

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A belated Happy New Year to all of our players from myself and your Committee. Reflecting back over the last year I believe it was generally very successful. The table tennis during the Summer League and the first half of the Winter League was excellent. Thanks to Mike Prior who has brought a high degree of professionalism to arranging and running our tournaments.

I don't know whether everyone realises that Mike comes down and sets up for all of the league match nights held at Smallbrook, as he did for the Summer League and Tournaments. I would like to propose a big thank-you to Mike on behalf of all of the players.

Martin continues to upgrade and develop the Smallbrook Centre, with completion of the ladies' toilets being his latest addition.

The two morning sessions (Monday and Wednesday) continue to be extremely well supported for both competitive and social table tennis. There has been little impact on attendance levels at any of the evening sessions which have continued to run. The overall number of people playing during the course of the week remains encouragingly high. So all-in-all we appear to have a healthy organisation.

Good luck in the second half of the league.

Enjoy your table tennis!

John.

Notice to captains of home teams playing league matches at Smallbrook

Would home teams please remember to do 3 things after your game is over:

- Stack the green plastic chairs in the corner in front of the kitchen.
- Fold the scoreboard table and return it to the kitchen.
- Return the scoreboard, with pen and coin into the box and place in the open cabinet at the side of the playing area under the noticeboards.

News in Brief

Since December's newsletter there has been some tournament action:

The County Press Tournament saw Darol Wilson and Conal Howells win through to face Alison Botha and Peter Clarke in one semi-final. The other will be contested by Don & Temeesha Hobbs against Tom Waddell and Alan Dennis. These matches, and the final, will take place in May.

In the **Division Two Championships** John Cornforth (Ryde) and Barry Joyce (Newport) won through to the final which will be played on Wednesday 28th March



Forthcoming
Tournaments
March

7th
Men's Doubles
Women's
Doubles
Mixed Doubles

14th
Over 60's
Over 70's

21st
Men's Singles
Ladies Singles

In the **Division Three Championships** Derek Pittard and Tom Flood, both representing St Lawrence, reached the final also to be played on Wednesday 28th March.

Forthcoming Tournaments:

Wednesday 7th March **Island Championships:**
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles

Wednesday 14th March **Island Championships:**
Over 60's
Over 70's

Wednesday 21st March **Island Championships:**
Men's Singles
Ladies Singles

Thursday 22nd March **Vets**
Over 40's Singles

Saturday 24th March **Super Vets Handicap**
Over 60's Singles

Wednesday 28th March ****Finals Night ****

The second half of the Winter League season is in full swing. The leaders in all divisions have picked up where they left off with wins for Shanklin, Ryde Run of the Mill and Saints. Slapstick comedy king award goes to Matt Mair. I don't think there has been a match this season when Matt hasn't run into or fallen into a barrier. A couple of weeks ago at Smallbrook Matt went hurtling into a barrier and somehow managed to send it flying through the air almost decapitating Kathy St John who was minding her own business on an adjacent table! If Matt had been born in the early 20th century Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd would never have become famous!

Next newsletter: Please submit comments, articles, news by February 18th to [Ian Loosemore](#)



Forthcoming
Tournaments

March
22nd

Vets
Over 40's
Singles

24th
Super Vets
Handicap
Over 60's
Singles

28th
**Finals Night **

Equipment Corner

Choosing a bat is so important but with so many choices of suppliers and such variation in rubbers and blades it can be incredibly difficult getting the bat that is right for your game.

Here are some suggestions that may help in getting the choice of bat right

1. Read reviews by other players

The best two review sites are [Table Tennis Database](#) and [Table Tennis Daily](#). These sites have a lot of reviews on almost all rubbers and blades. Pay particular attention to reviews from players who describe a similar playing style and ability level to your own.

2. Post a topic on the Table Tennis Daily website

There is a huge community of players who love to discuss equipment on the [Table Tennis Daily](#) website. If you post a topic explaining your ability level, your playing style, your existing equipment and what you're looking for (e.g. more spin, more speed, more control), you will get plenty of recommendations from other players.

3. Try someone else's bat

A great way of trying out different rubbers is to have a practice with someone else's bat. Try out different strokes – topspins, pushes, blocks, smashes, flicks, serves. You should quickly discover if you like the feel of the rubbers / blade or if it's not the right thing for you.

4. Contact a table tennis shop

Most [table tennis shops](#) will offer some sort of bat advice by telephone or email. Simply make contact and explain your requirements and they should give you some good advice about which rubbers and blade will suit your game.

5. Bat testing

Some table tennis shops also allow you to test equipment before purchase. Some have physical shops. Others will come along to tournaments or clubs with a range of equipment to try out. It's worth asking a shop if they offer such a service. They may be willing to come to your club if you can get enough players to turn up to make it worth their while.

Final thoughts

You do need to put some effort into finding the right rubber and blade combination. Don't just settle for what you have always used or what someone recommended 10 years ago. Do your research. Try out different equipment. Hopefully the lists and tips above will help you get started.

There is plenty of trial and error involved when choosing rubbers and blades. You'll make mistakes along the way and change your mind (several times).

But the effort can be worth it.

If you have rubbers and a blade which suits your style of play, you will be able to execute all of your shots better, compared to a bat which doesn't suit your style of play. If you can execute your shots better, you're more likely to win more points. If you can win more points, you're more likely to win more matches.

For Bribar products contact [Mike Prior](#)

Looking Ahead

Island table tennis could be in for a transformation in the not too distant future....

With the establishment of the **FISHBOURNE AREA RECREATIONAL TABLE-TENNIS (FARTT)**, Fishbourne is set to be the glamour venue for Island table-tennis if multi billionaire and philanthropist Bernie Forward has his way.

Bernie's talking about a luxury venue offering a whole new table tennis experience including:

Walk-on girls / men to accompany players to their table. All tables will have a "Hawk-eye" and "Snicko" facility to detect nets, edges and dodgy serves and tv screens will replay good and bad shots alike ... as well as comic moments provided by Matt Mair. Players will have individual dressing rooms and matches will be played in bespoke table tennis areas. Players will have practice rooms and a player's lounge.

Other facilities will include a casino, 24-hour bar, 5-star accommodation, gymnasium, swimming pool, 24-hour dining. Transport will be provided to get players to matches on time and take them home courtesy of a river boat and limousine service.

Below are some pictures as to what we might expect. There is no truth that the venue will be known as The Bernie Inn.



Practice
mornings
at
Smallbrook:

The Table
tennis Centre
is open
Monday and
Wednesday
mornings
from 9-45am
to
12noon.
£2.50.



Call
811711

The transformation of Fishbourne from sleepy backwater to the Las Vegas of island Table Tennis is not without its challenges.

Nevertheless, **FARTT** is determined to make a big noise and change the face of our sport. Chairman and Life President Bernie Forward stated at his first press conference that procedures were well under way and that he was working closely with the **IWTTA** to ensure certain standards and guidelines were met.

Speaking from the luxury cruise ship touring the Caribbean (paid for by Mr Forward) the members of the **IWTTA** said they had no issues with the new development.

Mr Forward's credentials for establishing the Fishbourne centre of Excellence and for being Chairman of **FARTT** are impeccable. He has been the best table tennis player in the Forward family for the past 10 years and is often referred to as "an old fart".

Protestors have called the planned development a disgrace. Spokesman for those wanting to stop any form of human enjoyment, Mr Hugh Jarse, said "we can't allow this sort of thing on the Island – it will encourage the wrong sort of people".

Some locals have started a petition to stop the development with resident Richard Cranium claiming they have over 5 million signatures from local people.

However, the main opposition is provided by Mrs Forward who said that all she was after was a new kitchen but that her husband misinterpreted this as "a table tennis emporium".

As pictures of the current Fishbourne TT HQ show, there is still much work to be done.



Dick Tugwell, PR spokesperson for the new Centre said that the Committee were pulling out all the stops to get the Centre up and running by the start of the Summer League

An Open Day has been arranged (date to be confirmed). Interested donors and sponsors are welcomed and cheques / cash should be sent direct to Bernie Forward.

All current members of **IWTTA** will receive free platinum membership for the first season. Thereafter, membership fees will be determined by Mr Forward based on factors such as who has beaten him in the current season, who has services to offer and who can get him complimentary VIP tickets to high profile sporting events around the world (particularly Rugby and Sailing).

Anyone wishing to know more should contact Mr Forward at: **FARTT, PO Box 633.**

Normal service will be resumed in the next newsletter when we look back in time.

Don't be shy - please dig out any photos from yesteryear for us to publish. It's good to be able to show that there was life before mobile phones and the internet!

Calling all Island table-tennis legends past, present & future! Let us feature you in The IWTTA e-newsletter. Contact [Ian Loosemore](#)

Did you know

There have been some epics in Island table tennis over the years but:

On March 23rd 2014, TableTennis Daily's Daniel Ives and father Peter Ives broke the World Record for the Longest Table Tennis Rally! The duo achieved 8 hours, 40 minutes and 10 second breaking the World Record at the Plumstead Radical Club in London.

Ni Xialian and Hashimoto broke the world record for the longest ever table tennis match in the modern era, playing out an epic that lasted for 1:32:42 at the Seamaster 2017 ITTF World Tour Austrian Open.

See you next month!



World War II Air Crashes here on the Island



Think this email might be of interest to someone else? [Forward it to a friend](#)
© 2018 | Isle of Wight Table Tennis League | All rights reserved

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe this newsletter