

## Chairmans Report 2023

Welcome and thank you for attending the meeting tonight.

We have had a good season of competitive table tennis giving most and long may this continue, your committee continued to meet regularly and give their time to running the league, handicap competition, tournament and presentation evening successfully. Special thanks to Colin Napper our secretary who keeps everything running smoothly by reminding and occasionally nagging us, Dan Anderson and Eamonn Hall for keeping the website updated, Alan Scammell for organising the Handicap Cup, Dawn Baldry for sorting the presentation evening and of course Eamonn for his exceptional press reports which are without doubt the most read in any local league in Essex! We sadly lost the services of our treasurer, Martin Knights after 25 years in the role, due to illness we all wish him a successful recovery. Peter Chastin volunteered and took over the role during the season and I thank him for doing so. We will now have some vacancies to fill on the committee and I hope we can move towards my desire to see every club with at least one committee member so that we are truly representative of our membership.

Finally I would like to see the league and clubs pursuing a more active policy to encourage more people into our sport by attracting new players both young and not so young, Blackwater are doing a great job of growing their club and my Club in South Woodham now have a junior session that is growing but we need other clubs to look at running open practice sessions and inviting new people into the sport, the league have available a pot of money supplied by Table Tennis England to support this, we just need specific events run by clubs to help fund, we can also support coach development as long as anyone we support commits to actually coaching in the district. As an example we ran two taster sessions in Woodham for youngsters during the Easter holidays where we offered 2 hours coaching session for £2 and had a dozen youngsters come along to each one which resulted in new regulars coming to our sessions, and our publicity for this was just on a local facebook page. Open days are certainly something for clubs to consider and I am sure that we could all support each other with helping any club running one.