

# Isle of Wight

## Table Tennis League

### November 2019 Newsletter

#### Chairman's Message

So, with our season rapidly approaching the half-way mark, we've seen plenty of good matches and hard-fought battles, and some teams have already started lining themselves up for title aspirations. One aspect of this season I have been very impressed with is the amount of media coverage we have had, in terms of match reports. We frequently have good quality reports in the County Press, the Isle of Wight Observer and the Island Echo, so please keep sharing, commenting and reading these reports whether they are on social or traditional media. My thanks goes to Debbie Yates for her continuing hard work in this area, and also now to Toby Woolgar who has agreed to be the official photographer for the IWCTTA – you may have seen some of his great photos already.

As an association, we need to start thinking about the Island Games again, which will be hosted by Guernsey in 2021; your Committee will appoint a Team Manager shortly, which is why I am currently asking if anyone is interested in being considered for the position. If you are interested, or would like further information, please e-mail me at the address below – and when we have all the names in, the Committee will make its decision. Please send me all nominations by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

One of the fun things about the Island Games is making new friends and awakening old acquaintances; not long after I returned, I received an email from the Team Manager of the Isle of Man, inviting us over next spring or early summer. We could take as many people as we like, of all standards and ages, and have a long weekend's worth of fun ping pong. If anyone is interested (and I seriously mean all ages and all standards), drop me an email, and I'll keep you informed as plans develop.

Finally, one of the things that makes our Centre such a welcoming place to play for new members is the fact that we can offer bats for people to borrow, before they decide whether to invest in their own equipment. I just thought I'd put a call out for any kind donations on that front – I know many players who have a decent selection of bats tucked away in wardrobes, and it would be great for these bats to finally see some daylight again! If you have an old bat or just a blade that you can donate for the association to re-use, please give them to any Committee Member. New players will be most grateful!

Enjoy your Christmas break, and best wishes for 2020!

Alex Rorke.

[alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk)

## News

### **IMPORTANT - Forms need to be returned!**

Please can all club secretaries return their members' permission forms to Heather Wykes at Smallbrook as soon as possible. It is imperative that we have this information for our records.

### **Knowles Cup**

The second round has been completed, with the quarter finals to be played by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. There have been some really close matches, with Vics 4 beating Vics 3 by 5-4 and Shanklin B defeating Havenstreet Locos by the same scoreline.

The highlight of the Shanklin match was the appearance of a large Red Admiral butterfly (identified by Harry Metz, the resident lepidopterist). It was suspected that it was roused from its slumber by the ferocity of Ted Purvey's backhand! The butterfly evaded capture all evening and made sporadic flypasts during matches.



### **Toby Woolgar - IWTTA Photographer**

Toby visited Smallbrook in October on a very busy evening and took many photographs of the players in action. These are being printed weekly in the press and all photos of players in this newsletter are Toby's work. If you weren't there that evening, then there will be another visit in the future. We would like to express our thanks to Toby for his time and expertise which is much appreciated by us all.

### **Press Reports**

As well as the weekly reports in the County Press and the Observer, League reports are now being posted weekly on the Island Echo website, normally every Tuesday. Visit <https://www.islandecho.co.uk/category/sport/table-tennis/> to see all the reports so far. Also the reports are on the Island Echo Facebook and Twitter feeds, so if you are subscribed to these then please like and share any table tennis reports, as the more response received the more likely we are to keep getting good table tennis coverage.

Please note that reports are sent to the press no later than **Sunday evening** so if your scorecard has not been sent to Ted Purvey prior to this time then your results cannot be included in the report. You may wish to send scorecards to me at [deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk) as well as Ted, to ensure that your result can be included, plus any match reports are gratefully received.

## League News

### **Division One**

Ryde A are strong favourites to win the League again this year, with Scott and Alex unbeaten and Glenn and Roger performing well. At time of going to press, they are top of the league with a 13-point lead over Ryde Royals, with a game in hand.

Scott Lawson





Ryde Royals, comprising Hugh, Conal, Ricky and Dave are proving a force to be reckoned with this season as Hugh continues to improve with an over 90 percent win average, having lost only to Alex and Scott.

**Hugh Idle**

Shanklin Sharks will be fighting it out with Ryde Royals for second place as they lie third but with a game in hand.

### **Division Two**

Vics C lead the table over Havenstreet Locos by 6 points at time of going to press, with Dave their top performer on a 94% win average, but Havenstreet's Ian and Freshwater's Rob lead the averages table on 95% each. Freshwater lie in third place with their new signing Lawrence proving a force to be reckoned with.

Of the newly promoted players, Spike and Joe are performing the best, both holding their own in a much higher standard of competition.



**Spike Hughes**

### **Division Three**



**Nicky Dando**

In Division Three, Ryde Revellers are challenging the dominance of St Lawrence Lizards, with both teams on the same points at the top of the table. The Revellers Nicky, John and Alan have improved tremendously this season to be in with a real chance of taking the Division Three championship. Alan is at the top of the averages just ahead of St Lawrence's Derek.

Ryde Rackets and Rockets are in third and fourth place respectively, both within sight of the top spot.

## Player Profile

In an occasional series we will be looking at League players and writing about their life. We start with Glenn Morley who plays for Ryde A.

**Glenn Morley** by Matt Mair (abridged)

*Glenn was born in Redhill, Surrey in 1963 into a sporting family. Glenn's father Len played football for Brighton between the wars, and his mother Daphne played table tennis in the Brighton League. He also had an uncle who played table tennis for Preston and Lancashire, and a great uncle who played bowls for Surrey and reached the final of the News of the World National Darts Tournament! It therefore seemed likely that Glenn would follow in the family tradition along a sporting pathway.*



*Glenn was born with medical issues causing weakness in his legs and from birth up until the age of 12 received constant physiotherapy to aid him to walk. His mother decided against the recommendation of doctors for Glenn to wear leg callipers, and installed in Glenn a positivity which helped him to overcome these difficulties and become a very influential table tennis player and coach.*

### Glenn's Timeline

*1971-1976 8 years old started playing in Surrey - League Division 6, and by 13 years old was playing in Division 1*

*At this time Glenn's father Len sadly passed away and Glenn stopped playing for a year.*

*1978 Resumed playing*

*1979 Started work as a telegram boy for the Post Office*

*1980/81 Won the Southern Region Under 21's Men's Singles. He also won the National Post Office Telecoms Under 21's Men's Singles.*

*By this time Glenn was also playing in the East Grinstead, Crawley and Horsham leagues.*

*1980-1988 Was successful in as many as 40 tournaments, including playing in the prestigious Wilmot Cup National Team Championships, representing Redhill, Reigate and East Grinstead in different years.*

*Played with Kevin Reuter in the Sussex Open Doubles and they lost in the final by deuce against England No 25 Tony Morrell and Denmark's No 1 player.*

*1990-1994 Started coaching and achieved the ETTA Level 2 Coaching Certificate, and of the top 11 Under 17 players in Surrey, he coached 7 of them. He managed the Reigate and Redhill team who played in the Junior British League and they achieved some excellent results under his managership.*

*Glenn continued to play and won the Sevenoaks Men's Singles twice.*

*1995-2002 Was forced to stop playing owing to health issues and began concentrating solely on coaching.*

- 2003 *Sold his landscaping business and moved to the Isle of Wight.*
- 2008 *Joined Ryde in Division 2, with Rob Denzig, Rob Love and Rob's Dad and helped them get into Division 1.*
- 2009 *Played for Shanklin in Division 1 along with Don Hobbs and Julie Thorne.*
- Glenn then had an accident to his ankle at work which resulted in major surgery and a complete rebuild of his ankle.*
- 2019 *After a successful comeback in the Summer League, Glenn is playing for Ryde A alongside Roger Nevell, Alex Rorke and Scott Lawson*



*Glenn is married to Simone and has one son, Oliver. His hobbies include horse racing (he runs the Vectis Racing Partnership), fishing, cricket, indoor bowls and walking his 3 dogs.*

Thanks to Matt and Glenn for providing us with this article. We would welcome more player profiles as it is always interesting to find out more about our members.

## Memories

Matt Mair kindly gave me a clipping from an old County Press from 1980 which covered a new Championship for Divisions Six and Seven. It is printed in full here for those who are interested in seeing who they can remember. It is interesting to note that there was 'a large and enthusiastic crowd who stayed to the end' to watch the final...



The Columbia Club organized yet another enjoyable new event, a championship for sixth and seventh division players, and it revealed a remarkably high standard of table tennis.

The doubles event saw the two seeded pairs in the final. Mark Young and Ken Sibley (Ryde Electric) defeated Keith Newbery and Colin Attrill (Havenstreet) 21-17 in the third deciding game. It was an exciting match with the lead changing hands continuously.

In the semi-finals the Havenstreet pair had defeated the Wroxall pair Jeremy White and Graham Morris, and the winners had defeated Bill Warren (Temperature) and Paul Smith (Columbia).

The event reached a climax in the singles competition, which provided non-stop excitement and the semi-final between Newbery and Matt Mair provided the best match of the evening, Newbery edging home 21-19, 18-21, 21-19, Mair ploughing back a 9-3 lead in the last game.

In the other semi-final Young defeated his team mate Kevin Allen. Earlier the quarter-finals had provided further tremendous matches. Newbery defeated Don Penny (Wroxall), Mair his team mate Bob Green. Allen defeated the extremely promising Andrew Jones (Shanklin) and Young defeated Morris.

As so often happens, the final did not completely live up to expectations. Newbery's journey, based on defence, had been a hard and long one and he had to play almost continuously and was beginning to look a little tired.

Young, on the other hand, had won by an easier route, winning most of his matches in straight games with a relaxed top-spin, close to the table game. The first game could have gone either way, but Young edged ahead by 22-20.

At five-all in the second game it looked as if Newbery would make yet another comeback, but excellent services put Young 10-5 ahead at the change-over and, after that, he never looked back, gambling on his big forehand which was now working smoothly, and he won 21-12.

A large and enthusiastic crowd stayed to the end and there was frequent applause for both players. It was well deserved.

## From the Archives

In our regular feature looking back at the England Table Tennis Association newsletters we have reached the 1980's and we cover just the two years this time – 1980 and 1981. With the Island often in the news during the 1980's there is plenty to choose from for your interest.

**In the January 1980 issue the Hampshire Junior closed was held:**

Really a benefit day for Prean with the Isle of Wight 12-year-old winning every event he entered in straight games throughout.



**In the Hampshire Seniors Rose Grimaldi made the quarters of the Women's Singles and Jim Daly won the Veteran's. In the Hampshire Inter-Town league the Island were top of Division Two, and in the Island League Ryde suffered their first defeat since 1973! They lost to Columbia with Prean and Paul Morton winning three each.**

**We were also mentioned for another reason:**

Sadly it looks as if the Isle of Wight will go their separate way from Hampshire as I understand they have applied to the E.T.T.A. to be considered as a separate county.

**In the February 1980 issue John Prean seemed very worried that Table Tennis News was going out of publication:**

There are many trends in our Sport that depress me profoundly, but nothing quite so much as the news that the future of Table Tennis News is now in some doubt, threatened, one gathers, by a new "professional" venture which will appear on the bookstalls next September.....To let Table Tennis News die would be a failure of will as well as character and a piece of quite monumental, uncaring incompetence. It must not happen; TABLE TENNIS NEWS must not be allowed to die.

**In March 1980 there came this news:**

I hear the E.T.T.A. has decided to agree to the Isle of Wight's plea for independence and that as from next season they will be considered a separate county. I have mixed feelings on the matter. While I can appreciate that the Island may not have got the best deal from their inclusion with Hampshire where they have been treated very much as outsiders they may well lose as much as they gain by this decision. Transport will always be the Island's greatest problem and how county teams will feel having the extra time and expense of a sea crossing after a long car journey remains to be seen. Whether the Island will wish to be included in the inter-town league, or whether Hampshire will want them is another matter to be resolved. Similarly the loyalties of Carl Prean must be very divided after his success in this season's Hampshire team in Division 2.



In the April issue it was reported that Carl reached the final of the Yorkshire Junior Select which cemented his position as England's cadet number two.

In the May/June issue there was a good write up on the Island in Hampshire Notes, and more Carl Prean news:

Probably my last opportunity of reporting on Isle of Wight affairs before they go their separate way. They are an association who have in the past fed me information for my notes and I would like to thank John Prean in particular for his help in this respect. Champions for the last six years Ryde were pipped for the first division title by Columbia 'B'. **Rose Grimaldi, Maurice Feen and Paul Morton** were the backbone of this team with Carl Prean, who only played about half the matches, remaining unbeaten. Carl retained both the men's and Junior singles titles but in the men's he was taken to 18 in the third by the county veteran champion **Jim Daley**. Carl partnered by **Paul Morton** ended the long reign of **Steve Harris** and **Jim Daley** in the men's doubles. **Rose Grimaldi** retained her women's singles title for the sixth time and combined with **Steve Harris** to win the mixed. **Jill Fothergill** and **Mary Wheeler** beat the many times winners of the women's doubles title **Rose Grimaldi** and **Joy Batten**.

#### HISTORIC OCCASION AT HARLOW

by Alan Shepherd

Some sort of history was made at Harlow over the week-end of May 3/4 when 12years-old Carl Prean from Isle of Wightshire(!) captured both the Cadet and Boys' titles.

In October 1980 the Isle of Wight had now been granted County status:

#### ISLE OF WIGHT NOTES

by John Prean

##### MOMENTOUS AND HISTORIC

Last season proved a momentous and historic one with the Isle of Wight being granted County status by the ETTA. It is not too widely known that we have always been a county in the political and economic senses and our boundaries could not be clearer. Our population in winter, when most table tennis is played, is around 120,000, but trebles during the summer. We have one league with seven divisions and at the latest count 80 teams. We have played in the Hampshire Inter-Town Leagues and in one dizzy spell a few years ago won the Men's League three times in succession. We have entered the County League with two teams, one senior, one veterans. The fear has been expressed that we may take the place occupied by Jersey and Guernsey in world table tennis on the domestic scene. We hope not, but somebody has to come bottom and participation will give our top players a new slant on life, new horizons and targets. It will be a bumpy but interesting ride.

November 1980 saw the Island's first matches as a County:

##### DIVISION 3 WEST

###### Avon II 3 Isle of Wight 7

Carl Prean won't often be extended for newcomers Isle of Wight.

##### VETERANS WEST

###### Isle of Wight 5 Avon 4

Isle of Wight marked their entry into the veterans ranks with a win over Avon but it was close. **John Prean** won the concluding set against Peter Dominey -18, 19, 14. **J. Daly** played well for Isle of Wight

In the December 1980 issue the Island was feeling rather pleased with itself:

## ISLE OF WIGHT NOTES

by John Prean

### CREST OF A WAVE

The Island is still on the crest of a wave. Our County teams which were expected to start as under-dogs every time, have won all their matches! The First Team travelled to Bath and won 7-3 against Avon 2 and they repeated this score in their Home match against Somerset 2. Congratulations to **Rose Grimaldi** (2 wins out of 2 so far), **Jill Fothergill** (1 out of 2), **Steve Harris** (3 out of 4), **Roger Hooky** (getting closer to his first win) and Carl Prean (4 out of 4). All Doubles were won.

The Veterans also recorded two wins, both by the closest of scores, 5-4 against Dorset 2 and Avon. In **Jim Daly** they have a player of undoubted class. Also excellent in the

Mixed Doubles with **Joy Batten**. It is hard to believe that he is a veteran as loops and smashes rain down on the opposition. His one defeat against Sid Brice of Dorset was a classic match of attack versus defence with many great rallies. I had the pleasure of playing for that vital 5th point on each occasion. I had hoped my "come-back" would be less nerve-racking. though the social side in veterans matches remains happy and relaxing.



The above picture shows Carl Prean signing for Soham (on the left Team Manager Eric Day, on the right the team's star Paul Day).

In January 1981 it was reported that Carl had made history:



And a smile too from ETTA President, Maurice Goldstein OBE, when presenting the boys' singles trophy to Carl Prean of the Isle of Wight.

### *ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS*

Played at the Hinckley Leisure Centre on Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th December, the 12th English Junior Closed produced a major surprise in the Boys' Singles with a final victory for Carl Prean over top-seeded John Souter. Young Carl became the first cadet to lift the Junior title and take it over the water to the Isle of Wight.

In the February 1981 issue we read about the Island League:

The local Island League 1st Division (there are 7 altogether) has again developed into a two-horse race between Ryde (Jim Daly's team) and Columbia (Carl's, but he only played in the vital matches). The teams drew 5-5 and Columbia kept their 1point lead which may be enough. Carl (3) and **Simon Lamb** (2) made their points, but they lost the doubles and will have to sweat it out the rest of the season. Jim won 2 for Ryde and his team mates **Fred Sillwood** and **John Stacey** 1 each, Stacey v



**Neville Allen** 30-28 in the 3rd! Sign of the times smallest attendance ever for a match between these old rivals. Our Junior Ranking Tournament saw **Darren Phelps** (Sandown) at No.1, **Jonathon Barton** (Ryde) at No.2. **Philip Nicholls** (Columbia) at No.3 and also No.1Cadet. **Katherine Brooks** was No. 1 girl. She is only 12 and shows a lot of promise and a good pedigree - her father John, is our best, indeed only Umpire and a former Island Champion.

In the March, April and May/June issues there was plenty more Island news:

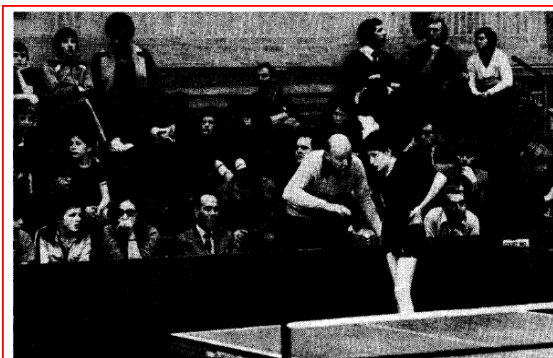
### 3rd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cornwall .....	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Dorset II .....	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Isle of Wight .....	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Avon II .....	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Herefordshire .....	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Somerset II .....	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

## Whitbread Cotswold Junior 'Select'

### PREAN SUPREME

Carl Prean, the top seed, took the Whitbread Cotswold Junior Select tournament by storm over the weekend of Jan. 24/25.



LET'S GET IT TOGETHER C.P.!  
(Fatherly advice from Prean senior)  
Photo by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon.

### VETERANS WEST

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Dorset .....	6	5	1	40	14	10
Isle of Wight .....	6	5	1	31	23	10
Avon .....	6	4	2	34	20	8
Wiltshire .....	6	4	2	29	25	8
Somerset .....	5	1	4	20	25	2
Somerset II .....	6	1	5	12	42	2
Dorset II .....	5	0	5	14	31	0

Junior national champion Carl Prean would have had no difficulty in catching the last ferry to the Isle of Wight being removed in the first round of the men's singles by John Payne, 15 in the fifth.

### Boys' U-16 Rankings

1. CARL PREAN (Isle of Wight)
2. Nicky Hoare (Surrey Met)
3. Alan Cooke (Derbyshire)
4. Billy Gleave (Greater Manchester)

In the October 1981 issue the big news was the gold medal that the Island's Carl Prean and Billy Gleave had won in the European Championships.

No praise is too high for our Cadet boys' team of Carl Prean and Billy Gleave in securing our first gold medal in any European Championships team event, both senior and junior, and that covers many years of competition.

John Prean reports from ...

### ISLE OF WIGHT

#### ISLAND HERO

The whole Island was thrilled about that Gold Team medal that Billy Gleave and Carl won in this year's European Youth Championships when they defeated Russia 3-0 in the Cadet Finals, the first ever junior team medal for England in these championships. Phone calls and letters of congratulations kept coming, but from the E.T.T.A.... nothing.....

### TOPOICIANSKE TOPSPINY \* IMPRESSIONS OF AN "UNTOUCHABLE'S" JOURNEY TO THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by ERICA PREAN

.....We were all extremely proud of our players. Their team spirit, was fantastic and this was reflected in their success. When Billy and Carl played in the final against Russia the atmosphere was like a football match. Our Umpires led the chant of "England", "England", and our friends from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and many other countries joined in. Spectator figures often topped 3000....



**There was also local table tennis news and a hard bat tournament had been a great success:**

The Columbia Club staged a hard bat tournament which was an enormous success. We do not differ from other Associations in the sense that practically everybody plays with sponge and no more than perhaps half a dozen with hard bats. Nevertheless the ancient weapons appeared in great numbers and the entry was bigger than that of the Island Closed as bats were bought, borrowed and sometimes shared. Though a fun event it turned out a fascinating occasion in which the sponge players had a good passage, though the winner proved a specialist, **Graham Brimson**. I was never a hard bat player, but the charm of the Sport in the pre-sponge era became clearer and I warmly commend such events to local associations both as a good social evening and as a fund raiser. Indeed, I can see a future for the hard bat game as a parallel Sport. It has a lot going for it.

**In the November issue the news was dominated by Carl Prean once again:**

## FOUR T's 'ONE STAR'

### PREAN SUPREME

So Carl became the youngest-ever holder of this title and the question must now be how far can he go, after knocking out two England ranked players in taking his first senior open title. To help in answering this question I would point out that the last player to win both the men's and junior events in the same year, before Sandley, was a certain Desmond Douglas. Can Carl follow the same path?

**As the year drew to a close it seemed the Island was still in the news, one way or the other:**

John Prean reports from ...

### THE ISLE OF WIGHT

#### MORE CONTROVERSY

The footnote to my last article on the growing isolation at the grass-roots from the E.T.T.A. leadership has met with response that both encouraged and saddened me. As I travel the country more and more people have come to me and said "Yes, that is how it is. Please keep writing". We pay more and more (280% more in two years I read). What do we get? In what way are we advancing our Sport? What progress has it made during those two years?

I am a small official of a small County, League and Club, no more. I can only pose the question; others will have to find the answer. Our County team has played its first two matches. The one against Berkshire II ended in a 5-5 draw, a rousing match watched by quite a good crowd, the latter contributing as much to the afternoon as the players, who also produced some stirring stuff. Pride of place to **Janice Badcock** who made her County debut and won her set,

Two from Carl, one from **Jim Daly** and the Men's Doubles gave us our five. The eagerly awaited match against Hampshire ended in a 7-3 defeat for us. Brian Lamerton in his usual excellent broadcast from Radio Solent was more than kind to our team when he indicated that at times we were near to a 5-all draw. We had our moments, but I think Hampshire were good value for their win. Carl won two and he and Jim won the Men's Doubles. As I study the careers of good players, one common thread emerges. All practice and play for many hours per week at one stage of their careers. We have only two such players and the road of the twice-a-week player at County level will always be a hard one. Nevertheless the tremendous progress of Isle of Wight Table Tennis should not be overlooked. It seems only yesterday when we were struggling in the Hampshire InterTown League.

Our 1st Division is settling down to an interesting contest. Wroxall 'A' were top of the League, at any rate when these notes were written. Many people had them listed as relegation candidates when the season started. The history of the Wroxall Club is a fascinating one, master-minded by **Bill Kittle** whose efforts have done so much to make this village Club the biggest on the Island. It is a heart-warming story, much of it due to one man, a splendid organiser, fund-raiser and Coach. Interest was heightened, however, when last season's Champions Columbia were defeated 6-4 by Sandown 'A' despite the usual three by Carl and Ryde now look set to recapture their title. With a supreme sets average they will be hard to catch. Columbia need to beat them twice to hold the title and they are unlikely to do that. It should be mentioned that Ryde have a match in hand and victory would put them in the top spot.

**As always, if you have any memories of the Island players or clubs mentioned please do let me know. I would particularly like to hear about Wroxall who were the biggest Club on the Island.**

**And finally...**

After last issue's plea for poems Matt Mair kindly sent one into us:

**The Game Has Changed (Not Me!)** by Matt Mair

The game has changed,      The hard bats gone  
The bats are fast,         The rubbers are here  
The balls are quick,       The fancy bat case -  
Spin serves aghast!       What's next I fear!

Something's the same,      My hair has gone,  
To call that let,            I've lost it all,  
Another thing –             That has changed,  
That bloody net!            Like bat and ball.



There's one thing for me    I scream and shout,  
That will never change,    It's plain to see,  
The passion and love        But this won't change,  
I have for this game.        IT'S PART OF ME!

Thank you all for reading and please do send me any memories, articles or items related to table tennis to [deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk) as they are much appreciated and always used.