

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

www.crowboroughttc.org.uk

NEWSLETTER No. 12 – FEBRUARY 2010

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The 12th issue of the Newsletter hopes, as usual, to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in the Club and includes the usual features. Thanks to John Neal for agreeing to feature in the Player Profile feature.

I hope you survived the snowy weather in January and kept warm, but one consequence was the cancellation of the annual Wealden Tournament, which will now take place at the end of the season.

CLUB SHIRTS

Attached is an order form for the new Club Polo with design by Bill Abbott. We hope that you will want one; particularly league players but "Friday-nighters" as well. You can see the design on the form, the website and the club notice board in Jarvis Brook.

Please return with your payment as soon as possible so that we can place the order. This can also be done by putting your name on the list on the notice board at Jarvis Brook.

CLUB TOURNAMENT 2009

With Bill Abbott fit again, the outstanding Doubles Final between Michael Gaughan/Mick Derbyshire and Bill /Greg Savva was played on 22 January. Despite having to give a 13 start to Bill & Greg, the two "M's" ran out the victors in the one set by 31-26.

"50" CLUB

The 2010 Entry Form is also enclosed with this Newsletter. The closing date is 30 March.

Many thanks for your continuing, and maybe new support, which brings in valuable extra income and enables the Club to provide new equipment, etc.

FROM THE PAST

1976/77 Season:

Mick Chewter, our Club President, achieved a very respectable 58.73% average in Division Three of the Tunbridge Wells League.

Scorecard 13/10/1987:

John Sidey had a three-set win over Tim Hanford by 23-21, 18-21, 21-10.

1993/94 Season:

In Division Three, Peter MacDonald had a great season finishing with an average of 82.45%.

1977/78 Tunbridge Wells Season:

Bill Abbott had an impressive 76.19% average when playing in Division Four.

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.

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2009/10

The second half of the season is now underway with all our teams getting good early wins; the "A" side chalking up 29-8 and 26-10 victories over Broad Oak "C" and Ridgewood "A", the "B"s 26-11 and 26-10 successes over Ridgewood "A" and Broad Oak "B" and the "C" team winning 22-12 against Ridgewood "B".

The "A" team has consolidated its position at the top of the table and now has 308 points from 11 games, whilst the "B" side has moved into 3rd place only three points behind Broad Oak "A" with a match in hand.

Individually it's close at the top with Mick Derbyshire (8.64), Michael Gaughan (8.56), Gary Smith (8.27), John Neal (8.17), Mike Stringer (6.75) and Nick Dawson (6.42) leading the way - (all out of a maximum of nine).

As mentioned before, it's good to see the League Republic website working well and it 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.leaguerepublic.com

QUOTES FROM THE MEDIA

The topic of male versus female playing standards is one that table tennis fans like to debate every now and again. As in most sports, it's pretty rare for the top female players to get the chance to play against the top men, so it's hard to see how the sexes compare.

So when a country's no.1 Male and no.1 Female players take to the court against each other in a serious competition, it's something worth taking note of.

It was reported that, recently in the Victoria Premier League, Australian no.1's William Henzell (WR 142) and Miao Miao (WR 103) played against one another. The result? A 3-1 win to William, but not before Miao had drawn first blood, winning the first game 17-15!

So the guys came out on top this time, but it would be interesting to wonder just how high the top female players, like Zhang Yining, would manage to get in the Men's World Rankings? Top 10? Top 20? Or not even in the Top 100? Interesting!

PLAYER PROFILE:

JOHN NEAL

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

I started playing in a youth club in my hometown of Yeovil way back in the late 1950's. I also used to play in the local British Legion Club at that time, although it was the snooker tables there that were my main interest then (and I was too young to drink in those days!).

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

I started in the lowest Division of the Yeovil League in season 1962/3 and played for two years before I got married. I then had a five-year break until I moved to this area in 1969.

I then started playing in Division 6 of the Tonbridge League in the 1969/70 season and in Division 4 of the Tunbridge Wells League the following season. I played in both these leagues for over twenty years working my way up through the divisions to play in the top divisions by the mid 1970's.

In 1993 my work took me down to Cardiff for seven years. Whilst in Cardiff I played in the Cardiff, Newport and Eastern Valley Leagues. Upon retirement in 2000, I returned back home to Mayfield and restarted playing in both Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Leagues, but in 2004 I stopped playing in the Tunbridge Wells League and moved to join our Club in the Wealden League. I still also play in the Tonbridge League

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

Two particular wins stand out. One was against Paul Crisp in a Tonbridge Wells League match. Paul was a leading player at the time being very highly ranked in Kent.

The other was against a man named George Jones, who was then the number one ranked Veteran in Wales, whilst I was playing in the Cardiff League. He had won the Welsh Open Veterans title the day before.

[Any TT "honours"?](#)

I have been a member of a number of teams that have won a division in the League. I also played for the Tonbridge League in the Kent League competition on a number of occasions, where we played representative matches against teams from other Leagues in Kent.

I served as both Secretary and Chairman of the Tonbridge League at different times over a period of 20 years.

[Your best moment in TT?](#)

Probably my team reaching the final of the Hospitals Handicap cup in the Tunbridge Wells League back in the days

when there were five divisions in that League.

[Your worst moment in TT?](#)

Losing that Hospitals Cup Final, even though I managed to win two of my three matches.

[Interests outside TT?](#)

I have always been extremely keen on football, and have followed my hometown team of Yeovil through thick and thin for over 50 years. I still go regularly to watch a lot of their matches. I aim to go to a match every week, and go to watch Lewes play if a Yeovil match is too far way.

I am also very interested in industrial history and transport, especially railways. I was brought up in the era of steam trains and have never lost my fascination for these. Yes....I was an avid train-spotter as a child, travelling all over the country.

[Anything else of interest?](#)

I have always done a lot of walking for pleasure, and have walked many of the long distance footpaths of England. I still do this on regular basis aiming to get out once a week from March to November. It helps to keep me active and fit (within reason for a Senior Citizen)!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Any new ideas/articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are always welcome. You must be getting bored with my articles!

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