

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No. 10 – SEPTEMBER 2009

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

So we're nearly approaching the start of another Wealden League season, Summer is nearing it's end, we've enjoyed holidays - I hope - despite the rather changeable weather at times and I've realised it's now time to put together another Newsletter.

This issue includes a full report on our Club Tournament, there's the "From the Past" feature and the Player Profile spotlights Gary Smith. How much longer can you escape this publicity!

Don't forget to keep in touch with current events and news by looking at both the club website and the club noticeboard in the Jarvis Brook hall. The website (address above) has lots of useful information. Ray Potheary continues to keep it up-to-date when the Committee give him the information to do so!

We hope that members will still enjoy their table tennis whether playing competitively in the League or socially on Fridays.

CLUB NIGHTS

The Friday sessions continue to be very well supported. These take place at the Scout & Guide HQ in Jarvis Brook between 8pm and 10pm each week.

Monday evenings are also available for more serious practice, but will stop as soon as the League season starts.

CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Monday, 15 June. The attendance was disappointingly low, but all the major committee positions were filled and the Club's financial position remains very good.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder to those who haven't yet paid that subscriptions and membership forms are now overdue. Forms and cheques should be sent, as soon as possible, to Phil Wilmowski or me. Many thanks.

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2009/10

The season gets underway in the week commencing 28 September and we are, again, entering three teams. We had hoped to be able to increase our teams by one, but this has not been possible.

The teams are:

"A" - Mick Derbyshire (Captain), Michael Gaughan, John Neal and Clive Chatfield.

"B" - Bob Fordham (Captain), Chris Buck, Mike Skinner and Gary Smith.

"C" - John Sidey (Captain), Nick Dawson, Philip Boghurst and Tim Mann.

Reserves - Greg Savva and Ray Potheary.

The League Republic website is much improved this season and will be kept more up-to-date with results. There is also a lot more information to access, so it is well worth a look from time to time. Try www.wttl2009.leaguerepublic.com

FROM THE PAST

Scorecard 1976/77 Season:

Playing in Division Four of the Tunbridge Wells League, Mick Denness (Vice-President) achieved an average of 66.67% and Bill Abbott 58.33%.

Scorecard 23/1/79:

Clive Chatfield beat Bill Abbott 21-12, 21-15 in a Tunbridge Wells League fixture.

2001 Club Tournament:

Michael Gaughan/Chris Reynolds were victorious in the Doubles Event with a close 22-20, 21-18 win over the Mick Derbyshire/Mike Gorman pairing.

Scorecard 4/1/83:

Tim Hanford, now playing for Hailsham in the Eastbourne League, lost to John Sidey 20-22, 9-21 in the TW League.

CLUB TOURNAMENT 2009

The Club's Annual Tournament took place over three evenings in June and comprised Open Singles, Handicap Singles, Handicap Doubles and Consolation Events.

The Open Singles had eight entries and was very competitive, being played on a pool basis. Gary Smith, Michael Gaughan, Nick Dawson and Philip Boghurst progressed to the semi-finals where Michael eased past Philip 11-5, 13-11, 11-3 and Gary had to fight harder to get the better of Nick in four sets, 16-14 in the last. Newcomer Greg Savva put up some good performances, despite not winning any matches at the pool stage, including a narrow 3-2 defeat at the hands of eventual semi-finalist Philip.

The Oliver Challenge Cup, for the Handicap Singles, has been played for since 1950 and had a good entry of 14, including four of our newer lady social members. Both Mick Derbyshire and Michael Gaughan won their groups, to progress to the quarter-finals, despite being on scratch (0). Bill Abbott (13) and Philip Boghurst (12) were the other group winners. Within the groups Jan Obey (26) had good wins over both Philip and Bridget Bray (23) and narrowly lost to Tim Mann (11) 32-30. In the semi-finals Jan, making full use of her handicap, had an excellent win over Michael by 31-23 and Mick beat John Sidey (9) 31-24 to set up an intriguing final between the top and bottom handicap players.

In the Handicap Doubles group stage, the Hazel Burr/Jan Obey (24) partnership playing well off their handicap won Group 'A' with two good wins whilst the scratch pairing of Michael Gaughan/Mick Derbyshire (0) took Group 'B', which included a 32-30 success over Bridget Bray/Jane Blandford (25). A hard fought first semi-final saw Bill Abbott/Greg Savva (13) edge through to the final, with a 32-30 win over Hazel/Jan, where they will meet Michael/Mick, who beat TimMann/Gary Smith (10) in the other semi-final.

A Consolation Event was held for those not getting through the group stages from both the Open and Handicap Singles. Close matches in the quarter-finals saw Greg Savva (13) beat Bridget Bray (23) by 31-28, John Sidey (9) just get the better of Gary Smith (8) by 31-29 and Bill Abbott (13) overcome Hazel Burr (23) by 31-28. The semis saw Greg and John win through to the final with victories over Tim Mann and Bill Abbott respectively.

Unfortunately finals night could not be held on the arranged date and will now take place on Friday, 2 October, within a normal Club Night. Find out who the winners are and read a further report in the next issue.

"50" CLUB

Winners:

MAY	£20	No. 16
JUNE	£20	No. 18
JULY	£15	No. 9
SEPT	£20	No. 20

PLAYER PROFILE

GARY SMITH

[How and when did you start playing?](#)

My Dad used to play TT many moons ago so I suppose that was a good reason to start picking up a bat. I attended a TT training school at a place called Tarland in Hawkenbury and was taught by two very large ladies. I played for my school team but never really mastered all the skills of the game but have enjoyed playing over the past 43 years.

[What leagues have you played in?](#)

I think it was the Tonbridge league I originally played in with a team called Wallace & Tiernan. That brings back memories as I used play with my Dad and one of my brothers. We did pretty well as a family team. As most of you know I have also played in the Wealden league.

[What has been your best individual win?](#)

One year when he hosted the Montargis TT team from France at our old Crowborough venue we wrapped up the week-end at a local pub and, following plenty of food and drink, we ventured into a miniature TT knock out on a one-metre

table and three-inch bats where upon I reached the final and then beat their number 1 player! (ED. I remember it well, it was at the Junction Inn in Groombridge).

[Your best moment in TT?](#)

I think I would have to say beating Nick Dawson in this year's club tournament to get to the final in the open singles. Not even his almighty back-hand strokes could save him.

[Your worst moment in TT?](#)

Yeah,.... getting beaten by Hazel and her partner in the handicap doubles, but I must add they played very well.

[Any TT "honours"?](#)

Nope, never really got the hang of it, winning a Tournament that is !!

[Interests outside TT?](#)

I play Tennis 3 hours a week with friends and family as it helps keep me fit and subtle. I also play golf badly but getting better finding the little balls in the long grass and woodlands.

[Anything else of interest?](#)

I would just like to say a thank you for the warm welcome back to this club having been away for many years and I am sure you will all join me in wishing a speedy recovery to Bill Abbott.

CLUB SHIRTS

Your committee is looking into the possibility of introducing a new shirt with new logo to commemorate the Club's 60 years since it was formed - watch this space!

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