



WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



May I take this opportunity to wish all club members a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year

The club extends a warm welcome to the following players who have joined us since the last newsletter.

A team – Premier Division -John McCance (more about John below).

K team – Division Three – Robert Mitchell; M team – Division Three – Jack Hurley

Annual Club Subscriptions

Many have paid but there are some still to do so. Think back, can you remember paying. If not, the chances are that your fee is still outstanding. If you are unsure make it a New Year's resolution to talk to me. I will soon put you straight.

Cup Round-Up

Willmott Cup-Premier Division

Our A team had an easy ride into the semi-finals as opponents our B team could not raise a side for the evening and conceded. Meanwhile the C team took on ARTO A winning reasonably comfortably by a score line of 5-3. Isaac Beevor and Jim Dodds recording two wins each with Charlie Baines winning one. The impressive Ray Powell took all three sets for ARTO A.

McCloughlin Cup-Division 1

An interesting clash saw our E and G sides drawn together in this round. Although the E team had beaten these same opponents 9-1 in the league most of the games had gone to the wire and we were all in danger of meeting the milkman on his rounds as we left the venue. This time things were slightly easier for the E team who were very happy with a winning score of 5-2. The two games won for G were by Mark Redford who once again accounted for Erol as he had done in the league and Roy Jager. They would however have been a little disappointed that Grant Whitfield who is having a good season failed to get on the score sheet.

Whilst our E and G teams were doing battle, the D team were locked in an encounter with Broadway C, the match eventually going to Broadway by a score of 2-5. The two games for our D team were won by Bill Price who beat Nick Theobald and Vaughn Beck respectively. Bill could not quite complete the hat trick losing out to Richard Baker.

The F team having drawn one of the favourites for the division one title Broadway B bowed out 1-5 with Rob Worrell taking our only victory against Val Murdoch.

McLaughlin Inter Cup – Division 2

We had three teams still in this competition. Unfortunately, at Newnham, ARTO B proved too strong for Warren LABB, and we went down 2-5. There were some very close games that on another night may have gone the way of the home side, but this would not have changed the result. A word of Commiseration is due to Roger Willoughby who having won his first game was unlucky to lose out 9-11 in the fifth in the other.

I am reliably informed by Warren H captain Ken Savill that in an attempt to upset the odds against the league leaders Bedwell H, bats were cleaned, an extra long warm up session was initiated to gain valuable practise time and motivational speeches were made by the captain. But all was to no avail as Bedwell H ran out comfortable 5-1 winners. The team's only success was by Peter (Don't reverse into that telegraph pole near the car park) Thomson – must be another story there somewhere - in beating James Smith in four sets.

A great match ensued between the J side and Broadway G with Broadway just edging things 4-5. Well done to young Robert Chapman on taking all three of his matches which included a win against the dangerous former Warren player Richard Pettengell.

Henderson Cup – Division 3

In the Henderson, Warren K overcame our L team 6-2 a real team performance with Tim Huxtable, Dante Lacorte and Sahib Matharu all winning two each. A good win here for the L team's Steve King over Dante.

We were involved in more competition against the Broadway club as the N team took on Broadway K. This match was played to the end, resulting in a 5-4 win for the N team. The statistics here showed both Kevin Yao and Peter Fabian winning two each with Barney Ross-Smith the other. Kevin was impressive in beating Chris Hart.

Bedwell K entertained our M team at Bedwell, but we spoilt the party and duly put them out of the competition with a 6-3 win. Alan Harding, Mike Reading and Andrew Lee all won two with Mike achieving a notable win against Daniel Wilshire who currently leads the division three averages. This means that the club will have three teams in the semi finals of this competition.

League Round-Up

Warren A – 7 Simon Proffitt, Tom Carr, Angela Smith

Settlement Hawks – 3 Dave Tiplady, Steven Harper, Steve Kolodzinski

This premier division game saw an evening full of incident and one which was never an easy ride for the A team despite the score line. Tom certainly summed things up when he said "Hawks have got their awkward squad out tonight" and so it proved. Simon should certainly have done the lottery in this week as firstly he achieved a 12-10 fifth leg win over Steven Harper thanks to a last ball edge and it was a last ball edge again which saw him through 11-9 in the fifth against Dave. No edges for Simon against Steve Kolodzinski, but he was surely hoping for some as Steve was playing great stuff only going down 11-8 again in five. Angela certainly found things tough going as she struggled against some unorthodox play. "These are not the kind of players you would wish to play at this

stage of my comeback” she said. Other aspects of the evening featured the baffling 11-0 first leg win by Tom over Steven and an inspired doubles comeback by Tom and Simon which saw them come from 0-2 down to take the final leg 11-8 over Steven and Dave.

Warren J – 4 Dave Cunningham, Robert Chapman, Ray Rapacchi

Warren H - 6 Ken Savill, Sam Taheri, Peter Thomson

I'm beginning to think that anyone aged under 30 should not be permitted to play league table tennis and that our clubs youth/school policy should be reviewed. Why should seasoned players with many years experience play against young whippersnappers like Robert Chapman?

This derby clash produced many close matches despite only one going the full distance. However the star/lucky performer was Robert who won all three and the doubles with Ray Rapacchi for the J team. Dave (I only win the first leg) Cunningham worked hard all night, but two wins from Peter (Mind the post)Thomson, Sam Taheri and Ken Savill ensured a narrow 6-4 win for the H team.

Many thanks to H team captain Ken Savill for this report

Warren L –5 Tony Wilson, Steve King, Doug Livingstone

Warren K – 5 Dante Lacorte, James Abrams, Harry McKeown

This match brought together the two leading teams at the time in division three and a draw was a fair reflection of the game. This however was not achieved without a couple of memorable performances on the night. In certainly one of the best division three games I have witnessed this season, James played a quite mature and tactically sound game to beat Tony whose anti spin rubber has caused so many problems for players at this level in the past. Coming from two sets to one behind, the youngster turned on the gas to loop his way to victory taking the last two legs 11-6, 11-3. Another epic contest involving Tony came against Dante and this time it was Tony coming back from 1-2 behind to win 12-10 in the fifth. The final game of the evening brought about arguably the biggest shock as Steve showing great spirit (knowing Steve, it was probably the alcohol kind) upset the form book to defeat James in five legs after losing the first 11-1.

Notable Achievements

There have been one or two notable performances by club members during this period namely;

Premier Division: Tom Carr getting the better of Ray Powell (ARTO A). Only Ray's second defeat at that time.

Division Three: Tony Wilson taking Bedwell's Dan Wilsher's 100% record.

Club Hot Shots

The following have had great honour bestowed upon them by being named as club hotshots for the first half of the season.

Qualification – Five matches played and 75% or over achieved.

Premier Division; A team: Simon Proffitt – 92.0%, C team: Isaac Beevor – 76.2%

Division One; D team: Bill Price – 87.9%, F team: Rob Worrell – 84.4%, G team: Grant Whitfield – 83.3%

Division Three; M team: Dave Cunningham – 94.4%, K team: Dante Lacorte – 88.0%, N team: Kevin Yao – 78.3%, L team: Tony Wilson – 75.0%

Junior Corner

Not so much a corner of news, more like a whole sheet as so many things have been happening during this period on the junior front.

Milton Keynes Junior Singles Tournament

Held on Saturday 15th October at the Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre, this unique tournament was made up of ongoing graded groups of six with winners, runners-up etc of each group going through to another round of six group matches and so on. There were eighteen entrants mainly from the Beds, Bucks and Northants areas so that at the finish everyone had a position one to eighteen. The competition was made up of mixed boys and girls although there were only three girls competing. One of those was the club's Pooja Sharma with Robert Chapman and Matthew Hellon making up our triple entry.

At the end of a great day's play, all our youngsters finished in credible positions; Pooja was joint 7th with Matt and Robert not that far behind.

Well done to all those players involved and to our club coach John Giles who was on hand to provide help and advice.

National Junior League

The North Herts NJL side comprising of club members Robert Chapman and James Abrams together with Ryan Barton of Bedwell began their campaign at Cippenham on Saturday 5th November. Placed in the top division, it was thought the day would be hard and it certainly was. North Herts started the day being narrowly defeated by Horsham A 4-5 after pulling back from 1-4 down to level at 4-4 and just losing out on the final game. After that it was pretty much downhill as firstly Kidlington (1-8) and lastly Chiltern A (0-9) showed that we will have to work much harder on the next weekend when we will be matching swords with Reading and Southampton. I must add that the boys played with spirit throughout and are looking forward (I think!!) to the next encounters.

English National Junior Championships

The impressive Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield was the setting for this mega event with the club fielding three competitors two in the boy's event and one in the girl's. In the boy's competition Isaac Beevor faced Igor Morais the no 3 seed (Middlesex), George Powis (Shropshire) and Lewis Sumner (Oxon). Isaac came through the group as runner-up after a tremendous battle with Powis which ended 12-10 in the fifth. Isaac then met Mark Outhwaite from Warwickshire seeded 14 in the first round proper but went out after giving a terrific performance. In his group Charlie Baines faced Jarred Knowles (Berkshire), Josh Robinson (Bedfordshire), and Kester Pardoe (Middlesex) but Charlie

has missed a lot of table tennis due to injury and health problems and lack of match fitness probably told his progress was halted far earlier in the competition than envisaged.

In the girl's event, Pooja Sharma like the boys faced an awesome task. Her group consisted of three players all ranked higher than her. Jasmin Ould (Kent), and Majada Yasmin (Middlesex) both ranked in the England top 16 and Lauren Evans from Staffordshire. Although Pooja played very well to defeat Evans in four ends she found both Ould and Yasmin too good on this occasion.

At the start of the day, Isaac and Pooja gave a credible performance in the mixed doubles. Playing together for the first time they were beaten in four legs by the very good pairing of Marcus Giles and Emily Bolton from Surrey and Cumbria respectively.

All Change

The A team will be losing Simon early in the New Year for six weeks as he takes a tour around India. What a lucky beggar. However, we will of course expect an invite to Codicote for the usual Cheese and Wine party on return whilst he and Jackie show us their home movie of the trip.

Whilst Simon is away, the club has been extremely fortunate to acquire the services of John McCance who has not long moved to Welwyn. John has bags of experience playing at the top level most recently in the Harrow and Wembley league and I sincerely hope that he will enjoy playing both for us and in the North Herts premier division.

Player Profile – Watch this space.

This popular piece will return in the next issue and will feature one of our newest members Angela Smith. Before her retirement from top flight table tennis (the sport is all the better for her return) Angela was a familiar figure not only up and down the country but also in Europe as well. Her table tennis career has been in some respects awesome and I know that her profile will make for extremely interesting reading.

Gabriela

For those of you who have not heard the good news, Gabby was blessed with a little boy who came into the world at 3.00pm on Saturday 22nd October weighing in at 8 pounds. His name is, Nicholas Gerald Tankel. We were of course expecting Gabby to be available for post birth table tennis training on the following Monday, but hey guess what, she let us down.

We all hope that Gabby will be back in action soon, especially as she seems to be the only one of us who can beat Steve Dobbins and that is always worth seeing.

Crazy Trivia

As its Christmas, a little something in lighter vein, but incredible nevertheless. It should really please any history buffs amongst you.

'Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846; John F Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Lincoln was elected President in 1860; Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both were concerned with Civil Rights, both wives lost children whilst living in the White House.

Both were shot on a Friday and both were shot in the head.

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy and Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners and both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808; Lyndon B Johnson who succeeded Kennedy was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839; Lee Harvey Oswald who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939.

Both assassins are known by their three names, both names are composed of fifteen letters.

Lincoln was shot in a theatre named Ford; Kennedy was shot in a car called a Lincoln made by Ford.

Lincoln's assassin ran and hid in a warehouse, Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin hid in a theatre.

WOW!!!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

