

## **IOM Table Tennis League**

### **Finalised Plan for 2018/19**

**Agreed by IOMTTA Committee July 2018**

#### **Introduction**

- We have 33 league teams for the new season– reflecting 30 teams which finished last year + 2 additional teams from existing clubs (Peel, Travellers) + 2 new adult teams from Microgaming/Play it Forward. Meanwhile there is 1 fewer team from existing clubs as Copy Shop dropped 1 D3 team whilst Travellers E effectively transferred to Copy Shop in D4 and St Ninians have merged with Peel.
- Regional Super 6 and Grand Prix concepts being retained, however modifications being made to increase variety/standard of competition particularly for developing junior players
- Increasing match capacity by supplementing traditional Wednesday night arrangements with use of NSC Secondary Hall 7pm to 10pm Friday nights in combination with Island Squad training
- Will also use this extra midweek capacity for some of the competitions we have previously had to hold at weekends, with intention that this increases participation levels.

#### **2018/19 Outline Plan**

- Retaining existing Wednesday night NSC Secondary Hall booking from 6-30pm as at present
- Added Friday night booking from 7 to 10pm, with 6 tables used for squad training and 6 for additional match play capacity
- Wednesday will still be the main match night – will schedule 11 matches on a Wednesday night with 6 in the first session and 5 in the later session (leaving 1 spare for flexibility)
- Will schedule 4 matches on a Friday (using 1.5 tables per match) - all teams to be scheduled roughly equal share of Friday night matches over the season
- Only normally intend to have 1 league match per team each week
- Season to run broadly as recent years – mid September to early May

#### **Divisional Structure**

- Have retained integrity from 2017/18's season outcome and ensured that the competition is structured optimally to benefit IOM table tennis:
  - D1: retained at last year's starting level of 7 teams. Applied promotion/relegation as expected 3 rotations = 18 fixtures per team.
  - D2: increased by 1 to 9 teams. Applied promotion/relegation as expected, and promoted additional Travellers team from D3 (runners-up). 2 full rotations then division will split

into Top/Middle/Bottom 3 for 2 further matches per team to complete the programme (18 fixtures per team).

- D3: retained at 10 teams. Allowed 2 new adult teams to enter at this level and also the Travellers D team. Not promoting D4 champions Ramsey G. 2 rotations = 18 fixtures per team.
- D4: increase by 1 to 7 teams. 3 rotations = 18 fixtures per team.
- Divisional structure is as follows:

	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
1	Copy Shop A	Tower A	Travellers D	Ramsey G
2	Arbory	Copy Shop B	Copy Shop D	CopyShop E
3	Strathallan	Peel A	Desmond's Douglas	Copy Shop F (was Travellers E)
4	Ramsey A	Peel B	Tower C	Peel E (was St Ninians B)
5	Ramsey B	Tower B	Peel C	Peel F
6	Travellers A	Ramsey C	Peel D (was St Ninians A)	Iom Junior Development
7	Travellers B	Copy Shop C	Ramsey E	Junior Development North
8		Ramsey D	Ramsey F	
9		Travellers C	Play It Foward A	
10			Play It Foward B	

*Divisional winners will be automatically promoted and bottom team automatically relegated. Runners-up will play-off against 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom team from division above for place in higher division*

### **Other Points**

- Equates to 297 league fixtures, which requires 21 week league programme. Each division has 18 matches per team
- Each week there will be a maximum of 15 fixtures - generally 3 in D1, 4 in D2, 5 in D3 and 3 in D4
- Schools start back Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Matches planned to start on 19<sup>th</sup> September (1 week later than last year) to allow teams to be better organised and have more practice before season starts. NSC open nights will run on Wednesday evenings until then, and also including Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Wednesday fixtures start at 6-30pm (6 matches predominantly from D3/4 plus occasional D2 fixtures) and 8-15pm (all 5 matches from D1/D2) as last year
- Friday matches will be spread across all divisions and start at 7-15pm. All to be completed by 10pm latest – but should comfortably finish by 9-15pm
- Divisional Championships to be held during the week in November (Wednesday & Friday – suggest 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) to assess whether this increases entries
- 3 Grand Prix evenings set through the season. To be held on Friday evenings of the “end of term weeks” immediately before half-term/Christmas holidays, instead of league matches and coaching that night.
- Will hold 2 Grand Prix's on each evening, on 6 tables each. The “Band 1” event will be for teams of Division 1 players only and be similar to the established arrangements. The “Band 2” event will be open to teams of players from Division 2 and below. Each Band 2

team will have to contain at least 1 Junior player. Will be both Individual and Team awards. Full details to be issued in due course.

- League season and play-offs will be completed by mid-March with play-offs to be held on Friday night of last week of league fixtures
- Plan allows 1 week of midweek matches for “Island Championship Qualifying” – potentially Group stages on Wednesday/Friday with knock-outs at the weekend (or certain elements played to a conclusion during the week). Tournament Organisers will determine details in due course. Currently planned for week after final league matches which would mean IC “finals” weekend at the end of March. Final stages could potentially be played the following Friday (no league matches scheduled) if desired.
- No matches programmed over Easter
- Regional Super 6 run over 2 weeks prior to Easter and the 3 weeks after. Concept will be broadly similar to last year. Will only need Wednesday nights for this, so the corresponding Friday nights will be open for Handicap Tournaments. Details to be determined by Tournament organiser in due course.
- Divisional winners will be automatically promoted and bottom team automatically relegated. Runners-up will play-off against 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom team from division above (17th March 2019) for place in higher division
- *Prize Presentation date provisionally Friday 17th May 2019*

### **Other Competitions**

- Hard Bat & Fun Doubles – half-term weeks (Wednesday only)
- Divisionals – November (Wednesday & Friday)
- Top 12s – suggest late January (weekend)
- Island Championships – March (Wednesday & Friday plus Saturday)

Nb: Weekend events could be at Buchan or NSC

### **Fees for 2018/19**

- Agreed Standard team fees £410, Junior teams £200 – approximately 5% up on last year to reflect higher hall costs and additional playing opportunities
- Can be paid in 2 instalments as previously (September/January)
- Payments and any queries to Mike Bayley, IOMTTA Treasurer.

**TSB 16/8/18**

## Appendix - Overview of 2018/19 Calendar

Date (Wed)		<u>Week #</u>	<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Cup</u>
<b>19/09/2018</b>	L	1		
26/09/2018	L	2		
03/10/2018	L	3		
10/10/2018	L	4		
17/10/2018	L	5		
24/10/2018	L	6		Grand Prix 1 (Fri)
31/10/2018			Oct h/term	Fun doubles
07/11/2018	L	7		
14/11/2018	L	8		
21/11/2018	Div			Divisional Champs
28/11/2018	L	9		
05/12/2018	L	10		
12/12/2018	L	11		
19/12/2018	L	12		Grand Prix 2 (Fri)
26/12/2018			Christmas 1	
02/01/2019			Christmas 2	
09/01/2019	L	13		
16/01/2019	L	14		
23/01/2019	L	15		
30/01/2019	L	16		
06/02/2019	L	17		
13/02/2019	L	18		Grand Prix 3 (Fri)
20/02/2019			Feb h/term	Hard Bat
27/02/2019	L	19		
06/03/2019	L	20		
13/03/2019	L	21		+ PlayOffs on Friday
20/03/2019	ICQ			Island Champs groups
27/03/2019	S6	1		) Wed = RS6
03/04/2019	S6	2		) Fri = handicap
10/04/2019			Easter	
17/04/2019			Easter	
24/04/2019	S6	3		)
01/05/2019	S6	4		) As above
<b>08/05/2019</b>	S6	5		)