

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT - SEASON 2019/2020

It is really strange writing my report for season 2019/20 when we are currently still in the grip of a global pandemic and it is likely to be some time before life returns to some sort of normality. This is a difficult time for all sports with new systems and public health protocols in place which we will all need to adhere to. ADTTA have been following guidance received from TTS, through SportScotland and the Scottish Government, to allow play at venues where there is appropriate measures such as sanitising, social distancing and limited numbers of tables available. Hopefully those who have been able to return have enjoyed being back at the table after an absence of many months.

Our excellent Match Secretary Chris Davenport has prepared an update on the league and cup competitions so I have just provided a summary of the season's other activities. It is pleasing to report that the number of teams again increased, this time from 33 to 37, which meant we had four healthy divisions.

Tournaments

The **North of Scotland Open** took place on Saturday 28 September 2019 with over 80 players in action. It was great to see a good entry from local players and thanks go to all those who supported the event.

Top seed Dylan Curry was in superb form and retained the Men's Singles title with relative ease, only dropping one set all day which was in a closely fought battle against third seed Johannes Laute. In the Ladies Singles, Lara Stirling was equally impressive and claimed her first North Open title with a four set victory over Iona Obst-Wojcicka who had defeated defending champion Lucy Elliott in the semis. Dylan and Andrew McRae lost out in the final of the Open Doubles while Rafal Wilowski also had to settle for the runners up prize in the Band 1 event.

Other local successes came from Dick Ferro who defeated Nigel Herbert in the Over 60's final and Tessa Yau who survived a fightback to claim the honours in the U18 Girl's. The fast improving Harry Blackhall defeated Louis Loi to win the U15 Boy's Singles while Daniel Tibbetts defeated his clubmate Allan He in the final of the U13 Boys. Hania Petryk and Maja Wojcicka were runners up in the U15 and U13 Girls' events respectively while Maja was delighted to win the U11 event.

At the end of January 2020 ADTTA ran the **North Confined Championships** which took place at Woodbank Sports Centre with an entry of just under 60 competitors contesting the ten events. The Singles was split into three separate tiers with the top 12 ranked players competing for the Rubber Shop Trophy, the next 12 for the AU Open and the final 16 players contesting the Watt Cup. In a repeat of last year's final, Ross Martin was again up against Rafal Wilowski and duly took the honours with an emphatic straight sets victory to take the Rubber Shop Trophy for the second successive year. Daniel Tibbetts saw off the challenge from Brian Robertson in a tight contest to clinch the AU Open Shield while Dick Bird defeated Graeme Park in four ends to win the Watt Cup. The experienced pairing of Craig Cummine and Uwe Petermann won the Open Doubles against young Daniel Tibbetts and Harry Blackhall while Ikenna Asogwa and Brian Robertson won the Over 40 and Over 60 events respectively.

As expected the Junior events were highly competitive. Rafal Wilowski topped the five player group in the U18 event with Tessa Yau runner up while Daniel Tibbetts recovered from losing the first end in the U15 final against Harry Blackhall to clinch his second title of the day. In the U13's Stonehaven's Allan He won the Bert Park Trophy with a straight sets victory over Nathan Pan who gained some consolation by winning the Primary Schools event against Jakub Krzyzostaniak.

Thanks go to all players, their families and spectators for helping to make the event a resounding success. A particular thanks go to the new players in the league from Turriff, Inverurie and Rothienorman who were making their first tournament appearance.

National Competitions

Once again a squad of youngsters has travelled regularly to tournaments and thanks go to Donald Pirie, Max Singer and Natalie Gallan in particular who have helped coach at these events.

It was a clean sweep for our players at The Scottish Primary Schools Championships which were held in November 2019. Top seed, and last year's runner up, Daniel Tibbetts went one better this year with a dominant performance in the Boy's Singles. Daniel didn't drop an end in the event and defeated his club mate Nathan Pan in the final. Daniel and Nathan then teamed up to take the Boy's Doubles title. In the Girls' events Maja Wojcicka won two titles, topping the group of four in the Singles and then partnering Drumchapel's Megan Mulhern to victory in the Doubles. Daniel, Nathan, Robbie Martin and Maja all qualified to represent Scotland at the British Primary Schools Championships which were due to take place in the Isle of Man in April 2020 but were sadly cancelled due to the pandemic.

It was an unusually quiet tournament for our youngsters at the Scottish Schools Championships with only one of the six titles on offer returning to Aberdeen. In the U18 Girls, Tessa Yau topped the group of five players without dropping an end to become champion. Players were competing for a top four place to qualify for the British Schools Championships (which were also subsequently cancelled) and Harry Blackhall (U14 Boys), Josef Bokedal (U16 Boys) and Hania Petryk (U14 Girls) all secured their spots with fourth place finishes in each of their respective events.

At the Scottish National Championships the ASV TT Academy had several players attending with hopes high of taking some of the National titles on offer. Tessa Yau completed a very successful season in the U18 Girls with another dominant display which led to a straight sets final victory over Amelia Norbury to become Scottish Champion. In the U13 Boys, top seed and favourite, Daniel Tibbetts also capped a fine season by taking the national title in emphatic style. In the U18 Boys Dylan Curry had to settle for the silver medal as he lost out to North Ayrshire's Martin Johnson who had been playing full-time in Germany.

The following players were selected to represent Aberdeen at the Interleague in Perth which was due to take place on 21/22 March 2020 but became the first Scottish table tennis event to be cancelled.

Men – Dylan Curry, Ross Martin, Andrew McRae
Ladies – Tessa Yau, Ilona Obst-Wojcicka
Veterans – Mitch Reid, Uwe Petermann, Stefan Wagner
Junior Boys – Rafal Wilowski, Josef Bokedal, Alasdair Crofton
Cadet Boys – Harry Blackhall, Jonathan Pan, Allan He
Cadet Girls – Hania Petryk, Willow Shek
Minor Boys – Daniel Tibbetts, Nathan Pan, Robbie Martin
Minor Girls – Maja Wojcicka, Kiishi Adekola

Finally

Thanks go as always to my fellow EC members for their continued hard work and support throughout the season. Although we have a full complement of dedicated Office Bearers we do appear to have lost a few Committee members. There are however a couple of younger players who have expressed an interest in joining us which is great news for the future of table tennis locally.

The tabletennis365 website is now in its sixth season and continues to be very successful. Thanks go to Chris and Gregor Ksiazek who have been updating the pages on a regular basis. I have also tried to keep the Aberdeen Table Tennis Facebook page updated with tournament news and other items which may be of interest to members so please send in a member request if you wish.

Finally, Table Tennis Scotland have announced the return of their popular online workshops for coaches and players alike. Every TTS affiliated club and league has access to a workshop of their choice completely free of charge and is appropriate for all ages and ability levels. Please check out their website <https://tabletenniscotland.co.uk/tts-online-workshops-relaunch/> for details on the workshops available.