

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

Bribar
Table Tennis

DON'T BET ON LUCK.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The second half of the league is now well underway and the response to our first eNewsletter was so encouraging that we have decided to keep them coming a little more frequently than initially planned whilst we have plenty to say.

The Management Committee has seen another change recently with Pauline Rorke standing down as Tournaments Office and Mike Prior taking the role. I would like to thank Pauline for her contribution and to Mike for stepping in at very short notice.

The Management Committee meet every month and if you haven't looked at the issued minutes, you may wonder what on earth we talk about. So, I've picked three items that we are currently addressing:

- * The lease on our Table Tennis Centre expires within the next 12-months and we are making all efforts to securing another significant term. This is already an option within the current legal framework and is really important to ensure that things continue as they are and we can all benefit from the superb improvements made down at the centre.
- * We have begun planning for the 2017-2018 season of events. It is our goal to have this defined and published well in advance to ensure that everyone is well informed and tournaments don't become last minute arrangements.
- * Finally, we are putting in place a set of job role and descriptions to make it clear what each role on the Management Committee entails and how much time needs to be devoted to fulfil it. I am hoping this will clarify the workshare between committee members and make it easier for new people joining.

In the meantime, enjoy your table tennis.

John Cornforth



**Knowles
Cup**

**Results
&
Fixtures**

Update & news in brief

Whilst the [website](#) provides all the stats and percentages, we'd like to feature some of the outstanding performances, gossip, incidents of note and fun moments from

matches. For example, Bernie Forward's fantastic hat-trick in Div 2 against Newport Vics C. That evening Bernie sent me the scorecard with the attached message: "Yeah!"

Let us know about players returning to the game (Bill Paul, Julie Thorn, Matt Mair), new players to the league (Carl Bridgeman) and new teams (Shalfleet).

Rookley's Tom Johnson has entered a National Handicapped Tournament being held in Grantham in April. Tom has been practising and honing his game with Simon Proffitt and is going to St Neots for some specialised coaching in preparation for the tournament. We wish Tom all the best and well done Simon for giving coaching support.

Serious training is now underway for the Island games table-tennis team. To [sponsor](#). We hope to feature updates & progress in forthcoming newsletters

Congratulations to Martin Dove who was nominated for the Contribution to Table Tennis Award in The Pride of Table Tennis awards 2016 run by Table Tennis England.

Well done to Peter Clarke who retained his Super Vets title beating Matt Mair in a closely contested final.

Temeesha Hobbs has been selected as a finalist in the 'Intermediate Girls' category of the 2016 [Isle of Wight Sports Achievement Awards](#). The Awards ceremony will take place on the evening of Thursday 16th March 2017 at the Medina Theatre. Well done & good luck Temeesha

Top tips, coaching & other sources of good info.

I asked around for some coaching tips. Dan Burns was kind enough to provide the following:

- * You can't beat your opponent if you don't first beat the net.....!
- * Most younger players play with a bat that is too fast for them and they have no control. They think the speed and power comes from the bat, it actually comes from the legs, arm, wrist etc....just about everything but the bat!
- * We used to have saying of "spin to win" as it is this along with placement that wins points, not how hard you can hit it. The harder you hit it the higher the risk of you missing it becomes.

There are some really helpful table tennis websites – again thanks to Dan for pointing me in the direction of: <http://www.tabletenniscoach.me.uk/newsletter/> - this is well worth checking out.

Most of our top players are happy to give some table time to those wishing to improve their game. Many players can benefit from 30 mins knock-up with a better player. It all comes down to practice! There are 3 evenings a week plus Wednesday morning availability at Smallbrook in addition to individual club nights around the Island. It's also worth checking with [Martin Dove](#) on the availability of hiring Smallbrook for an hour or so at non-table-tennis times.

Please send in any more "top tips" that we can pass on.

Contact [Mike Prior](#) and [Don Hobbs](#) for 1-1 coaching.

Past & Present.

Island table-tennis has a rich history.

Looking at the 3 divisions we have now, it is amazing to think that back in the 1970's & 80's there were 7 divisions with over 14 teams in each division.



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Many of today's clubs had over 12 teams. Teams such as Sandown, Wroxall, Columbia, Cowes, Boys Brigade teams, GKN have disappeared but some of those who played for these teams are still playing and are a link to an era of character, fun, gamesmanship and genuine competitiveness.

20 minutes in the company of Roger Hookey, a multi Island table-tennis champion and serial winner served to remind me of a past that we shouldn't forget.

Now still winning Division One titles with Newport A, Roger started off with Sandown Boys Brigade and joined the Sandown Club when it was based in the Church Hall opposite what is now The Heights, with club nights on Thursday and Saturday.

Roger played with and remembers such players as Kathy Pearce, Brian Pearce, Rose Grimaldi, Jack Lofthouse, Paul & John Oatley, Phil Attrill He also recalls the Shanklin side that won 9 Division 1 titles in a row.

Roger was part of a Sandown team that won the 1st Division title in 1983 at Brading Town Hall, beating Jim Daly for the first time and pipping Ryde to the title.

Sandown ended up playing everywhere but Sandown! Brading, Lake, Newchurch were all "home" before the club eventually folded. Roger said that everyone got older together and drifted away from the game. This is a poignant reminder of how important it is to foster a club identity and encourage new members – especially younger members. Some clubs currently do this better than others....

We are where we are because of the past. Legacies such as those of clubs like Sandown shouldn't be allowed to fade. Roger and others (Steve White, Mike Turner, Chris Angus etc) are active reminders of a once vibrant Island Table Tennis culture. It is down to all of us to ensure that legacy stays alive and is used to lay the foundations for the continued future of Island table-tennis.

Future editions will look at more clubs and players past & present. Feel free to send in your memories of past clubs, characters and incidents as well as news on new clubs and current clubs. Photos are welcome.

**Please
send
match
scores
&
score-
cards
to
Ian
&
Richard**

Did You Know?

* Table-Tennis as we know it today started in the late 1880's in England

* The International Governing Body and the official rules of Table Tennis were formulated in 1926. We don't know if Mike Prior was involved!!

* Table Tennis is the most popular indoor sport in the world.

And finally...

Table-Tennis Top Ten: Songs inspired by our sport...

Bat out of Hell – Meatloaf

Big Balls – AC/DC

Living on the edge – Aerosmith

Nevill Gate Drive – Suzi Quatro

Maggie (Preston) May – Rod Stewart

Wings of a (Martin) Dove – Madness

I lost my heart to a Shalfleet Trooper – Sarah Brightman & Hot Gossip

Missed Again – Phil Collins

(Joola)Flash – Queen

If you have any more ...please keep them to yourself!!



**World War II
Air Crashes
here on the
Island**



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