

WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Annual Subscriptions

Many thanks to those of you that have paid your annual fee and a reminder to those of you that have still to do so.

Can I ask those still to pay to ensure that cheques are made payable to Wymondley TTC and not Warren Spring.

League Round-Up

Well! Time certainly flies, with four weeks of the league season already behind us. To date our teams lead the way in three of the four divisions that make up the North Herts League. In the premier our A team are top with the B team lying in fourth place. In division one our E & F sides are equal first and our L team heads up division three. It is only in division two where we seem to be struggling at the moment with all three teams occupying positions in the bottom half. In the premier we certainly "owe it to the ladies" with Angela Smith (A team) on a 91.7% average whilst Gabriela Tankel (B team) is not far behind on 88.9%. The club's no one, Simon Proffitt has a 100% record from just six games played.

Top averages abound in division one where both Rob Worrell and Erol Hasan are unbeaten whilst Paul Waterman and James Abrams are on 88.9% and 77.7% respectively.

As mentioned, things are a little more difficult for us in division two although John Cox and Dante Lacorte are "stemming the tide" with results of 77.7% each.

In division three it's all smiles for Nigel Gibson-Birch's team as both David Cunningham and Alan Dorn remain undefeated.

Match Round-Up

Warren F – 8, Erol Hasan, Roy Jager, David Kells
Royston Rebels – 2, Sean Loffman, Ben Prior, Abigail Moore

The rebel yell was certainly not in evidence as Warren F without team captain Paul Waterman defeated the Royston side 8-2. David Kells – playing up in place of Paul – certainly held his own although the match was a lot closer than the score suggests with six of the ten games going to a final fifth leg. Erol still on a 100% average just scraped home against the much improved Abigail Moore by a score of 11-8, 11-4, 3-11, 9-11, 11-9 being well supported by Roy and David who both won two each. Both the Royston wins were secured by Abigail.

Warren E – 6, Rob Worrell, Robert Chapman, James Abrams
Warren G – 4, Steve Kilford, Alan Aldridge, Bill Price

I had not originally intended to feature this division one clash in the newsletter, but the game was of such a high quality-at times it resembled a premier division match-up- that I felt it had to be included. The final result was always in the balance and

virtually every leg was tight. Some examples of this was James' fifth leg victories of 13-11 and 11-9 over Alan and Steve, Bills' 11-9 final leg win over Robert who stretched and strained every sinew to return balls others would have given up for lost and of course the battle of the two "old warhorses" which resulted in a fourth leg 15-13 win for Rob over Bill. A match where everyone should be satisfied and one which sees our E team still unbeaten.

Warren J – 3, John Cox, Dante Lacorte, Yu Ning Tzeng
Royston E – 7, Richard Hatley, Ben Prior, Michael Urquhart

Warren J without captain David Kells faced a formidable Royston team in this match and fought well for their three wins. John was impressive in taking out both Ben and Michael but was outclassed against Royston newcomer Richard Hatley who looked far too good for division two. Indeed, I would be very surprised if he lost many (any?) in this campaign. There should be a word of praise here for Dante in edging out the dangerous Ben Prior.

Poojagate

There were high hopes for club member Pooja Sharma as she prepared to do battle in the Hunts 2* junior girls event held at St Ives Leisure Centre on Saturday 31st August.

This was to be Pooja's last major tournament before entering University and things looked good as it transpired that she was the top ranked girl taking part.

An impressive straight sets victory over Georgina Lister, Suffolk, (England no 76) in her opening group match set the tone but then disaster as Pooja was informed that she had been disqualified for playing out of her age group even though both she and the club had followed the tournament regulation requirements concerning age to the letter. It later became evident that the organisers had made errors on the entry form relating to Dates of Birth, and although a formal protest was lodged citing that all requirements for the tournament had been adhered to the original decision to disqualify was upheld.

So, an unhappy ending to what might have been a victorious day but Pooja accepted the decision in the manner that those of us who know her well would have expected showing both stoicism and magnanimity in overcoming her disappointment.

Junior Corner

The club offers its congratulations to Charlotte Marsden on being invited to join the Hertfordshire County junior training squad. I am sure that Charlotte aged just eleven will seize this opportunity with both hands as she continues to make progress in her chosen sport.

National Cadet League – Sunday the 13th October saw the first matches played in this season's NCL. The league is aimed at young players aged 14 and below, is zoned and played at venues countrywide. The club has put two teams into this competition and our zoned venue was the Cippenham Table Tennis Centre, Cippenham near Slough. On arrival we saw that our teams had been placed in

divisions three and four respectively. The opening day of three matches each saw our division three side up against Chesham Chiltern, Oxford and Sussex Alliance Girls whilst our division four team took on Reading, Ashford and Woodley Kingfisher. Losses to Chiltern (1-8), Oxford (2-7) and Sussex Alliance (3-6) meant that our division *three* team finished joint bottom overall after the first day but would seem to have the weaker sides still to play. The team of Bruce Yao, Charlie Shepherd, Lukas Wait & Jaimin Shah all contributed to the day's play with some fine wins apiece.

Our division four team began really well with a 6-3 win over Reading followed by defeats at the hands of Ashford (2-7) and Woodley Kingfisher (1-8), but like our other team would seem to have a couple of games to play against weaker opposition.

The star of the day was undoubtedly Gabriel Ryan playing in division four who at just nine years old won five of his six games played. Does the club have another budding Isaac Beevor in its midst? In the win against Reading he was ably supported by Eve Whittaker (2 wins) and Charlotte Marsden (1 win), whilst against Ashford his two victories was as much as we could manage. With Gabriel rested for the game against Kingfisher it was Eve who came back in fine style to record our only victory in a superb five leg thriller. Spare a thought for Charlotte when in this match was unfortunate to be on the receiving end of two defeats losing 12-14 and 11-13 both in the fifth game. She is learning what a cruel game table tennis can be.

Although Cian Armstrong failed to secure a win, the experience he is gaining in this type of event and at this level can only add to his ongoing development.

Away from the tables the most iconic moment of the day for me was to see Gabriel's head of tousled hair being put into bunches by Eve, this I believe showed team spirit and togetherness at its very best.

A special word of thanks should go to Janette Shepherd and Clint Armstrong whose help on the day proved invaluable.



Warren's National Cadet Squad

Closed Club Tournament 2014

Those members 'on line' will have seen my recent communication alerting you to the likely dates of the 2014 club tournament. I can now confirm that subject to the weather the tournament will go ahead over the weekend of 22/23 February. The event is open to all club members including juniors and cadets playing in the NCL. Depending on numbers there will be five events. On Saturday, the division two and division three singles will be played whilst Sunday will see the premier and division one singles plus the handicap competition. Any players who "play up" for a team will be entitled to enter that divisional event as well as their own. The organising committee will have the right to merge events should entry levels fall below the required number. I sincerely hope that this will not happen.

Please look out for the entry forms which will be released during December.

Club Shirts

Our NCL squad is pictured wearing a club strip especially purchased for the competition. This can be widened to include shirts for any member of the club who may wish to own one. I am able to obtain these for around £25.00 which includes all printing costs – a saving of around £13.00 on the RRP. The wording which is on the back of the shirt reads:-

Warren Spring TTC and includes an impressive Bribar table tennis logo.

For Sale

If anyone should be interested there is a Butterfly Table Tennis Table Top for sale.

Please contact Janette Shephard on 07966442207 or e-mail

janette.shephard@ntlworld.com

Stop Press

'A' team loses unbeaten record – The A team have been surprisingly beaten 4-6 by Settlement Hawks, they must now recover in time to face reigning premier division champions Bedwell A at home on Tuesday.

In what will probably go down as the biggest come back of the season the N team doubles pairing of Kevin and Bruce Yao won the second leg of their doubles match against Christchurch 14-12 after coming from 2-10 behind. I am pleased to report that they finished up not only winning this doubles but the match overall.