

# Isle of Wight

## Table Tennis League

### November 2018 Newsletter

#### Chairman's message

With the winter league now well underway and dark nights suddenly upon us. I wanted to remind everyone that parking directly on the roadway leading to the centre is not permitted in order to prioritise pedestrian safety. The hot dry summer has taken its toll on the roadway itself and cracks have opened up. Island Speedway are responsible for the roads on the site and have promised to affect repairs and to clearly mark the walkway. In the meantime, please take great care when negotiating the trip to and from the main car park.

The centre now has matches scheduled on a Wednesday and Thursday. Monday evenings have gone a little quieter and Friday night sees the Island Games squad currently practising once a month.

The league has seen some impressive individual performances already with some unexpected results; with more to come I'm sure. Unfortunately, Rookley B have had to withdraw from the competition due to difficulties fielding a team for matches. We hope to see them back next year.

#### League News

##### **Division One**

Ryde A currently lead the table with Shanklin Piranhas a close second, and there have been plenty of close, exciting and high quality matches. Lee Orton continues to lead the players' averages with 100%, with Danny Burns also on 100% but having played slightly fewer games. Ollie, Michael and Don are all on over 90% win average. Danny and young Sean from Vics B have won all their doubles games in some exciting encounters. Junior Champion Hugh from Ryde Royals has made an impressive start to Division One and has won over half of his matches.

##### **Division Two**

A depleted Division Two, owing to Rookley Bees unfortunately having had to retire, has still provided some exciting and hard fought matches, with Havenstreet heading the table with what looks like an unassailable lead, with a couple of teams vying for second place. Alan Hulbert and Dave Rendle are still unbeaten, although they have played fewer matches than Trevor from Vics C who has an average of over 90 percent, having won 11 out of 12 matches.



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## Division Three

This season there are a number of teams vying for the top spot, including Ryde Rockers who currently lead the table, Ryde Revellers, Vics D and Ryde Rapsallions. There have been many hotly contested matches and some superb individual performances. Newcomer Spike Hughes leads the players' averages and is unbeaten, whilst Neil Blake has made a huge improvement in his game to lie second in the averages at over 90%. Other notable performances have come from young Joseph of Ryde Rookies in his first season, Heather and Terence. The award for the most stylish team goes to the Raps with their personalised t-shirts created by Marlene and they really do look good!

## Media Reports

Keep an eye on the County Press as they are publishing regular League reports and weekly results. The County Press website often has a longer report with more photos so do please look on here too. This week we have had a report in the paper and one on the website [here](#).

We will also be sending reports to the Isle of Wight Observer in the future.

I have had some excellent detailed match reports sent to me from Dave at Ryde Royals which have been much appreciated. It would be lovely if other teams could do the same as this makes the reports in the paper more interesting. If you would like to do this please email these to me at the address at the end of the newsletter.

Please also remember that you can add any notes of interest to your score cards when you send them in.

## News

### Tom Johnson's Gold Medal

You may have seen the report in the County Press recently about Tom's successes at the Para Grand Prix Tournament in Southampton in September. He won a gold medal in the open event, beating Class 8 England ranked No.11 Joseph Crouse in 3 straight sets in the final. He also won a bronze medal in his Class 7, where he is currently ranked 9<sup>th</sup> nationally. The next Para Grand Prix tournament is being held this month in St Neots near Cambridge so we wish Tom well and hope he can continue performing well and improving his ranking, which will take him closer to his ambition of being able to represent England in the future. Tom receives subsidised travel from Wightlink and this helps with the cost of travelling to all the tournaments.



### Action Photos Needed for the Media!

You may have already seen my pleas for action photos for the County Press and other news media.

The County Press lost all the recent photos they had in stock when they got taken over by Newsquest a while ago. This means they have photos that are 15-20 years out of date! I know everyone would have looked better but the haircuts might be a bit laughable..... To continue to have reports published we do need action photos, therefore it would be much appreciated if players could take some in the knock ups before games (particularly Division One and Two are required), and with a proper camera if possible.

## Around The Clubs

### **St Lawrence Table Tennis Club**

St. Lawrence Table Tennis Club began in the early 1950's as an indoor games evening for the village. Other games such as darts and cards were included. Eventually it became just table tennis. Back in the 80's Jill Fothergill was in charge. The club thrived and at one time three teams were playing in the league, one of them winning the second division. Some of you may remember Jack Holbrook, Mary Wheeler and Pete Hatcher who played at that time. Nowadays St Lawrence meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2pm till 4pm at St Lawrence Village Hall, at the bottom of Seven Sisters road. The cost is £2.50, refreshments are provided and everyone thoroughly enjoys themselves. Newcomers are welcome.

### **John's Ball Picker** – by Nicky Dando

*Those of you who practise in Ryde on a Wednesday morning or who play in the third division may have noticed that John Penny has a new gadget. It has caused considerable amusement to some who have been intrigued why John has what some think looks like a bird feeder dangling off his belt! But no, it's not a bird feeder, it's a specially adapted ball picker that I ordered and my husband adapted specially for John's birthday in August. John loves it! John has a long standing back injury which causes him to limp and struggle to pick up any table tennis balls from the floor without having a wall or chair to stabilise himself. The last 30cm reach to the floor is very difficult and there had been a few occasions when I feared he would topple. I thought there must be something out there which could help him, so I got busy.....*



*There was nothing on the market which picked up individual table tennis balls. However, when I read the reviews of some golf ball pickers there were some who said it also picked up table tennis balls. It was a very long tube device which had the capacity to pick up 21 golf balls. This seemed to be the best device for John to be able to carry with him while playing, but not at its original length. So I ordered it and then asked my husband to cut it down from 100cm to a more manageable 30cm. I also ordered a retractable reel key ring device with a carabiner belt clip and this attached to the top of the now short ball picker. One final alteration I made was to replace the rubber band that the ball picker came with, which controlled the ball release lever, with a chunky hair tie. This final alteration was needed as some of the reviews reported that the rubber band perished very quickly.*



*John is very happy and can now pick up his own balls! Like most of us he really doesn't like being dependent on anyone. John was hoping that he would not need me or any other lovely, helpful players to field his balls for him during league or competition matches. However, after just a few games he reluctantly accepted that the effort needed for him to walk to the ball and pick it up during matches took too much of his energy and was having a negative impact on his game.*

*So many people have asked John about this device and wanted more information as they knew various players that they felt could benefit from something similar. In discussion with John this seemed like a perfect opportunity to share the details to enable anyone else to make one and for John to be able to extend his heartfelt thanks to so many of you who have volunteered to field for*

*him during matches in the last year or even help him pick up balls during practice sessions. He really has appreciated all your help and despite having this device, he hopes that you will understand that he still would like your continued assistance during any match play.*

[The Golf Klikka Tube Ball Retriever Pick up from Ebay £6.50](#)



[Heavy duty retractable key chain with caribiner clip from Amazon £6.95](#)

Thanks Nicky for taking the time to produce the above article for us. Just for interest here are some pictures of **Barry Joyce's Ball Picker Upper** in action – a bit more primitive as it's made out of a poster tube with a hole cut in the bottom! Barry made it for picking up balls from the robot at Newport Vics Club.



[Nothing better to do Corner.....](#)

Did you know Table Tennis once helped to save the world at the height of the Cold War? Click below to find out how.

[How Ping Pong Diplomacy brought Nixon to China](#)



Thank you for reading and we hope you found the newsletter interesting. Any contributions are always very welcome!

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