

## NEWSLETTER – December 2022

### From the Chairman

Welcome to the latest newsletter which includes some updates and changes for the future both of which I hope you will find interesting.

It is hard to believe that the last newsletter was in August detailing the start of the new season and here we are, over halfway through the league programme and approaching Christmas already! Nevertheless, I hope you are enjoying the season so far.

### League Matches

The league seems to be running smoothly without too many problems although it is noticeable that there are currently six matches which have not been played or for which cards have not been submitted. We are aware that some of these matches have been rearranged but are not sure on others.

Captains, can I ask you to make every effort to play these matches as soon as possible please because the league season should complete week commencing the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and the Team Handicap competition will start the following week on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February (see details below).

### Tournaments

The first tournament, the Scratch Singles, was played yesterday evening and there was an excellent turnout with 24 players in attendance. Following some close matches in all the groups stages, the quarter and the semi-finals, the tournament final was won by Josh Warren with Ian Brown as runner-up.

Our thanks must go to Ruth once again for her excellent organization of an enjoyable tournament.

Can I remind you that the dates for the remaining tournaments are as follows:

- 04 January 2023 – Hard Bat
- 01 March 2023 – Veterans Handicap Singles
- 22 March 2023 – Handicap Singles
- 26 April 2023 – Drawn Doubles and Presentation Evening

As you are aware, registering to play in the tournaments this season must be made through the league's website. Unfortunately, this has proved problematic for some of us therefore we will be looking at how we can improve it for next season. In the meantime, should you wish to register for any of the remaining tournaments, the following brief instructions may help –

- Open the League's website.
- Click on Tournaments and you will see a tab saying Entry Form.
- Open this and there you will see all the tournaments listed in date order and to enter all you need to do is put a tick in the boxes for those you want to play.
- You will see a number in brackets by each tournament and this signifies the number of submitted entries.
- You will also see that there is a box at the bottom of the form, saying TTE No. – you must complete this with your Table Tennis England member number as it is the only way in which the system knows who you are.
- Once complete press the Submit button and the form will be sent through.

Two final things to note on tournaments is that the maximum number we can accommodate is 24 and to do so, we have to import another table from the Broadstone club. In addition, no entries will be accepted after the Sunday before each of the tournaments as this then gives Ruth time to organise groups and playing order.

## Team Handicap

As you know for many years the Team Handicap has been played on a straight knockout basis. As mentioned earlier, the league programme finishes early this season in the week commencing the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, therefore, the committee considered that a straight knockout competition would not be suitable as the season for some teams would be over in February which is too early and provides insufficient matches.

We have therefore decided to introduce a Team Handicap League for this year so that the season can be extended to the end of March and provide each team with a further four matches.

The format is as follows:

1. The 10 league teams are split into two groups of five.
2. The following is based on the League status on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.
3. Group A consists of teams who are in the following league positions – 1,3,5,7 and 9.
4. Group B consists of teams who are in the following league positions – 2,4,6,8 and 10.
5. Individual handicaps are calculated on player results at the last update before the 13<sup>th</sup> February.
6. The two group winners go through to the final in the first week of April.
7. The final is played at a venue mutually agreed by both teams.
8. The results of each match **must** be sent to the Match Secretary by the home team.
9. In all circumstances not covered by the above, the general rules shall apply.

FIXTURES							
Group A				Group B			
Week 1 – Commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023							
1	vs	3		2	vs	4	
5	vs	7		6	vs	8	
9	Free Week			10	Free Week		
Week 2 – Commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023							
3	vs	5		4	vs	6	
7	vs	9		8	vs	10	
1	Free Week			2	Free Week		
Week 3 – Commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023							
9	vs	1		10	vs	7	
7	vs	3		8	vs	4	
5	Free Week			6	Free Week		
Week 4 – Commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023							
3	vs	9		4	vs	10	
1	vs	5		2	vs	6	
7	Free Week			8	Free Week		
Week 5 – Commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2023							
5	vs	9		6	vs	10	
7	vs	1		8	vs	2	
3	Free Week			4	Free Week		
Week 6 – Commencing 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023							
Final:	Winner: Group A vs Winner Group B						

**Handbook**

In keeping with last season, the league's handbook will be available to view online shortly although for now, it is still being prepared.

**Future Dates**

A couple of provisional dates for your 2023 diary:

The Inter League match with the Blackmore Vale league is scheduled for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.00pm at the Child Okeford village hall. The match will be played on three tables although there is a possibility of playing on four tables depending on the level of interest from players in both leagues. This is always an enjoyable match in which to play, and I will in touch nearer the time to organise teams.

The Dorset Table Tennis Association will be organising a county wide inter-league series of matches on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of April to be played at either Stalbridge or Child Okeford. Again, I will be in touch nearer the time to gauge the level of interest in this.

**And Finally**

Finally, on behalf of the league committee, may I wish you all and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Keep safe, stay well and I look forward to catching up with you in 2023!

Rod Fry  
Chairman