

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 3 – DECEMBER 2007

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It doesn't seem possible that the first half of the Wealden League season is over – see below for a report on our team's progress. The second-half begins week commencing January 28.

Don't forget that any comments, contributions and ideas for articles are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor. If email is a better way for you to receive this Newsletter, then please let me know.

This edition we are introducing a "Player Profile" feature and this time it's the turn of Club Chairman, Mick Derbyshire. Thanks Mick for answering my questions. One of the perks of this is that the person featured gets to nominate the next "victim". So watch out!

The Club Committee would like to wish all members and friends of the Club a "Very Happy Christmas" and best wishes for 2008.

WEALDEN LEAGUE

Here's a half-term report on how our teams are doing:

The "A" team is continuing how it left off last year and has had a good half season, winning all but one of its matches, and has 242 points from 9 matches. The loss came against Ridgewood "A", 14-25, who are among the front runners at the halfway stage. Although the latest league table shows the "A" team in 1st place, other teams have matches in hand, suggesting that it is very close between us and Ridgewood "A". It is likely to be a much tighter race for the Championship this season, with three or four teams still in contention, the opposition much tougher and matches closer.

The "B" team has won five out of 10 matches and has scored 177 points. Chris Buck is

leading the way with 10 wins from 18 and Mike Stringer has 13 from 27. Five matches have been very close with only six points, or less, separating the teams. There have been good wins over Herstmonceux "B" and Broad Oak "A", and close defeats by 18-22 v Five Ashes and 17-23 v Herstmonceux "A". The derby match, "B" v "C" also saw a finely balanced match, which the "B" side edged by 20-17, with two wins for John Wilson and the doubles win proving decisive.

The "C" team is playing well, nearly beating Five Ashes last week, and it could be a close run thing between the "B" and "C" sides by the end of the season (see above). Bob Fordham, with his defensive style, is leading the way in the averages, whilst Tim Mann and Nick Dawson have picked up some good wins and points. A much improved performance all round over last season.

WEALDEN LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

A reminder that this takes place over three Wednesday evenings at Broad Oak Village Hall. The dates are January 9, 16 and 23. The events are Open Singles, Handicap, Doubles and Veterans. Entry forms are out now. It would be good to have a large entry from Crowborough.

CLUB NIGHTS

Club Nights continue to be held every Friday from 8pm-10pm at the Scout & Guide HQ in Jarvis Brook.

In addition, Mondays will also be available on January 7, 14 and 21, usual times.

WEB-SITE

The development of a web-site for the Club is still on-going. Watch this space!

PTO

"50" CLUB

Latest Winners:

Nov No. 13 Nick Levine

Dec No. 17 Heather Derbyshire

This will run again in 2008 and application forms will be sent out in February.

PLAYER PROFILE

MICK DERBYSHIRE

How and when did you start playing?

I started playing table tennis, aged 8 or 9, at Sunday School Club, and then played for fun for a few years before beginning to play competitively around 16 years old.

What leagues have you played in?

I've played at league level for around 45 years, not missing a full season in that time, and for over 52 years in total. (Ed. Quite an achievement!). Leagues played in include Ashford, Thanet, Woking/Guildford, Preston, Tunbridge Wells, East Grinstead and, currently, Wealden. The Preston League was particularly competitive, with 14 divisions, and included players like Sean Gibson (England squad), Don Parker and Jill Hammersley (England coaches).

What has been your best individual win?

Had a few good wins in the Preston League against 1st Division opponents in cup games, and I managed to beat a player whose name I cannot remember, who had been unbeaten for some years, in my first season in the Woking league. In more recent times, I recall a doubles match in the Tunbridge Wells tournament, when Bernie Backholer (played 1986/1993 and now lives near Inverness) and I beat the top seeds from Sandown in the 1st round, and went on to reach the semi-finals before losing to the eventual winners. In the Wealden League, I think beating John Goater of Herstmonceux 'A' a couple of years ago, as John had been undefeated in the league up to then.

Interests outside TT?

Pretty much any sport you can mention, much to my wife's annoyance!! Although I am now

only actively participating in Table Tennis, I have given most sports a go at some time or other, until advancing years, or lack of time, prevented me from continuing. Apart from this, I love travelling, and annoying my kids by spoiling my grandchildren.

Any TT "honours"?

Probably the most notable was "Best Club Secretary" in the Preston League!! I have won a few league titles with various teams over the years, and the occasional tournament win, particularly in the veterans section!! Most satisfying wins have been in the Crowborough Tournament whenever I managed to beat Chris Reynolds (which was not very often).

Your best moment in TT?

Playing against Sean Gibson in a cup match in the Preston League. I got absolutely thrashed, but he was astonishing, even then at the age of about 11 or 12. It didn't matter what I did, or where I put the ball, he just whacked it past me with ease. It was a privilege to watch a real talent in action.

Your worst moment in TT?

No doubts about this one. Playing at Hospitals in the T. Wells league, in their hut in the woods, I slipped and tore the medial ligaments in my left knee. It was the most painful injury I have ever experienced, and I was immobile for 4 weeks, and unable to play for more than 2 months. I try not to move around so much now, just in case!!

Anything else of interest?

I just wish I had realised earlier in my career that it sometimes pays to attack. I spent the first 20 years playing a totally defensive game, and my first instinct is still to defend. However, I now realise that when I change my mindset and force myself to attack, it often makes the game easier! As far as I am concerned, the game is about enjoyment. Some you win, and some you lose, but I am happy just to play, and to share some fun with team mates and opposition alike.

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