



WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Christmas Edition 2018

May I take this occasion to wish all club members and their families a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Important Reminder

Would those members still to pay their annual club subscription of £103.00 kindly do so before 31st December to avoid having to pay the £20.00 penalty charge, which was the policy agreed at the 2017 club AGM.

Local League News

With the season now at the halfway stage, competition breaks for Christmas and the new year.

In the premier division, our B team lie just below the middle of the table but with a game in hand. Twelve years' old James Hamblett leads the way on 75% and showing the adults in his team how it should be done. All the more amazing as it is his first season in the top flight.

Our F team occupy top position in division one fourteen points clear of their nearest rivals which are Warren Spring C. Again, it is another of our juniors Victor Ramirez-Rioja playing remarkably well on 94% losing just once in eighteen games. Not too far behind are the D teams 'Jim Dodds and the F teams Colm Bushell on 83% and 82% respectively. A special word of praise for young Colm who has adapted really well to the challenges of playing in the first division. This from someone who at the beginning of the season did not think he was good enough.

In division two, it is our G team who top the division four points clear of Royston. Barry Phillips – 100% and Arshbir Singh 86% have been the stand out players for the team so far.

At the risk of becoming boring, the J team also top division three and once again it is two of our juniors Sam Dermont (100%) and Danny Emery (88%) who are outperforming their adult counterparts.

North Herts League- Cup Final Week

The club was represented in three of the four finals that we were eligible for which resulted in mixed fortunes.

In the McLaughlin Cup for division one sides, our F team were up against Broadway A . We started brightly with Colm Bushell (the man of the match) defeating Valerie Murdoch in straight sets and Victor Ramirez-Rioja seeing off Derek George. Team captain Stuart Marquis then lost to Leslie Fitch in five ends to make the score 2-1. Further wins for Victor and Colm and a second defeat for Stuart at the hands of Val again in five made the score 4-2 to us. It was left to Colm to see the team home with a victory over Derek.



The winning team L-R Victor, Stuart & Colm

In the McLaughlin Inter-Cup for division two players it was our G team taking on Broadway C who in George Magee boasted one of the better players in that division. The match was a tight affair with both sides locked in battle, the game swaying too and fro. The match score stood at 4-4 leaving Arshbir Singh facing Gordon Stanton a player he had beaten in the league. Was it nerves? Maybe, as the youngster never got into his stride leaving Gordon a very happy man indeed. So, despite our Barry Philips taking a maximum (including a really tight game with George Magee which went to a final leg)we just could not manage the win going down 4-5

The Henderson Cup for division three saw our J team up against yet another Broadway side their D team. This match was played alongside the division two affair and after many hard fought sets the score here also stood at 4-4. This had been a good all round team effort with Sam Dermont winning two and Danny Emery and John Gallagher winning one apiece. It was now down to Sam to beat Broadway's Chris Hart for the cup. As in the previous case with Arshbir, Sam had easily got past Chris in the league and was once again two legs up before the drama took hold. Amazingly, Sam saw his advantage slip away as he lost the next three legs to give our opponents victory and the cup.

National Cadet League

With the halfway stage of the competition being reached, our players can now relax, enjoy Christmas, and then prepare themselves for the next round of matches at Slough on the 13th January.

Our A team lead the way in Division One as they stay unbeaten with five wins from five matches and two points ahead of nearest rivals Crusaders A. Both James Hamblett and Victor Ramirez-Rioja have 100% records, being ably backed up by Arshbir Singh on 53%.

In division two, our B team are fourth with two wins also from five matches played. That puts them eight points clear of the fifth placed team, but five points adrift of third. George Thorn and Meth Wijeyekoon lead the way both on 66% whilst Andrew Girgis has played well to reach 44% and Blayk Marquis 17%.



Heidi in action

Division Three sees our C team also fourth despite a narrow 4-5 loss to league leaders Oxford B, where thirteen year's old Heidi Oestricher (England No 54 at U/15 level) came from behind to take Oxford's Zain Ali's 100% record in a tight five setter. In fact, Heidi's performance so far in this competition has been exemplary and she sits on 73% taking eleven from fifteen. The club's new signing for this competition Shaniely Edwards has 58% despite a poorer second weekend when she bravely battled on despite being unwell.



Shaniely

The D team playing in division four celebrated their first win against Bourne End but still languish at the bottom end of the division which is headed by Chiltern C. However, its good experience for our youngsters all of whom are new to competition. Pick of the squad in terms of wins is Kamil Tanaka on 60% with Beau Casey and Even Hunt both on 33%. A word of praise for Ben Langley who found it really hard going to begin with but has adapted well to pick up a couple of games for his team.



L-R; Ben, Evan, Beau & Kamil

Hertfordshire Service to Sport Awards 2018

Congratulations to our club Chairman Bill Price for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award given at the recent awards ceremony held at the University of Hertfordshire. This award recognises individuals who have made a very significant contribution to sport in Hertfordshire and beyond.



Bill with award

Ron Bent

I am sorry to have to report the recent passing of Ron Bent who played for many years in the local North Herts league. Ron began his table tennis career way back in the 1960's representing the Ravens club before moving on to play for our club Warren Spring. Along the way he made many friends and was an inspiration to many young people just starting out on their table tennis journey. Ron always had a smile and a joke for everyone and will be greatly missed.

Annual Club Tournament 2019

This year our club tournament will take place over the weekend of 2nd / 3rd March. It would be appreciated if you would enter this date into your diaries now. The tournament will be open to any club member or associate member playing local league table tennis; those juniors playing in the National Cadet League and National Junior Leagues; any player from a different club who have given up their time on a voluntary basis to help as feeders or trainers at our coaching sessions; and other players whom the club may wish to invite. Consideration will also be given to youngsters who are making good progress at our Sunday coaching school. Entry forms and covering letter giving details of and requirements for specific events will be sent out in early January.

Spectators including mums and dads of junior players would be most welcome.

Man of Mystery

As its Christmas, a little teaser for you. For those who fancy themselves as a budding Hercule Poirot, can you name the club member seen here on the far right. The only clue your getting is that it was taken many years ago. Gas lighting still ruled the streets and flintlock pistols were all the rage. Answers emailed to me please.

