

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

January 2019 Newsletter

Chairman's message

I hope you all enjoyed an excellent Christmas and New Year, but are now getting back in shape to finish off the league season.

It's that time of year when I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the people who work hard week in week out to make table tennis available to us all: Mike Prior, who does all the setting up ready for our league matches, Ted who processes the results, Mike who again plans, sets up and runs all of our competitions. Then there are the team who open up the centre on a regular basis, are there to welcome new members and ensure things run smoothly. Finally, Martin, who keeps the centre in tip top condition to enable all of this to take place. There are many others who contribute, so please forgive me if you haven't had a specific mention.

We have a team from Isle of Wight Table Tennis entered into the Island Games in June this year. Lead by Danny Burns, the team have been practising hard and raising funds in support of their trip to Gibraltar.

We want Table Tennis on the Isle of Wight to appeal equally to all levels, but have had some difficulty providing the level of competition needed to motivate the better Division 1 players. Ted has suggested creating a premier division for just the top 5 or 6 teams, who could play one another up to 4 times over the winter season. Your committee would be very interested to hear views or counter proposals from anyone on this. We just want to find a way of including everyone.

Finally, we hope to run a 'development' weekend at some point in 2019. There hasn't been an event of this type run on the island for many years, except for juniors. This would be for anyone, at any level, who wants to improve. At the moment we are just trying to understand what the interest might be.

In order to do this a coach would be brought over from the mainland, but supported by up to 6 of the island's better players. Costs aren't yet finalised as it depends upon numbers, but we think it could be roughly £30 per player per day. Places would be on a first come basis.

Please reply to Heather Wykes at heatherwykes1202@gmail.com if you would be interested so we can get an idea as to the viability of such an event.

Good luck in the second half of the league.

Best wishes,
John Cornforth

League News

Division One

Ryde A lead the table with a 6 point lead over Shanklin Piranhas, but Shanklin have a game in hand. The title race is between these two teams as there is a gap of nearly 30 points to the third placed team, Rookley Rhinos. However, Vics A are in contention for this spot and a number of teams are within a few points of each other so it should prove an exciting second half of the season.

Danny Burns continues with a 100% average but has played fewer matches than the other top performers. Don and Ollie are on over 90%, with Lee, Dave Hilliam and Temeesha all on over 80%. Young Hugh continues to impress and has won two thirds of his matches. Anna Joyce has joined Barry and Sean playing for Vics B in the league in preparation for the Island Games in Gibraltar and has been improving rapidly since coming back into the sport.

Division Two

Havenstreet Hooters lead the table by 15 points from Shanklin B with Ryde Peers only 2 points behind in third place and the battle for second place looks to be between these two teams.

Alan Hulbert is on 100% average, although having played fewer matches than the others at the top, with Ian, Trevor and Dave all on over 90%, with Kevin on 86%. All players in Shanklin B have over a 60% win average as do all the players in Havenstreet.

Division Three

Division Three continues to be the most hotly contested division this year, with Ryde Rockers having stretched their lead at the top to 11 points, but with a number of teams vying for second place. At the moment Vics D are holding on but being challenged closely by the youngsters of the Rookies and the not so young Rustics, with other teams also in contention.

A number of new players continue to do well, especially Spike, young Joseph Chapman in his first season, and Trevor. Martin Dove leads the averages with 100%, while Spike has over 90% and Neil and Joseph have over 80%. Young Ollie and Ross of the Rookies have also performed impressively having won at least half of their matches in their first season.

News

Division Two and Three Championships

There was a depleted entry for Division Two owing to illness; however, the play was still of a high standard and there were some closely fought matches. After two exciting semi finals between Ted Purvey and Matt Mair, and Darol Wilson and Tom Waddell, the successful finalists were Ted and Tom.

Division Three Championships were contested by 18 players and there were many close matches and exciting contests. The semi finals were between Spike Hughes and Debbie Yates and Alan Burch and Trevor Jones. Spike despatched with Debbie with ease, but Alan and Trevor played a long and enthralling match which went to five ends with Alan making it through to meet Spike in the final.



Bribar
Table Tennis
www.bribartt.co.uk

For advice, details of our huge range of stocks from all leading brands and the very best prices contact our friendly sales team.

• Tel: 01227 860348 (5 lines) plus 24 hour answering service
• Fax: 01227 860569
• E-mail: sales@bribartt.co.uk
• Web: www.bribartt.co.uk

Bribar Table Tennis
Knaves Ash House
Church Road
Hoath
Canterbury CT3 4JT

Or contact your local agent:

MIKE PRIOR
CALL 612333
mikeaprior@hotmail.com
FOR DISCOUNTS

Bribar Discounts

Did you know that Mike Prior can get discounts of 25% for items bought from Bribar, plus there will be no postage costs? If you need any items do have a look at the website <https://bribartt.co.uk/> and contact Mike and he will be able to order for you (see advert above for contact details).

Around The Clubs

Havenstreet Table Tennis Club *by Joy Wickens*

Havenstreet Table Tennis Club was formed in 1951 by Tony James, when he came out of the Air Force, having met up with Fred Perry, while there.

The venue was the Church Room, which was opposite St Peter's Church. This was available unless other events, such as Whist Drives or Beetle Drives were planned. This meant that in the school holidays play could go on all day, so lots of practice time available for school children, and players improved rapidly. The rent was £5 a year!

After a year or so a team was entered in the league, with Tony taking the team to matches on his motor bike and side car. There were many more venues around the Island in those days. After many matches of losing 10-0, Rob Frampton won the first game for the club. He continued to play until about 2000.

The club began with Havenstreet residents, but gradually some players came from further afield. The club soon had several teams including a good first division team. First division players were Mick Sparshott, Doug Cant, Dave Knight, Bill Woodmore.

Village names associated with the club over many years were Frampton, Ridell, Attrill, Leal, Hayles, Winter, George, Johnson, Butt, Newberry and Batten. Dave Rendle was not a resident but has played for the club since he was young and is still playing. Mike Platt and Allan Peaker played for many years.

The village school closed in 1970, becoming the Community Centre. The Table Tennis Club has played there since 1972 with very good conditions for a single table.

There were three or four teams for many years and one season there were actually 7. Of course, there were 5 or 6 divisions for many years! Lots of us would enter the various tournaments at BHC, and at Columbia, every year. One year in the 70s we collected about 7 trophies between us at the annual Table Tennis Dinner.

Since 1956 a handicap tournament has been played each year for a Shield. The first winner was Barry Turnbull. It is a record of the names of players throughout the years.

Sadly, this season there is only one Havenstreet side. Hopefully, there will be more next year. It would be sad to see the club disappear after nearly 70 years.

Thanks to Joy Wickens for this interesting and informative article on the history of Havenstreet club. Havenstreet play home matches on Tuesday evenings and are looking for more players to join them for next season so they can enter at least one more team. Practice nights can be held on free Tuesdays if there is enough interest and the cost of the hall hire (£12) would be covered by those

attending. If anyone knows of players who would be interested in joining them please contact Alan Hulbert on: **01983 405643** or **07443 939719** or email: **ahulbert@talktalk.net**

Newport Vics Handicap Singles 2018

Newport Vics held their 2018 Handicap Singles Competition on Wednesday 19th December. There was an entry of 14 players and a Plate competition for those knocked out in the first round. The format is unique as the games are played up to 21, best of three, but with players having two serves each. Along with the handicaps, this led to close matches between players of different abilities.

The main final was contested between Dave Hilliam and Ricky Lock. It went to three ends and was a very exciting and skilful match with long rallies and exceptional play from both players, culminating in a win for Ricky. Paul Freeborn and Anna Joyce met in the final of the Plate competition, with Paul coming out the winner.

Along with the table tennis there was also a buffet to enjoy so a good evening was had by all!

You've never had it so good by Bert Paice

A few recollections of past venues (and an unbroken record)

Today we enjoy (mostly) excellent playing conditions at several venues including the purpose-built table tennis centre at Smallbrook but it wasn't always thus.

Although we occasionally moan about things such as parking, noise, etc., compared with yesteryear when there were so many more clubs, we are in the lap of luxury. Let me give a few examples.

Most church hall playing conditions were excellent with wooden floors, just a single table and plenty of room. Before moving to the community building, Wroxall played in one such hall with just these attributes. Unfortunately it had a fourth - a corrugated iron roof. This was fine - unless it rained hard when the deafening cacophony put paid to any thoughts of continuing the match until the rain eased off. This gave an unfair advantage to disco aficionados who, of course, had no problems.

One Cowes club inhabited a beer cellar which was only accessible via a very steep wooden stair - more of a ladder. It had enough room for one table (just) with only a couple of feet between the sides and the walls and (it seemed) not much more at either end. A single fluorescent light over the table gave sufficient illumination but caused a fast ball to seemingly move in a fit-inducing series of jerks - but Health & Safety hadn't been invented then.

Another Cowes venue in a working men's club (?) was ideal except that you couldn't ever guarantee to complete a rally without interruption as it was also the route from the bar to the loo and traffic increased significantly during the evening.

I don't know what it was about Cowes TT venues but a third consisted of a portakabin which also served as a storage container for old tables, chairs and other unwanted bric-a-brac in which TT balls took up residence. You only needed to play one match here to qualify as a furniture remover.

A Rookley venue had a unique feature - a large hole in the ceiling which TT balls found strangely attractive as they disappeared into this orifice with alarming frequency. They (players, not balls) eventually moved to an adjacent room exchanging the ball-swallowing ceiling for a floor furnished

with ill-fitting carpet tiles. This did promote some interesting gymnastic moves as the tiles slid from under your feet.

Moving to the Island in 1968 to work for BHC I joined Ryde TT club whose home was in the Melville Hall, Melville Street. At that time it wasn't quite as derelict as it is today. The hall could accommodate three tables and, if you played on the table nearest the entrance on a rainy day, you could enjoy a shower while you played as there was a permanent leak in the roof directly above it.

Another benefit was the ability to practise in complete darkness if the electricity meter hadn't been fed enough shillings - a frequent occurrence as we were an impecunious lot.

Moving now to the record: Some time during the '70s, before setting up the Columbia TT venue, John Prean and his son Carl came along to play at Ryde and I was on one occasion asked to give Carl a little practise. Never one to avoid a challenge I acceded to this request and, playing a 3-end game to put a time limit on it, I proceeded to win the contest. As I could never expect to repeat this success, I studiously avoided ever playing him again, thus maintaining my 100% record against the 3-times English Table Tennis Men's Champion. I lived on this reputation for years!

(Oh, did I mention that Carl was 5 or 6 years old at the time?)

Thank you Bert for this wonderful article, bringing back many memories to lots of you I'm sure. I can remember the Cowes club with the ladder cum staircase and the excitement of negotiating it to reach the table tennis table.

Bert has also sent us the following photos and he's managed to name quite a few people in the first one even though it was over 45 years ago! If anyone can name anymore then please do let us know.

Ryde club dinner early 1970's photo (players numbered at top and bottom of photo)

1. Margaret Paice
3. Bert Paice
4. Rob McCarthy
5. Mrs McCarthy
6. Bob Bartlett
7. Hazel Bartlett
10. Eve Daly
11. Jim Daly (Island champion for several years)
12. Phil Fredericks
13. Jan Jennings
14. Bill Jennings
16. John Rann
18. Dee Rann
19. Miss Bulled
20. Ralph Bulled
21. Faye Bulled
22. Dave Fredericks
23. Mrs Wall
24. Jim Wall



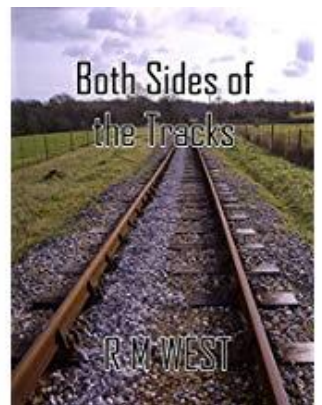
Ryde TT club trophy photo 1994



The three on the left are Martin Dove, Peter Rorke and Alex Rorke. Bert is on the right, looking very dapper!

Players' Hidden Talents

Many of you will know Roger West who plays for Newport Vics. However, you may not know that apart from his table tennis skills Roger is also a talented thriller writer! His latest book, *Both Sides of the Tracks*, is available to download from Amazon for Kindle at only £2.17. Click on the picture to purchase! I have read it and can vouch for the fact that it's a really good read! Roger has also published two other books, both also available on Amazon – *The Unfinished Task* and *TheI*.



If you know of any other players with hidden talents then do please let me know about them (with their permission of course!) and we can publicise them in the newsletter.

January Blues Corner

A couple of things to cheer you up in the cold dark days of January:

[Watch a baby playing table tennis](#)



[Watch a dog playing table tennis](#)



And remember - [Live long, play ping pong!](#)

Thank you for reading and please do send in any contributions as it makes the newsletter more interesting. Photographs would also be very gratefully received.

Please send contributions and match reports to deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk