

Isle of Man Table Tennis Association Newsletter

Issue 2 - September 2022



The triumphant Travellers A team pictured after claiming the 2021/22 Division 1 title (picture: Malcolm Lambert)

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1. Introduction

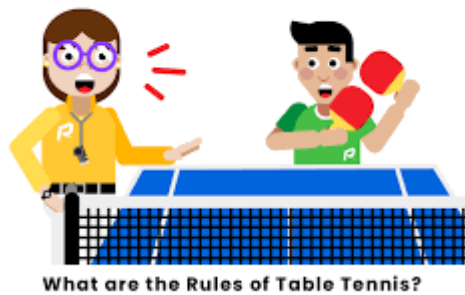
Welcome to the second edition of the IOMTTA Newsletter. Thank you to all the contributors to this year's edition, and we hope you enjoy it. Do let us know if you would like to see any other articles or features in future editions. The Newsletter is available via the IOMTTA 365 website or at our Facebook page.

We Need You!

We are looking for a **Facebook Champion**, so if you are keen to promote our sport via social media, get in touch!

Ken Mitchell, Press Officer - kdsm09@gmail.com

2. Rules Corner - Double Hits and Volleying



Can I hit the ball twice?

Everyone knows in table tennis you can only hit the ball once, surely? Well, the answer is - not necessarily. This is something many players and even umpires get wrong. So what do the rules say? ITTF Rule 2.10.1.7 states: "... a player shall score a point if an opponent deliberately strikes the ball more than once in succession". The key word is "deliberately". A player can make a correct return even if he or she accidentally hits the ball twice. This is quite distinct from taking two swipes at the ball which is clearly illegal. So how does an umpire tell if a double-hit has been made deliberately or not? This is a matter for the umpire's judgement, but generally, an accidental double-hit will be made by a single stroke with the two hits coming in very quick succession. So if you find yourself in a rally where you or your opponent hits the ball twice, do not stop play but continue unless the umpire has called the point over.

Can I volley the ball?

The simple answer is - no. Unlike tennis, where volleying is an important feature of the game, in table tennis the ball has to bounce on your side of the table before you play a return shot. If you do volley the ball, the point is over because you have failed to make a correct return.

But who wins the point? That depends on where you struck the ball. ITTF Rule 2.10.1.4 states: "... a player shall score a point if the ball passes over his or her court or beyond his or her end line without touching his or her court, after being struck by an opponent". Therefore, if you volley the ball after it has passed over your end line, the rally is over before you hit the ball and the point is yours. If, however, you volley the ball while it is still over the table, regardless of whether it was going out of play, you are failing to make a correct return and lose the point. The best advice is, if you see the ball going out of play, let it land on the floor. Do not try to intercept it by catching or hitting the ball.

Thanks to Steve Curtis for the above
- and yes, I'm sure I've seen him 'double-hit'!

3. Coaching

Malc Lewis



Coaching sessions 2022

Coaching for the Island Squad continued at the NSC on Friday nights for the current squad in readiness for the Senior Schools International that was recently held in Largs 24th to 26th June, as reported in the Courier (Island team pictured above).

Sean Drewry was invited to run a series of 6 sessions for us which went down very well and gave the players some new and interesting perspectives on their shot making and shot building.

Through the summer the coaching focused more on those Manx Youth Games players who will be encouraged to play in the senior league as a Junior Development Team. At the time of writing we had one team from Douglas, and one team from Ramsey, with the aim of having 2 teams from Douglas and the South, as we have 19 potential players who should be encouraged to continue with table tennis.

The drills and practise for these players focuses on consistency and developing their shot range. From September we will put together the Island squad and include some of the MYG players to hopefully enter the Primary Schools International.

Coaching for 2022/2023

As 2023 is an Island Games year we will look to step up our coaching programme. We will look to use Sean again if he is agreeable, and also to secure the UK coaches we have had in the past, as well as possible new ones for weekend sessions.

Off island activity

We will encourage the Senior players, especially those in the squad for Island Games, to enter Grand Prix events and also the British League for which we have entered a team. For our Junior players we will enter them for 1 or 2 Star events around the North West. The Primary Schools International will run from 31 March to 2 April, and will be held in the UK. The Island Games is to be held in Guernsey in July 2023.

4. Tournaments & Competitions



Tower B - winners of Division 2. Left to right, Steve Curtis, Dario Mazzotta and Graham McFarlane - key member of this team Simon Radcliffe is not pictured (Picture: Malcolm Lambert)

Season 2021/22 awards

League Championship 2021/22

Division 3 Runners up: Ramsey F
Division 3 Champions: CopyShop E
Division 2 Runners up: Peel A
Division 2 Champions: Tower B
Division 1 Runners up: Ramsey A
Division 1 Champions: Travellers A

Fun Doubles Runners Up: Ege Niyazi and Ronan Thompson
Fun Doubles Winners: Steve Curtis and Maurice Campbell
Harold Wilcock Hard Bat Runner up: Khayee Vinas
Harold Wilcock Hard Bat Champion: Brian Crellin
Top Twelve Runner up: Chris Holland
Top Twelve Tournament Champion: Sean Drewry
Junior Top 12 Champion: Glenn Callow
Junior Top 12 Runner Up: William Dalugdugan

Divisional Championships 2021/22

Division 3 Singles Runner up: Francesca Lord

Division 3 Singles Champion: Ege Niyazi
Division 2 Singles Runner up: Paul Nelson
Division 2 Singles Champion: Ronan Thompson
Division 1 Singles Runner up: Liam Chan
Division 1 Singles Champion: Sean Drewry

Veterans Championships 2022

Veterans Singles Over 60 Runner up: Malc Lewis
Veterans Singles Over 60 Champion: Malcolm Cummings
Veterans Singles Over 50 Runner up: Tim Baker
Veterans Singles Over 50 Champion: Chris Holland
Veterans Singles Over 40 Runner up: John Magnall
Veterans Singles Over 40 Champion: Mike Tamarov

Island Closed Championships 2022

Ladies Singles Runner up: Sonja Shaw
Ladies Singles Champion: Wilma Dalugdugan
Open Singles Runner up: Duncan Alexander
Open Singles Champion: Sean Drewry
Mens Doubles Runners up: Julian Briercliffe & Andy Patterson
Mens Doubles Champions: Sean Drewry & John Shooter
Ladies Doubles Runners up: Wilma Dalugdugan & Megan Lord
Ladies Doubles Champions: Lisa Lord & Francesca Lord
Mixed Doubles Runners up: Chris Holmes & Maggie Mulhern
Mixed Doubles Champions: William Dalugdugan & Wilma Dalugdugan

Island Junior Championships 2022

Under 14 Singles Runner Up: Dan Levine
Under 14 Singles Champion: Ryan Holland
Under 16 Singles Runner Up: William Dalugdugan
Under 16 Singles Champion: Ege Niyazi
Under 18 Singles Runner Up: William Dalugdugan
Under 18 Singles Champion: William Shooter

Summer League 2022

Division 3 Winners: Ospreys 2
Division 2 Winners: Hawks 1
Division 1 Winners: Harriers 1

Other Awards 2021/22

Most Improved Player: Ryan Holland
Ronnie Clough Trophy (Best Junior Newcomer): Not awarded
Tony Brown Trophy (Best Average in lowest division): Ege Niyazi
Maria Bubb Trophy (Best Young Female): Francesca Lord
Gordon Baker Trophy (Contribution to Table Tennis): Colin Brown
Glyn Gilbert Trophy (Veteran Of The Year): Jackie Gill & Maurice Campbell (shared)

Local Tournament Schedule for remainder of 2022

- Fun Doubles October half term
- Divisionals End of Nov beginning of Dec
- Hard Bat Feb half term

- Island Championships end of season

International Tournament Schedule

- Veterans Home Countries (Isle of Man) September 9th - 11th

Please support our local tournaments and competitions! They are fun to be involved with, it's good for your game, and your participation boosts the Association's finances. Also, any volunteers who wish to help with the organisation of tournaments are warmly welcomed - feel free to contact Maggie on 411045.



Copy Shop E - winners of Division 3. Left to right, Mike Levine, Ege Niyazi and Dan Levine (Picture: Malcolm Lambert)



Glenn Callow (top left) winner of the Junior Top 12; Wilma Dalugdugan (top right) winner of the Ladies Singles; Ryan Holland (middle left) Under 14s Singles Champion, and Most Improved Player; Ege Niyazi (middle right) Under 16s Singles Champion; Dan Levine (bottom left) Under 14s Runner Up;

Francesca Lord (bottom right) who was Ladies Doubles Champion (with Mum Lisa) and winner of the Maria Bubb Trophy. (Pictures by Malcolm Lambert).



Will Shooter (above left) Under 18s Singles Champion; and Will Dalugdugan, Runner Up in the Under 16s and 18s (pictures by Malcolm Lambert)



Amit Lannin (above) won the Plate event at the recent Schools International in Largs.

5. Player Profile - Sean Drewry



Picture: Malcolm Lambert

Press Officer Ken Mitchell recently spoke with top Island player Sean Drewry, with some probing, and fun questions.

- **Sean, how did you get into table tennis?** *My first memory of playing was at my grandparents, where I would have games with my family, initially on a table made with old plywood and I had to stand on a sofa to see over the table. But I properly got into the sport through the Manx Youth Games when I was 7, where Chas Grills ran the session. After the MYG competition day I wanted to play more, so I began playing in the table tennis league in a team along with my dad and a lad named JP who also played for the north in the MYG. Luckily for me Gwen and Ewan Watterson ran table tennis sessions for juniors on the island which really helped me to progress and I'm truly grateful for them and Copyshop for helping me to continue to enjoy the sport.*
- **What do you enjoy most about the sport?** *The competition and mental side of the sport. Just one person against another with less than 3 metres of table separating you.*
- **What has been your most memorable moment in table tennis so far?** *Probably a tie between two. On island it would probably be winning the Senior Top 12 for the first time. Being the first "major" men's tournament I won on the island, it felt pretty special and not*

dropping a set was the icing on the cake. But for experience I would have to go for my first island Games in Jersey 2015. The amount of effort that went into the running of the Games was insane, and a trip I will always remember!

- **Do you set goals for the coming season, and beyond? If so, are you able to share?** Haven't thought about goals too much this season, but now I'm thinking about it I suppose it will be centred around enjoying my table tennis, play how I want to play, and see where that takes me. Would be nice to also spend some time helping some of the juniors improve and develop their game.
- **It's 11-10 in the final game of a crunch match, and it's your serve. What is your thought process?** Keep the serve safe and simple, then look to get on the front foot as soon as possible. Play the point just like any other.
- **How can we grow table tennis on the Island?** Quite a big question but I feel it comes in two parts; growth and retention. A large part of growth I feel could come through juniors by going into schools and trying to get table tennis back on the curriculum across the island. Retention is always a tough one but I feel if we had greater access to tables for more of the time people could practise and enjoy the sport more often, therefore helping them to improve at a faster rate, and more importantly offer greater opportunities for socialising. If people are getting time to socialise with friends and feel like they're getting better, I believe that we will grow table tennis on the Island.
- **What advice would you give to our Junior Development Players looking to step up to play in Division 1 or 2.** Find someone, or a group of people, who are keen, then get on a table and play! But remember practice makes perfect, so make sure there is a purpose behind each shot you hit. Don't expect the improvements in a game to come immediately .
- **Which bat/blade and rubbers are you currently using?** I'm currently using an Andro super core blade with Tenergy 80fx on both sides. I've used that combo for at least 5 years
- **Chips or baked potatoes?** I would want to sound healthy, but who am I kidding? It's chips!

6. Finances

Mike Bayley



The 100 Club continues to build up reserves with £3,476 held in the IOMTTA bank account at the end of 2021. We have about 40 members, and net income per month is £65. If you are not a member of the 100 Club, feel free to get in touch with Mike Bayley who will assist with your application. It's fun, you get the chance of winning prizes each month, and it supports your IOMTTA.

The main IOMTTA account showed a surplus of £1,775 for the year, with £28,169 in the bank at the year end. Registration fees are our main source of income which amounted to just over £12,000. The hall hire at the NSC is the key expense at £9,150, although we do have other costs to cover such as trophies, affiliation fees, equipment & insurance. Welton Play (Fun 88) continues to sponsor IOMTTA at £1,500 per annum.

The Committee would welcome your opinions with regard to any fundraising ideas you may have, how we deal with rising costs and fees, and how we can boost attendance at the Presentation Dinner each year.

7. Archive Section

The following is an extract from Andy Swales' forthcoming book on Isle of Man table tennis in the 1970s and 1980s. Many thanks to Andy for permitting us to use this, which provides a fascinating insight into the sport here on the Island all those years ago.

Isle of Man Table Tennis Championships 1983-84

In 1984, Seamus McNulty's parting shot to Manx table tennis was to win the men's singles for a third straight year.

A few short months after completing his hat-trick at Peel High School, work commitments took Seamus away from the island and to pastures new.

And the tournament, held in March 1984, certainly had its fair share of stories, not least Seamus sealing his victory over Chris Holland.

Two players who made a name for themselves on this particular day were Simon Crichton of Ramsey and Onchan's Gary Proctor.

Simon, who had played most of the season in Division Two, first beat Les Wilson (16-21, 21-19, 21-11), before pulling off the shock of the championships by defeating the No 3 seed Paul Brown (21-15, 18-21, 21-9). He then lost to the experienced Geoff Hall of Travellers.

Hall eventually fell to 16-year-old Gary Proctor who was a member of Division Three team Onchan A.

After beating Gordon Baker (21-14 in the third) and then Malcolm Looker, he disposed of the wily Ramsey veteran John Radcliffe.

In a contest which the *Manx Star* described as 'a match which virtually no one thought he could win,' Gary came out on top 21-19, 15-21, 21-15. And after beating Geoff Hall he gave Chris Holland a major scare at the semi-final stage.

Chris won 22-20, 23-21, although Gary did recover from 12-20 down in the opening leg, only to lose the next two points.

In the other half of the draw, Seamus reached the final with a 21-19, 21-12 win over Max Holland who had earlier beaten Mark Monaghan 21-13, 11-21, 21-15.

In the final, Seamus remained untroubled, easing past the other Holland 21-13, 21-14 to claim singles title No 3.

A few months later he would depart the scene never to play competitive table tennis on the island again.

An even more straightforward final came in the women's event, where Anna Clauge of Douglas Bay retained her title with a 21-11, 21-10 triumph over Sylvia Kennaugh. This was a repeat of their 1983 final which was also completed in two sets.

At the semi-final stage, Sylvia overcame the No 2 seed Maureen Wilcock 21-14, 21-14, while Anna crushed Linda Harding 21-11, 21-8.

The two other singles finals were won by John Radcliffe of Ramsey and Malew's Tim Baker who would shortly be leaving to attend university in Cambridge.

John won the veteran's tournament beating Bob Briercliffe in the final, having earlier ended the challenge of his brother Arthur. Although Bob won more points than John, he lost the match 23-21 in the third.

In the under-21 final, No 2 seed Tim Baker recovered from 16-19 down in the decider to beat Nigel Hastings.

For Nigel, the top seed, this was his second successive final defeat in this event having lost to Graham Davies 12 months earlier.

In the men's doubles event, Paul Brown and Mark Monaghan retained their title by beating the two players who had contested the singles final.

Seamus McNulty and Chris Holland were unable to repel the cheeky Scousers who triumphed 21-18, 22-20.

Anna added the women's doubles to her singles victory, by partnering Janet Radcliffe in a 21-16, 21-11 win over Maureen Wilcock and Linda Harding.

Maureen and Linda had beaten Anna and Janet in the 1983 final, but had to give way to youth one year later.

The only leg Anna and Janet conceded came in their opening match against Janet's mother Francis and her partner Maureen McNally.

The mixed doubles proved to be an interesting event, with some big-name clashes throughout the tournament.

Early in proceedings, defending champions Anna Clague and Mark Monaghan beat Sylvia Kennaugh and Chris Holland 22-20, 21-19, only to lose at the semi-final stage against Linda Harding and Paul Brown.

Linda and Paul won 12-21, 21-13, 21-19, but came unstuck in the final against Travellers' duo Seamus McNulty and Maureen Wilcock (21-15, 21-9).

Maureen and Seamus had reached the final with a victory over Ramsey teens Janet Radcliffe and Simon Surridge.

Singles Finals

Men's: Seamus McNulty (Trav) bt Chris Holland (Trav) 21-13, 21-14

Women's: Anna Clague (DB) bt Sylvia Kennaugh (Ram) 21-11, 21-10

Junior (U-21): Tim Baker (Mal) bt Nigel Hastings (DB) 21-17, 14-21, 21-19

Veterans: John Radcliffe (Ram) bt Bob Briercliffe (Trav) 24-22, 10-21, 23-21

Doubles Winners:

Men's: Paul Brown / Mark Monaghan (DB)

Women's: Anna Clague (DB) / Janet Radcliffe (Ram)

Mixed: Maureen Wilcock / Seamus McNulty (Trav)



Pictured left to right: Jack Bond, Graham Davies, Nigel Hastings and Dave Bell. The picture of the title-winning King William's College team, and was taken during the 1977-78 season when they won the Division One title. They topped it again the following season. Beiges and browns were clearly all the rage that season! (Picture courtesy of Andy Swales).

8. Fun Quiz

Email Ken Mitchell at kds09@gmail.com if you think you have the correct answers to the quiz below. Entries with the correct answers will be drawn from a hat, and the lucky winner will be awarded a £20 Tees Sport voucher. Give it a go and good luck!



1. Who won the 2021/22 Fun Doubles title?
2. Who is the former England Number 1 international player pictured above, now a successful author and Sunday Times journalist?
3. What is the maximum permissible sponge thickness allowed under ITTF regulations?
4. Who was top of the Division 1 player averages at the end of last season, having won all 48 matches, with a 100% record?
5. Who was the 1984 Island Men's Singles Champion?
6. What is the maximum number of Timeouts allowed in a match, and how long should a timeout last?
7. Are you allowed to volley the ball, without losing the point, under any circumstances?
8. The name of a variation of table tennis played with sandpaper bats?
9. Which young Manx player won the Individual Plate event at the recent Schools event in Largs?
10. Who is the red haired young lad pictured in the middle of the back row pictured below circa 1984?



Answers to the January 2022 Fun Quiz:

1. How many inches (or centimetres) must you throw the ball up (as a minimum) to make a legal serve? **6 inches or 16cm**
2. What is the size (in millimetres) of the modern table tennis ball? **1.6 inches (4cm) diameter**
3. Who was top of the Division 2 player averages as at 31/12/21? **Paul Mathieson-Nelson**
4. What is the name of the Swedish player pictured above, using the latest hexagonal bat technology from Stiga? **Truls Moregaard**
5. What is the name of the Island Championship Men's Singles Runner Up in 1949? **Ronnie Clough**
6. What is an alternative name for the bat, racket or blade, commonly used in the United States? **Paddle**
7. Who was ITTF World Men's Singles Table Tennis Champion in 1929, who later became Wimbledon Champion as an amateur in 1934, 1935, and 1936 **Fred Perry**
8. Who was often known as the 'Mozart' of table tennis and was Olympic Men's Singles gold medallist in 1992? **Jan-Ove Waldner**
9. Who was Winner of the 2021 Isle of Man Table Tennis Championship Ladies Singles event? **Khayee Vinas**
10. How many points were needed to win each game (or set) of table tennis up until September 2001? **21**

