



WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all club members and their families a very peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

League Round-Up

Warren A 2 – Arron Beckett, Simon Proffitt, Angela Smith

Bedwell A 8 – Luke Walsh, Jimmy Walsh, Stuart Mylrea

The premier division's "clash of the titans" ended with Bedwell A coming out on top (again). That said, our A team still retain a seven point advantage at the top of the division. The key to this match was that Bedwell fielded their strongest team for the first time this season – no surprise there, they always do when they play us – we take it as a compliment. Star of the evening for Bedwell was Luke Walsh who did not drop a set. He was ably supported by dad Jimmy and Captain Stuart Mylrea. Our two wins came from Angela who beat Stuart in a marathon 11-13, 11-9, 13-11, 6-11, 13-11 and Simon who saw off the same player by a score of 9-11, 12-10, 14-12, 11-7.

Graveley Dragons A 8 – Kevin Nobes, Richard Pettengell, Peter Thomas

Warren G 2 – David Kells, Steve King, Gary Kedzierski

Warren G Captain, David Kells lost his 100% record as his team went down to the division two leaders. His unbeaten run ended when he was taken 6-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-7 by Kevin Nobes who went on to take a maximum. Our two victories came from David as he defeated former club member Richard Pettengell 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-9, and Peter Thomas 11-9, 4-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-3. No luck for either Steve or Gary in this match despite a storming 11-2 third leg for Gary against Pettengell which ultimately ended in a loss for our man.

Cup Round-Up

The quarter final stages of the league's cup competitions produced some great results for our teams albeit that in some cases we were drawn against each other. In the Willmott Cup for premier division teams our A team had the misfortune to be drawn against reigning league champions Bedwell A whom as is usual when they play us put together their strongest line-up, the result being a 2-7 defeat. In the McClaughlin Cup for division one teams not even a three game maximum from Bill Price could prevent our F team losing out 5-4 to our E team. The McClaughlin Inter for division two saw a good team performance from David Kells, John Cox and Alan Dorn take them home 6-3 against Arto Dragons B. In the Henderson Cup we had five (yes five!!) teams competing, with four going through to the semi final stage. Well done to our J, K, L and M teams but commiserations to our N side going out 2-5 to the K team with Charlie Shephard taking both games for the losers.

Division Three Eclipse

Here J team captain Jim Keirl gives his take on the club team's performances in division three and his own team in particular.

What an amazing season so far for Warren Spring in division three. As at 1st December our five teams occupied the top five places in the thirteen team division – and it gets better - in the Henderson Cup – all four semi finalists are from Warren Spring. Has this been done before?

Setting the pace are the seven man J team with eight wins from their first eight games and all players having an average of 66.6% or better. But this has been no easy ride and has involved some gritty and determined performances coupled with a strong will to win. Kevin and Bruce Yao along with Jim played together last year and have now been joined by John Le Warne and new to North Herts Chris Denman and James Brown from the Harlow league and thirteen years old cadet Charlotte Marsden.

1st string Kevin is showing the way with eleven wins from twelve games only losing to Fabian Smith whilst son Bruce has won eleven out of fifteen-a great achievement for a twelve year old. Typical of the hard fought matches was Jim's win over Martin Hodder where victory was wrapped up in the fifth set after Jim was initially 0-2 sets down. The same evening saw John Le Warne also beat Martin in five as the J team went on to beat Cornerstone 10-0. The fighting spirit is not always successful but is a trademark of the whole team. Chris Denman lost to Doug Livingstone in a remarkable game lasting nearly half an hour 12-10, 13-11 in the last two sets but never stopped giving his all and in the same evening James Brown also went down to Doug in five high quality sets. In a 9-1 victory over a strong M team comprising Toby Snoxall, Dave Cunningham and Nigel Gibson-Birch-Kevin was taken to five sets by Dave in what was a real ding dong match;,BUT the best performance of all has to go to Charlotte who played out of her skin in her first ever North Herts league

match beating her first two opponents before going down 9-11 in the 5th to Fabian Smith a player who is still retaining a 100% average.

In Bruce and Charlotte, Warren Spring may well have two rising stars in their camp if their development continues at pace because as previously mentioned at only twelve and just thirteen years old time is definitely on their side.

National Junior League

Our NJL team began their campaign at Cippenham on Saturday 11th October. As our team were new to this competition we were placed in the bottom division four. It soon became clear however that our lads were punching somewhat below their weight as victories over Chiltern C, Chiltern D and Dacorum by scores of 8-1, 8-1 and 7-2 respectively saw them top the division at the end of the first weekend.

The first match against Chiltern D saw no five setters and only three games going to four. Cian Remnant played well to edge out Charlie Shephard 10-12, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10 to give Chiltern their only win. In the second match against Chiltern C it was Harvey Noble gaining their victory with an 11-6, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7 win over Warren's Amit Shah. In this match one game went the distance with Amit just shading it 11-9 in the fifth.

In the final match against Dacorum we faced sterner opposition but again came through decisively to seal our dominance on the day. Here, Carrick Livingstone suffered his only defeat of the day as he went down 11-9, 13-15, 12-10, 11-7 in a thriller with Dacorum's Reece Laing. Our only other defeat came in another nail biter as Charlie just lost out 13-15, 14-12, 11-9, 15-13 to Matthew Appleton.

Congratulations must go to the team's Ewan Fewell who remained largely untroubled and unbeaten on the day with only Matthew Appleton extending him into a fifth and final set. By finishing top the team are now promoted to division three. Will this prove decisive or can the team continue with their winning ways?

Warren's victorious National Junior League squad.



L to R

Amit Shah, Ewan Fewell, Carrick Livingstone,
Charlie Shephard

National Cadet League

Our National Cadet League teams began their quest for glory on Sunday 9th November. Opening matches for our A team of Bruce Yao, Cian Armstrong and Charlotte Marsden were against Guildford, Hillingdon and Oxford. The contest with Guildford saw both Bruce and Charlotte remain unbeaten giving us a 6-3 win although Bruce was made to work hard against Guildford's Adit Gandhi before coming through 9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6. Next up Hillingdon and a final 7-2 score line win for the team which did not reflect some tough sets. We had to endure close five set wins from both Bruce and Charlotte, two fine straight set wins from Cian and a defeat for Charlotte at the hands of the Hillingdon No 1, Reece Galloway before triumphing. The day's final match-up with Oxford brought us a close 5-4 victory. Once again it took two nail biting five setters from Bruce and a last "edge of your seat" four set win from Charlotte with the score at 4-4 to take us through. Spare a thought for Cian in this match as he showed fantastic fighting spirit when just losing out to Oxford's Bertie Anstis 11-8, 11-13, 13-11, 9-11, 17-15. Huge disappointment was an understatement but Cian showed maturity beyond his years.

The team are currently top of division three with two games remaining against Reading and a dangerous Chiltern side but nevertheless promotion to division two is still a real possibility when the teams meet again on 30th November.

Meanwhile at the far end of the venue, our B team of George Whitley, Oliver Dorn and William Pastor were cruising past Reading D 9-0 in division four. The next match however was a vastly different story as opponents Chiltern looked to be the outstanding favourites to win this division. Much to his delight William was rested for this encounter and Ilyssa Lacorte came in to take his place. The gauntlet had been well and truly thrown down as Chiltern were fielding two players who had completed in a division higher in the National Junior League just a few weeks earlier. Our team took up the challenge however and put up a real gutsy performance before going down 2-7. Congratulations to both George and Oliver on winning one each. In the final game of the day the team were pitted against Woodley who had in Adam Perkins one of only two players remaining on a 100% average. However, it takes more than one to win a match and our team of George, William and Ilyssa showed fine fighting qualities in securing a 6-3 victory. Special praise here for Ilyssa who almost took Perkins 100% record before losing out in a five sets thriller. It was pleasing to see the Woodley youngster clap Ilyssa off court at the end showing his appreciation of the effort she had put in to this contest.

Club Closed Tournament

The 2015 club tournament will be run over the weekend of 14th / 15th March and will consist of a premier, division one, two and three event as well as a handicap competition. Look out for the entry form and explanatory letter which will be sent out around the middle of January.