

# WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

## *February Edition*

### **Club Tournament**

I would like to remind you that the closing date for entries into the club tournament is **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

### **Cup Round-up – Semi Finals**

Bedwell A proved too strong for our B team romping to a winning 5-0 lead. This means yet another Willmott Cup Final appearance where as last season they will face our A team. Captain Marek played it tactically correct by ensuring that his number 1 player, Isaac Beevor played two of the first five games thus trying to put Bedwell under some sort of pressure. However, this was not to be as Isaac was unable to defeat either Luke Walsh or Steve Dobbins on this occasion.

The second semi went right to the wire before our A team triumphed 5-4 thanks to a maximum from Simon Proffitt. The team were always under pressure from a strong Settlement squad not helped by the fact that both team captain Arron Beckett and Tom Carr succumbed to defeats by Nick Hart and Dave Tiplady. Luckily all were able to beat Steve Kolodzinski. The match was set up nicely at 4-4 as the evening's two undefeated heroes Simon and Dave met to decide their team's fate. Luckily for us Simon was in no mood to lose as he fought tooth and nail to overcome the dogged resistance of Dave. Once again it's Bedwell A in the final.

The McLaughlin Inter Cup for division two sides proved somewhat disappointing as Bedwell H having come this far were forced to concede their match against our J team.

The club had two teams battling for places in the Henderson final for division three sides.

A sensational whitewash over the divisional leaders Broadway K took our L team through where they will face our N team. The 5-0 score against Broadway however did not reflect the closeness of some games as team number 1 John Cox (unbeaten this season) needed five legs to defeat Richard Hart and three really tight legs to overcome Richard's dad Chris, this match taking the team over the winning line. Tony Wilson's experience managed to see him defeat the up and coming youngster Luke Barry again in five followed by a four leg victory over Chris. Team captain Elaine Hanworth chipped in with a very creditable performance by beating the luckless Chris in five.

Meanwhile, the N team's junior trio of Jack Hurley, Peter Newbery and Robert Mitchell were upsetting the odds by beating Cornerstone 6-3 in their semi. It was a really good team effort

with all the boy's winning two apiece including a fine performance from Peter against the Cornerstone No 1 Stuart Hodder. They are now looking forward in trying to cause another surprise when they take on the far more experienced L side in the all important final.

### **NHTTA Cup Finals**

Once again Bedwell A had our A team licking its wounds as they stormed to yet another Willmott Cup Final win beating us 5-1. Bedwell's Jimmy Walsh inflicted defeats on both Arron and Angela whilst son Luke got the better of Arron and Simon. The opposition did not have it all their own way however as Adam Choi who had also beaten Angela earlier lost to Simon in five legs thus restoring some pride to our gallant team.

Unfortunately for our J team a bout of the flu stopped team captain and No 1 David Kells from taking part in the McClaughlin final for division two sides. Without David the match always looked to be a difficult one and so it proved as Broadway G achieved a winning score of 5-2. On the night the team's best performance came from Dante Lacorte who provided the two wins for the team beating both Mike Deeks and Chris Musk but losing out to Broadway's Richard Pettengell. Gary Kedzierski played some good stuff without getting on the winning sheet as did Tim Huxtable who may be finding that missing out on a number of games this season due to work commitments is having an affect his game.

Experience was the victor over youth and exuberance in the Henderson final for division three sides as our L team whitewashed our N team of juniors by winning score of 5-0. The players agreed to carry on after that score had been reached but with Doug Livingstone having retired injured the match finished at 8-0. John Cox (still unbeaten this season) showed his class but praised the N team of youngsters after the match for their determination and at times excellent play. Team captain Elaine Hanworth posed problems for the boy's with her difficult style of play and Doug proved to be too consistent on the night. The young team of Jack Hurley, Robert Mitchell and Peter Newbery however should be pleased with their achievements which gave them the chance to experience a cup final at this stage in their development.

### **Player Availability - Season 2013/14**

Now that the league season is entering its final phase it is already time for the club to start considering options for next season. With this in mind, could I ask team captains to begin the process by having a word with their respective players asking what their likely commitments and availability are expected to be. The club are unfortunate to be losing the services of three of its top juniors Isaac Beevor, Pooja Sharma and Matt Hellon to University and so immediately we have vacancies in the premier and division one respectively. May I ask if anyone has knowledge of players of this standard who might be looking for games in North Herts next season to let me know as soon as possible so that I can begin the task of formulating teams.

### **Isaac, Pooja & Matt**

Next September sees Isaac, Matt and Pooja all off to University. I would therefore like to take this opportunity on behalf of the club to wish them every success for their academic futures and to say that there will always be a place for them at the club should they wish to return. We will expect no less than first class honours from each of course.

### **St Neots Training Day**

Just before Christmas, the St Neots Table Tennis Centre held an all girls training day. The object of the day was to provide an opportunity and environment where young girls could train amongst themselves without male players or coaches being present. Many young ladies from the Eastern Region attended. Although club member and regional No 1 Pooja Sharma was not able to be present one of the club's up and coming young Cadets 10 years old Eve Whittaker did attend. Eve found the day very stimulating and useful with plenty of opportunity to train with girls who at this stage were much better than her thus allowing her to gain valuable experience. Guest of honour was England No 2 senior and Olympian Kelly Sibley who took time out for a photo shoot with Eve.



### **David Attenborough Whose He**

In the Christmas edition, I made mention of the fact that club member Robert Chapman would be providing an account of his great hobby Wildlife Photography. I now attach Robert's piece together with one of his amazing pictures.

'I have had an interesting in wildlife photography for about six years. My interest began by joining my dad on bird watching walks and watching the birds on feeders in my garden. My

first camera was very basic, but I managed to get a decent shot of a Water Vole quite early on. Since then I've purchased a Panasonic Lumix and continued to get great pleasure out of photographing birds, mammals and landscapes. In 2011 I won the Thomson Habitats Photography Competition for my photo of a Puffin with Sand Eels (attached). The photo was taken on the Farne Islands, my favourite place to photograph wildlife, shortly followed by Hyde Park, where I regularly visit to photograph Tawny Owls. I have had photos published in the Comet on three occasions and am occasionally contacted by organisations to use my photographs. I see photography as always being a hobby of mine and I hope to continue my passion for many years.

I regularly post on my blog, which can be found by typing 'Robert Chapman's Wildlife Photography' into Google.

I am a registered volunteer for the RSPB and raised £500 in 2011/12 by selling greeting cards with my photos on'.



Thank you Robert for producing this most interesting piece.

*Editor*