

Hastings & District Table Tennis Association

Annual Report 2023-24

Chairman's Report 2023-24

2023/24 has been a very good season for local table tennis. We have had a successful Senior League this season being very competitive with only three points difference at the top of Division 1, five points between the top two teams in Division 2, and Division 3 had clear winners by nine points. I hope next season continues to remain this competitive.

The H&DTTA Executive have been focusing on initiatives for Juniors over the last couple of years our efforts have been rewarded with a Junior League restarting, consisting of two divisions, ten teams and 20 players. This is quite an achievement and bodes well for the future of table tennis in Hastings and District. On top of the eight local teams, we also had a team from Hailsham and one from Lewes as there are no Junior Leagues in these areas. We have run a number of novice and junior competitions which have been very popular. We have also restarted the Hastings Youth Closed for the first time in several years. This was held in Bexhill Youth and Community Centre as the original venue was unavailable due to a burst water main. Thank you to everyone involved in rescheduling this at the last possible moment.

The Executive gave financial support to some of these novice and junior competitions and funded two new coaches, Aaron Pain and Dave Watters, to add to our existing pool, as we continue with the initiatives for younger players. We have approximately 22 hours of coaching being carried out voluntarily on a weekly basis by a number of clubs, including evenings and after school clubs. This is a very strong initiative to grow table tennis and I am sure you would agree the money for training coaches has been well spent.

For the Seniors we have run the Veterans competition, Watts Cup, Woodward Cup, and the Hastings Closed which had to be rescheduled due to the same Southern Water issue above. Despite this, we had more entrants than last year, and some extremely high standard table tennis was played in this event. If the entrant numbers continue to grow, we will need to consider how to cater for this event. Nice problem to have. As usual, we finish the season with the Team Handicap which is still under way.

The Executive arranged the Presentation Evening which this year was held at The Manor Barn in Bexhill. We decided not to have any band or disco to make this more of a social evening where conversation could flow, and everyone could catch up with players and friends from other teams. The Juniors were also invited and enjoyed being able to play outside after the formal presentation was finished. This was a very successful evening with some very positive feedback. Over 70 people attended the event which was well up on last year, and I think this formula is something we will consider again for next season.

The Executive continue to drive to grow table tennis in Hastings and the surrounding area. We have noted that in the Junior League having players from different areas conflicts with our Constitution. We did make interim local agreements to cover this. We have every intention of continuing to make opportunities for other areas to join our league if they have no option of one in their own area and will endeavour to amend the Constitution to allow this, whilst Hastings and District remain the controlling body. The Executive will take the opportunity to review and update a couple of other points at the same time and will have this available for comments well before the next AGM.

Due to the experiences this season The Executive are proposing a couple of rule changes for next season, namely on postponements and reserves. The change to the reserve rule will only affect the lowest division, and will give the opportunity, particularly for Juniors, to join the Senior League as and when they meet the appropriate standard and are ready to play. The Executive is planning to explore various options for the League format over the coming year and if there is consensus to change, we will put this out for consultation will be for the next AGM.

As always, The Executive is looking for new volunteers to take up the various roles needed to administer and run the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association. We would like to encourage anybody who feels they can spare some time to help in any of these positions to put their names forward.

On behalf of the table tennis players, I would like to thank all the organisers. A great deal of work goes unseen in the coordinating of the Association and its various events, and without the volunteers, none of it would take place. I would also like to thank the volunteer coaches for giving their time to the Juniors, and to all teams and players who participated during the 2023/24 season, making it a very enjoyable year of table tennis.

I trust you will all have a successful and enjoyable 2024/25 season.

Dave Watters
H&DTTA Chairman

Treasurer's Report For Year Ended 30th April 2024

Dear Members

Please find below our Income & Expense report with annotations and our balance sheet. We have a deficit of £918.82 this year and bank balances of £23,672. Largest expense for the Association is the fees of £1,200 we paid to Sussex County Table Tennis Association and the cost of hall hire £1,232 and trophies and engraving of £941. I would like to pass my thanks onto those members of the Association that have and are still participating in our bonus ball lottery every week. I would urge any members who wish to join the lottery, raise valuable funds for the Association and possibly win some money, to please contact me, it is only a £1 per week (payable minimum quarterly) and we have numbers available. Please see a summary of the Associations accounts for 2023-24 below:-

	Income & Expenses	
	2023-24	2022/23
Income	£	£
Registrations & Affiliations	2,142.00	1,940.00
Lottery	819.00	936.50
Interest	204.63	9.26
Tournaments	1,245.50	1,428.50
Miscellaneous Income	60.68	71.00
Junior Circuit Income	182.00	0
	4,653.81	4,385.26
Expenditure		
Sussex County TTA Fees	1,200.00	1,065.00
Trophies & engraving	941.24	903.73
Charity Donations	0	100.00
Purchases	251.19	0
Equipment Depreciation	186.00	186.00
Hall & Venue Hire	1,232.20	1,053.80
Coaching/Training	425.00	175.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	20.00	862.90
Presentation Evening	1,137.00	50.00
General Expenses	180.00	0
	5,572.63	4396.43
Deficit For the Period	(918.82)	(11.17)

Balance Sheet 2023-24

	2023-24	2022-23
Fixed Assets		
Table Tennis Tables	2,517	2,703
Depreciation	(186)	(186)
	2,331	2,517
Current Assets		
Deposit Account	20,545	20,341
Current Account	2,126	3,965
	23,671	24,306
Current Liabilities		
Lottery Prize Fund	262	164
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	25,740	26,659
Capital & Reserves		
Reserves	26,659	26,670
P&L Account	(918)	(11)
	25,740	26,659

If anyone has any queries or questions, please email me on hta.treasurer@gmail.com

Robin Gibbs
H&DTTA Treasurer

League Secretary's Report 2023-24

We had another competitive season in the Hastings Senior League with 29 teams from four clubs competing in three divisions of nine or ten teams. We had application from 30 teams but one team withdrew after the formations meeting when they were considered to be too strong for the division they had applied for. A further team withdrew from Division 1 during the season and so we were left with a first division of eight teams and then two divisions of ten. This was one team more than in 22-23 season where 27 teams competed in three divisions of nine teams. I believe 125 different players competed at some point in the senior league during the season during the season up seven from the previous year.

The formations committee reviewed carefully the strength of the teams applying for each division basing their decision on the strongest three players in each team and utilising the players previous averages wherever possible. Where this information was not available it was necessary to rely on representation from the clubs. It is intended to continue to use this approach moving forward. I believe that this approach along with the change of rules to remove the use of divisional reserves ensured a very competitive second division and a more competitive third division.

This is probably best demonstrated by the teams who finished third and fourth in Division 2 only winning six each of their 18 games with 17 of the remaining 24 games resulting in draws.

It was found early on in the year that the lack of reserves for Division 3 was causing problems as they had no lower division to draw from. As a temporary solution the Executive Committee agreed to allow a sixth player in the Division 3 teams for the remainder of the season. We are putting forward a motion to the AGM to allow divisional reserves in Division 3 only, to hopefully resolve this problem.

We are also seeking to update the rule book to further clarify the postponement rule (rule 36) as it was felt it was open to interpretation and was the matter of a disputed decision in the year which was resolved by the Appeals Committee. I would encourage you to support this proposal at the AGM.

Discussions are ongoing with regards to the league format for future seasons. It is likely to remain the same for the next season assuming a similar number of teams apply (between 24 and 36). There has however been some discussion to moving to a four-division format to encourage new players to joining the lowest division and perhaps reduce the difference in strength between divisions. Please consider these carefully when they are announced.

Well done to Bexhillians B, Tackleway C and Tackleway F for winning their respective divisions. The full results are of course available on the website. May I extend my thanks to Andy Holmes for his efforts in keeping this updated on a very timely basis for the past three years. He has now decided to step down from the role.

I am looking forward to a competitive 2024/25 season. I will be sending out the applications forms by the AGM with a deadline of the end of July. I am hoping that we can have the formations meeting in the second week of August so that I have plenty of time to get the league onto the system as this will be a new challenge for me this year and I am away at the end of September.

Finally, I am very pleased to welcome the re-introduction of the Junior League organised by Simply TT. This is a very welcome addition with ten teams of two competing over two divisions. 21 juniors competed. Well done to Simply TT Blues and Simply TT Greens for winning their divisions.

I am sure we are all hoping this initiative will be successful and encourage more juniors to play table tennis in Hastings. Over time it will hopefully bring new players into the senior league and enable the league to grow.

Thank you for all those in the various clubs for all they do in organising their clubs and teams.

Paul Hyland
League Secretary

> [Senior 2023-24](#) > Senior Division 1

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	PF	PA	Points
1	Bexhillians B	14	11	2	1	97	43	314	178	4760	4069	43
2	Tackleway Aruna	14	10	1	3	96	44	320	179	4875	4065	40
3	Hastings Academy A	14	9	1	4	90	50	303	196	4753	4045	38
4	Bexhillians A	14	6	1	7	60	80	217	278	4111	4609	24
5	Tackleway Boll	14	4	0	10	57	83	215	292	4368	4835	22
6	Bexhillians C	14	5	0	9	56	84	224	280	4383	4686	20
7	Bexhillians E	14	4	2	8	53	87	211	300	4436	4897	20
8	Bexhillians D	14	2	3	9	51	89	198	299	4215	4695	17

Senior 2023-24 > Senior Division 2

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	PF	PA	Points
1	<u>Tackleway Chuqin</u>	18	14	3	1	121	59	424	269	6679	5868	54
2	<u>Tackleway Ehrlich</u>	18	12	2	4	113	67	404	270	6441	5665	49
3	<u>Hollington B</u>	18	6	8	4	101	79	358	304	6178	5821	41
4	<u>Bexhillians F</u>	18	6	9	3	95	85	349	317	6067	5939	39
5	<u>Hastings Academy B</u>	18	7	4	7	93	87	357	336	6330	6309	38
6	<u>Hollington C</u>	18	8	3	7	86	94	295	330	5347	5599	36
7	<u>Tackleway Drinkhall</u>	18	5	4	9	84	96	320	334	5796	5841	31
8	<u>Bexhillians G</u>	18	5	5	8	77	103	283	356	5489	5944	31
9	<u>Hollington D</u>	18	3	4	11	73	107	290	377	5876	6200	25
10	<u>Hastings Academy C</u>	18	1	4	13	57	123	233	420	5323	6340	16

Senior 2023-24 > Senior Division 3

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	PF	PA	Points
1	<u>Tackleway Freitas</u>	18	17	0	1	137	43	450	198	6362	5072	62
2	<u>Tackleway Gaoyuan</u>	18	13	2	3	125	55	416	248	6425	5380	53
3	<u>Hollington F</u>	18	11	2	5	117	63	424	255	6566	5655	48
4	<u>Hollington E</u>	18	10	3	5	116	64	409	261	6405	5428	47
5	<u>Tackleway Ito</u>	18	10	3	5	107	73	380	310	6469	6040	46
6	<u>Tackleway Harimoto</u>	18	9	1	8	93	87	347	345	6286	6228	38
7	<u>Bexhillians H</u>	18	7	2	9	75	105	305	380	5882	6368	28
8	<u>Hollington G</u>	18	4	0	14	51	129	234	439	5382	6641	19
9	<u>Tackleway Karlsson</u>	18	1	0	17	41	139	191	461	4958	6533	10
10	<u>Tackleway Jingkun</u>	18	1	1	16	38	142	206	465	5241	6631	9

Tables > [Hastings Area Junior League 2023-24](#) > Junior Division 1

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	PF	PA	Points
1	Simply TT Blues	5	4	0	1	19	6	62	28	880	701	19
2	Simply TT Blacks	5	4	0	1	17	8	62	36	983	820	17
3	St Michaels TTC	5	3	0	2	17	8	57	40	905	833	17
4	Simply TT Reds	5	3	0	2	15	10	53	40	881	806	15
5	Hailsham TTC	5	1	0	4	4	21	28	66	769	959	4
6	Hollington TTC	5	0	0	5	3	22	18	70	645	944	3

Tables > [Hastings Area Junior League 2023-24](#) > Junior Division 2

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	GF	GA	PF	PA	Points
1	Simply TT Greens	6	6	0	0	24	6	73	21	965	603	24
2	Simply TT Purples	6	4	0	2	22	8	69	29	959	680	22
3	Simply TT Whites	6	2	0	4	13	17	45	53	805	847	13
4	Simply TT Oranges	6	0	0	6	1	29	4	88	410	1009	1

Development Officer's Report 2023-24

Coaching

The Association has continued to support members gaining coaching qualifications with Bexhillians (George Reidy and Trevor Towner) and Simply TT (James Gorridge, Aaron Pain and Dave Watters) leading on the junior front while Tackleway hold sessions for seniors (led by Kevin Rowe). Hollington have continued their junior and family session on Thursday evenings and Keith Lindsay runs an open-age session, at Battle Sports Centre, on Saturday afternoons. It is now possible to participate in a coaching or practice session any day of the week. Not the 24/7 availability of a dedicated centre but potential players have an opportunity to practice, receive coaching or play socially across a wider proportion of the area. With an increased level of opportunity to engage in the sport of table tennis there is the possibility for an increase in competitive involvement.

National Cadet League

Two teams of players, with less than two years playing experience, acquitted themselves well in this competition. Despite facing some very strong, and more experienced opposition, none of our young players shied away from the challenge. Considering that this is an Under 15 competition, we probably had three of the youngest players taking on the challenge in Dylan Gorridge (10), Hadrian Pain (10) and Leonardo Rose (11).

Of the others, Amalina Gorridge, James Harrison, Beau Larkin and George Laver all gained places on the TTE National Ranking Lists. All players, except George Laver (Bexhillians), were members of Simply TT. We did find ourselves, due to illness, injury and non-availability, drafting two players for the final round of matches. Otherwise, all remained committed and showed considerable improvement through this experience.

Competitions

Along with a continuation of the Hastings and East Sussex Junior Circuits, the Association hosted a Sussex Novice event and a Hastings Junior League. These events provided the opportunity to compete against young players from the immediate and wider areas within the county. While these could be considered successful, it did underline the need for continual progression to bring through new generations of players, hence trying to engage with Primary Schools at years three and four level.

Schools

The Association has continued to support the after-school table tennis club at St. Leonards Academy (Mondays 3.15–4.15pm). There was also a Table Tennis Festival, organised by the Area Schools' Games Organiser (Mrs Suzi Mullins, TSLA), held in February which has led to a developing relationship with Crowhurst Primary School. The Festival was aimed at pupils in years three and four to initiate interest at an early age. As always, we find ourselves competing with other sports and interests which may be more compelling for young minds or be tempered by economic factors, choices made according to preference and/or affordability. Any member with children, or grandchildren, of school age might like to consider leading sessions at their child's school to help gain wider participation in this sphere.

Season 2024 – 25

The Executive Committee has agreed to support hosting National Cadet League fixtures in the area, this will be dependent on a minimum of six teams applying to play here. Ideally, I would like to see us enter at least two teams. I would also like to enter two teams in the National Junior League at Byng Hall TTC.

The Junior League proved a worthwhile venture which could be solely based in the Hastings Association area or consideration could be given to combining with the Eastbourne League purely at this level. Something for discussion at the first post-AGM meeting of the Executive Committee.

I would also like to explore the idea of organising tournaments at 1* and 2* level. This would be subject to changes being instigated in Table Tennis England's Competition Review and finding volunteers for the organising committee. Should this come to fruition, then I believe that we would be in a position to offer competition opportunities from novice through to national ranking, something that might not just be restricted to young players.

I am, again, willing to stand for re-election and hope that, with the continued help and support of the Committee, as much of the proposed programme for next season will be delivered.

Kevin Long
Development Officer



Chairman, Dave Watters, with some of the youngsters playing in the Junior League

Results Co-Ordinator's Report

Almost exactly two years ago I sat down to write an appraisal of my first year as H&DTTA's Results Co-Ordinator for this same publication. Today I find myself writing a farewell letter to the role and the many other ancillary duties it carries with it.

The first thing to say is that I have enjoyed my time in this role immensely. As a bang average (check the statistics!) Division Three player, I previously had very little insight into what was happening in the upper echelons of the Hastings League. Added to which as there are currently only three clubs active in the third division, I have only played outside of Westfield Community centre twice during the whole of this season. For both of these reasons, it has been a pleasure to watch events throughout the league unfold from my position in front of my laptop. I have taken a vicarious pleasure in watching Bexhill B's march to the championship, the contest for second place in the top division and my Tackleway clubmates' battle for supremacy in Division Two from the comfort of my own home.

Thank you to all the team captains and their occasional stand-ins for providing the scorecards so promptly, and for the most part legibly, during my tenure. I have also taken great pleasure from the intermittent dialogue resulting from the submission process – most frequently due to the black humour of contributors struggling at the wrong end of their division.

The good news is that I have already found and trained my successor. Her name is Ann Rodriguez. Ann is not currently a league player but is a regular and popular visitor to the Tackleway practice sessions. She is also the grandmother of the promising Tackleway junior and Simply TT Blacks award winner James Harrison.

Ann and I have completed our handover. She will be monitoring the same e-mail address that I set up from the outset (results.hdtta@gmail.com) so the transition should be seamless for anyone submitting next season's score cards. I have trained Ann as best I can and will be available to her for support until I set off for New Zealand and Tasmania in November. The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that the final result of the 2023-24 season (Hollington D vs Hollington C) was actually entered by Ann as our final test scenario.

On Ann's behalf, I would ask you all to show patience as she settles in at the start of next season. The process of entering the results is not a complex one but neither is it straightforward, especially during the early weeks when team line-ups are subject to change and the occasional gaps in her training are likely to appear. Also, Ann's attendance at executive committee meetings will not be required as it was for me.

I should like to offer an insight into some of the tasks that have previously been bundled-in with the Results Co-ordinator role which have now been handed back to the league executive committee for redistribution. These include but are not limited to: Membership Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Publicity Officer, acting Press Officer, Handicap Statistician and Reserve Statistician. How these tasks will be managed during future seasons will hopefully become clear at the league AGM on 10th July.

For my part I have agreed to retain the unofficial role of league webmaster and will be happy to continue to receive and post any content supplied by clubs and members for the TT365 website.

So, finally, thanks again to you all for your co-operation and patience. It's been fun.

Andy Holmes

Company Member's Report

There have been significant changes within Table Tennis England over the past year with former Chairman, Sandra Deaton, being replaced by Nick Donald on 1st November 2023. He is a chartered accountant by profession and held a senior position with HSBC. The CEO, Adrian Christy, has tendered his resignation but will be staying on until December 2024.

The ITTF World Championships are to be held from 1st-10th May 2026 at the OVO Arena, Wembley.

In February 2024 a World Table Tennis event was held in Manchester, the first time an international Open tournament had been held in England since 2011.

The National Championships were held in Nottingham in March 2024 and Paul Drinkhall won his seventh Men's Singles title and with Sam Walker, the Men's Doubles, putting Drinkhall second on the all time list of champions with a total of 26 senior titles, just four behind the legendary Desmond Douglas. Tin-Tin Ho won her sixth Women's Singles title and became a triple champion winning the Women's Doubles with Emily Bolton and the Mixed Doubles with Sam Walker.

TTE have published their Competition Review and there are significant changes to the present structure. The report is on the TTE website for those who wish to read the detail. There is also an ongoing review on coaching and a new strategy should be in place by April 2025. In the meantime, coaching courses have ceased, apart from those which are currently in process.

Don Parker was re-elected as the TTE Member Elected Board Member, for a further four-year period of office, he was unopposed. Other TTE Board Member changes – Priya Samuel resigned last July and Steve Kemish's term of office came to an end. Anna Whowell and Katharine Curran have taken their places.

The TTE AGM in July 2023 had a minimal agenda as several items which had previously been part of the meeting were no longer included. Disappointingly, too, the CEO for the second year running, had ignored the Standing Orders Committee. This Committee has now been disbanded and incorporated into a staff led TTE Committee whereas previously it had been elected by the membership at the AGM.

Rule change propositions for this year's AGM, which will disappointingly only be held as a virtual meeting, in some instances will place more decision making with the Board and less with the membership. The changes have been circulated to the Executive Committee so that instructions on how our Association votes can be considered.

The TTE Performance Centre moved from Nottingham University to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, where it had previously been around 15 years ago.

For the 2024/25 season TTE membership fees for the Compete category are to go up to £22 from £18 for seniors and from £9 to £11 for juniors (from 11-19 years old), under 11s are free. Compete Plus is to go from £40 and £20 to £44 and £22. One of the TTE governance changes at the last AGM was for the Board and not the AGM to set the fees.

The Olympic Games will be in Paris starting 26th July to 11th August 2024. The Paralympics follow from 28th August to 8th September 2024. To date no English players have qualified for the Olympics although Liam Pitchford is likely to be in the Men's Singles due to his world ranking. Wales's Anna Hursey qualified for the Women's Singles. There will be a number of English players at the Paralympics including Brighton based Will Bayley, MBE and Bly Twomey.

Diane Webb

Honours Committee Report

The Honours Committee of Mike Funnell, Dave Watters and Diane Webb (Chairman) met on 21st May 2024 with the main purpose to consider who to nominate for President-Elect and names for Vice-Presidents.

However, before this, the committee felt that criteria should be drawn up when considering names for Presidents and Vice-Presidents and this was duly done. Bearing in mind the criteria, one name was proposed for President-Elect and three for Vice-Presidents. NB The people were duly contacted and all accepted the nominations which had to be ratified by the Executive Committee and will be put to the AGM. All those nominated expressed much appreciation at being considered for the honours. Names will be disclosed at the AGM.

The maintaining of accurate records was also discussed, and it was noted that there were lists on the Association's website of all Presidents and Vice-Presidents. It was felt this should be supplemented by those who had received the President's Shield and also those who had been awarded the Most Improved Junior Player Award in both senior and junior leagues. These will be added during the coming season and other records updated. It was noted that Vice-Presidents were not kept informed of what was going on in the Association. It was considered that a list of contact details should be maintained and they should be informed of the presentation evening, the AGM and any other major events.

Terms of Reference were drawn up for the Honours Committee.

Discussion took place on perpetual trophies for Junior Awards. Consideration should be given for individual trophies as well as perpetual trophies for the newly presented three divisional best averages awards. The Treasurer to be contacted due to ongoing financial implications. Consideration was given to who perpetual trophies could be named after. It first needs to be ascertained who current trophies are named after and where they are located. Further consideration can then be given.

It was noted that all the space has been filled on the President's Shield. The Possibility of extending the shield for additional names is to be looked into.

Diane Webb

Honours Committee Chairman

Table Tennis England Pride of Table Tennis Award

On 21st February 2024 Kevin Long was presented with a TTE Pride of Table Tennis Male Volunteer of the Year certificate by Hastings President Paul Hyland. Kevin had been nominated by the Association to TTE for his outstanding contribution to grass roots junior development including his work in local schools and organising several cadet and junior tournaments. Congratulations Kevin.



President Paul Hyland with Kevin Long

Hastings & DTTA Presentation Evening 18th May 2024

It was a very well attended Presentation Evening on 18th May 2024 at Manor Barn in Bexhill with the best part of a 100 players, family, friends, past players and guests. There was plenty of time to chat and for people to meet up with others they hadn't seen for some time in a convivial atmosphere. It was nice to see so many from the junior league in attendance.



Presentation Evening Manor Barn, Bexhill

As well as the usual divisional trophies, three new trophies were presented for the player with the best singles average in each of the three senior divisions. These were all trophies in memory of three of the Association's best loved characters who had all contributed significantly to table tennis in the area. Mike Funnell gave a very nice address giving information on what Colin Hyland, Ron Spencer and Owen Hatter had done for the Association.

Matthew Haynes received the Colin Hyland Memorial Trophy for Division 1, Richard Hoyland the Owen Hatter Memorial Trophy for Division 2 and Thomas Mann the Ron Spencer Memorial Trophy for Division 3. Owen's wife, Jean and daughter, Dawn were able to attend.



Matt Haynes



Dawn Hooper, Richard Hoyland, Jean Hatter

With the Junior League up and running there were two trophies for the Most Improved Junior Player, one for the senior league and one for the junior league. These went to John Quintos and Amalina Gorrige respectively. A special mention was also made of Emily Koester who has had a most impressive season, topped off by being selected for the TTE Junior National Championships, a privilege only afforded those in the top 32 TTE rankings. She had also helped Sussex County Junior team win Junior Division 1B and so gain promotion. In recognition the Association agreed to make a contribution towards her expenses.



President Paul Hyland with John Quintos



Amalina Gorrige

President, Paul Hyland, presented the President's Shield to Andy Holmes for his work, week in week out, in maintaining the Associations' website and inputting the results. A well-deserved accolade.



Paul Hyland presenting the President's Shield to Andy Holmes

Divisional team winners' trophies went to Bexhillians B in Division 1, Tackleway Chuqin in Division 2 and Tackleway Freitas in Division 3. Simply TT Blues topped Junior Division 1 and Simply TT Greens headed Junior Division 2.



Division 1 Winners John Ellis, Ryan Heselden, Paul Barry



Division 2 Winners Kevin Rowe, Danny Rickaby



Junior Division 1 Winners Beau Larkin & Dylan Gorrige Junior Division 2 Winners Roman Gorrige & Rufus Pawson-Davies

More photos on the Hastings & DTTA website.

Diane Webb

Hastings & DTTA Centenary

A year ago we said that our centenary was four years away and now as time moves on ,we have only three years to decide how to celebrate our hundred years. There hasn't been much response to the request for photos or any information about the past, so we would ask if you have anything that you think may be of interest then please get in touch with either Kevin Long gensec.hdtta@gmail.com or phone 07541 577722 or Diane Webb DianeK1414@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01424 216342

The website under Downloads has lists of all the Presidents and Vice-Presidents, we appreciate not all the information may be up to date, so if you can help and let us know of any inaccuracies that would be much appreciated – we also are trying to get photographs of everyone on the lists so again if you can help that would be great.

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Hastings Closed Report 2024

A great turnout of players contested the annual Hastings Closed tournament at the Hollington Community Centre on 3rd June 2024. A total of 34 players played in the tournament across nine events. I would like to thank all the players for their patience and support on getting the tournament done.

The first event of the day was the junior mixed singles event which had ten players enter. This was a brilliant improvement on recent years and something to build on for the future. The event was played in three groups, two of three and one of four. The top three seeds in the event all successfully made it through their respective groups to a triangular final.

In the triangular final, first up was group three winner Oli Matthews played group two winner Matthew Davies. All three games were competitive with Matthew coming out on top 3-0. Second match of the group was Oli taking on group one winner Arthur Bracken. Oli made the faster start winning the first game 11-7. Arthur then regrouped winning the next three games to win the match 3-1. The final match of the group was the top two seeds Arthur and Matthew going head-to-head for the title and it was Matthew who came out on top with a 3-0-win. The standard of play from all three finalists was exceptional and a testament to the leagues efforts to get more juniors playing in league table tennis.



President Paul Hyland with Matthew Davies



Arthur Bracken & Amalina Gorridge with Chairman Dave Watters

Arthur did not let the disappointment of the singles affect him as he teamed up with Amalina Gorridge to triumph in the junior open doubles event. They topped in a round robin group of four pairs with Thomas Porter and John Quintos coming runners-up in the event. The match between the top two pairs ended with a 3-1 win for Arthur and Amalina, despite Thomas and John winning the opening game 11-3.

The next event of the day was the Division Three singles which had only six players enter. This was a slight disappointment but something to improve on in future years. The event was contested in two groups of three, with the winners of each playing in the final. Top seed John Quintos made it through to the final despite having to come through an epic battle with fellow Tackleway player Phil Talbot in the group winning 11-8 in the deciding game. The other group in the event had a surprise winner as Cheng Liu prevailed beating second seed Peter Harding 3-1 in a winner takes all shoot out. In the final, Cheng battled hard, however, John had just a bit too much, running out a 3-0 winner, retaining his title from last year.



President Paul Hyland with John Quintos

Division Two singles were the next event to be played with ten players entered. The players were split into three groups with the winners of the group playing in a triangular final. Group one had a surprise winner with Dimitar Pachev coming out on top, beating top seed Bob Lowe 11-7 in the deciding game in the group. Group two was the group of four and had to be decided



Tina Beaney with President Paul Hyland

on a countback basis as three players all won. Second seed Paul Hyland went through to the final having the best average of the three. Group three, third seed Tina Beaney had to come through a great battle with Alison Jordan. Tina winning 11-9 in the deciding game to make it through to the final. The triangular final was a comfortable one for Tina, winning both her matches against Paul and Dimitar 3-0 to take the title. Paul Hyland was runner-up after beating Dimitar 3-1.

The mixed doubles event was played with six pairings across two groups of three with the top two pairings going through to the semi-finals. In group one, top seeds Rose Rainton and Dave Butler topped the group, winning both their matches 3-0. Paul Barry and Sheila King joined them through in the semis after a 3-1 win over father/daughter pairing of James and Amalina Gorridge. Group two, Tina Beaney and Nathan Darby topped the group beating Lewis Mayhew and Sue Pingram 3-1 into second place. The first semi-final was Rose/Dave against Lewis/Sue, and it was Lewis and Sue that raced into a 2-0 lead, winning the second game 13-11. However, the match was not over as Rose and Dave found their stride and won the next three games to make it into the final. The second semi-final was a bit more straight forward with Tina and Nathan winning 3-0 over Sheila and Paul. In the final, Rose and Dave started better winning the first game 11-8. The second game was settled at deuce with Tina and Nathan winning it 13-11. The next two games were again shared between the pairs setting up a one game show down to win the title. It was Tina and Nathan that came through winning 11-5 to retain their title from last year.



Tina Beaney & Nathan Darby with President Paul Hyland



President Paul Hyland with Tina Beaney & Sue Pingram

The women's doubles followed with the title being decided in a round robin group of three pairings. Tina Beaney and Sue Pingram came out on top, winning both their matches 3-0. The runners-up of the group went too Alison Jordan and Sheila King after they won a close match against Rose Rainton and Amalina Gorridge 3-1 after winning a close third game 13-11. This was Amalina first outing in a senior women's event and is one to watch out for in the future.

Men's doubles were played in two groups of four with again the top two from each group making it to the semi-finals. In group one top seeds Andy Norwood and Lewis Mayhew stormed through the group without dropping a game. Runners-up in the group were Matthew Davies and Dave Butler. In group two, the winners were James Gorridge and Arthur Bracken after coming through a close four game win against father son duo Trevor and Nathan Darby with three being won by only two points. Trevor and Nathan did come runners-up in the group after winning the remainder of their group matches.

Semi-final one saw top seeds Lewis and Andy taking on Trevor and Nathan. After the top seeds raced into a 2-0 lead, the father/son duo did not make it easy for them by winning the third 11-9 and it was edging



Lewis Mayhew & Andy Norwood with President Paul Hyland

towards a final game showdown, but Lewis and Andy had other ideas winning the fourth 11-7 to seal their place in the final. Semi-final two saw Matthew and Dave take on Arthur and James. James and Arthur battled hard but seemed to come out second best in the big points with Matthew and Dave winning 3-0 and booking their place in the final. In the final, the top seeds showed their class against Matthew and Dave winning 3-0.



*Rose Rainton with President
Paul Hyland*

The women's singles event was contested over top groups of three with the top two going through to the semi-finals. Group one, top seed Rose Rainton raced through her group, winning both her matches 3-0. Runner-up in the group was Sheila King who overcame Tina Beaney 3-1 to book her place in the semi-finals. Group two after both beating Cheng Liu 3-0, second seed Sue Pingram faced Alison Jordan to decide the top two placings. The match couldn't be closer with Alison racing into a 2-0 lead, but Sue had other ideas taking games three and four to set up a one game shoot out. The deciding game couldn't be closer with Sue pinching it 12-10 to book her place as group winner and Alison runner-up. Semi-final one saw Rose take on Alison and it was the top seed that showed her class winning 3-0 to book her place in the final. Semi-final two saw second seed Sue take on Sheila for a place in the final. Sue prevailed 3-0 to face Rose in the final for a chance at the title. In the final, Rose made a fast start winning the first game 11-3, the second was a tight affair with Sue taking it 14-12 to level things up at 1-1. This only seemed to spur Rose on with her winning games three and four to take the title.

The final event of the day was the men's singles, and we were spoilt with a large majority of the top players being able to enter. The group stage of the event pretty much went to the seedings and no major surprises and the same could be said for all the round two matches. The quarter matches were some of the most drama filled and arguably best matches of the day. The best example of this was the quarter-final between club and teammates Faldie Adams and Lewis Mayhew. Faldie raced into a 2-0 lead and was up 10-7 in the third. But back came Lewis winning the third 12-10, saving three match points before closing the final two games to book his place in the semi-finals. Whilst this was going on another titanic battle was being played out between Matthew Davies and Nathan Darby. The first four games were shared 2-2 with three of them being won by a two-point margin. The deciding game between the pair was some of the best table tennis of the day with a combination of Matthew's spin and angles vs Nathan's power and retrieving skills. It was Nathan that held his nerve and booked his place in the semis winning 12-10. Another close quarter final saw Arthur Bracken took on multiple time champion of the event Paul Barry.

Arthur took a 2-0 lead going into the third game but Paul wasn't going to give up lightly by taking the third 12-10. The fourth was close with both players going point for point all the way through until Arthur got over the line winning the fourth 11-9 to make it through to the semi-finals. The last quarter-final saw top seed Andy Norwood take on Paul Hyland. This match had far less drama in it with the top seed showing his class, winning the match 3-0.

The first semi-final had Andy Norwood taking on Arthur Bracken. Arthur made a positive start by taking the first two games 11-3, 11-8. Andy then started his comeback by winning the third 11-4. The fourth again was highly drama filled with Arthur having a match point but couldn't take it with Andy pinching it 13-11 to set up a one game showdown for a place in the final.

The deciding game flowed one way then the other way, but it was Arthur who held his nerve winning 11-9 to book his place in the final. But who would he be facing. The other semi-final was between Lewis Mayhew and Nathan Darby. Both having had really tough and hard matches in the quarter-finals, but it was Lewis that booked his place in the final winning 3-0.

Last match of the day... Men's singles final between Lewis Mayhew and Arthur Bracken. Both had their fair share of battles to make it to the final and the first two games were shared 1-1 leaving us with a three game shoot out to decide whom would take the title. It was Lewis that found that extra gear to take the title 3-1. A fantastic end to a great day's table tennis.

It was an excellent tournament with some tremendous matches played and a mention must be made to the high level of sportsmanship throughout the day; the players were a real credit to their sport.

Thanks must go to Hollington Community Centre for hosting the tournament, especially to all those who did the tea/coffee and the hot food. This was greatly appreciated by all the players. Furthermore, a big thank you is owed to all who helped make the day such a success.

Jamie Martin



*President Paul Hyland with
Lewis Mayhew*

Watts Cup Report 2024

The Hastings Table Tennis Association Watts Cup final between Academy 'A' and Bexhillians 'B' was staged at Hollington Y.C.C on Thursday 25th April 2024 and showcased six of the best players in town.

In the opening doubles Academy pairing Rose Rainton and Dave Butler got off to a 'flying start' against Bexhillians duo Nathan Darby and Ryan Heselden, beautifully attacking their way to a comfortable first game lead. Fortunes quickly changed though as the Bexhill boys found their style and consistency with precision blocking and penetrating aggression to take the next three games to 7, 6 and 7.

In match two local legend and 16 times Hastings champ Paul Barry (Bexhillians) faced talented teenager Matt Davies (Academy) in what turned out to be an epic battle. The youngster displayed superb agility with lovely flowing combinations of chop, top spin and sweeping attack to surprise both Paul and the crowd as he comfortably took the first game 11-5. Never one to 'roll over' the ace veteran's trademark style of vintage push blocking and super quick smashes to alternate wings diffused Matt's game a bit and Paul took the next two games to seven and six. But in another exciting twist the youngster (over 40 years Paul's junior) went up a gear with terrific movement and play to take the fourth game with no-one knowing now how the final game might pan out. In the end experience won the day as Paul's incredible consistency made sure he kept 'a buffer' of two or three points throughout to edge him over the line 11-8 to conclude a fabulous game.

Next up were 23 times local ladies champ and European Veterans ladies doubles winner, Hastings hero Rose Rainton against rising young star super consistent and highly ranked Ryan Heselden. Both came out displaying their full array of wonderful shots in the opening salvo with Rose's fabulous high long loop to both wings being absorbed and countered by Ryan's rapid blocking and beautifully angled attack as they went 'tit for tat' to deuce before the game favoured Ryan 13-11. Buoyed on by being one up Ryan then stamped his confidence and style on the game to take the next two games and victory.

Dave Butler (a former two- or three-times Hastings champion) and Paul squared up for the fourth match having had scores of encounters over the years so they knew each other's games inside out. This one though proved a little frustrating for Dave as he powered forward with his 'springy legged and huge arc' massive loops Paul absorbed almost all that came his way with wonderfully accurate angled bat pushing and punching the ball to all corners of the table he was able to run out a three straight winner.

Bexhillians were now 4-0 up so Academy had to somehow get a win to stay in the match (contested over a best out of nine format). So up stepped young Matt to take on current Hastings champ and fabulous flamboyant shot player Nathan Darby with most of the crowd thinking the latter would probably emerge victorious. What a terrific game ensued as both players gave their all-exchanging volleys of close table spinning attack with incredible retrieving shots from all over the court, to the delight of the riveted crowd. There was nothing between them as they battled to the fifth game before Matt managed to 'nose in front' to win it 11-6.

Academy had now pulled one back to 1-4 in the match but still had so much to do to stay in contention for the cup. It was now up to Rose and Dave to try and beat Nathan and Paul in the next doubles. Alas, it was not to be as the Bexhillians pair ran out straight set winners to seal the overall match by 5-1 to claim a wonderful victory and the Watts Cup title. The crowd showed their appreciation with rapturous applause for the players for serving up such a high quality and entertaining match.



Watts Cup Champions Bexhillians B



Watts Cup Runners-up Hastings Academy A

The trophies were presented by H&DTTA President Paul Hyland and the tournament organiser Pete Harding was thanked for all his hard work and commitment in making the event another great success this year.

Mike Funnell

Minor Trophy Report 2024

Holders Bexhill F retained the Hastings League Minor Trophy with a 5-1 win over Division 2 rivals Hastings Academy B in the final of the competition.

Contests between the two teams are normally close encounters and the opening doubles stuck to the script with Pam Winter and Brian Busbridge (Bexhill) scraping past Andy Furnival and Terry Dean (Academy) 11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 5-11, 11-9. After a good start by the Bexhill pair, Furnival took control of the third and fourth games with some controlled hitting off the Bexhill serves. The fifth game was more closely contested but the Bexhill pair held their nerve at the finish.

Things looked better for Academy as Graham Deeprise took the first game against Tina Beaney 11-1, but the Bexhill number one came back to take the next three 11-5, 12-10, 15-13.

Furnival then provided the Academics with a much-needed lift with a victory over Winter 11-3, 11-7, 10-12, 11-8. The Bexhill player got into the contest in the last two games but was unable to repeat her excellent win in the league.

From this point, Bexhill took control, not losing another game, with Busbridge first beating Deeprise 11-7, 11-5, 12-10 before Beaney beat Dean 11-9, 11-2, 13-11 despite Dean coming back well in the third.

Bexhill's top doubles pairing of Beaney and Winter gave Bexhill a winning 5-1 margin with a win over Deeprise and Dean 11-4, 11-7, 11-8 which also ensured a cup double for the club.



Bexhillians F Minor Trophy Winners

David Laing, Kim Shearer, Pam Winter, Brian Busbridge, Tina Beaney with President Paul Hyland

David Laing and Kim Shearer had played in earlier rounds of the competition and were an important part of the team in helping them reach the final.

Brian Busbridge

Veterans Closed Report

The Hastings Table Tennis Veterans' tournament held on Sunday, 18th February 2024 at Bexhill Youth and Community Centre provided lots of excitement and high-quality play from the local 40 plus brigade.

With four separate age groups - 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s plus an open doubles, most of the favourites made it through to the finals with the odd exception. From an original ten pairs in the doubles Roy Funnell and James Gorridge (Tackleway) upset the form book with a scintillating display of controlled attacking play in the semi-finals to hold out against number two seeded big hitters Nathan and Trevor Darby (Bexhill) sealing victory with an 11-7 win in the fourth game! In the other semi-final hot favourites Paul Barry (Bexhill) and Dave Butler (Academy) were too strong for the pairing of Rose Rainton (Academy) and Pam Winter (Bexhill) as they powered their way to a three game to one win. Paul and Dave were also relentless in their forceful attacking play against James and Roy in the final taking the title with a three straight win.



Veterans Open Doubles Winners Paul Barry & Dave Butler

Five players contested the 70s in a 'round robin'/everyone plays everyone group in which there were lots of close and exciting matches with several 'going to the wire' in the fifth game before Mike Funnell (Tackleway) and Bob Lowe (Hollington) emerged with the most wins to secure their place (two going through) in the final. Though Mike had beaten Bob in the group in five games the final turned out to be a totally different affair with seasoned campaigner and ex-top ten Hastings player Bob changing his rubbers to a 'deader combination' to throw Mike's normally controlled counter and steady attack game into inconsistency, having to work much harder to top spin and lift the ball (from earlier on in the day). Bob's deep chop and rasping long loop proved too tricky for his opponent and though Mike was getting back into it in the third game he went down 11-9 and Bob took the title. Bob had played a really clever and controlled game to run out a worthy winner.



Over 70s Winner Bob Lowe



Over 60s Winner Dave Butler

There were six players in the 60s comprising two groups of three with two from each group going through to the semi-finals and then two prevailing to the final. It all went according to form with Dave Butler (No. 1 seed) and Roy Funnell (No. 2 seed) comfortably making it through to the showdown where Dave's controlled aggressive shots proved too consistent for Roy's rapid attacking game. The former 40s title holder unleashed a barrage of massive forehand loops down both wings which Roy

just couldn't block and contain enough of (despite smashing accurately through some) and Dave ran on to victory and the title in three straight games.

The 50s was contested by another 'round robin' group of four players with local legend Rose Rainton (22 times Hastings ladies champion) and quality Hailsham player Steve Hickey making it through to the final. Rose treated the crowd to a wonderfully fluid array of spinning looping and smashing combination shots to forge into the lead and though Steve managed to claw back some ground in the third game with his tricky chop and hard flat smash Rose held on to take it 11-9 to claim the crown!



Over 50s Winner Rose Rainton

The 40s group of four saw hot favourites Paul Barry and Nathan Darby winning through to the final to contest the 'blue ribbon' event

and what a treat they gave the enthusiastic audience in the day's finale! New vet, fresh faced flamboyant force, Nathan, looked full of confidence as he faced 16 times Hastings men's champion and multi vets title holder, the hugely experienced and awesome Paul Barry in what turned to be an epic battle! Paul quickly ran into a comfortable two game lead with his early take drives and beautifully measured blocks containing Nathan's attack. In the third game the trailing man emerged far more 'pumped up' as he ramped up his game with more powerful speeding loops and cracking smashes to take the next two

games to even up. In the final game both men were utterly focused on winning though Nathan's youth and energy seemed to be edging it with his fabulous sweeping and agile attacking shots racing him into an 8-4 lead! Paul was not finished yet though as he began to contain his opponent with precision blocking and cuttngly accurate counter-attack while Nathan's big hits were now just missing. Suddenly, the tables were turned as Paul took the next six points in a row to lead 10-8. Nathan got one back but the night favoured Paul as he crossed the line to take the title 11-9. What a game what great entertainment and what a great advert for local table tennis!



Over 40s Winner Paul Barry

There was also an impromptu consolation event where Alison Jordan played a lovely smooth attacking game to get the victory over Sheila King in the final.

The trophies were presented by H&DTTA President Paul Hyland and there was a special thank you to Trevor Towner (Bexhill TTC leader) and Paul White (Bexhill YCC manager) for all their hard work in preparing the hall and tables beforehand. Also, a round of applause for Mike Funnell for all the time and effort he put into organising the event and to Paul Barry for assisting him so well on the day, plus the players who all helped to make it another successful and enjoyable tournament this year.



Consolation Singles Winner Alison Jordan

Mike Funnell

Team Handicap Report: Summer 2023

Eleven teams entered the 2023 Team Handicap competition. They were split into three groups. Two of the groups consisted of four teams and the third consisted of three.

After the first round the top two teams from each group to go through to the next round were:

Group 1: Bexhillians B and Tackleway C.

Group 2: Hollington A and, Tackleway A.

Group 3: Monarchs and Tackleway D.

The second round was a second round robin of two groups of three. The winners of these groups to contest the final were Hollington A and Tackleway A.

The Team Handicap final, played on 13th July at the Bexhillians club, produced some exciting games but in the end proved a comfortable victory for the Hollington team.

The opening game saw first division man Mike Funnell conceding a seven-point start to top second division opponent Paul Hyland. Mike's consistent attack and defence combination strokes saw him claw back the points to deuce before narrowly missing out 22-20. The second game followed a different script. Paul piled on the pressure from the start with some fabulous blocking and winning smashes to keep Mike out of the running and ran away with the game 21-8.

Phil Talbot (division three) from Tackleway then faced Yasar Akar. With the Hollington division two man giving him a 12-point start Phil polished off the first game in record time with some super backhands whipping down the wings much to the surprise of the Hollington player. Yasar played far more consistently from there on, absorbing everything Phil could throw at him with measured chop and push strokes before opening up with some lovely attacking shots of his own, eventually taking the next two games 21-17, 21-16.

Next up, James Gorridge, another topflight Tackleway player conceded ten points to Mike Courtnage from division two (Hollington) and from the off James showed amazing agility retrieving shots from all the court to almost level the score before losing the first game 21-19. The second game however was much more comfortable for Mike building on his lead with quick reactions and smooth transition from defence to controlled attack and got clean away from James to take the game 21-10.

At 3-0 down, Tackleway needed to stop the rot in order to stand any chance of winning the match and Phil Talbot did just that with an emphatic victory over Paul Hyland. With a substantial 14 point start the Tackleway man employed an aggressive attacking strategy knowing that if he won two out of five shots he would win the game and that's how it panned out – the shots; some wild, some winners, saw him run away with a 21-10, 21-14, victory.

Mike Funnell then came back to the table to give Mike Courtnage a ten-point start but the lead proved too much. Mike Courtnage was playing so well that he matched Mike Funnell stroke for stroke and more or less retained his lead to emerge a comfortable winner in two straight games 21-11, 21-10.

The next duel was far more exciting with James and Yasar (receiving a nine-point advantage) squaring up to each other. Both played some fabulously consistent chop, push and attacking rallies with James doing so well to take the first game 21-16. Yasar retained a good points buffer in the second to take that to 21-14 before James got away in the final game to take it 21-17 in what was one of the games of the evening.

The match score was now 4–2 in Hollington’s favour but it is still possible for Tackleway to get back and take it ‘to the wire’. Game number seven saw Phil play Mike Courtnage with Phil taking the first game in super attacking fashion 21-13. Mike came out a different player in the second returning almost everything thrown at him and putting in some terrific attacking winners to clean up 21-16. The third game was much closer with Mike just edging it 21-19 to win the game and the overall victory for Hollington 5-2.

The players decided to complete the remaining games to round off the evening with Hollington taking both those games as well.

The Dave Power Memorial Trophy was presented by H&DTTA 2022/23 President Mike Funnell to the victorious Hollington side.

The ‘best performance of a player not in the final’ trophy went to John Ellis of Bexhillians B who won 12 games out of 15 played.

Woodward Handicap Cup 2024

This individual handicap competition was played during the week commencing Monday 18th March 2024.

The final entry was 44 players from four clubs, a small increase on last season's event, and two sessions were held during the week at Hollington and Tackleway Table Tennis Clubs.

From the session at Tackleway James Harrison from Tackleway TTC and Dave Turnbull from Hollington TTC, both Division 3 players, plus Matt Haynes from Bexhillians TTC, the top player in Division 1, won through to the finals.

At the Hollington session five players won through to the finals: John Ellis and Andy Hyde from Bexhillians TTC, both Division 1 players, Graham Deeprise from Hastings Academy and Ryan Demeza from Hollington TTC, both Division 2 players, and Mike Cruttenden from Tackleway TTC, a Division 3 player.

The final session was held at Hollington TTC on Saturday 23rd March. In the semi-finals Graham Deeprise defeated James Harrison 22-20, 21-17, having given a 12-point start in each game. Then Matt Haynes beat Ryan Demeza 21-16, 21-18, after Ryan received 14 points.

The final saw Graham receive a 12 point start but Matt triumphed by 21-17, 21-17 to win this competition at his first attempt. In contrast Graham was playing in his second Woodward Handicap final as in 2004 he lost to Yolanda King.

Paul Hyland, President of the Hastings & District Table Tennis Association, made the presentations.



Champion Matt Haynes and Runner-up Graham Deeprise with President Paul Hyland

Sheila King
Organiser

JUNIOR EVENTS

National Junior League

See Bexhillians TTC report.

National Cadet League

See Development Officers and Simply TTC reports.

East Sussex Schools Table Tennis Championships – Individual

72 players from across the county competed in the East Sussex Schools Table Tennis Championships (ESTTA) in Patcham, Brighton on 27th January 2024. The event was once again organised by Teresa Bennett, her 30th year of doing so. It proved a successful tournament for several Hastings Association players with Emily Koester (Bexhill College) winning the Under 19 Girls' title.

Amalina Gorridge (Robertsbridge) came a creditable fourth in the Under 13 Girls' Singles and Dylan Gorridge (Westfield) and Leonardo Rose (Claremont) both reached the quarter-final stage in the Under 11 Boys' Singles.

James Harrison did well to get out of his group in the Under 16 Boys' Singles as he played against older opposition whilst Roman Gorridge was runner-up in the Under 13 Boys' Singles Consolation event.

There were also good performances from Hadrian Pain (St Leonards C of E) and Liam Higgins (Little Ridge) in the Under 11 Boys' Singles, battling in all games in tough groups and a mention too, to Rufus Pawson-Davies (Robertsbridge) who was pitted against the best in his age group in the Under 13 Boys' Singles.

James Gorridge & Diane Webb



*U19 GS Winner
Emily Koester*

Junior Closed Championships

On 4th May 2024, juniors from five clubs competed in a marathon day of table tennis, contesting nine events at Bexhill Community Centre as the water outage in Hastings and St Leonards made the original venue, ARK Alexandra, unavailable.

The day began with seeded groups for the Youth Cup from four pots based on ability. The players that progressed per group ended up as expected. Then it was on to the quarter-final knockouts of the main draw and consolation.

In the **Youth Cup**, Bexhillians dominated, with the experienced Senior Division 1 players Oli Matthews and Leon Hyde rocketing to the final winning each match in three straight games.

Along the way, however, brave performances were witnessed by Killian McInerney (Bexhillians) and George Beardsley, (also from Bexhillians), in which notably George beat Hollington TTC's Owen Graham 3-1 in an edgy quarter-final. Beau Larkin (Simply TT) also competed well against Leon Hyde in a close quarter-final second game 11-9 defeat.

John Quintos (Tackleway) faced Freddy Lawrence (St Michaels) in the only non-Bexhillians represented round, with John progressing to the semi-final 11-7, 13-11, 15-13. Unfortunately for John Quintos, Leon Hyde proved too strong as did Oli Matthews for George Beardsley in the other semi-final.

In the Consolation event, many members of the Simply TT Junior club competed against each other to try and gain a trophy. Brother and sister, Dylan and Amalina Gorridge, squared up first with Amalina's experience proving too much, running out a 3-0 winner. Vincent Ridley (St Michael's) also had a fairly comfortable win against Jacob Watters (Simply TT) winning 11-6, 11-6, 11-7. Recent newcomer Liam Higgins (Simply TT) had a fantastic run after beating Amalina Gorridge in the group and going on to win 3-0 against Rufus Pawson-Davies (Simply TT).

This set up two semi-finals in which Hadrian Pain (Simply TT), having sat out with a bye, struggled to match the pace of Amalina Gorridge's backhand drive and in the tie of the round Liam Higgins faced Vincent Ridley. This match had many twists and turns, with Liam victorious 14-12 in the fifth game.

It was then on to the four age specific events via a round robin format with the finals being played at the end of the day.



*Liam Higgins and Dylan Gorridge
with Kevin Long*

In the **U11s** despite a first match defeat to Leon Rose (Simply TT), Dylan Gorridge went on to add the Hastings title to his recent Sussex Under 11s winner's medal. It could be assumed, however, had Leon Rose not picked up an injury, barely finishing his last match in five games, the outcome may have been different. This is also true of Liam Higgins who unknowingly in game three looked to have Dylan Gorridge beaten whilst 10-6 up and leading two games to one! Dylan eventually clawed this game back 14-12 to claim the match 11-5 in the fifth game. After winning all his remaining games Liam Higgins finished runner-up to Dylan Gorridge on the head-to-head result. A great achievement for a player with less than six months play under his belt.

The **U13s** saw a two-club contest between Simply TT and St Michaels, in which Amalina Gorridge's prowess excelled to only drop two games all group and show her ruthless qualities within the sport against her male opponents. The second-place spot was decided between the St Michaels' boys with a tremendous win for Vincent Ridley against his junior league partner and Division 1 average leader, Freddy Lawrence.



Vincent Ridley and Amalina Gorridge with Kevin Long

The **U16s** again was competed by two clubs, this time Bexhillians and Simply TT. A very evenly matched group saw wins for all



George Beardsley and Beau Larkin with Kevin Long

players including Killian McInerney beating Beau Larkin in match one which must have ignited a fight or flight reaction after Beau went on to win his remaining two games alongside George Beardsley, only losing to the aforementioned Beau. James Harrison (Simply TT) struggled for form but managed a win against Killian McInerney in game four. The deciding factor was the head-to-head between Beau Larkin and George Beardsley, the only five game match with Beau Larkin taking the game 11-8, 8-11, 11-5, 12-14, 11-8 to be crowned U16 champion.

The **U19s** seemed to have two battles going on within the group of four, with games five and six deciding the places. For the third spot a five-game match between Senior Division 3 players John Quintos and Owen Graham proved a must watch with the first games playing out 14-12, 6-11, 11-8, 10-12. John Quintos in the final game had luck on his side as two nets in the final two points in sudden death clinched his third place 12-10. With the Youth Cup final to come later Oli Matthews and Leon Hyde squared up for round one in the final group game to decide the U19 winner in which Leon just edged the match with slightly more control in tight points whilst Oli pushed the game with his attacking play. Final scores 11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8.



Leon Hyde and Oli Matthews with Kevin Long

In what has been a fantastic revival season for junior table tennis with the introduction of two junior league divisions, the next events were the two divisional title trophies.



Liam Higgins and Rufus Pawson-Davies with Kevin Long

Junior Division 2 had low entries with only three players from eight eligible, in which Liam Higgins picked up the winner's trophy winning both his matches in three games convincingly. The runners-up spot then was always going to be a tight game in which Jacob Watters and Rufus Pawson-Davies were finely matched albeit each ran away with games to 11. Ultimately, Rufus Pawson-Davies finally won the fifth game to gain second spot. Result 5-11, 11-3, 11-5, 8-11, 11-6.

With more teams in **Junior Division 1** the top four teams entered all their players, although Leon Rose retired for the day after an injury, colliding with the table in the U11s. Two groups were contested with the top two through to the semi-finals and with a straight draw put the elders James Harrison, Beau Larkin, Amalina Gorridge and Vincent Ridley as group A and Dylan Gorridge, Hadrian Pain and Freddy Lawrence group B.

Despite James Harrison losing his only match in game six to Amalina Gorridge, it was his first match against Beau Larkin 7-11, 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9 that ultimately decided the places as he got his revenge for earlier in the Under 16s losing to Beau. All the other games were won three straight apart from the above five game matches. Group B saw Freddy Lawrence show his dominance over the two Under 11s and it came down to Dylan Gorridge v Hadrian Pain for the progression to knockouts in which Hadrian was desperately unlucky in the final game losing 11-7 to Dylan.

The semi-finals saw Under 11 winner Dylan Gorridge against James Harrison hungry for success. This was a valiant performance by Dylan again with James eager to progress. James ran out winner as follows 11-9, 12-14, 13-11, 11-7 and was getting stronger as the day went on.

The second semi-final saw Beau Larkin versus Freddy Lawrence but possibly due to fatigue Freddy could not rekindle his form in other events throughout the day losing 11-1, 11-4, 11-5. This set up the finale and day decider between James Harrison and Beau Larkin. Again, despite already in the day having a four and five game match, James continued his assault of short serves, chops and topspins to run away with the game and Division 1 title 11-6, 11-7, 11-9.



James Harrison and Beau Larkin with Kevin Long

In an addition to the published events, to get the maximum play time and give all a chance of success, a ranked **drawn doubles** took place. This actually proved the most popular event across the day and genuine smiles were seen on all faces around the hall.

The competition was so closely matched that five of the seven matches went to final games to decide the winners. The eventual winners, all in five games, was Oli Matthews and Rufus Pawson-Davies who started brightly against George Beardsley and Dylan Gorridge just edging the quarter-final 7-11, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 8-11. Next up was Leon Hyde and Jacob Watters and the two senior Division 1 players battled hard whilst the two junior Division 2 novices tried to help their team stay in the match. This time Oli Matthews with partner Rufus Pawson-Davies was victorious 7-11, 11-3, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7.



Oli Matthews & Rufus Pawson-Davies and Hadrian Pain & John Quintos with Kevin Long

The final pitted them against John Quintos and Hadrian Pain and again, despite being behind in the first game, they managed to clinch the title 9-11, 11-4, 11-9, 5-11, 11-7.

Main Event Finals



Leon Hyde and Oli Matthews with Kevin Long

The **Youth Cup** final then saw the two top seeds from Bexhill take to the stage and despite losing the first game 11-9 Leon Hyde battled back to claim the next two 11-8, 11-9. This then must have reminded Leon about his earlier victory over Oli Matthews in the Under 19s and Leon then took the title 11-5 in the fourth game to record a momentous double singles win from the day.

In the **Consolation** Amalina Gorridge ran out with the first game 12-10 against Liam Higgins. This then spurred on Amalina to take the trophy 11-9, 11-8 and turn around a loss to Liam earlier in her group, only for them to meet again in the final to exact revenge.

Thanks, should be given to tournament organisers, James Gorridge for reviving the tournament, absent for some ten years, and to Kevin Long for his continued help in the area running many Junior events.



Liam Higgins and Amalina Gorridge with Kevin Long

Summary: Winners & Runners-up

U11s

Dylan Gorridge

Liam Higgins

U13s

Amalina Gorridge

Vincent Ridley

U16s

Beau Larkin

George Beardsley

U19s

Leon Hyde

Oli Matthews

Ranked Drawn Doubles

Oli Matthews & Rufus Pawson-Davies

Hadrian Pain & John Quintos

Divisional Junior 1 Singles

James Harrison

Beau Larkin

Divisional Junior 2 Singles

Liam Higgins

Rufus Pawson-Davies

Youth Cup Consolation

Amalina Gorridge

Liam Higgins

Youth Cup

Leon Hyde

Oli Matthews

SENIOR CLUBS REPORTS

Bexhillians Premier TTC

Bexhillians Premier TTC fielded eight teams in the Hastings & DTTL this season. In Division 1 Bexhillians B – Paul Barry, Nathan Darby, Ryan Heselden and John Ellis won the Division 1 title and the doubles title. Bexhillians A came fourth, Bexhillians C came sixth, Bexhillians E came seventh and Bexhillians D came eighth. In Division 2, Bexhillians F came fourth and Bexhillians G came eighth and in Division 3, Bexhillians H came seventh. However, Matt Haynes came top of the players averages in Division 1 and Richard Hoyland came top of the averages in Division 2.

The seniors had success in the Hastings and Eastbourne Closed Championships. In Hastings, Cheng Liu came runner-up in the Division 3 singles event, Tina Beaney won the Division 2 singles, the Mixed Doubles with Nathan Darby and the Women's Doubles with Sue Pingram from Tackleway. Lewis Mayhew won the Men's Singles title and the Doubles with Andy Norwood.

In the Eastbourne Closed, Andy Norwood won the Men's Singles title, Pin Ka Yiu the Women's Singles, Andy Norwood and Faldie Adams won the Men's Doubles event, Pin Ka Yiu and Pam Winter won the Women's Doubles event and Faldie Adams and Pin Ka Yiu won the Mixed Doubles title. Malcolm Barber came runner-up in the Men's Consolation Singles.

Further success for club players came when Matt Haynes won the Woodward Handicap Singles, Bexhillians B won the Watts Cup and Bexhillians F won the Hastings Minor Trophy.

However, the biggest success this season and in the Club's history, was the junior side of Emily Koester, Oli Matthews and Leon Hyde who represented Bexhillians Premier TT Club in the Table Tennis England National Junior League event at Byng Hall TTC in Tunbridge Wells when they won the team gold medal. They lost 4-2 to Chatham A but beat Cleeve Park Red from Surrey 4-2, Byng Hall Red 5-1, Byng Hall Blue 6-0, Isle of Thanet Odin 4-2 and Worthing 5-1 winning the title by four points with Emily Koester and Leon Hyde both winning nine out of their ten matches.



Leon Hyde, Emily Koester, Oli Matthews

Emily then followed up this success by winning the East Sussex Schools Under 19 Girls' title. Due to her TTE ranking, Emily was invited to play in the English Junior, U17 & Cadet National Championships in Nottingham. Invitations were only extended to the top 32 players in each age category, at the time she was ranked at 27 in England. It is long time since any player from the area had played in this tournament.

As a result of their success, Emily and Leon were picked to represent Sussex County. Emily is currently ranked number two girl in Sussex for her age group and Leon number six boy in Sussex in his age group and had moved up from 172 to 125 on the national ranking list during the season. This has been an incredible achievement resulting in him being awarded the Roger Gillett Shield for Achievement by the club. Leon also became the first winner of the Hastings Youth Cup and the Hastings Youth Closed Under 19s title beating his teammate Oli Matthews in both these finals. Not to be outdone Oli Matthews and Rufus Pawson-Davies (Simply TT) won the Hastings Youth Closed ranked drawn doubles title.



Graham Gillett presenting Leon Hyde with the Roger Gillett Shield



George Beardsley

George Beardsley in his first tournament was runner-up in the Hastings Junior Circuit event held on 16th December 2023 at Ark Alexandra Academy and followed this success by being runner-up in the main competition in the Sussex Novice Tournament held in February at the Ark Alexandra Academy. He was also runner-up in the Under 16s event in the Hastings Youth Closed added to which he made his senior league debut as a reserve in Division 3.

Finley Shaw won a gold medal at the East Sussex Junior Circuit event held at Hollington on 25th November 2023 and a silver medal at the Hastings Junior Circuit event held 14th October 2023 at the same venue. George Laver was picked to play for Hastings in the National Cadet League and was a semi-finalist in the Sussex Novice Tournament held in February 2024 at the Ark Alexandra Academy.



Finley Shaw



Killian McInerney

Killian McInerney won the Sussex Novice Consolation title at this event and a silver medal at the East Sussex Junior Table Tennis Circuit event at Hailsham on 8th June 2024 and a bronze medal in the Handicap event.

Bexhillians Premier TTC has several TTE qualified coaching staff, George Reidy who recently qualified as a level 2 Lead Coach, Dimitar Pachev, Trevor Towner plus volunteer helpers Matt Haynes, Lewis Mayhew, Andy Norwood, Nathan Darby, Faldie Adams and Nick Coleman.

Bexhillians is open Tuesdays 6.15-10pm (6.15-7.15 Juniors only) and Thursdays 6.30-10pm. Bookings are available on a Saturday 9-12 noon.

Coaching is available for all ages tel: 07854 670683 for more details.

Trevor Towner

Hollington TTC

This season was overshadowed by the tragic loss of a key player, Keith Young, for one of our Division 3 sides. He was a lovely, valued player and has left a vast hole in everyone who knew him. RIP Keith.

Secondly, the club lost our only Division One side after only a few games. However, the rest of the teams turned in some credible performances with the B team coming third in Division 2 and retaining the doubles title for the second year running. The C team played all season with just three players and the occasional reserve player from Division 3. The D team had little luck this season and fell short in too many close games losing 4-6 when the result could have been reversed. Division 3 saw E and F in contention for third and fourth spot all season with Tackleway taking first and second spot. The G team introduced a junior player in Owen Graham and what an asset he became in his first season.

Can I just add my congratulations and thanks to everyone who contributed to our Charity Collection on home match nights and personal thanks to Steph for making most of cakes. Lastly, to Shaun, good luck in your latest walk for Alzheimer's Charity.

On behalf of Hollington Table Tennis Club.

Nick Demeza, chief cake tester.

Hastings Academy TTC

Hastings Academy have had between 15-20 members this year. We have had two nights during the week. Monday night for practice and Thursday for league matches in season and practice the rest of the time.

The club had three teams in the league this year. One in division one that finished third and two teams in division two that finished fifth and tenth respectively.

If anyone would like to play for us next season to contact Jamie Martin at Jamie.martin1988@icloud.com

Jamie Martin

Tackleway TTC

The 2023-24 season of the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association has been a particularly successful one for Tackleway Table Tennis Club. Occupying five of the six top-two positions across the three divisions would seem to justify the review of team composition which took place during the summer break. Added to this, fielding eleven teams, up from eight in the previous season, reflects well on the recruitment and coaching initiatives made by the club over the last couple of years.

This is how our teams fared across the three senior divisions this season.

Division One – 2 teams

Tackleway Aruna finished as runners-up to champions Bexhillians B in division one. The team consisted of captain James Gorridge, John Boreham, Arthur Bracken, Simon Phillipz and Kevin McEwan.

Tackleway Aruna got off to a sluggish start but ended strongly, winning all their last eight matches – a run which included becoming the only side to beat the champions. They also finished as runners-up in the Division One doubles league.

Tackleway Boll finished fifth in division one. The team consisted of captain Michael Funnell, Roy Funnell, Steve Hickey, Roger Pingram and Sue Pingram.

Tackleway Boll finished in a comfortable mid-table position, a crucial mid-season victory over Bexhillians A keeping them clear of the relegation places.

Division Two – 3 teams

Tackleway Chuqin finished as division two champions. The team consisted of captain Kevin Rowe, Adrian Goodrum, Danny Rickaby and Jacob McCarthy.

Tackleway Chuqin took their place at the top of the table thanks to a crushing win over Hastings Academy B in mid-November and never looked back. Their only defeat came in their penultimate league match against stable mates Tackleway Erlich.

Tackleway Erlich finished as runners-up in division two. The team consisted of captain Aaron Pain, Sachin Davis and George Gorokhov.

Tackleway Erlich recovered from losing all three of their November fixtures to go unbeaten until the end of the season. They secured second spot with that memorable victory over Tackleway Chuqin in late March.

Tackleway Drinkhall finished sixth in division two. The team consisted of captain Keith Lindsay, Dimitar Pachev, Michael Charter, Sophie Urban & Muhammad Ali Kiani.

Tackleway Drinkhall overcame Michael's frequent unavailability to have a steady mid-table season. Never at risk of promotion or relegation, they picked up points from every fixture bar two – those being against the top two teams mentioned above.

Division Three – 6 teams

Tackleway Freitas finished as division three champions. The team consisted of captain Thomas Mann, Max Foster, Eden Vogel, Matt Gilman and Beau Larkin.

Tackleway Freitas were worthy champions. The runaway leaders from start to finish, superbly led by Thomas Mann who won all forty-five of his singles contests. A narrow defeat to Bexhillians H in their penultimate match was the only blemish on an otherwise perfect season for the team.

Tackleway Gaoyuan finished as runners-up in division three. The team consisted of captain Martin Woodward, Stuart Batchelor, John Quintos and Andy Holmes.

Tackleway Gaoyuan had a strong first half of the season which saw them hot on the heels of the leaders. Although performances tailed off a little after the Christmas break, they still had enough quality to secure second place with a match to spare.

Tackleway Ito finished fifth in division three. The team consisted of captain Chris Floyd, Phil Talbot, Peter Lilja and Andy Brown.

Tackleway Ito, hoping to finish fourth, were overhauled by Hollington E when they won their final match of the season 10-0 against Tackleway Karlsson. Tackleway Ito therefore ended up finishing in fifth place. Regardless, the twelve points from their final three matches saw them end the season with a flourish. They also finished as joint winners of the division three doubles league with Tackleway Harimoto.

Tackleway Harimoto finished sixth in division three. The team consisted of captain Stephen Milton, Josh Smith, Chris Embury and Dominic Bigg.

Tackleway Harimoto flew out of the blocks at the start of the season, setting the pace until they came up against the eventual champions. They then settled into a mid-table position, too good for the teams below them but never quite challenging for the promotion places. They also finished as joint winners of the division three doubles league with Tackleway Ito.

Tackleway Karlsson finished ninth in division three. The team consisted of captain Nigel Hobbs, Ian Edwards, Colin Marsden, Shahriar Mazandi, James Harrison, Amalina Gorridge and Ben Profit.

Tackleway Karlsson did superbly to avoid the wooden spoon in their debut season as not one member of the squad had any prior league experience. Although they used more players than any of the other teams, they maintained a good level of performance which will stand each player in good stead as they look to the next season.

Tackleway Jingkun finished tenth in division three. The team consisted of captain Peter Agar, Derek Goodsell and Mike Cruttenden.

Tackleway Jingkun were the team who benefitted little from the reorganisation of the playing personnel as they lost their strongest player from the previous season and were unable to replace him. Despite this, they approached each match with vigour and optimism and deserved to savour their solitary victory against Tackleway Karlsson.



Some of Tackleway's players at the club presentation evening

Tackleway TTC has weekly Tuesday coaching sessions for all players wanting to improve their skills. These sessions mainly cater for beginners to intermediate and progressing to more advanced training for competitive league play. We always have a good attendance of mixed abilities with ages ranging from 16 years to 78 years old. We also have Sunday Open Play sessions for all abilities where anyone can turn up and play.

The Tackleway coaching sessions have helped many players to improve their skills and contributed to the club's recruitment and successful league results last season. Tackleway Tuesday Coaching and Sunday Open Sessions take place at Ark Alexandra Academy, Parkstone Road Hastings TN34 2NT (staff car park entrance). All Sessions are 7.30pm – 9.30pm with ten tables available. Contact Kevin 07484 617892 or Danny 07740 877211 for more info.

Table Tennis at Battle



Keith Lindsay local to Claverham School and under the Tackleway umbrella started a table tennis session in the last week of November 2023 at Battle Sports Centre having been asked to do so by the centre manager. The brand-new hall accommodates six tables and is light, bright and welcoming. There is a potential to host bigger events in the larger sports hall and more tables are on site.

A short social media campaign gauged the local interest with posters created by club member Josh.

A slowish start but a decent turnout in the first three weeks indicated this project could work. We managed to gain some funding to help with hire costs and provision of a box of balls and net post sets.

Players have attended from Battle, Ninfield, Herstmonceux and other villages, plus of course Hastings and Bexhill. The Saturday afternoon session, 1500 to 1700, gives another opportunity for people to play at a standard that suits with a bit of light touch coaching as well.

A variety of ages and abilities with over fifty different players that have attended at least once. Some obviously found table tennis was not for them but at least they tried which was one of the objectives.

Regular attendees are currently averaging around ten or twelve players a week with an age range from nine to late 70's. The maximum we had was 17 players one week. One of the regulars has Parkinsons but is not hindered by this.

In summary there is a good feel according to player feedback and we do expect to get a few additional players to play in the league next season.

Thanks to Kevin Rowe, James Gorridge, Sachin Davis, Aaron Pain and Kevin Long for stepping in on the few occasions that Keith was not available, plus a few other club sparrers from Tackleway.

There will be a summer break from late July to early September when a new campaign will start.

Contact Keith Lindsay for further information: email keithlindsay1066@gmail.com or phone 07746 729911

Keith Lindsay

JUNIOR CLUBS REPORTS

Simply TT

What a fantastic year of progression for the club now in its third year and building on the successful foundations laid at Westfield Community Hall.

Since the last report, we have successfully moved to Ark Alexandra for a weekly Wednesday session and doubled in both table capacity to twelve, and regularly seeing 20 juniors participating each week.

Unforeseen periods of hall unavailability due to exams have also meant Westfield has remained an important second venue and recently we have been running a beginner and advanced session spread across Wednesdays and Fridays to keep everyone playing. This has actually worked really well as focuses the players and coaches in smaller ability groups and maybe something to continue looking at for the future.

Congratulations to both Aaron Pain and Dave Watters for completing their Level 1 Session Coach Award which has brought some great ideas to the table! If you are interested in getting into coaching, please get in touch as the opportunities are huge in our area for table tennis and extremely self-rewarding when making a difference to many young people.

Finally, to our players. Well done to you all for your continued hard work in training and bringing a smile to our faces throughout the last year. The attitude and determination to improve is always evident and we now have defined progression stages for our members whether starting out, just for fun or competing in local or national competitions.

Keep up the hard work and I would like to acknowledge our competing members for their achievements listed below.

Simply TT Closed 2023

James Harrison-Gold
Amalina GorrIDGE-Silver
Dylan GorrIDGE-Gold
Hadrian Pain-Silver
Oscar Howard-Gold
Charlie Case-Silver
Freddie Chase-Gold
Ted Kearns-Silver



Oscar Howard, Freddie Chase, Charlie Case, Ted Kearns with James GorrIDGE

Sussex County Cadet Novice

Beau Larkin-Consolation Winner

Leon Rose-Consolation 3rd Place

Hastings Junior Circuit (Hollington)

Dylan Gorrige-U11s Winner

Hadrian Pain-U11s R/u

Jacob Watters-U11s Novice Winner

Charlie Case-U11s Novice R/u

Beau Larkin-U14s Winner

Amalina Gorrige-U14s 3rd Place

James Harrison-U17s R/u

Beau Larkin-U17s 3rd Place



Back: Owen Graham, Beau Larkin, Amalina Gorrige, James Harrison

Front: Dylan Gorrige, Hadrian Pain, Leon Rose

Sussex County Cadet Novice (2)

Hadrian Pain-Consolation 3rd Place

East Sussex Invitational Tournament

Jacob Watters U10s R/u

Roman Gorrige U12s Consolation Winner & Novice Event R/u

Amalina Gorrige U14s Consolation Winner

Hadrian Pain U14s Consolation R/u



Dylan Gorrige, Jacob Watters, Roman Gorrige, Hadrian Pain, Amalina Gorrige

Hastings Junior Circuit (Hollington2)

Jacob Watters U11s Winner

Liam Higgins U11s R/u

Roman Gorrige U13s R/u

Owen Graham U17s Winner



George Beardsley (Bexhillians), Owen Graham with Dave Watters

Hastings District East Sussex Invitational Tournament (St Michael's)

Morning Results

Amalina Gorridge U15s Winner

Leonardo Rose U15s R/u

Afternoon Results

Liam Higgins U11s R/u

Amalina Gorridge U15s Winner

Leonardo Rose U15s R/u

Sussex County Cadet Novice (Ark Alexandra)

Dylan Gorridge-3rd Main Event

Roman Gorridge-3rd Consolation

(NCL) National Cadet League (Limpsfield)

Hastings Gold Team Division 2 R/u

(Amalina Gorridge, James Harrison, Dylan Gorridge & Beau Larkin)

Hastings Silver Team Division 2 3rd Place

(Hadrian Pain & Leonardo Rose)

Horsham Spinners South East Circuit

Liam Higgins-Band Winner

Sussex Closed Championship 2024

Dylan Gorridge U11s Winner

Liam Higgins U11s R/u

Hastings Youth Closed 2024

Amalina Gorridge- Consolation Winner

Dylan Gorridge-U11s Winner

Liam Higgins-U11s R/u

Amalina Gorridge-U13s Winner

Beau Larkin-U16s Winner

James Harrison-Divisional 1 Singles Winner

Beau Larkin-Divisional 1 Singles R/u

Liam Higgins-Divisional 2 Singles Winner

Rufus Pawson-Davies-Divisional 2 Singles R/u

Rufus Pawson-Davies & Oli Matthews Ranked Drawn Doubles Winner

Hadrian Pain & John Quintos-Ranked Drawn Doubles R/u



Liam Higgins, Hadrian Pain, Dylan Gorrige, Amalina Gorrige,, Rufus Pawson-Davies, John Quintos, James Harrison

Hastings Area Junior League 2024

Simply TT Blues (Beau Larkin & Dylan Gorrige) Div 1/Doubles Winners

Simply TT Blacks (James Harrison & Leon Rose) Div 1 R/u

Simply TT Greens (Roman Gorrige & Rufus Pawson-Davies) Div 2/Doubles Winners

Simply TT Purples (Liam Higgins & Jacob Watters) Div 2 R/u

Hastings Closed Championship 2024

Amalina Gorrige & Arthur Bracken-Junior Doubles Winners

James Gorrige Simply TT

Lewes TTC

Tournament at Lewes on 13th February 2024

St Michael's (Lewes) TT Club were very happy to host the East Sussex Junior Circuit event at their venue, Landport Community Hub BN7 2SU on 13th February. Huge thanks to Kevin Long, Hastings League Representative on the Sussex County Executive Committee, for organising the event and to all the parents who brought their children from Hastings and Eastbourne to compete with members of St Michael's for a very enjoyable day for all who participated.



Some of the youngsters at the tournament with supportive parents

Hastings National Cadet League

Vincent Ridley, at very short notice, was very happy to step in to help out the Hastings Development teams on 10th March 2024 in the National Cadet League at Limpsfield. This is a great example of the benefits of local leagues working together to support each other in developing juniors in the county.

Hastings Area Junior League

In another example of local leagues collaborating for the benefit of the development of juniors in the county, St Michael's (Lewes) TT Club were very happy to be invited to enter a team in the Hastings Junior League. This comprised Vincent Ridley and Freddie Lawrence, both participating for the first time in a league competition. They both really enjoyed the experience, with Freddie topping the individual averages. Their participation was only made possible by hugely supportive parents providing transport.

Rob Hoy

IN MEMORIAM

Derek Brown: Derek Brown passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 22nd July 2023 in Bournemouth where he had been living for a number of years. Derek played in the Hastings League for many years. Much loved husband of June, father of Jayne, Grandad to Jack and father-in-law to Pete.

Geoff Duffell: Geoff Duffell passed away peacefully on 22nd September 2023 at Eastbourne General Hospital after a short, but cruel, illness. Beloved husband of Sue, brother of Cliff and friend to so many, he will be greatly missed.

Keith Young: Keith Young, a stalwart of Hollington TTC and a popular member of the Hastings & District table tennis fraternity passed away at home on Sunday 11th February 2024 after suffering a heart attack less than 48 hours after playing a division 3 match at the Hollington Community Centre.

Tributes have been paid by Nick Demeza and Peter Shoesmith.

Nick Demeza: I first met Keith some 13 years ago when my grandson started to play table tennis. Keith was the most likeable person anybody could wish to meet. He was table tennis mad and played throughout East Sussex and Kent. He was generous with his knowledge and time to all our club members and beyond. He recently donated at least ten fully made-up bats to be used for visiting players. He was our man to turn to when a new blade or bat rubbers were needed. His passing was a great shock to not only Hollington but to all who knew him. He is going to be sorely missed.

Peter Shoesmith: Keith has been playing table tennis for many years all over East Sussex. He has been at Hollington for a number of years and has helped with the junior coaching that we do.

Keith had many interests including vintage motorcycles and had an old AJS which he restored to a very high standard. The AJS was shown at the Hollington Remembers exhibition last year and admired by many of the gentlemen visitors who remembered this cycle from their childhood.

Keith was an avid table tennis player and played in many leagues including Hastings, Eastbourne and Ashford and frequently went down to Bournemouth for adult coaching courses.

I have personally known Keith for many years and played with him in the Hastings League – also accompanying him to the NEC national motorbike exhibition numerous times before and after Covid. Always a great day out and Keith was very knowledgeable on all the bikes old and new on display.

He will be sorely missed.