

## NEWSLETTER – July 2023

### From the Chairman

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new 2023/24 season. Following the Annual General Meeting held earlier this month, I would like to update you on a number of matters concerning the new season.

### Team Registration Applications

As with last season, each club is required to complete an application form to register a team or teams to play in the Wimborne League. We have found that formalising the way in which we register a team gives us an accurate information database of players for the coming season and going forward.

Club organisers and team captains please note that the final date for applying to register a team will be **Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2023** and the online registration form can be found on the league's website under the heading WDTTL – Registration Form. The committee will meet after this date to consider all applications and teams will be informed of their acceptance in good time for the new season.

In this time of high inflation, I'm pleased to confirm that the player registration fee will remain at £15.

Please note that additional players can still be added to a team during the season if required up to the cut-off date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. In addition, please be assured that any information provided to the league is retained in an encrypted format to comply with GDPR regulations.

### New League Season

I can confirm that the new league season will start on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

The format will be the same as we have used over the past two seasons whereby all of the league matches will be played on consecutive weeks through to the conclusion of the league programme in February 2024.

Captains, if you have to postpone a match for any reason can you please inform the Match Secretary at [wdttl\\_admin@wdttl.co.uk](mailto:wdttl_admin@wdttl.co.uk) so that he can keep a track on which matches have not been played. It is also worth remembering that the league does have the following rule in place to cover cancelled matches –

*'16.5 Matches must be played within 2 weeks of the scheduled date. Failure to do this may result in the awarding of 30 points to the team not in default.'*

Although this rule has not been enforced in recent years, we may have to look at using it should cancellations become excessive.

### Team Handicap League

As it was so successful last season, the team handicap league will be played again for the coming season once the league programme has been completed.

There will be a few tweaks to the format for this season so that teams have more time to prepare, namely:

- To use the league positions mid-way through the season to decide the teams in the A and B groups;
- To play the team handicap league matches at the end of the league season as previously but to send out the fixture list in good time for captains to arrange teams, hall bookings etc.
- The individual player's handicap will be based on the averages achieved at the end of the 2023/24 league programme.

## **Tournaments**

Once again, the tournaments proved to be very successful last season and at times were over prescribed. We have agreed therefore to limit numbers to 24 players as this is the maximum which can be reasonably accommodated at each of the tournaments.

The dates for the tournaments have been arranged at the Merley Community Centre as follows –

Scratch Singles	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Hard Bat Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
Veterans Handicap Singles	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Handicap Singles	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Drawn Doubles	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

Players are required to enter any of the above tournaments using the online entry form on the league's website. We do have one request however, if you do enter, please keep a note of the dates and if for any reason you cannot make it to the event, please let Ruth know so that somebody can take your place. Sadly, we did have a number of occasions last season when some players never showed up and this caused some last-minute re-arranging of playing schedules etc. Also, some players arrived on the evening without booking in on line, again this causes unnecessary work for Ruth on the night.

## **Table Tennis Balls**

As with last season, the league will be supplying sufficient new balls to each team for use at all of their home matches.

The use of the balls is now covered by a rule under the Annual Competition Rules, namely:

### 16.11 Table Tennis Balls

- a) Only best quality 3-star 40+ plastic ITTF approved balls are to be used. To ensure consistency across all matches, the League will provide sufficient balls to each team at the start of the season so that a new ball must be used for every home match.
- b) Before the start of the match, the captain of the away team will check and agree that a new ball is being provided by the home team. If not, the captain should inform the Match Secretary at the earliest opportunity.

## **And Finally**

I hope you all enjoy what remains of the summer and look forward to seeing you next season.

All the best

Rod Fry  
Chairman