



Newsletter – February 2024

From the Chairman

Welcome to the latest newsletter which is intended to bring you up to date with a few changes and also details on the upcoming events in the league. I hope you find the information below to be of interest.

League Matches

By the time you read this, the league programme will have been completed and next week will see the start of the Team Handicap League matches, further details of which can be found below.

Now that we have completed the 22 week league programme, my thanks must go to all of the teams that have completed their full quota of matches on time. Unfortunately, because of injuries and illness, some teams have been unable to complete all of their matches and there are six matches that have not been played. As a result of this, the committee has agreed that the outstanding matches can still be played before the 31st of March.

May I ask the team captains involved to make every effort to ensure the outstanding matches are played please, so that we can have a fully completed programme for the first time in many years.

Team Handicap

As mentioned earlier, we will start the team handicap league on Monday the 26th of February.

Unfortunately, the Sharkstone team which were due to play in Group 2 of the handicap league, has had to withdraw their team because of a shortage of players as a result of illness and lack of availability. Therefore Group 2 will only consist of five teams and not six. The website has been updated accordingly.

As other teams are also suffering similar problems the committee has agreed and added an addendum to the rules governing the team handicap, namely:

'In line with the Leagues' existing rule 16.4 covering the use of substitute players, a team can use a substitute player in the team handicap from another team within the same club.'

The stipulation of this ruling is that any substitute player can only be chosen from a team playing in a different group to their own i.e. a team in Group 1 can only choose a player from a team in Group 2 or vice versa.'

Please note that as this a different competition, the number of times a substitute player may have been used in the formal league programme has been reset to zero therefore the full allowance of matches a substitute can play has been restored.

The player handicaps are now available to view on the league's website under the **HANDICAP** header in the drop down menu under **PLAYERS**. Please note that the handicaps will not be changed throughout the whole league programme.

Tournaments

The next tournament is the Veterans Handicap Singles which is due to be played on Wednesday the 28th of February. Currently there are only 16 entries and there is space for more players should you wish to enter.

Please remember that entries for this or any of the remaining 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.

When you browse the entry form, you may notice that the website has been changed and as a result you are now able to see the names of all of the entries for each of the tournaments.

The remaining tournaments for the season are detailed below:

- 27 March 2024 – Handicap Singles
- 24 April 2024 – Drawn Doubles and Presentation Evening

Currently there are 25 entries for the Handicap Singles, however the maximum number of players we can accommodate is 24 therefore, unless somebody withdraws, sadly we may have to instigate a ruling of last in/first out should we have too many entries. In addition, no entries will be accepted after the Monday before each of the tournaments as this then gives Ruth time to organise the groups and playing order.

We do still have space for entries for the Drawn Doubles and would like more entries please especially as this is also the Presentation Evening when we celebrate the team and individual winners for the season. Refreshments will also be available and best of all the evening is free!

Captains, we will be having a raffle on the evening and would be grateful if you could supply a prize from your team if possible please.

Interleague Match Dates

The date for the Dorset Table Tennis Association Interleague Cup has been changed to Sunday the 21st of April and I am very grateful to the 7 players who have put their names forward for this event. I will be sending an information pack to each player very shortly.

The Inter League match with the Blackmore Vale league will be played on Monday the 29th of April starting at 7.00pm at the Child Okeford village hall and so far I have 7 players for this match and need two more please, so that we have 3 teams of three players per team. This is always an enjoyable match in which to play, and if you want to be part of a team please let me know by email at rod_fry28@hotmail.com.

And Finally

Finally, as is always the case this time of year, colds, coughs and flu like symptoms are commonplace and if you are suffering from anything like this or are generally feeling unwell, please do not take your germs to a match as they may spread and the last thing anybody would want is to fall ill.

In conclusion and on behalf of the league committee, may I wish you all an enjoyable rest of the season.

Rod Fry
Chairman