

WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2019 Edition

Annual Club Tournament

Victor wins the division one title whilst Isabelle and Colm take two trophies each.

This year's club tournament did not disappoint as thirty seven players fought it out to see who could reach those magic final places.

One of the strongest fields ever assembled for a division one event saw Victor Ramirez-Rioja take the crown to add to his division two won last year and his division three victory in 2017.

The group stages saw only one real upset as Bruce Yao was defeated by Nick Theobald although there were many five leg matches along the way. In the quarter finals Victor took on Joe Keckzes, Nick Theobald was up against Mark Redford, Colm Bushell had a potentially difficult one against Fred Burdett whilst Bruce Yao after being beaten by Nick had to face No2 seed Hayden Gruby. At the end it was four men standing with Victor, Hayden, Mark and Colm all coming through.

The semi-finals saw Victor on top throughout as he dismissed Mark 11-4, 11-7, 11-2. The other semi between Hayden and Colm was in stark contrast as the pair fought tooth and nail with Colm finally making it over the finishing line by a score of 11-8, 10-12, 14-12, 10-12, 11-3. The final between Colm and Victor was a feast of good table tennis. Many in the audience expected Victor to win at a cantor but Colm had been playing exceptionally well all day and the final was no exception. There were times when Colm outshone his opponent, something not many in division one have achieved this season before the young machine came through 9-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8, 11-2.



Victor winner division 1



Colm RU division 1

The division two competition saw ten players battle it out in two groups of five with the first two in each group going through to the semi-finals. Group one winner was 12 years old Isabelle Lacorte currently ranked England No 3 at U/13 level who lost just once (to Elaine Hanworth) on her way to the semis along with group runner up Terry Everitt. Group two was won by Joe Keckzes, with the surprise runner up being George Thorn who played really well including a win over Arshbir Singh. The semis, and George was finally outdone by the power and pace of Isabelle 11-4, 11-7, 11-5 whilst Terry was locked in a marathon with Joe before having to bow out 11-3, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5. The final saw Isabelle in unstoppable mood as she demolished a shocked Joe 11-9, 11-3, 11-2.



Division 2 winner Isabelle receiving her trophy from Terry Everitt



Division 2 RU Joe

The first event of the weekend's competition was the division three singles which saw seventeen players all trying to become divisional champion. Three of the four main seeds made their allotted place into the quarter final draw, the only exception being Miles Brignall who was beaten in straight sets by Indu Pawar who topped the group with Miles in runner up spot. In the quarters, top seed George Thorn was made to work hard by Meth Wijeyekoon before going through. Other winners were Cesar Molina who came through at the expense of Miles,



Heidi Oestreicher who beat her National Cadet League team-mate Indu in a four leg thriller and No 2 seed Erol Hasan who defeated Beau Casey again in four legs. The semi-finals brought together George and Cesar and Erol and Heidi. Although taken to four, George never really looked like losing and booked his final place with an 11-4, 11-8, 11-13, 11-4 win along with Erol who had just a little too much experience for young Heidi winning 11-7, 11-8, 11-9. The final saw George just too quick for Erol who although managing to pick up a leg could not maintain the pace finally going down 11-3, 11-2, 8-11, 11-6.

Division 3 winner George with tournament co-ordinator Paul Waterman



Division 3 RU Erol

As is usually the case, the handicap competition brought us some really close finishes. Pick of the matches were Dante Lacorte's 21-14, 20-21, 21-16 over Victor Ramirez-Rioja, and Isabelle Lacorte's third leg 21-20 victory over Bruce Yao. The semi-finals resulted in a fairly straightforward win for Colm Bushell over Mark Redford and a three leg tussle between Isabelle and dad Dante in which his young daughter finally triumphed. The final which many thought would go all the way resulted in a relatively



easy win for Isabelle over Colm who at times struggled to contain this fast improving young lady.



Handicap Winner Isabelle (l) and RU Colm (r) with Junior coach David Kells

Welcome

.....to the latest members of our club, namely David Stead and Turgut Gurer. David joined us a few weeks ago, whilst Turgut arrived even more recently. Turgut appeared in our club tournament but unfortunately David had to withdraw through sickness. They will both be playing league table tennis for us next season.

National Cadet League

The last weekend of this season's NCL takes place at Cippenham, Berkshire on 24th March and we are hoping at the very least to consolidate our positions over all divisions. In division one, our A team are virtually over the line and almost sure to take

top spot. So far, it has been an incredible journey for our two leading players James Hamblett and Victor Ramirez-Rioja who are still unbeaten after three weekends play. In the race to the top, they have been well supported by Arshbir Singh (55%).

In division two, our B team after a terrific start to the campaign have faltered a little but should be sure of staying in the division next season. Ably led by George Thorn (60%) and supported by Meth Wijeyekoon (50%), Blayk Marquis (27%) and Andrew Girgis (25%) the boys have learnt a great deal from this season's competition.



NCL B Team (l-r) Meth, George, Andrew and Blayk

Division three and our C team lie mid-table. They could improve upon this position if things go well as they have to play teams that are beatable. Heidi Oestreicher and Shaniely Edwards (both 66%) have been the mainstay being ably supported by Indu Pawar (50%) who herself has won some vital games for her team along with Francesca Preston.

**NCL C Team (l-r) Heidi,
Francesca, Indu and
Shaneily**



After a poor start, our D team have since played consistently well and now find themselves in the upper reaches of division four. Unfortunately, their No1 Kamil Tanaka is unavailable for this final round of matches so it will fall to the fast improving Beau Casey and Evan Hunt to try and hold on to their position in the table.

The Club's Diamond Anniversary

2019 celebrates sixty years since the club was first formed. To mark this achievement, we propose to hold a weekend of table tennis by bringing together not only club and local league players but also quality players from across the country.

The event will take place over the weekend of Saturday/ Sunday 9th / 10th November and will be held at the St.Neots Table Tennis Centre. The Saturday will feature events for club and the more local players whilst Sunday will be given over to the entries from elite players. Watch out for more information which will come to you from Paul Waterman one of the event organisers.

Thank you from Ken

H team captain Ken Savill would like to thank all those players that have played up for his team this season thus helping him out of considerable difficulty when a half of his players presented themselves with serious injury problems.

Congratulations

.....to the club's Heidi Oestreicher, just thirteen years' old on becoming Bedfordshire Schools Champion.

Heidi with her trophy



Club Dinner

This year's club dinner will once again be held at the Green Man in Stanford, Bedfordshire. The date is Saturday 27 April so please make a note in your diaries now. Chairman Bill Price will soon have menu's available and he will then begin to contact you all.

Nappies, Nappies and More Nappies

Congratulations again, this time to the A teams' Gabriela Tankel on the birth of a baby boy, and a brother to Nicholas. Edward Nathan Tankel came into the world on 16th February weighing in at 7 lbs. Both mother and baby are doing well. Gabriela hopes to return to table tennis just after Christmas 2019.



Edward Nathan Tankel; hope you were resting as well Gabby.

Club Shirt for Sale

I have one junior club shirt left for sale if anybody is interested. It's size small to fit chest 36" waist 30" cost £21.50. Please let me know if you have a child who would like to try it on.

The Man of Mystery

No one – and this also included the man himself - was able to identify the photo caption that appeared in the Christmas issue. The tall elegant figure (which time has not changed-you can pay me later!!) was none other than Paul Waterman. If anyone else has some old photos of our club superstars, (the more embarrassing the better) for entry into our erstwhile publication then please let me know.