

# WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

*May 2018 Edition*

This is our last newsletter of the season; we shall be back again in early September with the forthcoming league campaign for 2018/19 and what has been happening during the summer including news of the U/10 to U/13 National Championships.

## **League Season Has Finished**

.....and an extremely successful one it has been for the club as we managed to achieve honours in all four divisions.

In the premier, our B team of Gabriela Tankel, John McCance, Marek Mastalerczyk, Maciej Demski and Jonathan Schuchart finished as runners up with Jonathan leading the way for the team on 76%. In division one, our C team earned like success by also finishing in second place. The club offers its congratulations to both James Hamblett (92%) and Bruce Yao (90%) for their amazing effort, all the more so as their combined years' ages total just twenty seven. The F team won the division two title by an amazing 26 points over nearest rivals Royston. Once again it was the great play of another of our youngsters Victor Ramirez-Rioja (98%) who made this possible. The division three title was also won by a Warren Spring team. Our K team dropped just one match (a 5-5 draw with Royston G) in their quest to become champions. Again, congratulations to our young stars Danny Emery (100%) and Arshbir Singh (96%) and not forgetting one of the old men of the team Mike Roberts (85%). This means promotion for all the above named teams apart from 'B' who I am sure will have their eyes fixed firmly on the premier title next season, if only we could arrange to transport Bedwell A to some far flung Desert Island.

## **National Cadet League**

The final NCL weekend brought success for all our competing teams. Our A Team of James Hamblett, Victor Ramirez-Rioja, Arshbir Singh and Danny Emery finally took the division one title after a see-saw battle with Fusion 1 from East London which had been going on all season. Congratulations to James who lost only once all campaign this to the highly rated Fusion player Joshua Bruce. Meanwhile our B team of Isabelle Lacorte, George Thorn, Meth Wijeyekoon, Charlie McDevitt and Blayk Marquis standing in for Isabelle and Meth who were both unavailable took the runners up spot in division two

despite losing two matches on the final day. Luckily, they had accumulated enough points beforehand to see them through.

**Warren B pictured l-r; Blayk Marquis, Charlie McDevitt and George Thorn.  
Not pictured Isabelle Lacorte and Meth Wijeyekoon**



A delighted C team of Heidi Oestreicher, Indu Pawar, Francesca Preston, Matthew Roberts and Evan Hunt a replacement for the indisposed Francesca and Matthew, took the division four crown, which in itself was a great achievement for a team with no competitive experience before the start of



**Warren C pictured l-r; Heidi Oestreicher, Evan Hunt and Indu Pawar. Not pictured; Francesca Preston and Matt Roberts**

this competition in November. The outcome was only settled in the very last match of the day in what was to be the gold and silver medal decider against Twickenham. It was a nail biter to say the least but the team eventually prevailed

6-3 thanks to a great performance from Indu who finished the match unbeaten.

### **National Junior & Cadet Championships**

The national finals for the above age groups were held at the Aldersley Leisure Centre, Wolverhampton over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April. On paper it looked as if Ilyssa Lacorte playing in the cadets had one of the easier groups in the competition but Ilyssa was playing a little below par on the day and with the strength of the event such as it is, she failed to make it out of her group.



**Charlotte in action at the Junior National Championships.**

Meanwhile in the junior event, Charlotte Marsden won her group thanks to two victories over higher ranked players. Unfortunately Charlotte's reward for such effort was a first round match against the No 1 seed and eventual event winner Charlotte Bardsley from Staffordshire who

prevailed in a four set match.

### **National U/10 to U/13 Championships**

This prodigious event for the younger table tennis fraternity will again be held at the Aldersley Leisure Centre, Wolverhampton over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> June and Table Tennis England have invited four of our members to take part.

Competing in the U/12s for the boy's will be James Hamblett and for the girls Isabelle Lacorte and both players will also battle for medals in the U/13s along with Heidi Oestreicher. Also taking part in the U/12s will be Indu Pawar who along with Heidi will sharpen their skills for these Championships by playing the Nottingham Sycamore tournament on 12<sup>th</sup> May. I am sure that all of us would like to wish them well for the Championships, the most competitive tournament of the season with all the countries top ranked players invited.

### **Cobb Handicap Cup**

We are now down to the Quarter Final stage in this competition and I am happy to report that Warren Spring team's fill four of these last eight places.

Warren D have to play Royston C, Warren F play Bedwell G, Warren J play Broadway E whilst finally our A team host either Royston E or KLM A. We wish all team's the very best of luck.

### **North Herts Junior Closed**

It was a "clean sweep" for Warren junior James Hamblett as he took the U/15 title defeating Victor Ramirez-Rioja 3-1 and the U/18 title by beating another Warren junior Bruce Yao in straight sets.

The girl's event suffered with competitors pulling out on the night. This left Isabelle Lacorte going through to the final where she met yet another Warren player Heidi Oestreicher. Considering the vast difference in experience between the two, Heidi put up a good fight and was certainly not overawed by her more illustrious opponent. However, experience prevailed as Isabelle took the title winning in straight sets.

### **Club AGM**

Please be advised that this years' AGM will take place on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the Three Horseshoes, Baldock Road, Willian, SG6 2AE**. It would be nice to see as many of you there as possible, and we would especially welcome new signings and parents of juniors at the club.

## **Division Three Players Needed**

I am looking for two division three players who may wish to play for the club next season. If you know of anyone who may be interested please let me know.

Dave, is there anyone whom you are unable to fit in at KLM??

## **Pooja Sharma**

Those of you that have been at the club for a few years' will of course remember Pooja who played for us until she left to take up a place at Imperial College. She is now living and working in London. Pooja came to us as an eleven year old and reached division one standard playing under Rob Worrell's captaincy. She also obtained an England ranking of twenty five as a junior.

Pooja recently got in touch by email and I have pleasure in copying the relevant piece related to table tennis for your perusal.

*I'm really glad that you're still involved with table tennis (definitely can't have Warren Springs TT Club without Roger!). I've read through the newsletters that you sent me. The current squad seems very talented and hard working (their rankings are amazing too!). Also saw a photo of Mike Atkinson in there - very happy to see that he's still running NCL! I would definitely be happy to come to some sessions sometimes. I live in London now (London Bridge area) but I go back home to Stevenage over most weekends so would be happy to come and help out at sessions on some Sundays (although I don't know if I'd be any good anymore!).*

*I hope Coach John is feeling better now and looking after himself. I definitely remember that day Isaac and I drove with you and John to Yorkshire for a tournament. It was a VERY early morning and we spent most of the journey playing cards. Aww Roger, I am touched that you still use me as an example of dedication.*

*Also I wanted to say thank you so much for everything you (and every one at the club) did for me back in the days. I wouldn't have gotten to where I did without you. Learnt so many life skills through table tennis also - these will definitely stick with me throughout my life :)*

*I am definitely up for being more involved with the club (where ever I can be). Definitely keep sending me the newsletters. It's really nice to hear about how everyone is doing (even if I don't know most of them now ha-ha).*

*Pooja*

## **Club Dinner**

I have to report that our Club Dinner was once again a great success with over 50 persons in attendance. We all cannot wait for the next one Bill.