

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

www.crowboroughttc.org.uk

NEWSLETTER No. 11 – DECEMBER 2009

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the 11th issue of the Newsletter. Included this time are reports on our Club Tournament Finals Night, a review of the Wealden League season so far, there's "From the Past ...", the Player Profile spotlights Michael Gaughan and a new feature is "Quotes from the Media".

As always don't forget to keep in touch with what's happening both in the Club and the League by looking at our website, the League Republic website and the club notice board in the Jarvis Brook hall.

The committee take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for a peaceful and successful 2010.

CLUB SHIRTS

Your committee has decided to order new Club shirts complete with new logo (designed by Bill Abbott) to reflect the fact that the Club was founded in 1948. The new design can be seen on our website and also on the Notice Board at Jarvis Brook. It is hoped that all team members will buy one and, hopefully, social players as well – we will look smart!

The current shirt is now 10 years old and the logo was designed by Roger Bacon – thanks Roger, it lasted well.

We are presently getting quotes and will then circulate details, so you can place your order.

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2009/10

As we approach the half-way point of the season all our teams are doing well with our "A" side heading the league with 223 points from eight games, 38 points in front of Broad Oak "A" who have played one match more. The "B" team currently lie in 4th place with 145 points, but with matches in hand over all the teams above them. In 5th place are our "C" team on 139 points having played nine games but more than the teams immediately below.

Notable results have been the "C"s 24-13 success over Ridegwood "A" and a close 21-19 defeat against Herstmonceux "A", whilst the "B" team have had three close victories over Broad Oak "A" 23-21, Five Ashes "A" 21-19, Ridgewood "A" 19-18 and then completed a Ridgewood double by beating their "B" side 21-16. Our "A" side are undefeated and the closest result was their 22-14 win over Broad Oak "A". In the recent derby match they beat the "C" team 28-8, with Nick Dawson gaining the "C"s only success.

Individually it's close at the top with Mick Derbyshire (8.62), Michael Gaughan (8.50), John Neal (8.25), Gary Smith (8.12) and Nick Dawson (6.89) leading the way – (all out of a maximum of nine).

It's great that the League Republic website is working as it should and is up-to-date with results and statistics. It's worth a look from time-to-time to see the current positions of our teams.

www.wttl2009.leaquerepublic.com

PTO

FROM THE PAST

Scorecard 14/10/97:

The Editor had a close 21-16, 15-21, 21-19 success over Roger Bacon in an all Crowborough clash in the Wealden League.

1988/89 Season:

Clive Chatfield, then playing for Langton Green in the TW League, had an average of 64.28% in Division Two.

Scorecard 4/1/1983:

John Sidey beat Keith Dixon 21-18, 16-21, 21-13 in an all Crowborough encounter in the TW League.

Scorecard January 1997:

In yet another all Crowborough match, Gary Smith got the better of Mike Gorman by 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

1990/91 Tunbridge Wells Season:

Manny Godfrey (our Auditor) achieved an average of 36.84% in Division Three.

CLUB TOURNAMENT 2009

Finals Night took place, rather belatedly, on November 13 when three finals were keenly contested.

Michael Gaughan took the Ewen Cup for the fifth time in its history, having previously won the Open Singles event in 1994, 1997, 1998 and ten years ago in 1999. Gary Smith put up a good fight before going down by three sets to one, 11-8, 11-4, 8-11, 11-7.

The Handicap Singles saw Jan Obey (26) victorious over Mick Derbyshire (0) by 31-26. In a keenly contested match Jan just held out as Mick attempted to come back from his scratch handicap.

The Consolation Event took place between Greg Savva (13) and John Sidey (9), and was also a handicap event. In a fairly tight match, John won by 31-26.

We hope to play the Doubles Final between Michael Gaughan/Mick Derbyshire and Bill Abbott/Greg Savva as soon as Bill is fit again.

CLUB NIGHTS

It is still great to report that the Friday sessions continue to be very well supported. As most of you know these take place at the Scout & Guide HQ in Jarvis Brook between 8pm and 10pm each week.

QUOTES FROM THE MEDIA

Table Tennis Can Reduce Stress Levels:
The BBC reported on how the London offices at Google have a games room for employees to help them relax and feel valued. A game of table tennis can help to reduce stress levels and even make employees more productive, making it very beneficial for businesses. (ED. Well do you find it stress free?)

The Times magazine has recently suggested that table tennis is now "cool, if in a geeky way"! Apparently there has been a boom in New York, which has attracted celebrity enthusiasts included Susan Sarandon and Matthew Broderick, and now East End bars have followed suit and installed ping pong tables. The owner of one bar has said that "table tennis lets you socialise, and you don't even need to be any good to enjoy it".

PLAYER PROFILE

MICHAEL GAUGHAN

How and when did you start playing?

As a 14 year old in 1977. Our secondary school were the Ireland Schools champions so it was a big sport in the school. I was hooked immediately.

What leagues have you played in?

Leinster, Dublin Business Houses, Cardiff, City Insurance League, Bristol, West Wiltshire, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead and Wealden. (ED. An impressive list!)

What has been your best individual win?

There are a few contenders for this. In the Dublin Business Houses league Open Singles in 1984 I was 20-15 down in the third in the Quarter Final but came back to win. I went on to win the tournament. Also, my first U-21 ranking tournament win against my club mate Eamon Kearney in the final. The prize money (in addition to the trophy of course) was £15 and we spent it on Fish & Chips on the way home.

Any TT "honours"?

Various. Irish Schools champion x 2 (Team), Irish National Community Games Gold Medal 1978, a few ranking tournaments at U-21 level, Club Champion wins at Bristol and Crowborough and various league wins in different divisions in Leinster League and Tunbridge Wells league.

Interests outside TT?

I try to play Golf and tennis as often as I can, which in reality means 5 to 10 times a year.

Your best moment in TT?

Possibly winning the Wealden tournament this year bearing in mind it was my first year back after a long break. Also, winning the national championship for your school is pretty special as well. It was also a pleasure to represent Crowborough against Montargis (Crowborough's Twin Town in France) a number of times.

Your worst moment in TT?

My first match in the top division in Leinster League in the early 1980's. I lost my three games and it was a real eye opener to a different level.

Anything else of interest?

I somehow seem to be still playing pretty well despite my advancing years. I am now a veteran! Also, I am still playing with Sriver rubber some 30 years after I started the sport.

"50" CLUB

Winners:		
OCTOBER	£20	No. 7
NOVEMBER	£15	No. 25
DECEMBER	£40	No. 9

Thanks for your support again this year and look out for Entry Forms for 2010 coming out next February.

EDITOR: John Sidey
01892 654306 - john@sidey.net