



Newsletter – January 2024

From the Chairman

I hope you all had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and New Year and would like to welcome you to the latest newsletter.

Although this latest edition of the newsletter comes soon after the last one was issued, I felt it would be worthwhile providing you with some updates on the season thus far and information for the future, both of which I hope you will find interesting.

League Matches

We have just completed week 16 of the 22 week league programme and thanks to the efforts of all teams, the league programme is running reasonably smoothly and without too many problems. However, there are currently three matches that have not been played and I must ask the team captains involved to make every effort to ensure these are played before the league programme is completed on Friday the 23rd of February.

I know it is an ambitious target, but for the first time in many years let us aim to complete the league programme on time and with all 132 matches having been played. Over to you.....

Team Handicap

Following on from the league programme, we will start the team handicap league on Monday the 26th of February.

On the League website under the header of **HANDICAP**, you will find the following four sub categories:

Players: This section will list each player's handicap based on their averages at the last update before the 16th of February;

Matches: This section details the weekly match schedule for Groups 1 and 2. It is assumed that the team listed on the left shall be the Home team however, by agreement between both team captains, this can be reversed should it be necessary;

Results: Once a match has been played, evidence of the result should be sent to the Match Secretary, Melvyn Gregory, as soon as possible please;

Rules: This section details the playing rules for the team handicap including the Handicap Chart which will need to be used should a game go to a third leg.

Tournaments

Since the last newsletter, we have now completed the following tournaments:

The **Scratch Singles** was well attended and provided a busy night with some close group matches which were followed by the quarter finals, semifinals and final. The final was won by Josh Warren who defeated Krzysztof Skwarek in an exciting match.

The **Hard Bat Singles** was attended by 15 players in groups followed by quarter finals, semifinals and final. The final was won by Josh Warren who beat Ian Brown.

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

- 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.

Can I also ask that if you have entered a tournament please turn up to play as the Tournament Secretary, Ruth Atkin, does an excellent job preparing the playing groups, order of play etc. beforehand and it is very disappointing when players do not turn up. If you know that you cannot make it to the tournament, you can remove your name from the list by using the tournament entry form on the League website and all you have to do is:

- Enter your TTE number
- Press View/Edit and this will show your personal entry form and enable you to change your entry from Yes to No
- Press Update to save the changes

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.

Interleague Match Dates

The Dorset Table Tennis Association will be organising a county wide Inter-League Cup series of matches on Sunday the 10th of March to be played at the Stalbridge Village Hall. Unfortunately, this date clashes with Mothering Sunday which may be inconvenient for some players especially as it is an all-day event.

We will be entering two teams to represent the Wimborne League and should you wish to play please let me know by email at rod_fry28@hotmail.com. This was an enjoyable day last season and I'm pleased to say that the Wimborne league finished a creditable second to the Bournemouth league.

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

Rod Fry
Chairman