

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

July 2022

Message from the Chairman

We've had quite a busy season, which makes a nice change since the relative inactivity during the pandemic. Our Winter League trialled a slightly different format, with smaller division sizes but playing each other three times instead of two – and all of the comments I received informally about this were positive. Congratulations to the winners of each division, Ryde A, Havenstreet Locos and Vics C.

This year we have had three opportunities to showcase our amazing Centre to our mainland friends; we were selected to host both the seniors and the juniors for the Table Tennis England Centenary Competitions, two days that went off very well, thanks to a lot of hard work from a lot of people. I'd like to thank Peter who organised tirelessly, making these days a success (and also submitting the full report below), and also Pat, whose culinary skills impressed everyone present. Additionally, we also had visitors for our Charity Tournament, which raised almost £1000 for the Mountbatten Hospice. I'm sure all of us who watched the final enjoyed the very high standard of play, and appreciated a chance to watch our own George Downing win a tough match. I'd also like to single out Martin for particular thanks, as he always makes sure the Centre looks immaculate for these events, and all our visitors love coming to play here.

Another highlight of the year is a new session started by Alison and Nicky, for ladies only. A full report on these great sessions is below, so thank you in particular to Nicky whose dedication has kept the sessions going.

All of you will have heard by now that sadly Ted passed away recently; his hard work and organisational skills mean that he will be greatly missed by all of us. Ted served on the Committee for many years as League Secretary, also turning his hand to running various tournaments as the need arose. One of his last acts was to run our Finals Night for us this year, which he did with his usual energy and competence. I have added below the few words I said at Ted's funeral.

Finally, I'd like to thank Mike Prior, who is stepping down as Coaching Officer at this point, after coaching for 40 years in three different counties. Mike has helped innumerable table tennis careers over the years, and although stepping down from the Committee, he plans to continue coaching the kids.

Alex Rorke
(Chairman, IWCTTA)

Ted Purvey

Ted's involvement with table tennis goes back many years, long before they moved to the Island in 2010. He played in the Bromley League for several decades, and players of that period remember him not just for his tactical style of play, but also for his management and administration skills. Never one to be far away from where the action was happening, he even served behind the bar in his local table tennis club, Wickham Park.

In fact, wherever Ted got involved in table tennis, he naturally gravitated towards not just competitive play, but also in the organisation of local leagues and events. Very shortly after his arrival in the Island he made a name for himself by helping in the hosting of the Island Games in 2011, and he was heavily involved ever since. From that period onwards, he served on our own Management Committee, where, as League Secretary, he implemented a system of player ratings that is still in use today and is the cornerstone of our handicapping system.

His reputation within the Island Association quickly established itself; one previous committee member described Ted to me recently as "the Voice of Reason"; never short of opinion, Ted was often consulted on tricky and divisive issues, where his advice was often invaluable. Combined with his approachability and ready wit, Ted's presence on our committee will be sorely missed. His readiness to step up and offer help was demonstrated to the last, as he executed a flawless Finals Night only a couple of months ago, with very little notice or preparation.

Always a man to show interest in others, he would often enquire after friends and their families, and would always ask how one was playing; in fact, he often seemed at his most content having a chat with a coffee and a biscuit, sat watching the games.

In later years, he noticed his own standard begin to wane, but his enthusiasm for the game remained undiminished – especially as he had by this point introduced young Joe to the game. The pleasure he got from watching his grandson's game develop equalled any pleasure he might have got in previous years from actually competing.

I would not be surprised if at this very moment there are a couple of dozen table tennis players all thinking, "Cheers, Ted, and thanks for all your hard work".



News

Table Tennis England Centenary Tournament – Southern Area matches

The Isle of Wight Table Tennis Centre at Smallbrook, Ryde has recently hosted matches from the Southern England section of the Table Tennis England Centenary Tournament, both for adults and juniors.

In the adult section they welcomed teams from Guildford and Worthing. Ten of the Island's best players participated, and in the Mens event, Alex Rorke and Scott Lawson narrowly missed going through to the national finals, just losing to a formidable Guildford team 3-2.

In the Ladies event the Island's Pat Thorley and Anne Joyce both put in good performances, but were also narrowly beaten by the eventual winners, Worthing.

In the Junior Boys event we played host to an excellent Plymouth team who proved to be too strong for the Island team, but the local lads gave a good account of themselves, and are all continuing to improve considerably as a result of playing in the Island League and regular coaching.

The IWTTA would like to thank their sponsors who enabled this event to be held on the Island - Prospect Mortgage Services, The Little John Clinic and The Stable Tea Rooms.



Tim Giles, Alex Rorke, Martin Johnstone, Pat Thorley, Glenn Morley, Scott Lawson, Ana Joyce, Mark Turner, Rob Smith, Don Hobbs

The Senior Team

Ryan Cates, Lewis Johnstone, Herbie Sage, Bailey Page, Joe Chapman, Ross Holme



The Junior Team and opponents from Plymouth

Ladies Practice Sessions

The ladies practice sessions continue on Fridays between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm and are proving very popular. The sessions run between 4.30pm to 6.30pm every Friday, £2.50 for adults, £1 for under 18s. Anyone interested can contact nicky.dando1968@gmail.com

Here are some of the happy attendees!



Finals Night Roundup

Back in April the IWTTA Finals Night was held at Smallbrook, and Toby Woolgar came along and took lots of professional quality photos to add to those he had taken for us in 2019. Thanks to Toby we now have a comprehensive collection of photos to send to the press and we are most grateful to him.

Here are a few of the winners and runners up from the evening:



Derek Pittard and Tom Flood – Doubles Handicap Winners



Danny Burns – Gordon Burns Handicap Winner



Mike Turner – Over 40's Champion



**Tim Giles – Over 60's Champion and
Supervets Handicap Champion**

Ryan Cates – Junior and Division Three Runner Up



**Lewis Johnstone – Cadet and Junior Champion
and Division Two Runner Up**



Graham Evans – Division Two Champion



Paul Lewis – Division Three Champion



Maggie Preston and Marlene Irving – Ladies Doubles Champions



Scott Lawson – Men's Championship Runner Up and Men's Doubles Champion



**Hugh Idle – Men's Champion
and Mixed Doubles Champion**

Pat was the most successful player of the Championships, winning the over 70's, Ladies and Mixed Doubles (partnered by Hugh).

Pat Thorley – winner of 3 championships



Hugh Idle and Pat Thorley– Mixed Doubles Champions

New Table Tennis Clubs on the Island

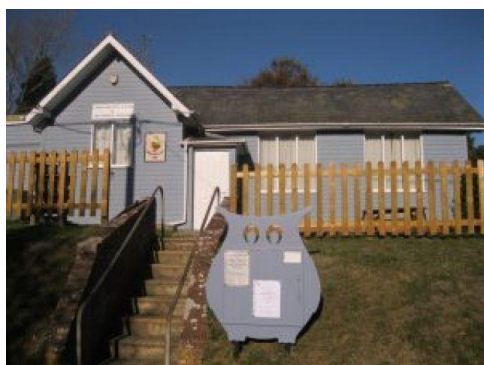
A couple of new table tennis clubs have started on the Island where people can go along to play social table tennis and improve their game, so if you know anyone in the Wroxall/Ventnor or Chillerton/Rookley area who might be interested, please do pass this information on to help these clubs become successful.

Wroxall Table Tennis Club has started running regular twice weekly sessions at Stenbury Hall, Wroxall PO38 3DP. The sessions are Monday mornings between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm, and Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 9 pm. Bats and balls are provided and the cost is £3 per person to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Wroxall Community Association are thrilled to have started these new sessions and hope to build on the interest in the coming months, and look to progressing the club further in the future. Email: info@stenburyhall.co.uk



Participants at one of the new Wroxall sessions

Chillerton and Rookley Table Tennis Club is held in The Gallybagger, Main Road, Chillerton PO30 3HJ every Wednesday evening, with two sessions, one for Juniors and one for Seniors. Juniors play from 6 pm – 7.30 pm and Seniors from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. The cost is £1 for Juniors and £2 for Seniors. The first session is free and all standards are very welcome. The Junior session is already proving very successful, and they have a licensed bar open all evening! Teas and coffees are also available. Call Mark Newton on 07538 085267 for more information.



The Gallybagger Inn – well known by anyone who has been to the famous Scarecrow Festival

Isle of Wight Table Tennis Clothing

The new IW Table Tennis T-shirts/sweat shirts/hoodies will be available for members in September. They will be printed with the Island Table Tennis logo, which members voted for in April. After considering various companies, we settled for the Big Wight Sportswear Company in Newport. They can be ordered direct from the company and then collected or can be delivered.

More information will be sent out to members when they are available for purchase.

Isle of Wight Centenary

Did you know that the Isle of Wight is one of the oldest table tennis associations in England? In fact, it celebrates its centenary in January 2023. The committee will be considering ways of celebrating this unique and historic anniversary. Your thoughts/ideas on this celebration would be most welcome and can be emailed to Peter Clarke at: clarke477@yahoo.co.uk

Upcoming Events

Isle of Wight Table Tennis Association

Presentation Evening
Lakeside Hotel, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4LJ
Friday 19th August -- Starting at 7-15pm
Includes Buffet and Entertainment by Aaron Isted – Illusionist
Ticket Price: £10. Under 16s: £5.
Tickets available from Martin Dove
Tel: 01983 299308 Email: martin.dove@blueyonder.co.uk

Tournament for Non League players
Table Tennis Centre, Smallbrook
Sunday, 21st August - 10-00am start
This event is open to all players who have not participated in the recent Summer League or the last Winter League.
Entry Fee £2-50 each player – both singles & doubles
Closing date for entries – 18th August. Please sign the list at Smallbrook.



Coaching for all by Paul Whiting
UKCC Level 4 Coach
Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September, 2022
There are 2 sessions each day, (both for two and half hours) at £30 per day. Refreshments available at no extra cost.
We are all keen to improve our table tennis. Why not take this opportunity of receiving guidance and tuition from a qualified coach? Paul was here at Smallbrook for the centenary tournament in May. We are pleased to have him back again to pass on his expertise in table tennis. Limited places, so book early with Martin.

Summer League News

The Summer League is heading to a close, with two leagues running this year, the 5pm and the 7pm. It has proved to be an exciting and fun league as always, and we have now reached the semi final stage.

Brutal Hedgehogs lead the 5pm's on 44 points, with Woodcliffe Warriors in second place with 37 points. The Cedar's came in third only 1 point behind the Warriors. Graham Evans heads the averages table on 95%.

In the 7pm league Solent Cats lead on 41 points with Two Guys One Ball second on 34 points. The Wight Knights were third, with again only 1 point difference from the second placed team. Alex Rorke heads the averages table on 93%.

The semi-finals are coming up soon with Brutal Hedgehogs meeting Two Guys One Ball, and Woodcliffe Warriors meeting Solent Cats.



Alex in action for Two Guys One Ball

Bryce of Woodcliffe Warriors



From the Archives

In our look back through the old editions of Table Tennis News, we have now reached 1988. The Island has lots of mentions throughout the year, with regular local write ups and the usual news of our very own Carl Prean.

In the January issue there was an interesting Island write up, with news that the Isle of Wight had joined the Southern Regional League, and in our local league news, Rookley headed Division One.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

OUR entry into the Southern Regional Leagues have given us the opportunity to entertain new friends and so far we have been the perfect hosts — Kingfisher, Cippenham and the Ladies of Generation 11 have all returned to the mainland with the full points.

To be honest we have found the standard of these leagues higher than expected and compares very favourably with the lower reaches of the County Championships to which we are used.

Keith Taylor saved the white-wash against Cippenham; Mike Turner, Chris Angus and Steve Harris all took a set off Kingfisher but after two matches the girls have yet to break their duck.

Retirement

Surprisingly, for various reasons neither Taylor nor Harris are performing regularly in the Island league this season whilst another who has been a non-regular in recent seasons, Ian Smith, dramatically emerged from retirement to spearhead Sandown's 9 sets to 1 league defeat of leaders Rookley. Sandown are the current champions but this season's affair looks like being the closest for many seasons — coincident with the arrival of Smith I hear that team mate Roger Hookey is about to be hospitalised for a period.

Leading positions:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Rookley 'A'	7	5	1	1	21
Sandown	6	5	0	1	19
Shanklin	6	4	1	1	19
Newp't Vics 'A'	7	4	1	2	17
Rookley 'B'	7	4	1	2	17
Wroxall 'A'	7	2	3	2	14

Love

We love our tournaments in the Island and are a regular feature of our season; 46 players entered the handicap event organised jointly by Newport Vics and Wroxall and the handicapper was well satisfied when in the final Vics Rob Warren gave 8 points start to Kevin Smith of Haven Street and a beating in two straight games but both at 'deuce'. Commiserations to Carl who we hear is having a great season in Europe but whose form deserted him at the Olympic Qualifiers so that he just dipped out, we hear however, that he has been given a reserve berth and also has a chance to qualify in the doubles. As Carl travels the continent father (chairman!) John continues his tour of England; table tennis leaves little time for either of them to sit at home in the Island.

In the February issue it was reported that Carl had beaten the World Champion with ease, and the ETTA were excited about Channel 4's television coverage of table tennis.



Every player's dream is to beat the world champion. The dream came true for Carl Prean in his opening match as he literally overpowered Jiang Jialiang 15, -18, 19.



The Great Britain squad in Karlsruhe, left to right, Jill Parker, Carl Prean, Fiona Elliot, Don Parker, Lisa Lomas, Alan Cooke, Alison Gordon and manager Roy Evans. Picture Denis George.

We are back on television

CHANNEL 4 DATES 28 FEBRUARY AND 6 MARCH

Millions must watch the Channel 4 television coming . . .

by TED WALLBUTTON

THE Leeds Euro-Asia Championships held in Cleveland 16-17 January will be shown on Channel 4 Television over two prime weekend slots at the end of February and the beginning of March. The 6pm time slot on Sunday evenings is now almost compulsory viewing for any serious sports enthusiast. The well presented range of sports shown regularly includes American Football, Baseball, Volleyball, Badminton, Australian Rules Football and now what promises to be the next major television sport, Table Tennis.

Superb entertainment

Channel 4 are showing their faith in both the sport and the production company, Cheerleader, by scheduling an initial 2½ hours over two consecutive Sundays. The first being Sunday, 28 February and the second, Sunday, 6 March. The programme will run from 6.00 to 7.15pm on both evenings. The programmes are bound to be superb entertainment for any table tennis enthusiast and we are hoping that regular viewers to the sports programme who are not already aware of the delights of table tennis, will be rapidly converted by the high standards of play that should be apparent in Cleveland.

Please do everything you can to make sure that all of your friends and colleagues tune in to Channel 4 as there will be a close analysis of the viewing figures to determine how attractive the addition of table tennis to the schedule was to the viewing population at large.

SEE
CHANNEL



TELEVISION



Ted Wallbutton, Chief Executive ETTA.

If millions of people tune in and stay tuned then we will be confident of seeing much more table tennis on our screens in the future.

The March issue had some Island news and the News of the World thought a lot of John Prean!

Cippenham still leading

by
BRIAN LAMERTON

IN the Leeds Southern Region Men's League with a crushing 7 sets to 2 victory over their nearest rivals Kingfisher A, the Slough club Cippenham A led by Frank Watson have taken a decisive lead at the head of the table. The Isle of Wight, now under the leadership of Roger Hookey who leads from the front have now found their feet in this very promising and enjoyable newcomer to the calendar.



Carl Prean, Saarbrücken

The News of the World journalist speaks out

The future of English table tennis

by JOHNNY LEACH, former world champion

YOUR editor invited me to write on a subject of my own choosing. I have chosen a subject that concerns us all: the future of English table tennis. For a start, it does have a future — which is something no one could claim with certainty 18 months ago. When John Prean and his new team took control the game was at rock bottom in this country; so the only ways it could go were up — or out. Fortunately, we've seen it rise quicker than one dared to hope, though good fortune has had less to do with this astonishing transformation than sound leadership, professionalism and sheer hard work.



In the April issue there was a full write up on the local Island League as the season was drawing to a close, with Rookley producing three Champions and expected to win the League. In national news, England gained the silver medal in the European Championships, with Carl playing well despite having his bat banned halfway through the tournament.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Angus, Sharon Urry and Ian Urry. All of the Rookley club who are this season's men's, ladies' and junior champions.

Chris won his first Island title during a purple patch when he had the 'Indian sign' on Sandown's Roger Hookey, the season's leading Island league player. A 21-13 third game singles final success was followed by the doubles title with Martin Mitchell against Hookey and Mike Turner and then in the crunch first division league match Hookey's 100% record went — but on this latter occasion the Sandown man had the last laugh as his team mates Mike Turner and Ian Smith saw Sandown home by 8 sets to 2 and almost certain retention of the championship shield.

Miss Urry also had a hat-trick to celebrate — the ladies' doubles title with Michelle Angus and the open junior doubles with Ian.

Since our last report things have looked up in the Southern Regional League with 3 wins out of 6 matches after an opening 3 match spell when we thought we were going to be swamped.

Since Roger Hookey took over the running of the team at the turn of the year, and led it from the front, he, Angus and Keith Taylor have all turned in some outstanding wins.

No joy yet for the girls but they keep plugging away and will all be richer in experience for it.

We are now planning for our annual Island Festival of Table Tennis when separate competitions are played for 1st year juniors, 4th & 5th division, veteran, hard-bat and handicap with all the finalists coming together for the 'big night' at Newport Vics on Thursday 28 April.

Leeds Southern Region Men's League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cippenham A	9	9	0	65	16	27
Kingfisher A	7	5	2	41	22	15
Hursley	6	4	2	34	20	11
Generation II	6	3	3	26	28	10
Isle of Wight	9	3	6	31	50	8
Cippenham B	9	1	8	22	59	4
Kingfisher B	6	1	5	15	39	3

Southern Region Ladies' League

	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Generation 11	5	5	0	25	0	15
Cippenham	5	3	2	14	11	9
Isle of Wight	6	0	6	1	24	0

Silver medals for England men's team best for ten years

It would be remiss of me not to mention the performance of the English men's team and in particular the outstanding results achieved by young Carl Prean.



Carl Prean

Surprised

A Czech umpire, a member of the ETTU technical committee spotted that the rubber had disappeared from the official long list of approvals. Everybody looked surprised during the 35-minute delay as Carl changed his rubbers to something less lethal. He played on and beat Hannah with some discomfort and then hammered out Erik Lindh quite easily.

Lessons

Carl Prean just might be European singles champion today if his bat had not been banned.

The combined efforts of Carl, Desmond and Alan in the team matches were nothing short of magnificent, especially against the might of the USSR and the ultimate champions Sweden. In the team final, Carl played like one possessed against the No 1 seed Jan-Ove Waldner absolutely destroying him 21-13, 21-5, but the overall strength of the Swedes proved just too much in the end.

In the May-June issue the Island League final Division One Tables were published and Sandown A had overtaken Rookley A to take the Championship. John Prean's popularity with the press continued, and this time the Sunday Times were singing his praises!

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

AFTER threatening noises were made by Rookley early in the season Sandown again emerged as first division champions so its congratulations to Roger Hookey, Ian Smith and Mike Turner.

Division 1	pts
Sandown A	67
Rookley A	58
Shanklin	54
Newport Vics A	44
Rookley B	39
Wroxall A	31
Newport Vics B	23
Ryde A	15
Sandown B	14
Wroxall B	12

Winners of other divisions were: Div 2, Rookley C; Div 3, Ryde Electrics; Div 4, Ryde C; Div 5, Rookley G.

Ryde Electrics were allowed through to take the 3rd division title when in the last match Cowes High School needed to win by 8 sets to 2, or better to take the title — they won but only by 6 sets to 4 and so finished second — and who were their final match opponents? — their own B team! Joe Daly, Dave Hilliam and Nigel Ash representing Shanklin have won the Knowles Cup and the County Press Tournament for 2-man teams has gone to Neil and Keith Griffin of Wroxall — the third time in four seasons that this event has been won by a father and son partnership.



John Prean

Congratulations to Carl and John Prean — to Carl for his magnificent performance at the European Championships — who knows but for the rubber controversy (no doubt reported on other pages) what even greater heights might have been reached and to John for being returned unopposed together with his Deputy and Treasurer — surely acceptance by the masses that the Association is on the right lines.

Interest boosted by John Prean

by RICHARD EATON OF *The Sunday Times*

IT WAS the season when the giant stirred, the world stood on its head, and the man some dismissed as an eccentric or a fanatic was proved right in many things. Table tennis, perhaps the best known pastime of all, started to be noticed again in the country that had done most to spread it. The country that had become best at playing table tennis suffered strange reverses. And John Prean made people take an interest in it all.

The October issue reported on the British team who were competing in the Seoul Olympics, with the Island's Carl gaining a wild card entry.



The Seoul Olympics table tennis debut

CARL PREAN the England Number 3 Table Tennis player from Ryde, Isle of Wight gained a wild card entry to the Seoul Olympics.



In the November issue there was a report on the Olympics, with Carl having won four of his group matches, but not making it through to the next round.

The Olympics in Asia the table tennis debut

Successes for Britain in Seoul



– but no medals

by THE EDITOR

CARL PREAN had the roughest, toughest draw won four of his seven group matches. His victims included the Hongkong player Vong lu Veng 16, 14, 13, but losses to Leszek Kucharski (Poland) and Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia, prevented the Isle of Wight and Saarbrücken professional from qualifying.

As 1988 drew to a close there was lots of Island news in the December issue.

Eastleigh (1-5)

One thousand fans saw England trying to fight off a 6-0 win by China at Fleming Park, a super venue. Only Carl Prean could stop the white-wash. In front of 60 fans from the Isle of Wight – nice of them to cross the water – England floundered but Prean stopped Hui at 21-19 in the third game of a thrilling contest.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

WITH the league entry up from 54 to 55 teams League Secretary' Pete Urry's immediate reward was, at the end of the first month, to see his Rockley 'B' side at the top of the first division. Pete and his team mates Mark Griffin and nephew Vaughan Urry are however realistic enough to know that they are probably only keeping it warm for the current champions and red hot favourites who occupy second place; the Sandown team of Ian Smith, Roger Hookey and Mike Turner.

Shanklin are in third spot with the newly promoted Sandown Boys Brigade showing up well at fourth. Paul Morton who was encouraged back into the game in the summer looks likely to lead Plessey to promotion from the second division and Cowes High School's fine crop of youngsters are again showing up well in the lower divisions. Sixteen youngsters entered the pre-season tournament for first year juniors with Clive Rice the winner seeing off the brothers Cooke in semi final and final.

The men are now champing at the bit waiting for their first Regional league match of the season but the girls have already taken the field and although losing, a 3 sets to 2 defeat by Aldershot was a much better start than in last seasons inaugural competition; Michelle Angus and Amanda Will represented the Island on this occasion.

Over Fifty of us crossed the Solent to see the England v China match of Eastleigh and whilst disappointed at the overall score we all made our presence felt when Carl won England's only game.



Carl Preat warms up at the Fleming Park venue, Southampton with managing director of A. & B. Homes, Joe Bernardz.

And finally:

Have you ever heard of the Kings of Ping? Probably not, but they organise table tennis parties known as 'Bling Pong' at festivals like Glastonbury. Click here: [Kings of Ping](#) to see a video of what they get up to! Anyone else feeling a little boring and conventional...?



Thank you for reading. The next newsletter will be in October 2022. All contributions are very much appreciated so do please send any suggestions, articles or photos to: deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk