



## Newsletter – December 2023

### From the Chairman

Welcome to the latest newsletter which includes some updates on the season thus far and information for the future, both of which I hope you will find interesting.

Looking back, it is hard to believe that the last newsletter was sent out 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 do hope you are enjoying the season so far.

### League Matches

Thanks to the efforts of all of the teams, the league programme is running smoothly without too many problems. There have been a number of matches, which for one reason or another, have had to be rescheduled from their original date but I'm pleased to say that all teams have now played 11 matches and we have none outstanding.

This is a remarkable feat when compared with previous seasons and the committee's thanks must go to all of you for the efforts made in keeping up with the fixture schedule.

Looking at the league table, the Broadstone A team are leading by 47 points already, having scored a total of 300 from 11 matches played so far. At the moment, the battle for second place is being strongly contested by Stourpaine A (247), Ringwood (238) and Bournemouth Sports (220).

### Tournaments

The first tournament, the Scratch Singles, is due to be played on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at the Merley Community Centre, Harrier Drive, Wimborne. Entries for this event have now closed.

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

- 03 January 2024 – Hard Bat
- 28 February 2024 – Veterans Handicap Singles
- 27 March 2024 – Handicap Singles
- 24 April 2024 – Drawn Doubles and Presentation Evening

Entries for any of the above tournaments can only be made using the entry form to be found under the 'Tournaments' header on the league's website. If you have not entered online, please do not just turn up on the night expecting to play as you will be disappointed.

Two final things to note on tournaments are that the maximum number of players we can accommodate is 24. In addition, no entries will be accepted after the Sunday before each of the tournaments as this then gives Ruth time to organise the groups and playing order.

### Team Handicap

As you know for many years the Team Handicap has been played on a straight knockout basis but last season we changed the format to a league based competition which proved to be very enjoyable and extended the season to provide teams with more matches.

This season, the league programme will finish on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024 and the Team Handicap League will commence on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of February. However, the one major change we have made to the format is to determine which teams are either in the A or B groups, is to use current league positions at the end of week 11.

This change will give team captains and club organisers ample time to arrange hall bookings etc. something which caused a few problems last season.

So as not to provide too much information in the newsletter, the rules and league format will be sent out to all players within the next week or so.

### **Handbook**

In keeping with last season, the league's handbook will be available to view online shortly.

### **Future Dates**

A couple of provisional dates for your 2024 diary:

Although we do not have a confirmed date, the Inter League match with the Blackmore Vale league will probably be played sometime in 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 Cup series of matches on a Sunday in March to be played at the Stalbridge Hall. This was an enjoyable day last season and I'm pleased to say that the Wimborne league finished second to the Bournemouth league.

Again, I will be in touch with more information 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 2024!

Rod Fry  
Chairman