

January 2023

Message from the Chairman

Happy New Year to All!

That seems a bit belated now that most of us have played a match or two since the Christmas break, and it's nice to see everyone back in the swing of table tennis.

The Winter League has clearly-established movers and shakers by this point; Ryde A, Vics B and St Lawrence Lizards are all sitting pretty at the tops of their respective tables. Division 1's runner-up place continues to be hotly contested, with the other three Ryde teams, Vics A and Havenstreet A repeatedly churning around and beating each other, trying to stay in second place. Division 2's second place seems to be moving towards Ryde Rascals' clutches, but Ryde Relatives managed a recent 6-4 victory over the higher team, so the Relatives clearly have other ideas about who is going to finish second. Shorwell Spinners are looking good for second place in Division 3, with ten points and a game in hand as a buffer between them and Ryde Rustics.

The Day League is now a few weeks old, and is already being hotly contested. Set up as an experiment to see if afternoon competitive play would prove popular, 12 teams have decided to participate. Current joint leaders are "Beatles" (Tim and Bev Giles) and "East 17" (Nicky Dando plus guests). Thanks to Tim Giles for organising this every week.

Friday Evening Practice sessions have been attracting very varied numbers in recent months; the Committee has asked me to mention this to the membership, with an appeal for more regular players. Some of the sessions have had very low turnouts, beneath the level of economic viability, so please come along and support the session if you can. We don't want to reduce the number of available practice sessions, but equally we don't want them to be costing us money — especially in these days of rising utility bills.

In other news, the Brain Warne Plate was held between Christmas and New Year as usual; in case you missed the results sent out afterwards, the two semi-finals saw Bryce Wilson/Neil Hedges narrowly defeat John Cornforth/Nicky Dando, and Glenn Morley/Paul Cates beat Ryan Cates/Tom Flood. Good luck to the finalists, who will compete on Finals Night.

Finally, it is my sad duty to report the death of former player and IWCTTA committee member Erica Prean, who died peacefully just before Christmas. To say she had an eventful life is an understatement; she escaped Nazi Germany in 1939, thanks to her grandparents securing an English sponsor for her. Her grandparents were later among the 96 wider family members who did not

escape, being murdered by the regime. Her adult life was conspicuous by her volunteer work for local societies and charities; she served as Chairwoman of the IOW NSPCA, and supported several refugee and Holocaust charities, often giving guest lectures, especially in schools. Table tennis wove in and out of her life; she played in the Island League for her husband John's club in the 1970s, and was of course involved in her son Carl's career. In later years, she served on our committee, first as National Councillor and as General Secretary, then latterly as Treasurer – totalling 24 years of service to our association. All who knew her will miss her compassion, charm and intellect.

Alex Rorke

IWTTA Chairman

News

Icy Weather

Please note that in the cold winter weather, the paths to the car park can be icy, so please take extra care when arriving or leaving the centre and walk in pairs if possible.

Online Press Reports

If you see any online press reports please can you share these on social media as it helps to spread the word and encourage interest in table tennis. The Island Echo publishes reports every week on their website and the County Press also publishes online reports regularly, so do look out for these and share if you are able.

Gordon Burns Handicap Cup

The Gordon Burns Handicap Cup was held in November and there were 27 entrants of all standards who enjoyed some closely contested matches.



The finalists are Danny Burns and Zak Holbrook who will meet on Finals Night in April.



Danny

Wootton and Ryde Challenge

Wootton Table Tennis Club challenged Ryde Table Tennis Club to a friendly tournament in December. There were eleven players in each team for a series of singles and doubles matches, and it was a very enjoyable event. Wootton were the winners of the tournament and a trophy was presented to Dee Puttick, Secretary of Wootton Club, by Tim Giles, vice chairman of the IW Table Tennis Association.







Wootton Team



Tim presenting the trophy to Dee

Wootton Christmas Lunch

Wootton Table Tennis Club Christmas lunch was held on Tuesday, 13th December at the Sloop Inn, Wootton.

There was added enthusiasm this year at the lunch, as just one week earlier, Wootton had won the inaugural Inter Table Tennis Club Tournament against Ryde.



Brian Warne Handicap Doubles

The Brian Warne Handicap Doubles Plate was held at the end of December with 13 pairs taking part, keen to work off those Christmas excesses!



After some close competition, the winning pairs to meet in the final on Finals Night in April are Bryce Wilson/Neil Hedges and Glenn Morley/Paul Cates.

Bryce Glenn



T-shirt Presentation

The isle of Wight Table Tennis Association is now sponsoring IWTTA T-shirts for all Juniors as soon as they start playing in the league. Jye Lock is our youngest league player and he is doing well in Division Three.

Alex Rorke, Chairman of IWTTA, presented Jye with his T-shirt at Smallbrook a few weeks ago.



Jye receiving the T-shirt from Alex

Alex congratulated Jye and said: "We're always keen to support children developing their Table Tennis and we're delighted with the initial progress that Jye has made with us".

Jye was delighted with his shirt and he looks forward to playing regularly and improving his game. He appreciates the help and support that he has received from coaches at

the Centre.



Jye warming up for his first match in his (hopefully) lucky T-shirt

Another presentation was made by Alex on a later evening to a further seven junior players and here they all are with their coaches:



Robert Pope, Joe Millward, Ethan Millward, Ryan Cates, Alex, Martin, Elaine, Lewis Johnstone, Glenn, Jye Lock, Zak Holbrook, Graham and Ricky.

National Table Tennis Tournament



Daytime League

Tim has kindly arranged a Day League for those who prefer not to be out driving late at night, or for whom the daytime works best. Following the recent varied weather events it seems like a great idea!

There are twelve teams and the format and rules are based on the Summer League, with teams made up of two players, and the competition is handicapped. So far it has proved to be a great success.

Tim says: "We are delighted with the response from members and their enthusiasm for this daytime league. More players are now experiencing competitive table tennis in a friendly, relaxed and convivial atmosphere"

The team names are based on rock and pop groups, with the Beatles (comprising Tim and Bev) rather fittingly topping the table after three matches, although equal on points with East 17.

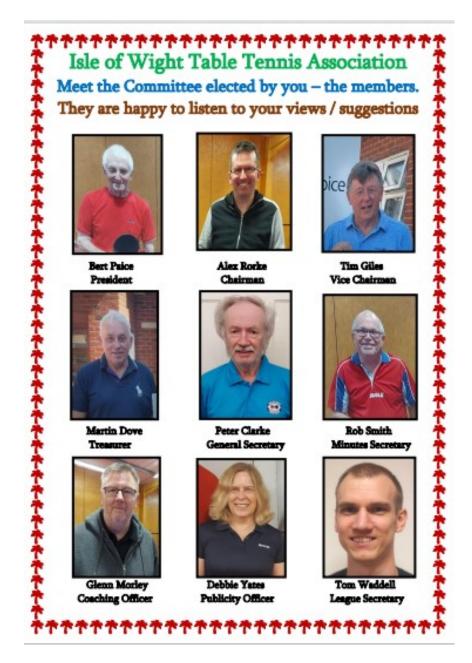


Tim and Bev of The Beatles





The Hollies - Spike and Dee; and Level 42 - Sarah and Manfred



Practice sessions at League Clubs around the Island

Wootton Table Tennis Club, Wootton Community Centre, Brannon Way, Wootton, PO33 4NW.

Meet Fridays, 9-30am - 12 noon.

Contact: Deanne Puttick - dputtick04@sky.com

St. Lawrence Table Tennis Club, Village Hall, St Lawrence, PO38 1UW.

Meet Tuesday & Friday afternoons, 2 pm – 4 pm.

Contact: Neil Hedges - neil.hedges@talktalk.net

Newport Vics Table Tennis Club, The Pavilion, Recreation Ground Road, Newport, PO30 5AH.

Meet Wednesday evenings for practice when there are no scheduled league matches (every week from April to September).

Contact: Barry Joyce - 07597 094355

Shorwell Table Tennis Club, Shorwell Parish Hall, Russell Road, Shorwell, PO30 3JT.

Meet Wednesday evenings, 7pm – 9 pm.

Contact: Kev Williams - 07977 576604 williams.k88@aol.com

Shanklin Table Tennis Club, Youth and Community Centre, 6 Victoria Avenue Shanklin, PO37 6PJ.

Meet Tuesday and Friday mornings, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and Tuesday evenings, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm.

Contact: Paul Harris - 07792 174941

Havenstreet Table Tennis Club, Havenstreet Community Centre, Main Road, Havenstreet, PO33 4DH.

Contact Alan Hulbert for information on practice sessions – **0**7977 576604 ahulbert@talktalk.net

Stop Press! - Island Echo Centenary Cup



The new sponsored Island Echo Centenary Cup was held last night (27th January), and it was a hugely successful evening. Darren Toogood and Warren Whitmore from the Echo came along and spent time talking to participants and taking photographs and will be putting a report on their website in the middle of the week.

The final two T-shirts for junior players were presented by Tim Giles on behalf of the IWTTA to Joe Chapman and Ross Holme.



Joe Chapman, Darren Toogood (Island Echo), Ross Holme, Tim Giles

As the evening ran very late, the semi-finals are to be held on Finals Night in April and we are excited to announce that the four semi-finalists are all junior players:



Thanks go to Rob Smith for organising the event and Pat Thorley for the lovely buffet (with donations taken towards the Island Games team) and also to Pat's son for making an excellent table tennis themed cake. Our grateful thanks also go to the Island Echo for their generous £200 sponsorship of the event, and their continued support of Island table tennis.



Pat at the buffet table



The delicious table tennis themed cake

Island Games

Update on the Isle of Wight Table Tennis Association "ISLAND GAMES" team by Peter Clarke

Time moves on and it's just six months now until the ISLAND GAMES in Guernsey. Our team has been selected and we are fortunate to have a qualified coach, Glenn Morley, who will be accompanying the team. He will be overseeing their practices for the tournament.

Team Manager/Captain, Danny Burns, who is a 9-time Island Games gold medallist, reports that the team are delighted to be representing the Island at the Games in Guernsey. He says: "The squad have all enjoyed good seasons so we go in good form. We will all be determined to do our very best."



Our ISLAND GAMES team of nine players and a coach, is being partially funded by a *"GoFundMe"* promotion which was set up four months ago. It has raised £1200 towards the team's accommodation and travel expenses for the one week tournament. Many thanks to all those who contributed. It is much appreciated by both the IWTTA committee and the Island team.

Meet the IoW Table Tennis team that will be participating in the ISLAND GAMES in July





Mens' team – Danny Burns, Scott Lawson, Hugh Idle, George Downing Womens' team – Pat Thorley, Anna Joyce, Temeesha Hobbs, Elaine Mills



Isle of Wight Coach - Glenn Morley



Isle of Wight team in the 2019 ISLAND GAMES in Gibraltar, comprising Tamara Hobbs, George Downing, Danny Burns, Alex Joyce, Simon Proffit, Anna Joyce

Finally, do please make a note of our next fund raising event for the Island Games. It is on Sun. 26th Match (7-00pm); a Quiz Evening at the Lifeboat Inn, East Cowes. We hope to see you there. Thank you to everyone for your support.



League News (details correct as of 28th January 2023)

Division One

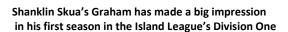
Ryde teams are dominating Division One, with all four teams taking the top four spots. The A team look unbeatable, 21 points ahead of their nearest rivals, but any of the other three could take second place.

Ryde A's Scott leads the averages table with a 100% win record, whilst Havenstreet A's Roger and Ryde C's Alex have over 90%. Other top performers are Ryde A's Mark, Ryde B's Hugh and Shanklin Warrior's Don.

Special mention goes to juniors Ryan and Joe C who have 60% and 51% win average respectively.



Rob, Scott and Mark of Ryde A, who are dominating Division One





Dave is Vics A's top performing player









Anna of Vics A, Pat of Ryde A and Elaine of Shanklin Skuas have been enjoying their seasons as they get ready for the Island Games in July, where they will be joined by Temeesha Hobbs in the Ladies Team

Division Two

In Division Two there is a similar scenario to the top of Division One, with one team looking unbeatable. Vics B are 23 points ahead of their nearest rivals, Ryde Rascals, who are strong favourites for the second spot.

Vics B's players head the averages table, with Dave and Rob both on over 95% and Barry on 90%. Another notable performer is Ryde Rocket's Trevor who has 86%, whilst other top performers are Ryde Relative's junior Ethan, Ryde Rascal's John and Brian, and Vics B's Michael.



Rob and Dave of Vics B, who head the averages table



John, Nicky, Guarav and Dave of Ryde Revellers, currently third in Division Two





Ethan and Joe of Ryde Relatives



Division Three

St Lawrence Lizards head the table, 16 points ahead of Shorwell Spinners, although the Spinners have a game in hand and can still challenge for top spot.

St Lawrence's Derek is unbeaten at the top of the averages table, whilst Shorwell Spinner's Robert is on 92%. Other top performers are St Lawrence's Tom on over 83% and the Spinner's Steve. Special mention goes to Ryde Retailer's 11 year old Jye in his first season in the League and who has a 59% win average.



St Lawrence's Derek and Tom have 100% and 83% win average respectively





Bert of Ryde Rustics who lie third in the table



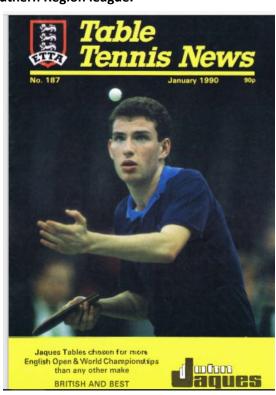
Rebecca of Ryde Frogs is enjoying her first year of League table tennis

Archive

In our look back through the ETTA's Table Tennis News magazines we reach the 1990's which are unbelievably 30 years ago!

In the January issue Carl Prean featured on the front cover and had broken into the top 12 of Europe, whilst the Island was struggling in the Southern Region league.

Southern Region by BRIAN LAMERTON CIPPENHAM lead both the Mens Premier and the Ladies divisions of the Southern Region League and also boast the only regular player with a 100% record in Jacquie Lovell. Mens Premier 5 5 11 Cippenham 'A' 4 10 Kingfisher 'A' Amity Generation 'A' 2 2 Purbrook Pyestock 4 0 4 Isle of Wight Mens First Division 4 0 1 Kingfisher 'B' 4 11 Amity Generation 'B' 3 Our Lady of Peace 3 7 Burnham 1 5 Cippenham 'B' 5 1 5 Merton 2 4 Ladies Division 3 Cippenham Kingfisher 3 Out Lady of Peace 2 4 Aldershot 0 3 Isle of Wight 3 0



In the February issue things were no better for Island county table tennis, but there was some news of our local league, and a letter to John Prean from the editor of Grandstand:

Isle of Wight

Andrew Crews of Cowes High School won the season's first tournament, The All-Island Handicap played at Newport Vics when he overcame a 7 points start to defeat Adrian Bezzosi of St Lawrence in the final 26-23; 26-23; (glad I wasn't the Umpire!) Two better known names (at present) Pete Urry and Mary Wheeler were defeated semifinalists. Pete Urry's boast that his Rookley team were the team to watch this season was not an idle one as the following leading positions show:

	P	w	rts
Rookley	6	6	24
Newport Vics	7	4	22
Sandown	7	5	19
Shanklin	6	4	18
Rookley's next two	opponer	nts	are
Sandown and Shank	din.		

Mathew Hobley whose playing form was highlighted last month is now on his way to becoming the Island's only active qualified umpire having successfully negotiated the written paper. Come on the rest of you — don't leave Mathew on his own!

Letter to John Prean from John Philips — Editor of BBC Grandstand

Dear John,

Congratulations on living up to your advance notices for the English Open. You promised a top class event and but for a bit of back trouble we got it... and Carl kept something back for the family. Sorry he didn't make the final.

I thought the standard of play in the women's final was fantastic. On screen too it all looked very neat and tidy and I trust you believers would concur. All told a good show folks. What we need is something very similar in August!

Cheers,

JOHN PHILIPS Editor, Grandstand In the March issue was a great write up on our local scene with mention of current players, and more news on Carl:

The Isle of Wight by BRIAN LAMERTON

MAINLY parochial but after the recent storms it does give you the chance to think of summer holidays and remind you of the best places in the U.K. to spend them (maybe the tourist board will consider this 'plug' worthy of sponsorship).

Always a pleasure to mention a new name — this time Tom Laight of Newport Vics, winner of the recent Guildford Cup handicap tournament after defeating Andy Westhorp in the final — defeated semi-finalists being Ian Urry and Andrew Crews.

William Hill have stopped taking bets on the destination of the Knowles (Handicap) team competition with four teams from the Rookley club through to the quarter finals where they have amazingly all avoided each other. The All-Island 'Top 10', the biggest individual event of the season so far was won, not surprisingly, by Roger Hookey but he was, surprisingly, defeated in the preliminary groups by Joe Daly, his first defeat by an Island player for over a year. The runner up was new Island Chairman, Alan Hulbert, in an event long looked forward to and well organised by the Island Vicechairman. John Prean. Pete Urry

and Mike Turner were defeated semi-finalists.

Congratulations to Carl who more than justified his newly won 12th position European ranking by his performance in the European 'top 12' at Hanover. Sandown continue to make the running at the head of Division 1 but as the following table shows Rookley are pushing them all the way — one of the highlights of the remainder of the season is going to be the return fixture between these two teams on Rookley's table.

	P	Pts
Sandown	12	43
Rookley 'A'	12	42
Shanklin	12	38
Newport Vics A	12	34
Wroxall 'A'	12	25
Wroxall 'B'	12	17
Plessey 'A'	13	17
Ryde 'A'	12	14
Ventnor	12	6
Haven Street 'A	. 11	4

England's overdue win at Bude — Prean, Douglas unbeaten!

by JOHN WOODFORD in Bude, North Cornwall

Prean to the Rescue

So, it was 3 - 3, the scoreline that is so familiar in the European League. This time, it was Carl Prean to the rescue. Having just recovered from the 'flu and two winter colds, he did not look a hundred per cent fighting fit, but he listened to the wise words of Don Parker, and skilfully, clinically shredded Tomas Janci, 16, 13 to give England a splendid win that resulted in a standing ovation — although many fans were standing anyway, there were no seats left!

April brought the news that England had been relegated from the European Super League:



Action shot of Carl as England lost 4-3 to Germany and went out of the European Super League.

The May/June issue was short on Island news but mention of our ferries was made, still a popular topic today:

Gothenburg and Other Topics

ALMOST the outstanding impression one took home from Gothenburg was how long it had all been. It is a theme to which I have often returned. When I wrote about our endless marathons at home and abroad in my days as the father and coach of our leading junior, some attributed my views and fatigue to having to catch the last boat home to the Isle of Wight, which I frequently missed. (The next one departed at 3 in the morning!) However, now that I can take a more detached stance, unaffected by such considerations, the sheer length of what we serve to the public remains indigestible.



October had a detailed report on the Island season:

ISLE OF WIGHT Brian Lamerton

SANDOWN DULY retained the first division championship by 6 points from Rookley 'A' with Newport Vics. 'A' of Shanklin each a further 8 points in arrears. Ventnor 'A', the only team without a win in the top four divisions, languished at the bottom whilst Rookley 'B' enjoyed a 17 point lead at the head of Division 2.

Roger Hookey again enjoyed a 100% individual average with his Sandown teammate Mike Turner (83.3%) just pipping Rookley's Paul Morton (82.3%) into second place. Third Division Plessey's Len Royall was the only other 100 per center.

Finals night at the end of the two week festival of table tennis played in April saw Pete Urry of hard bat fame, win the Veteran event; Steve Allwood the first year singles, Alex Rorke the division 4/5 singles and together with Phillip Rorke the doubles.

It has been a long busy summer. first with the preparation of our scheme for youth development which was accepted by the ETTA for a grant from the development fund; then the surprise gift of 4 new tables from John Prean who has not previously taken the National Chairman's honorarium awarded to him but this year asked that it take the form of 4 tables for use amongst juniors and newcomers at the clubs best situated to provide this opportunity. To date Ryde, Newport Vics and Wroxall have taken delivery of these tables and coaching has gone on

apace throughout the hot weather with John joining in and Carl too freely giving of his time when home from Germany. Carl's experience and local fame of course made it easier to persuade the local media to cover our activities.

More good news for the juniors is that our friends and neighbours from across the Solent, Hampshire, accepted both Junior and Cadet Island teams into the Hampshire league; the experience to be gained from an anticipated six trips to Southampton where we shall oppose the big guns of the like of Aldershot, Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Southampton will be invaluable.

As we go to press comes news that the 1992/93 Island games will be held in the Isle of Wight. This competition for Islands throughout Europe, previously held in the likes of Guernsey and Malta and this year in Oland (off the SW coast of Sweden) attracts some 2-3000 athletes of all sports. It may well be 3 years away but much planning will be necessary to ensure that table tennis plays a leading role.

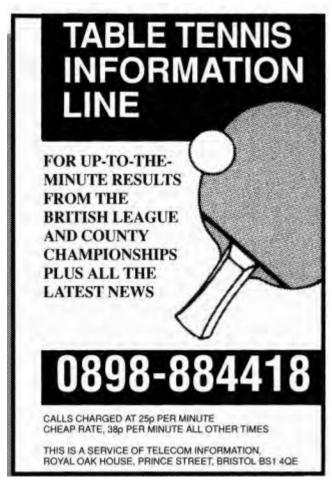
The November issue was short on Island news but reported that Carl was now 23rd in the world rankings:

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL

- Waldner Jan-Ove (SWE)
- Appelgren Mikael (SWE) 2
- 3 Grubba Andrej (POL)
- Persson Jorgen (SWE) 5 Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR)
- Chen Longcan (CHN) 6
- Ma Wenge (CHN) 8 Yu Shentong (CHN)
- Lindh Erik (SWE)
- 10 Rosskopf Jörg (FRG)
- Li Gun Sang (PRK) 11
- 12 Chen Zhibin (CHN)
- Gatien Jean-Philippe (FRA)
- 14 Kim Song Hui (PRK)
- Saive Jean-Michel (BEL) 15
- Kim Taek Soo (KOR) 16
- 17 Primorac Joran (YUG)
- 18 Mazunov Andrei (URS)
- 19 Saito Kiyoshi (JPN)
- 20 Xu Zengcai (CHN)
- 21 Teng Yi (CHN) Lupulesku Ilija (YUG)
- Prean Carl (ENG)

In December John Prean was extolling the virtues of a perfect Christmas present, and, in the days before information was at our fingertips, we could still get up to the minute table tennis results from across the country, at a price:





And finally...

We now have our own IWTTA clothing brand so choosing what to wear for a table tennis match is easy, but in the old days people played in all manner of clothing, however inappropriate and difficult it was.





1901









1945



1950's



1970's



Thank you for reading. The next newsletter will be in April 2023. All contributions are very much appreciated so do please send any suggestions, articles or photos to: deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk