

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

September 2019 Newsletter

Chairman's message

Hello all, so the new winter season is almost upon us, and after a cracking summer league, many of us will be looking forward to continuing where we left off. The calendar of events has already started though, as we've had two very well supported tournaments - congratulations to the first six players to book their places on Finals Night!

I'd like to wish everyone a great season, and please feel free to drop me a line with any comments or suggestions.

Good luck everyone!

Alex Rorke
alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk

News

Presentation Evening

The Presentation evening was held at Lakeside in Wootton on Friday 30th August and was very well supported with around 70 attendees enjoying a fine evening of food, chat and entertainment, which was provided by illusionist Aaron Isted. Martin and Heather presented the trophies to the winners and runners up from the league and cup competitions.



Alex Rorke – Mens Singles Champion



Temeesha Hobbs – Womens Singles Champion



Ted Purvey – Division Two
Singles Runner Up



Spike Hughes – Division Three
Singles Champion



Maggie Preston and Marlene Irving -
Women's Doubles Runners Up

IWTTA Photographer

We are delighted that Toby Woolgar has agreed to be the official photographer for the IWTTA. His photographs are top quality as was shown on Final's Night and this will be really helpful in getting our reports out to the press.

Here are some examples of Toby's work from Final's Night (and he tells me he has a better camera now!):



League News

The start of the 2019/2020 League season is almost upon us and the fixtures can be downloaded and printed [here](#). Score cards can be collected from Smallbrook or are available [here](#).

With 3 extra teams this year the League is looking very healthy and we have 8 teams in Division One with 10 teams each in Divisions Two and Three. It is really pleasing that Havenstreet are entering 3 teams this year, Newport Vics have 5 teams and we welcome a team from Freshwater. With new players, teams and combinations, we are all looking forward to a competitive and exciting season.

Please send your score cards through to Ted Purvey as soon as possible after the match to ted@mousehole.com or drop them in the box at Smallbrook.

Coverage will continue in the County Press but will be focussed on Division One. The Island Observer will cover all divisions and there will also be reports online at the [Island Echo](#).

Please send in your match reports to deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk as these really help in compiling the reports for the press. You may also write notes on the score cards of any interesting happenings during matches!

Memories

Matt Mair had some interesting memories of players that were mentioned in the last Archive section from the 1960's:

Matt played against Norman Badcock in the Knowles Cup when it used to be played up to 31. Viv Cherriman used to play for Shanklin and was playing well into her 80's and was still very difficult to beat! He also remembered playing against Kathy Pierce at Sandown.

Ray Hayter moved from Vics later on in the late 70s/early 80s to St.Lawrence and always teamed up with Rob Warren (Temperature Ltd) for doubles comps, usually reaching the finals! Ray was quite a humorous character whilst playing and sported a very large handlebar moustache; he was nicknamed the 'Wing Commander' by the other players.

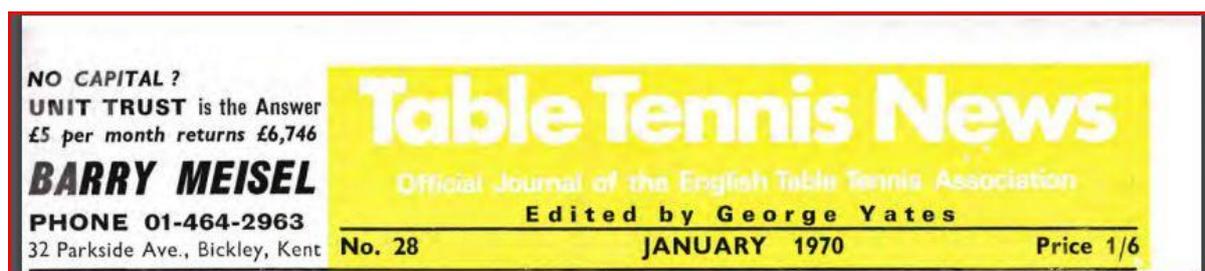
From the Archives

In our regular feature looking at the English Table Tennis Association newsletters we have now reached the 1970's, of which many of us have fond memories.

Which one were you?



As the 1970's began, the cost of the publication had risen to 1 shilling and 6 pence and it was published monthly between October and June each year.



Although the Island team had a new player, Pete Smith, who joined from the mainland at the end of 1969, our first mention in May 1970 showed that we were carrying on as we left off in the 1960's, as the Isle of Wight were relegated from the First Division of the Hampshire Inter-Town League.

In May 1971 the newsletter cost 7 and 1/2 'new' pence as England had gone metric, and there was a report of a visit of the England Table Tennis team to China; the Island did get a mention regarding one of the Association member's sea sickness:

Sailing on the lake in the Empress's Barge of State; the water like a mill pond, but even this was too much for Bryan Merrett. What a good job the E.T.T.A. do not arrange international matches on the Isle of Wight! Poor Bryan!

By February 1972 the Island had made our way back into the Inter-Town League Division One:

The Isle of Wight surprisingly lead in the Men's Division and their clash with unbeaten Aldershot should decide the winners.

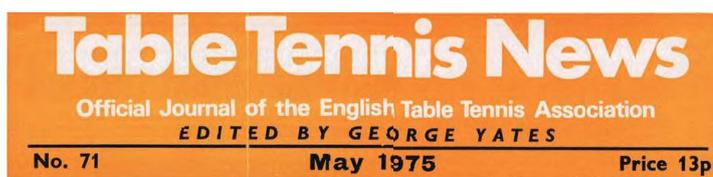
In April 1972 we were relegation candidates in the Mixed Division; however, we had a team in the Junior Division who looked to be fighting for promotion.

In the May/June 1973 edition (now 10p) the Island was still improving its position in the Hampshire League:

The Isle of Wight retain the men's division title of the inter-town league -a fine achievement for such a small association.

In the January 1974 issue there was mention of Jim Daly who represented Hampshire in the County 2nd team, the first representative from the Isle of Wight that the reporter could remember. The Isle of Wight Men's team had a clear lead at the top of Division Two of the Hampshire Inter-Town League.

More mentions came in the May 1975 issue as the Island were promoted into the first division in the mixed and junior Leagues, although lost the top spot in the men's league.



Inflation was high in the 70's as could be seen in the cost of the journal being 20p an issue in 1976, a 100% increase in three years. In the February 1976 issue we were mentioned as one of the few areas who did not bother to enter a team in the National School's competition, and we had a mention in a write up on a Hampshire Division One match:

The first session of inter-town matches produced predictable results. Southampton lead the mixed Div. 1 with three 11-1 wins over Isle of Wight, Basingstoke and Portsmouth "A". In the Isle of Wight match the Island team fielded a very strong men's team of **Les Eadie, Jim Daly** and **Steve Harris**. Unfortunately, they did not rank newly acquired Eadie and his win over County champion Keith Summerfield, was to no avail.

Does anyone have memories of the Isle of Wight players mentioned above?

In the May 1977 issue there was the first mention of a 9 year old Island player, whose name we are all familiar with – Carl Prean; he lost in the quarter finals of the Under 11's at the Reading Junior Select Open Championships. After this Carl's successes were reported on regularly throughout the late 1970's.

In the October 1977 issue John Prean (Carl's dad) had a letter published regarding the behaviour of players at the Reading Championships:

As soon as one match had ended, sometimes sooner, hordes of youngsters descended on the empty tables, pushing aside often quite small players who had barely finished their last point. Few could

conclude the formality of shaking hands, before large, old-looking juniors swooped, vulture-like, all over the playing area in search of a few minutes practice. Officials, who were present in large numbers, coaches in track-suits decorated by the latest badges either made some half-hearted, generally futile gesture or, more frequently, pretended not to notice. Printed instructions, so clear on such earth-shattering matters as the colours of competitors' plimsolls, were less explicit about the anti-social antics we witnessed at the end of practically every match.

In November 1977 a report on the Isle of Wight League was sent to the journal, which was gratefully received:

I am pleased to receive a Report on the Isle of Wight League from John Prean who tells me that in the Island First Division this season again looks likely to be dominated with one team. **Steve Harris**, once a County Junior, returns to the Ryde team joining **Jim Daly** and **John Stacey** and they look unbeatable. Columbia, who provided strong competition last season and led the table for several weeks, have split their teams and are unlikely to provide a strong challenge to the champions. It could well prove to be Ryde's fifth Championship victory in succession, and they could well go on to emulate the Shanklin Club of the 1960's who strung together nine victories. This does not, however, make for exciting competition.

The Peach Cup looks like providing the more interesting table tennis. This is a competition for the fourteen top teams of the previous season in a knock-out competition. Two Ryde and two Columbia teams have emerged as semi-finalists and the competition has been improved by the fact that no team is allowed to field players with a total average in excess of 180%. This kept the top players in different teams and should provide some real competition in the closing stages. In the earlier rounds of this event, Carl Prean has again showed his potential with 9 victories over First Division players which has left him unbeaten at this stage.

Does anyone remember playing in the Peach Cup? It sounds a lot of fun and something different.

Carl was also mentioned in the Hampshire report and was ranked 5th in the Hampshire Juniors:

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

The trials showed the potential of 9-years-old Carl Prean. It is good to see him chosen straight away for the Second Junior team where he can gain the experience which, if his game continues to improve, will be of help when he matures to First team standard.

In the January 1978 issue the newsletter was delighted to receive a copy of the IWTTA's newsheet for the first time:

'I was pleased to see for the first time the Isle of Wight TTA's News Sheet. It is good to see the Island Association joining Bournemouth in providing their members with such an excellent service. The Editor, **Tom Groves**, is to be congratulated'.....'The Island teams in the Hampshire League have got off to a good start. The mixed team had a good win over Portsmouth, 7-5 due to a large extent to their women players. In particular I would mention **Rose Grimaldi's** excellent win over County No.2. Serina Sinanan'.....'In the Islands' First Division, Ryde as expected have won their first seven matches losing only 5sets. I see also that **Carl Prean** did well to win his first Open Tournament victory when he gained the Kent Junior 2-Star U-II title. Clearly a great prospect for the County.'

In February 1978 we were in trouble again regarding the Schools Championships:

And talking of the Team Championships it is pleasing to be able to report another record entry but disappointing that "blackspots" remain in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, East Sussex, Gloucestershire and the Isle of Wight, all of which were not represented in this year's competition.

In April 1978 there was a write up of the Island Championships:

In the Isle of Wight, **Jim Daley** beat **John Prean** in the Men's Singles, while **Rose Grimaldi** beat **Joy Batten** in the Women's Singles. **Daley and Steve Harris** beat the father/son combination of **John and Carl Prean** in the Men's Doubles. **Rose Grimaldi** combined with **Harris** to win the Mixed and **Joy Batten** to win the Ladies Doubles. **Phil Attrill** beat **John Prean** to take the Veterans event. **Carl Prean** won both the U-11 and U-18 Junior Singles and combined with **Kevln Attrill** to win the Junior Doubles.

In October 1978 it appeared that Carl had brains as well as physical prowess, and bats were being advertised for £39.95 – a fortune over 40 years ago!



TEES SPORT SUMMER SCHOOL 1978

(A Weatherproof Holiday)

A new and successful innovation this year was the table tennis quiz held during the 9-day course. It was the main topic of conversation for two days beforehand as the participants tested their knowledge amongst themselves, and the coaches prepared their questions, all the while conscious of young Carl Prean's memory of table tennis and cricket statistics.

In November 1978 the Island was praised for holding a Junior Tournament:

It is good to see the Isle of Wight coming into the organisation staging the first ever Hampshire closed junior tournament on Sunday, October 15th at Ryde.

In December 1978 it was reported that young Carl had to leave a tournament in Shropshire early so as to catch his ferry back to the Island, and had to forfeit his place in the quarter finals.

In the January 1979 issue the Island's Rose Grimaldi had performed well in the Hampshire Championships:

Quite a few upsets in the women's singles. None greater than the quarter-final defeat of No. 1 seed Joyce Coop by the Isle of Wight player **Rose Grimaldi**.

A report on the Junior Tournament held on the Island in October was printed:

The junior closed was held for the first time as a separate event and for the first time the Isle of Wight came into the Organisation staging the event at Ryde. Access has always been the problem with any event in the Island and despite the excellent organisation and help with transport by the local league this could again have caused major headaches. Right up to the previous day ferry services to the Island were being curtailed by fog. Playing in their own area helped Island players to their best ever results. In the boys' singles Carl Prean obviously the county's best prospect in years reached the semi

only to lose to the more experienced Jason Creasey. The girls' resulted in a comfortable win for the holder Cheryl Creasey over the Island's **Janice Badcock**.

In the May/June 1979 issue it was reported that Sealink were sponsoring the Milton Keynes League; as our major ferry company we might have expected some sponsorship too!

We were also in trouble with the IWTTA again:

I have not even received the Isle of Wight news sheet or other information from them this season.

In the November 1979 issue there was a big write up about Carl Prean, regarding the County Championships:

‘The Senior Match marked the debut of 12-year-old Carl Prean in what must be the first of many county appearances. Before the start I heard criticism of the selection of Carl "too young" - "too inexperienced" - "will break his heart"; were typical of the comments I heard. Strangely, I heard none at the end. Surely if a player is good enough he is old enough and how can one get experience without playing, and the broken hearts were in the Wiltshire camp of much older players’..... ‘Carl uses a very advanced bat and what is more, uses it. The sky must be the limit if, and it is a big if, he can get the top practise and competition which his home in the Isle of Wight may restrict.’

We had also fallen out with Hampshire:

I hear there have been differences between the County and the Isle of Wight Association with the Island threatening to declare independence. The Island considers not enough is done for them. No county matches are held there and after staging a successful first junior closed at Ryde the event this year returns to the mainland. I can certainly see they have a point but unfortunately they suffer from their insular situation and it all comes back to transport difficulties. If last year's junior closed had been a few days earlier no Ferries were running because of fog! The situation must however be resolved and the county now has in the Island a player in Carl Prean who hopefully could be in the senior team for years to come if he is brought on correctly. Perhaps this could bring the two sides together and hopefully more can be done by the county to stage events in the Island when at all possible.

As the 70's drew to a close the Island was in the news and the future looked bright. Please let me know of any memories of players mentioned as it is interesting for members to hear your memories of the good old days!

And finally:

As the new season approaches, we must all try to avoid the following behaviours:

Celebrating each point too loudly

Click below to see and hear some truly annoying opponents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zf4kIdxXKOY>



Being a Bad Loser

(We've secretly all wanted to do this though ...) Click the photo to watch:



To finish here is a poem printed in the December 1978 ETTA newsletter – quite apt as we prepare for a new season:

Poet's Corner

"OUR FAVOURITE GAME"

A round white ball, just out of reach
The penetrating drive.
Scores that seem to level out
And keep the game alive

To push, to drop, to loop and chop,
The challenges of style,
Shots that fractionally miss,
"Might well have been a mile"

Smooth side out and pimples in
Indeed a complete decision
To find a bat that suits one's style
With rubberised precision

Those winning games, like Angela's tales
Include a frequent "Whopper".
The desperate search for urgent youth
When up against a chopper

No one doubts that one day soon
The breaks will go our way
And then watch out for endless wins
. . . but that's another day.

So we all return when Autumn comes
For no apparent reason,
Than to play "Our favourite game"
In this — another season.

With acknowledgement to Ronald S. Jones and
the Wirral Horn.

Thank you for reading and please do send any contributions to deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk as they are always used and gratefully received. How about someone writing a more modern poem for our next issue? There should be lots to report on next time, so good luck to everybody and hope you all enjoy the new season.