

Isle of Wight Table Tennis League

July 2019 newsletter

Chairman's Message

Hello All!

Despite being the "closed" season, there have been a lot of Table Tennis related things going on recently on the Island. Many of us are competing in the ever-growing Summer League, which Mike is organising with his usual dedication, and there's a full report below. Also, our Island Games team had a fun and productive week in Gibraltar, but Dan Burns has provided a comprehensive round-up of that too in this newsletter... So the main two events are being dealt with. Therefore, from me this time, just a reminder that Martin still has a few tickets available for the Presentation Evening on Friday 30th August, and that Mike's programme of banded competitions still progresses through the holidays.

Before I wish you all a fun and relaxing rest-of-summer, I just want to quickly mention another event we have coming up. On Saturday the 17th of August we will have some guests to entertain: two teams from the Sussex Foresters club are coming over for a day's play and a social event in the evening. If you fancy popping in to the Centre to watch some good quality games (which will all be very friendly), please do come along - play will start at 10am.

Best regards,
Alex.

News

Summer League

This year's Summer League has proved to be one of the most enjoyable and closest ever, with just one more League match to play and only a whisker separating the top teams in each group.

Wight Group: - Only 3 points separate the top 6 teams with 3 teams tied at the top on 36 points. The **Old Fossils** have 7 wins and have played one more game but The **Dinosaurs** and **Chessel Potters** both on 8 wins, have a game in hand which is against each other! The **Railway Steamers** are just one point behind the leaders with 10 wins; closely followed by the **Blackgangers** one point behind, and the **Jet Skiers** just one point behind them.

Red Group: - 3 points separate the top 3 teams, all having played the same number of matches. The **Big Cats** on 37 points and 9 wins are just 1 point ahead of the **Pier Ping-Pongers** with 8 wins, who are 2 points clear of the **Sunseekers**, also with 9 wins. However the **Big Cats** and the **Sunseekers** play each other in the final match which could see the **Pier Ping-Pongers** steal first spot.

After the final match there will be a play off between the 2 groups to determine the overall winner and placings. I'm sure all the participants would like to thank Mike for his hard work in putting on the Summer League which has proved so popular and enjoyable.



Island Games



As you will all be aware, our table tennis team have recently Returned from the Island Games in Gibraltar, having gained three medals and fifth place in the team event. This is the Isle of Wight Table Tennis team's best performance for many years. Team Captain Danny (who had the honour of being the Isle of Wight Flag Bearer) sent us regular reports throughout the week, and they are printed in full here as they tell the story of the Games for all the players, and also convey the emotions and team spirit and how much it meant to be able to represent the Island in Gibraltar.



Day One – Team Event

Group of Death

We were drawn with Jersey and Aland who finished 3rd and 5th last time around. First match Aland.

An unbelievable performance from everyone. George won his two singles making it look easy in the process.



George in action

Temeesha played very well in her singles but eventually went down in 4 against the previous winner of the individual competition.

Alex bamboozled their 2nd player with his supreme defence and art of deception.



Ladies doubles - two deuce sets against us decided this. This gave us 3 and one more required for victory.

Anna and Temeesha v Aland

On to the mixed doubles.

Without a shadow of a doubt the best doubles I have ever seen. Unbelievable rallies against the Aland pair that have never lost at an island games! At 5-4 down on the changeover to our weaker order it looked all over. Some incredible shots by Temeesha and a scramble from George at the barriers returning with vicious topspin whilst falling out wide, but somehow managed to get it on with enough power and spin to win the point. We were then 9-6 up....then 9-7. Would nerves set in? NO! We won the next two making it 11-7. An epic victory. We all jumped the barriers and hugged. So, so proud of them all, fantastic atmosphere and a great team spirit.

Second match Jersey

Again we were rank outsiders. Could we do the impossible once again.....?

Both Jersey men play full time in a professional league so this was going to be a tough one even for George. However, after two epic matches he had won one and had lost the other. Both were too strong for Danny who went down 3-0,3-0.

Temeesha played well once again, this time reversing her fortunes with a fabulous 3-0 win against the Jersey lady.

*A five set thriller in the ladies doubles ended in a defeat.
And an overall defeat of 4-3.*

Would we go through now after 2 fantastic performances? It would hinge on Jersey v Aland and we could still win the group or go out on count back depending on their result. Jersey won so we went through as runners up in the group.

The draw had not been kind once again and we then faced Guernsey in the quarters the next day.

Day Two – Team Event

Guernsey match

First up this morning was Guernsey - multiple winners of the team event year after year after year.

George kicked us off with a victory against their number 2. Then Temeesha played out of her skin to smash the Guernsey lady 3-0. She was a previous winner of the games in past years and Temeesha with her use of pimples on the backhand and forehand topspin made it look easy.

We were 2-0 up.



Temeesha on her way to victory

Next up came Simon in his first appearance this year, going down 3-0 to their number 1 player with some great long points along the way.

After another topsy turvy ladies doubles we were pegged back to 2-2.

A fascinating battle between the two numbers ones then ensued in what was a match of unbelievable quality. Seeing the game played like this is like watching another game entirely. A real ding dong of speed and spin with Guernsey taking the victory.

Mixed was to follow and after a brilliant effort they proved just that bit too strong for us. They are champions for a reason but we had them on the run and a little worried early on that's for sure.

Final result 4-2.

The loss to Guernsey means we are now playing for 5th-8th place only.

So on we march to the match against the Faroes.

Faroese match

George kicked us off with yet another victory in record time, quickly followed by Temeesha with another 3-0. We are cooking.

Next up was Alex. Put in the side again to mess up the opponents who are used to the hard spin and pace of the modern players. Aland had exactly the same idea and also played their defensive player. Great minds think alike and all that.

A five set thriller followed with Alex taking the victory in the 5th and we are 3-0 up.

Ladies doubles, yet to record a victory in the previous matches but our girls got it together and played well to win 3-0 and record our first 4-0 match score.



Temeesha, George, Danny, Alex, Simon and Anna after their superb victory against the Faroe Islands

One more to go for final placing. Will it be 5th or 6th....?

Menorca match

George started proceedings for us with the same predictability as other matches. Temeesha then followed with another win taking us in to a 2-0 lead. We've been here before and the result went against us so not counting any chickens...

Alex to play next and after some defensive brilliance succumbed to the Menorca topspin. Match poised at 2-1.

Ladies doubles, took the first end, and in a tense 2 ends we ran out winners.

Temeesha and Anna getting advice from George against Menorca



Only 1 more needed and again we look to our superstar performer. As only he can, with some massive backhands and forehands and some super rallies, he won 3-1 resulting in a 4-1 victory for team IOW and 5th position overall. Unbelievable performance from the team. If we had taken the ladies doubles against Jersey we would have had bronze!!!

Day off

After an incredible team event performance the team were treated to a day off of sightseeing and free time. We went to the top of the rock and explored Gibraltar secrets with our local tour guide Matthew who we met along the way and who proved exceptionally knowledgeable.



Top of the Rock

Day Four – Singles and Doubles

Next day, was the singles and doubles rounds for all and was going to be a long day (11hours in the hall in the end).

Singles

Anna fought bravely in her tough group but sadly lost both her group matches and would progress no further. A valiant effort, and with more practice and experience can win these matches in the future. Watch this space.

Temeesha continued her fine form winning the group and sailed through to the next round on Thursday winning both her games 3-0, 3-0 and not dropping a set.

Alex fought well in his group eventually coming second in the group and progressing to the next round with 1 victory, 1 loss, this time the chopper from the Faroes getting his revenge from the team stages.

Simon found himself also in a tough group and with a nail biting performance marches towards the second round with 1 victory, 1 loss.

George, well, George did what George does and won 2-0 to lead the group but it was by no means straightforward. The man from Menorca proved a titanic struggle and George finally walked out the winner in a 5th set battle 18-16 with George saving 6 match points in the process. That boy has balls of steel. There were some incredible rallies and Alex described it as the best singles match he has ever seen.



Simon and George

Danny also won the group with an easy victory against Leigh from Cayman and another 3-2 classic, coming from 2 down and eventually taking victory 11-9 in the 5th against the man from Gotland who has vicious serves and even more vicious pimples.



Danny in action

Ladies doubles

They were drawn in a group of 4 and played well to smash the Jersey girls this time around, exacting revenge for the team event doubles with a comfortable 3-1 victory. They lost to Gotland next and Jersey beat Gotland so they found themselves in a 3 way tie and going out on count back.

Men's doubles

Alex and Simon playing for the first time together, never showed their opponents any glimmer of hope, winning both their matches and moving towards the next rounds.

George and Danny, again playing with each other for the first time, found an easy win against Gibraltar but were involved in another 5 setter against the Gotland pairing, the Islanders eventually taking the 5th and topping the group.

Day Five – Singles and Doubles knockout rounds

Well, another day, another 11 hour shift for the team!!! Did someone say this was gonna be fun! The day kicked off the knockout rounds for all competitions.

Singles

Alex was drawn against the Gotland number 1 and even stole a set before losing 4-1 to a great player.

Simon and George had sadly been drawn against each other and in what was a light hearted affair George ran out a winner but not before Simon had smashed a few past his team mate and shot him a few looks of disdain mixed with respect and appreciation especially when he whipped one round the net to win a point!

Danny had drawn a man from Jersey in the last 32, a chopper come attacker. After a tense 4 games the Burns forehand proved too strong for the defence running out a 4-0 winner and in to the last 16.

George then played a young talented player from the Faroes who played well to win a set but ultimately George proved too strong and won 4-1.

Next up for Danny was Dodds from Guernsey, always a semi finalist or finalist and far too strong for Danny winning comfortably 4-0.

George up again against Joshua Lawrence from Guernsey. An incredible game awaited the crowd including members of the IOW team who came to support. Our man George was not in the mood to be messed with and with a combination of touch, speed and spin took home the win 4-0. The power he has is frightening.

Into the semis for George tomorrow.

Temeesha was then up in her singles matches and after being seeded received a bye in to the next round. Against a large crowd of local Gibraltarians making a lot of noise Temeesha ran out the winner and silenced the home favourite. Safely through to the next round against the Greenland number 1.

An epic 7th setter awaited with a real back and forward game of hard hitting and touch play, eventually the girl from Greenland taking the victory in the 7th and ending hopes of a singles medal for Temeesha. Unbelievably proud of her and the way she has played and conducted herself this week. Fantastic performances.

Mixed doubles

George and Temeesha showed real skill and determination to beat both pairs from the Faroe Islands only dropping one set. Semi finals for them tomorrow

Danny and Anna drawn against the number one pair from Jersey, played well but ultimately not consistent enough to win and lost 3-1 and out.

Men's doubles

Simon and Alex were up first against a cracking pairing from Caymans. Over the last few games we have become real friends with the players from there but only respect was to be shown on the court. After a tense incredible game the Island pair went down 3-2. A brave effort for the pair that before the games had never played together.



Simon and Alex



George and Danny left to go. First up was a pair from Faroe Islands, after some good rallies the Island boys romped home 3-0 and marched toward the quarterfinals. Next up was the pair from Aland. The big left handed forehand of Pettersson was a real danger and could scupper our chances of getting on the podium. Not this time though, the Island boys showed no mercy and were relentless with their hard hitting topspin to win 3-0 and in to the semis.....

Danny and George fighting through to the semis

What can tomorrow bring in the mixed, men's doubles and George in the men's singles? Do we dare to believe? All will be tough games with the men left being full time professionals but.....to be continued....

Final Day

Semis and Finals

Well the intense week is nearly over. Last day and medal places to be determined.

First up this morning were George and Danny in the men's doubles semi. Up against the number one pair from Jersey. 1 nil down in sets and 8-8 in the second. First the Jersey pair got a net and then followed this with an outrageous edge and with it they took the 2nd. After a brave effort we lost 3-0 but gained a bronze medal.

Next up were George and Temeesha in the mixed semi against Gotland. After some delicate play and Temeesha using the pimples to full effect followed up by the power shots from George the Islanders ran out 3-1 winners and in to the final against the same pair from Aland they beat in the team event. Could the gold be theirs?

George and Temeesha in the final



A thriller awaited in the final. Some excellent play from both sides and it was not disappointing one bit. A tense nail biting game with some great rallies, it all came down to a 5th and final end. We were down 5-2 at the change over, we've been here before.....this time however the Aland pair closed out the set and with it the match and retained their gold medal. Silver for our outstanding pair.

Men's singles awaited for George against Gary Dodd from Guernsey. Our man went in to a flying lead only to be pegged back, eventually taking the 1st set in an exhausting game that ended 12-10. Would you believe it but the fire alarm then sounded for the next 20 mins and while there was no fire there was chaos in the hall while people figured out how to make it stop. This seemed to really distract George who then lost the next 2 sets quickly and never really regained the focus he had in the first set and a half when leading. Eventually he lost 4-1, receiving yet another bronze.

Final thoughts

An incredible week for us all as a team. Long days starting at 9 until 7 or 8 every day except the day off. A holiday this was not! 3 medals overall, 2 bronze and 1 silver.

Some superstar performances from George winning 12/10 in the team event and Temeesha only losing the 1.

If we had one the ladies doubles against Jersey in the team we would have been guaranteed a medal in the team event and this would have been just rewards for our efforts. It wasn't to be so 5th place it was. Much better than the 9th we finished in Gotland.

A minimum of bronze would also have been deserved for Temeesha who has played tremendously throughout.

With some more practice and greater experience can we go even better next time around in Guernsey? Bring on 2021!!!!



Our Isle of Wight Table Tennis Team Medal Winners

More photos and video can be seen here

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/IsleOfWight/Pages/Gallery>

Thank you to Anna, George, Alex, Temeesha, Simon and Danny for your magnificent efforts in representing our Island in Gibraltar and congratulations on your success.

Community Action Awards 2019

The IWTTA came second in the Sport category of the Community Action Awards 2019, and Martin and Heather went along to collect the award and £150 prize money. The committee would like to ask the members for suggestions on using this money to help the community in some way eg by holding an open day, offering free/subsidised coaching etc. We would welcome any ideas you may have to use this money in the best way possible. Please send suggestions to: alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk or bring them into the centre.

Newport Vics Table Tennis Club

Newport Vics are one of the oldest clubs on the Island and have been experiencing difficulties lately, with a largely increased rent at their venue at Recreation Ground in Newport, along with a drop in player numbers. **They urgently need a Division One player for the new season, plus a Division Three standard player.** If you know anyone who would be interested in playing, but are lacking a team, please get in touch with Barry Joyce on: **07597 094355.**



Proposed New Sports Facility at Smallbrook

You may already know of the proposed new sports facility to be sited at Smallbrook Stadium and to include an ice rink, tennis courts and other facilities. The committee feel that this can only be positive for the Table Tennis Centre, with the possibility of improved public transport and an increase in the number of people coming to Smallbrook to take part in sporting activities. If you wish to make a comment on the IW Council Planning website go to: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/planning/> Once on the site, click on 'Planning Applications submitted from 1st April 2019' and then type 'Smallbrook' in the Search box. You will then be able to make a comment on the Planning Application.

From the Archives

In our regular look through the old issues of the English Table Tennis Association magazine we reach the 1960's. This decade appeared to be very unsuccessful for Isle of Wight table tennis.

In January 1960 young Derek Grant had his first mention:

November 1-3. Twenty-two trainees, including Club leaders, received practical and theoretical instruction in Table Tennis during the Residential Course of the Isle of Wight Youth Service at Shanklin. Instructors: E. Grant (Diploma candidate), assisted by Derek Grant, last year's junior International player.

Unfortunately, child protégée Derek Grant then moved away from the Island and we could no longer bask in his reflected glory. Most of the mentions of the Island were showing us slipping down the ranks of the table tennis Leagues....

In May 1962 the League tables were printed, showing us languishing at the bottom of Hampshire League Division One.

HAMPSHIRE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION						
INTER-TOWN LEAGUE COMPETITION						
1961/62						
FINAL LEAGUE TABLES 1961/62						
DIVISION I (Kilner Cup)						
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Portsmouth	10	10	—	—	79	31 20
Bournemouth	10	8	—	2	82	28 16
*Southampton 'B'	9	5	—	4	54	45 10
*Southampton 'A'	9	4	—	5	56	43 8
Winchester	10	2	—	8	33	77 4
Isle of Wight	10	—	—	10	95	15 —

* One match declared void

In the November 1962 issue it showed that we were at least trying to improve things by sending our coaches to a special coach's course held in Southampton.

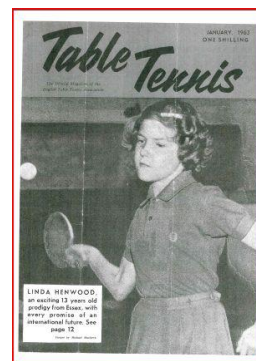
HAMPSHIRE HAPPENINGS An extension of coaching activities throughout Hampshire should be the outcome of a special coaches' course held at the 'Southampton T.T.A. and Schools' coaching centre at Mount Pleasant School, Southampton, on September 29-30. Conducted by Jack Carrington, the E.T.T.A. national coach, it was attended by 26 coaches from Aldershot, Basingstoke, Bournemouth, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton.

PERSONAL
ARE YOU LONELY? In "Three Steps Forward to Happiness", Mutual Happiness Bureau (Regd.) can help table tennis players aged 18-80. A "mixed doubles partnership. Details. Confidential. S.a.e. Write.—Fort, "Bythorne House", Giche Ave., Ickenham, Middlesex.

To cheer us up there was a Lonely Hearts Ad aimed at table tennis players aged 18-80! (Something to resurrect in the newsletter perhaps...)

The Newsletter now cost a shilling and was published regularly during the season.

The January 1963 issue focused on youth and a National Coaching Programme for youngsters was held on the Island, and in April our coaches met again under the expert eye of Jack Carrington.



All this coaching must have been helping us improve surely... It seems not, as in May 1963 we were now languishing near the bottom of Hampshire League Division Two:

DIVISION II (Cooper Cup)						
Bournemouth	.....	14	12	2	0	137 31 26
South E. Hants.	...	14	9	4	1	119 49 22
Aldershot 'A'	.....	14	8	1	5	99 69 17
Basingstoke	.....	14	7	3	4	89 79 17
Gosport 'A'	.....	14	6	4	4	89 79 16
Aldershot 'B'	.....	14	3	2	9	64 104 8
Isle of Wight	.....	14	3	0	11	57 111 6
Gosport 'B'	.....	14	0	0	14	18 150 0



"SHE'LL PLAY MUCH BETTER IN 'LOUIS HOFFMAN' CLOTHING"

Not much good news there then, but there were always the politically incorrect adverts to enjoy.

Don't worry if that's not your cup of tea because we had this one in the next issue.

"I WISH SOMEONE HAD BOUGHT ME LOUIS HOFFMAN CLOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS."

MacLaren

In October 1966 the format changed to a newspaper style – perhaps this was cheaper to produce:

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association		
Edited by GEORGE YATES		
No. 1.	OCTOBER, 1966.	Price 1/-

There were few mentions of the Island until the end of the 60's, except items on a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Club tournament where it appeared we didn't do very well, and more coaching news. Then in March 1969 there was a report on the British Hovercraft Open Tournament:

SMITH "SKIMS" TO VICTORY

Pete Smith (Southampton) won the men's singles at the British Hovercraft 1'.1'. Club's Open Tournament at East Cowes, Isle of Wight, beating **N. Badcock (Shanklin)** 6, 14 in the final. There were 97 entries and other events resulted: **W.S. K. Pierce (Sandown)** bt V. Cherriman (Soton) 14, 15. **M.D. Smith/R. Hayter (Newport Vics.)** bt **Badcock/D: Ferguson (Shanklin)** 18, 14. W.D. Cherriman/Pierce bt **J. Attrill /J. Stone (Shanklin)** 17, 17.

Perhaps some of you have memories of the Island players mentioned?

It does seem that the Isle of Wight table tennis scene was slipping into oblivion during the 1960's. However, would anything happen in the 1970's to change all that? We find out next time....

Anne's Table Tennis Alphabet

by Nicky Dando

I regularly have a dear friend from the mainland come and stay with me. Anne is a very active 82 year old retired teacher and special school Governor. She doesn't play table tennis but does know how much I enjoy table tennis and is very much aware of the role it has played in my rehabilitation and enforced early retirement.

Anne always wants to see me practise at St Lawrence and any matches I may now be playing in Ryde. Anne is a very sociable person and over the years has enjoyed chatting to any players who stopped to chat to her.

After a long evening (wrapped in a blanket and clutching a hot water bottle) watching a night of matches in Ryde last winter, she regaled my husband in the joy of her exciting evening and the "amazing skills" she had observed. In the morning she handed me an old envelope covered in writing and said her brain was in overdrive when she went to bed and she had written an A-Z of all the skills and behaviours she had seen. The list is so extensive that I feel it should be shared with you all, as it is about us all and the sport that we love. Have a read through. I hope you enjoy it.

Nicky Dando

Anne's Table Tennis Alphabet

- A** Agility, attitude, approachability, advice
- B** Balance, bounce
- C** Concentration, confidence, coaching, consideration, camaraderie
- D** Determination, dedication
- E** Effort, energy, engagement, enthusiasm, enjoyment
- F** Focus, fairness, friendliness
- G** Gesture, greeting
- H** Hospitality, hope, helpfulness, happiness
- I** Inspiration, interest, illness, interaction
- J** Joyfulness, jollity, jovial, joining-in
- K** Knowledge, kindness
- L** Leadership, looking, listening, laughter
- M** Movement, mobility, motivation
- N** Notices, nurturing

O Observation, organisation, objectives
P Progress, politeness, positivity, participation
Q Questions, questioning
R Rules, response, rehabilitation, results, recording
S Sportsmanship, scores, spin, stamina, sharing, socialising
T Teamwork, training, top-spin,
U Upbeat, understanding, umpire
V Volley, visitors, voices
W Watching, waiting, winning streak!
X ?!
Y Youthfulness
Z Zest

Thanks to Nicky for this interesting and entertaining article. I think we can all identify with Anne's observations on table tennis and what it means to us. Thank you Anne!

And Finally...



Isle of Wight Dog Table Tennis Team
(Barry Joyce's dogs getting in the Island Games spirit)

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