of Saturday / Sunday 18th and 19th March. It would be appreciated if you could enter this date into your diaries now. It is hoped to run five competitions featuring a premier, division one, division two and division three and a handicap. The tournament will be open to any club member, associate member and those playing in the National Junior and Cadet leagues. Consideration will also be given to youngsters who are making good progress at our coaching school. Entry forms and explanatory letter will be sent to all those above around mid-January.

Spectators would be more than welcome.

National Cadet League

The 2016/17 National Cadet League season got underway on Sunday 6th November at the Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, Berkshire. Warren Spring drawn in the southern zone had three teams competing in the competition with some old faces absent and new blood beginning competitive table tennis for the first time. The A team relied heavily on the experience of Bruce Yao our only surviving member from last season's award winning division one

bronze medal team. Charlotte Marsden is now too old for cadets; George Whitley is tied into playing for his school, Bedford Modern and Ilyssa Lacorte has chosen not to enter this season.

The new A squad consisted of Bruce, Danny Emery, James Hamblett and Oliver Dorn and they began their campaign against Oxford Crusaders. Unfortunately, we found it tough going only managing to pick up one set going down 8-1. The win came courtesy of Bruce who defeated Oliver Marc-Murray 12-10, 11-8, 10-12, 11-9. Next up were Oxford A and a slightly better performance meant that we battled well before going down 6-3. Danny really showed his metal here, with two wins out of three including a fine three setter against Kiarash Sheddell. Our other success came from Bruce who managed to get the better of Oliver Keen. James, replacing Oliver was unsuccessful on this occasion although he did take legs in every game he played. The final match of the day saw another 8-1 defeat against hosts Crippenham A, who in Shae Thakker have one of the best cadets in the country. This match contained two of the finest matches of the day as Bruce overcame Douglas Claridge Hansen 11-9, 4-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-8 and James' narrow loss to Pranav Gudipati 8-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8.

Meanwhile our B team were looking to establish themselves in division two, but again found things extremely difficult. Their first match against Oxford B resulted in a narrow 5-4 loss with our Victor Ramirez Rioja winning an impressive two from three on his debut. Our other victories came from Matthew Ronayne and Samuel Dermont. We brought in Arshbir Singh for Matthew for the next game against a strong Ashford side but this made little impact as we were swept aside 9-0. The team's final match against Crusaders C saw us go down 8-1 with Samuel looking pleased that he was sitting this one out. Our win came at the expense of Crusaders No 2 Wesley Hsu with Arshbir in top form taking the game from two sets down 10-12, 8-11, 13-11, 11-8, 12-10.

Our C team were also finding things tough going in division three as we struggled against Oxford C, Crippenham B & Chiltern A going down 9-0, 7-2 & 6-3 respectively. Against Crippenham, both Meth Wijeyekoon and George Thorn managed a win each with Maddie Whitley coming away empty handed on this occasion whilst against Chiltern it was Meth's two wins and Andrew Girkis one win with George having nothing to show for a battling performance.



Right, Warren's victorious team of Bruce Yao, Victor Ramirez-Rioja and Danny Emery, together with losing finalists St. Neots Spinners

Victory for Warren @ Bribar St Neots Team Challenge

Well done to our team of Bruce Yao, Danny Emery and Victor Ramirez Rioja on winning this event and taking home some useful Bribar gift vouchers. They came through a field of twelve teams including those from Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire before meeting St Neots Spinners in the final. The final itself was made

more interesting as Spinners had our own Ilyssa Lacorte (who also trains at St Neots) heading up their team along with Sister Isabelle and England ranked cadet, Cambridgeshire star Chloe Pryke. Despite maintaining her 100% record for the day, Ilyssa was unable to prevent the Warren team coming through 5-4.

Club Hotshots

With the halfway point in the league season now reached, those players obtaining over 70% in their respective divisions are;

Premier: Arron Beckett 95.0%, Maciej Demski 71.4%

Division One: Jim Dodds 80.0%, Ilyssa Lacorte 72.2%, Dilshan Wijesekera 71.4%

Division Two: Bruce Yao 93.9%, Bill Price 93.9%

Division Three: Tim Huxtable 100.0%, James Hamblett 88.8%, Danny Emery 83.3%, David Cunningham 82.6%, Nigel Gibson-Birch 80.0%, Samuel Dermont 80.0%

Congratulations

To our young cadet Ilyssa Lacorte on becoming a sponsored player for Bribar one of the countries's leading table tennis companies and Joola one of the world's leading table tennis manufacturers. Ilyssa will be using "signature" Joola equipment and clothing when playing tournaments, county and National Junior League matches.