

WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Hi everyone, I hope you enjoy reading this the October newsletter. We have two new members who joined us recently, their names being Andy Lewry and Sam Kester. Andy will be a part of our B team playing in the premier division whilst young Sam will play for our L team in division three.

Annual Subscriptions

Many thanks to those of you that have paid your annual subscription and a reminder to those of you that have still to do so. Remember that cheques can now be made payable to either the Warren Spring or Wymondley Table Tennis Clubs.

League Round-Up

With just four weeks of the season gone, some of our teams are already beginning to make their mark on the league. In the premier division, our A team of Arron Beckett, Angela Smith, Simon Proffitt and Tom Carr currently lie in first place while our B team of Gary Keers, Gabriela Tankel, Marek Mastalerczyk and John McCance are third. In division two our G team are second and In division three we have gone one better with the J and M teams holding down the first two places. Good scalps have already been taken by our players at both ends of the spectrum. In the premier, the B team's Gabriela Tankel recorded a fine straight sets win over Settlement Skylarks No 1 Sandra Harper the England No 13 veteran and Bedfordshire county player and in division three the M team captain Nigel Gibson-Birch did well to beat Broadway's Ian Foxley.

Early days to be sure but a good start nevertheless.

Junior Corner

It promises to be a busy season for some of our youngsters. The club have entered a team in the National Junior League and two teams in the National Cadet League. Congratulations to Carrick Livingstone, Charlie Shephard and Amit Shah on being selected for the NJL along with guest player Ewan Fewell (from Bedwell) who will certainly strengthen the team.

Our A squad in the NCL will be Bruce Yao, Charlotte Marsden and Cian Armstrong whilst George Whitley, Oliver Dorn, Ilyssa Lacorte and William Pastor make up our B team.

We also had strong representation in the recent Cippenham Autumn Festival event sending five young players to compete in what was a very strong field. Bruce Yao, Charlotte Marsden, Cian Armstrong, Oliver Dorn and Ilyssa Lacorte all performed admirably with Bruce and Charlotte both getting through to the later stages. In the final of the consolation event Bruce unfortunately had to concede through exhaustion when leading 1-0 (this shows how tough these days can be) whilst Charlotte just missed out on a place in the final going down 9-11 in the fifth and final

leg of her semi. Earlier in the day Charlotte had faced the England No 10 at U/13 level Jemma Walker and although losing battled really well to take legs off this very talented player from Buckinghamshire.

Stop Press – Well done to Ilyssa Lacorte, Oliver Dorn and William Pastor on their performance at the recent Harlow Grass Roots Tournament. Ilyssa finished unbeaten and top of her group in the morning whilst both Oliver and William finished with two wins each out of three. The afternoon was much tougher with all winners and runners-up coming together but our youngsters at just ten, nine and twelve years of age respectively played really well and did not let themselves or their club down.

National Junior League

The NJL got underway at Cippenham on Saturday 11th October and our lads made a fantastic start to the competition. The team had not played in this event before and so were put into division four, but it soon became apparent that they were going to be too strong for this particular division. The day saw them defeat Chiltern D 8-1, Chiltern C by the same score and Dacorum 7-2., so giving them promotion to division three when the next round of matches begin on 6th December.

Thank you to Janette Shephard and Punit Shah who took on the responsibility of doing all the paperwork on the day.

A full match report on both the October and December games will appear in the December issue of this newsletter along with a photo of the victorious squad.

Table Tennis vs. Climbing Kilimanjaro

By: Jo Marsden (mum to Charlotte)

I am proud to say that I am a Table Tennis Mum and happy to say that I have thrown myself into tournaments, ferrying to training and the endless buying of table tennis paraphernalia. Would I call myself a Table Tennis player? Far from it!

My passion is Mountaineering! My daughter was first introduced to Table Tennis at a local church, playing whilst others were sipping coffees, teas and indulging on cakes, my introduction to hill walking was in Scotland at a camp for teenagers. No matter what your passion, you know when you have been caught and reeled in. I knew from the first mountain I climbed that this was something I could be happy doing every day of my life. Whilst this may mystify people, I am equally bemused by the hours that my daughter with joy spends hitting that little white orb across the table. What I have noticed is, the more time you spend doing your chosen activity, it's never enough! Readers, is Table Tennis an addictive activity?

In 2000 I had the opportunity to climb Mt Kilimanjaro, which I still rate as one of my best mountain adventures to date. A five-day trek progressively took in rainforest, moorland, montane semi-desert, alpine desert, stone scree and finally an ice-capped summit. To reach the top, Uhuru Peak at 5895m, patience was essential as

ascending too quickly could result in severe altitude sickness, jeopardizing the chances of reaching the top. I was amazed by the fact that those who race to the top are actually less likely to make it. I reflect on a conversation I had with Pam Beever when Charlotte had just started playing. She spoke of how in Isaac's early career he lost copious games before then consistently winning. It was a patience game that ultimately resulted in him being the star player we all know him to be.

Over the past year I have had numerous conversations with Charlotte about first learning to lose - with grace and that success will eventually come through consistent hard work and patience. The summit, your goal, will suddenly appear, likely when you are feeling very exhausted and questioning whether you are capable of pushing any harder, but the view from the top will be magnificent!

When I commenced my ascent up Kilimanjaro, I didn't know if I would make it to the top. I knew that I wanted to go all the way, but I was unsure how my body would cope with the altitude. Did knowing that I may not reach the summit (some may call that failure) stop me from trying? Certainly not! I enjoyed the varying habitat, got to know the people I met along the way and grew personally from the challenge of each step I took! Getting to the top was only a bonus. What I experienced in the journeying was where the joy came in, I was actually physically sick at the summit. You choose, have a go at Kilimanjaro yourself or just stick with table tennis. Similar lessons can be learned from both experiences.



Phew, only 2000 meters left