

WARREN SPRING TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome

The club extends a warm welcome to the following players who recently joined us.

Peter Newbery, Harry McKeone - K team, and Andrew Lee - M team, all division three.

Club Fees 2011/12

The club committee would like to extend a thank you to all those who have already submitted their fees for this season. For those still to do so, may I remind you that these were due in September and should be paid as soon as possible.

ETTA Individual Membership

Congratulations to all members on managing to enrol so promptly. With only two weeks of the season gone, the club had achieved a 100% signing on record with just a couple of blips due to information not being inputted at the ETTA end. For a club of our size that was a considerable achievement.

Match Round-up (Covering in the main clashes between internal rivals).

Warren A – 8 Arron Beckett, Simon Proffitt, Tom Carr

Warren C – 2 Isaac Beevor, Derek Thom

Our A team began the new premier division season with a win over the C team who unfortunately were without Charlie Baines the victim of a playground accident only hours before.

Having just returned from a weekend of training and tournament play in Hungary, it was hardly surprising to see Isaac playing really well, and it was he who gained the two points with wins over both Arron and Tom. However, our new summer signing Simon failed to read the script Isaac was writing and promptly dispatched him in straight games. I could not finish without mentioning Derek, who played some great stuff on the night for no reward.

Settlement Ravens – 4 Adrian Cracknell, Cliff Pearce, Roy Lunnon

Warren F – 6 Rob Worrell, John Giles, Pooja Sharma

It seemed highly unlikely that our F team would get anything from this match as in the very first game of the night John's shoulder which has been giving him problems all season finally gave out and he had to withdraw from competition. This left Rob and young Pooja with the unenviable task of trying to forge something against a very competent division one side. If this did look a daunting task then Rob and Pooja seemed completely unfazed by it and together put in a fantastic performance. Pooja led the way with a fine maximum three wins whilst team captain Rob chipped in by beating both Adrian and Cliff. He would however have been a little disappointed in losing to Roy after winning the first two legs.

Warren E – 9 Paul Watermen, Erol Hasan, Biao Wang

Warren G – 1 Mark Redford, Arthur Hawkins, Dave Saunders

Before this match, our G team were sitting on top of division one but they were brought down to earth with a bang by our E team. The 9-1 score line in no way reflects the closeness of most games and the many fine rallies that went with them. Only one set was won in three legs, with six games going to the wire and the remaining three being decided in four legs. Virtually every contest had something good to offer but the highlights were certainly Paul's 13-11 fifth leg win over Mark. Erol's 8-11 fifth leg loss to Mark, Biao's 12-10 fifth leg win over Arthur and Erol and Paul's last gasp victories against Arthur and Dave respectively. In the doubles, Erol and Biao's 100% record looked in jeopardy when trailing 1-2 to Arthur and Dave and in the "last chance" saloon, but they somehow managed to stage a comeback resulting in an 11-9 final leg win.

Warren K – 7 Dante Lacorte, Sahib Matharu, Peter Newbery

Warren N – 3 Peter Ostojic, Peter Fabian, Yu Ning Tzeng

Having just failed to get into division two this season, our K team are determined to put that right by doing all they can to win division three. An awful lot will depend on who they turn out each week. If they can call upon their strongest team often enough they could do it. In this match against same club opposition, things were never really in doubt although with a bit more luck the N team could have made things a little closer. Yu Ning showed us how much he has improved after one-to-one coaching by just failing to beat Dante – one of division three's better players- in five legs, whilst the Peter Fabian/Yu Ning combination just failed to seal a victory in the doubles. For the K team, Sahib continues to show much improvement and was awarded with two fine wins on the night. Well done also to young Peter Newbery who played well in his first competitive match for the club.

Cup Round-up

The club had a great opening round in the various cup competitions with all our teams that were drawn to play winning. In the Willmott Cup for premier sides, both our A and B teams came through relatively easily whilst in the McClaughlin division one competition our F and G teams were successful although the G team left it until the final game. It was in the McClaughlin Inter for division two sides however where we gained arguably our best win as our J team saw off Broadway F currently lying second by 5-3. Well done to Dave Cunningham on gaining a maximum three wins in that match. In the same competition our H team also played well to take their match 5-3. In the Henderson Cup for division three teams our M team was victorious whilst our K team had to fight a little harder before overcoming Royston E by 5-4.

Junior Corner

Sussex 4* Junior Tournament

The above event held at the impressive Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill, was played out on 23 tables and brought together some of the best juniors in the country. The club had entered three of its players with Isaac Beevor and James Abrams contesting the Junior Boys Singles and Isaac also entering into the Grade 1 singles, whilst Pooja Sharma did battle in the Junior Girls and girls Grade 1 event.

As you would expect competition was extremely fierce (to give you an idea, Luke Walsh one of North Herts top premier players was unseeded and ranked only 22nd amongst the boys) but overall our juniors coped well.

In the boy's open singles competition, Isaac had drawn Reece Placid (Kent) seeded 12, and England No 22, with Micah Stoute and Andrew Martin in his group, both latter players ranked some places below Isaac. Isaac began well with a win against Martin but then found Placid (he certainly did not live up to his name) too hot to handle going down in straight sets. It was unfortunate for Isaac that he probably did not produce his best against Stoute going down in five sets and consequently out of the competition.

In his group, James was extremely unlucky to draw Sam Mabey (Northants) England No 7 along with Charlie Bates. Although outclassed by Mabey, James put up a sterner fight against Bates and with a little more experience at this level could have taken him much closer.

The afternoon saw the Grade 1 event. Isaac playing far more aggressively came through his group with two fine wins that saw him into round one where he again ground out a win to set up a second round contest against England No 25 Ashley Facey-Thompson (Middlesex). Here Isaac started brilliantly opening up a two sets to one lead, before finally being overcome in the fifth set.

In the girl's event, Pooja faced the formidable challenge of the England No 12, ranked 4 for the tournament, Maria Tsaptsinos (Berkshire), and England No 43 Emily Ross (Lincolnshire) in her group. A typical battling performance from Pooja saw her just edged out by Ross in five sets whilst against Tsaptsinos (a very classy player) she played really well setting up some amazing rallies before going down 11-9, 12-10, 11-7.

In the Grade 1 singles, Pooja again faced the unenviable task of trying to overcome a top player in her group namely Ella Patel (Essex), who was seeded three for this event. Patel is a big hitter who likes to win big points and so the advice from the bench was to serve short to the body, keep things tight and take the opportunities when they arose. Pooja played to the letter with some good containing strokes and lots of patience combined with the odd topspin winner. The tactics appeared to be working as her opponent was getting more and more frustrated and annoyed. But it was not quite enough as the final score line of 11-7, 12-10, 12-10 would suggest. However Pooja did qualify out of her group by beating the third player and setting up a meeting with a dangerous girl from Poland. Pooja found herself two sets down before staging a remarkable comeback with arguably her best performance of the day to finish a five set winner. In the quarter-finals her opponent was Jane Li a Chinese girl currently ranked No 1 in England at U/13 level. Li has a lethal combination of good defence and strong hitting and again Pooja found herself coming back from two sets down to level at two all. The final set was a nailbiter as Li just scraped home 11-9

A very good albeit long day and one in which our players can take much credit for.

Annual Club Tournament

The 2012 club tournament has been arranged and will take place on **Sunday 5th February**. Entry forms will be distributed with the Christmas newsletter. With a membership now nearing 60 players it is hoped that we will have a really excellent entry. It is doubly hoped that those players new to us this season will turn out and give the day a try. This goes not only for those at the top but those competing in the lower divisions too. As well as the open event, there will also be divisional competitions. Please note the date in your diaries now. **With this much warning there can be no excuses.**

Wymondley Kitchen

There have been one or two complaints about the kitchen at the Wymondley venue especially the state of the cups. As a result, the club has purchased tea towels; wash up liquid; scourers and bleach (to remove initial dark staining). These have been put into a box marked table tennis club. Would team captains please ensure that cups are properly washed after evening use using the items purchased.

Many thanks – Ed

Newnham Table

Would Newnham team captains please note that the table can be left up on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings but MUST be taken down on Thursdays and placed on the stage.

English National Cadet & Junior Closed Championships

Some of you may like to know that the above championships are this year being held at the Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield Business Park Hatfield. The event will be played over the weekend of 19/20 November, with the junior section being held on the 19th.

This offers the chance to see the cream of English junior table tennis in competition. Adding a bit of spice to the day is the fact that three of the club's youngsters will be taking part. In the junior boy's we will have both Isaac Beevor and Charlie Baines doing battle, whilst Pooja Sharma competes in the junior girls. Isaac and Pooja have also entered the mixed doubles.

I am sure that our youngsters would like as much support as possible so if you have a free couple of hours or so to spare why not come along. Play commences at 9.00am with the boy's first in action.

Gabriela

No real news to report. I have spoken to Gabby and it appears that the little one is reluctant to join the world (must know a thing or two). Gabby is currently in hospital waiting for something to happen (now 2 weeks overdue).

Food For Thought

A young son asked,
'Is it true Dad that in some parts of Africa
a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?'
Dad replied, 'That happens in every country, son.'