

# **WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER**

Hello to everyone both old and new. I hope you had a great summer returning to table tennis fully refreshed for what promises to be a long, hard but enjoyable season.

## **Commencement of season**

Please note that the 2011/12 season will commence **week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **Practice & Play your Club Fee Evening**

There will be a double practice evening on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Those members based at Wymondley i.e. teams A, F, G, J, M & N will be able to practice there, whilst those playing at Newnham i.e. teams B, C, D, E, H, K & L are requested to go to the Newnham hall for practice. Even if you cannot stay for long, it will be a good opportunity to pay your club subscription on time.

## **ETTA Individual Membership**

Please remember, if you have not yet renewed your membership or submitted your name as a new member you only have until **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September** to do so. Players who have played league matches but who have not registered with the ETTA will have any results gained in the league removed.

## **A Warm Welcome**

To the following players who all joined us over the summer period.

Premier Division – Gary Keers (B Team) & Dilshan Wijesekera (C Team)

Division Two – Chris West (J Team)

Division Three – John Cox (L Team) Pauline Worland (M Team) Tricia Brown, Punit Shah & Amit Shah (N Team)

## **Club Subscriptions**

As stated above, your annual subscription is now due and it is essential that we receive everyone's in good time. Team captains; please monitor your team to ensure prompt payment. Subscriptions for the coming season are as follows;

Senior Players £80.00 – No change

Junior Players £40.00 – No change

For members who may play less than 50% of competitive games (league & cup) the senior club fee is £15.00 and £5.00 per match whilst the junior club fee is £10.00 and £3.00 per match. Any refund due will be given pro rata at the end of the season.

## **Wymondley Hall**

The hall now has a new front door and new keys. Those Wymondley team captains requiring the new keys should pick them up from me next Thursday.

## **Collection of handbooks etc**

Please note that team captains for those teams playing at Wymondley will be able to collect handbooks, scorecards, balls and keys from me at the practice session on Thursday evening from 7.30 onwards.

For those teams playing at Newnham, Bill Price will be there to distribute handbooks, scorecards and balls to Newnham team captains.

## **Possible Practice Sessions on a Monday at Wymondley**

Owing to a re-organisation of teams, there is likely to be a free Monday available every other week at Wymondley, which could be used as a practice evening.

If we have enough interest and the logistics of holding such sessions can be worked out then this may become a useful addition for club members. Obviously, we would need to have some idea of numbers before the matter can be taken further, and so therefore, anyone who is interested should contact me and depending on the result the club committee will then discuss.

## **Important Handbook Addition to Rules**

An **extensive** Code of Conduct has now been added to the rules under Match Play. It is rule 28 and to be found on pages 48, 49 & 50 (check these pages once handbooks are released in case they now differ) of the new handbook. Will all members please read and familiarise themselves with this new ruling which has been brought in following one or two incidents that took place during last season. I will leave it up to you all to decide whether it was worth the effort.

## **Summer of Sport**

Whilst we have all been taking a break from table tennis there has of course been plenty going on in the world of sport. I recently got together with a good friend of mine to share our thoughts and came up with this rather tongue-in-cheek scenario of what we had observed.

### *Euro 2012 Football Tournament.*

England players did their usual turn-up-for-the-early-stages-then-exit-in-time-for-pre-booked-holidays with the WAG's.

### *The Olympics*

Her Majesty - looked very un-amused when formally declaring the games open. She had an expression as if she were sucking on a lemon. Clearly this duty had got in the way of a night in with the telly and a sweet sherry or two with the corgis. Perhaps she

didn't like being represented hanging under a parachute and displaying her underwear to 80,000 people. Some 500 years ago heads would have rolled for that.

*Lady Weightlifters* – they are both terrifying and hilarious in equal measure. The way they puff and blow and give off little shouts and screams as they pick up their handfuls of resin powder while making deadly focus on the bar for their lifts. One of the British girls showed the funny contrasts to this event. She would be shown back stage getting on her mobile to Mum, and checking her hair in the mirror, between popping outside for a minute to quickly shove up 150-odd kilos over her head. Then we had a German girl, a real blonde Rhine maiden, Eva Braun with muscles. She came walking in like Oddjob screaming to the world in general. "Hn-now!" before settling, grabbing the bar and with a loud "Hn-yaah!" up-goes-about-three-times her bodyweight.

*Beach Volleyball* – Enough said – it would make any male a true Olympian, and one who fully supports female participation in sport.

*Table Tennis* – Well I think one of the GB team made it into the first round.

One of my favourite commentary moments involved the king of long distance track racing Brendan Foster. Commentating at the end of the 10,000 metres our Bren was heard shouting "He's done it!! Mo's (Mo Farrah) done it. He's finally broken the African stranglehold on this event". The last time I looked in an atlas, Somalia was in Africa.

### **Call for Help**

As the Paralympics draw to a close, I thought you may like to know that the club has also been involved with the disabled. During the summer we received a request from St Michael's House in Welwyn Garden City. St Michael's provides respite care and accommodation for people with a physical disability. It transpired that the centre were putting on a series of sporting events for the residents which was linked to the Olympic Games and we were asked if we could perhaps help with the table tennis and also put together some exhibition play. I am pleased to say that we duly obliged and that everyone had a great afternoon. One lady in particular kept coming back for more and was heard to say "I never thought that I would be able to do this, it's amazing what you can do when you are given the opportunity and you try". I think that says it all.