

Tournament Report 2023

I made some changes to the tournament format this year which were designed to result in a more acceptable finish time each day which was achieved, however some changes were more successful than others. We had 68 entries this year an increase of 6 over 2022, we are still very low on Juniors and also remained static in ladies entries, both are areas where we need to attract more members generally into the league.

Removing the handicap doubles did result in a sensible finish on the Saturday and moving the over 60's event to Saturday proved sensible and did not affect entry numbers, 20 same as 2022. I introduced an over 70's event but with just 10 entries would suggest going forward that this is replaced by a hard bat event which I think would appeal to more players and result in extra income. I believe there should be room in the scheduling for this to take place comfortably on the Saturday. The removal of the over 60's event on Sunday made the timing just a right for us to exit the hall on time despite a significant increase in entries for the men singles from 38 to 46 players, maybe we should consider limiting entries in this event. I believe that you should leave flexibility to the organising committee to decide on how to run the tournament and what events to run in the future.

I would like to thank everyone who helped run the event this year we had a great deal of help setting up the Tables on the Friday evening and a bit less in clearing it all on Sunday evening, thank you all. Special mentions to Jan who ran the catering as usual and raised over £400 for the league, Dan Anderson and Tim Huxtable for help on the control table, Paul Brown and Anthon Ranjit-Singh for being our go to umpires, and Dave Goody for doing just about anything we asked of him!

This was my final year of running the tournament but you will be pleased to know that Jan has indicated that she may be willing to continue to do the refreshments, I will be available to assist whoever takes the role on.