

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League



December 2020 Newsletter



Chair's message

Now that the season has resumed, there are a couple of things I need to mention.

Firstly, there has been a lot of conversation over the new ball recently, with some players expressing their dissatisfaction with it. For this reason, the Committee has temporarily relaxed the necessity to use it at all League matches – instead, the home team will decide which ball they wish to use. I would add, however, that the new ball is ITTF approved, so teams have a perfect right to use it if they wish. The choice of approved ball will be reviewed after the current season.

Secondly, we now have a new notice board up at the Centre, specifically for members to advertise events or services they feel might be of interest to other members, so feel free to put up your business cards or flyers for your local events.

Also, a couple of people have asked me to send out a reminder about ensuring that your services are legal; so, for those of you playing in the League this season, below I have paraphrased service rules from the ITTF website:

The service starts with a stationary ball in the palm of the server's hand. This is to stop people serving before their opponent is ready!

The ball should be thrown near vertically upwards at least 16cm (just over 6 inches, in old money), and must be struck so that it touches the server's court first, then the opponent's. From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or by anything they wear. As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net – so make sure your free arm is not obscuring your opponent's view of the ball!

If the umpire is not sure about the legality of a service he or she may, on the first occasion in a match, interrupt play and warn the server; but any subsequent service by that player which is not clearly legal shall be considered incorrect. Remember, the umpire is in charge, and this rule allows the umpire to warn players of potentially illegal serves, or award the point to the opponent.

The booking system for practice play down at the Centre is now quite well bedded in, although we are always looking for suggested improvements – please feel free to contact me with any ideas. On this subject, the booking system has been pre-programmed with the scheduled matches currently in the calendar. For this reason, it is vital that you inform us of any matches that have been cancelled, and check availability at the Centre before arranging alternative dates for matches. Please use the usual email address bookings.iwctta@outlook.com to communicate this.

Finally, I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas break, and a safe and prosperous 2021.

Regards,
Alex.

News

The new ventilation system was installed at the Smallbrook Centre in October and has proved to be very successful as it is extremely quiet and has not intruded on play at all, whilst negating the need to keep the doors open during the winter months.

The IWTTA committee appointed Tim Giles as Covid Officer and Tim has worked hard to keep up to date with the guidelines from Table Tennis England and ensure that all matches and practice sessions are Covid compliant. Tim has also visited the other venues where league games are played and given advice and ensured that these are all following the regulations, and is happy to visit any other venues to offer any help with resuming play.

League News

This season the league has gone ahead in a different format, with only two divisions taking part, and no doubles being played, but for those involved it has been a welcome return to competitive table tennis after the months of restrictions. Despite being interrupted by Lockdown 2.0, the league has re-started in December, and will continue in the New Year if Government guidelines allow.

Division One

Hugh has been in brilliant form for Ryde Royals this season and leads the players' averages on 100%. Despite some epic battles against Rob and Scott, nobody has managed to get the better of Hugh yet, and the Royals head the table at present, with Ricky and Conal also both on good form.



Conal from the Royals



Hugh in action

Mark from Ryde Rivals also lies on 100% win average, with his most notable victories being over Tim Giles and Martin Johnstone. The Rivals lay in second place, but with a game in hand.

Last season's League champions, Ryde A are in third place but also with a game in hand.

Division Two

Leading the Division Two table by 13 points are Ryde Rascals, with Brian leading the averages table on 100%, John on 89% and Peter on 78%.



Brian who remains unbeaten in Division Two

Shanklin A's Tom, Spike, Alan and Ted lie in second place with a game in hand, whilst Ryde Revellers are third, also with a game in hand.



Tom in action for Shanklin

Photo courtesy of IW County Press

We welcome a new team to the League, Immad, Allen, Aneel and Antina of St Mary's Medics, with Immad already showing good form, being named Player of the Match in the Medics last fixture against Ryde Red Kites, where he beat Trevor, Tim and Maggie in three very close games.

Paul Cotton

Many of you will remember Paul Cotton, who sadly passed away a few months ago. Paul was in his late 80's and had been playing table tennis on the Island since the late 1940's, when he started playing for Shorwell Youth Club. He represented a number of clubs over the years including Wroxall, and ended up playing for Shorwell once again a few years ago. He continued to play socially at Shorwell and Brook until the early part of this year. I have fond memories of an epic league match between Paul and Bert Paice which had us all transfixed and in awe of the octogenarians' skill and stamina.

Paul was a gentleman and a kind and calming influence on all who knew him. He is greatly missed by me personally and I am sure many others.

Memories

I was very pleased to receive an email from Tim Douglas who used to play on the Island in the 1960's and was the Island Junior Champion in 1965. He has been reading the newsletters on our website and the January 2019 newsletter triggered some memories for him. I have printed Tim's email below. Does anyone remember Tim? If so please do let me know.

Your January 2019 Newsletter showing a photo of Ryde TT members in the early 1970s brought back memories of when I played for Ryde A team in the late sixties when I was about twenty. I remember playing with John Rann and I thought also Jim Daly for the Ryde A team. John Rann I believe was the Chairman of the IOW Association at some point. The Jim Daly I remember was much shorter but the one in the photo seems to be standing on something so maybe it is the same person. Shanklin A were the top Island team then and I think Shanklin's Phil Attril was the top Island player.

I joined Ryde Table Tennis club in 1963 I think when I was about 15/16 when they played in the

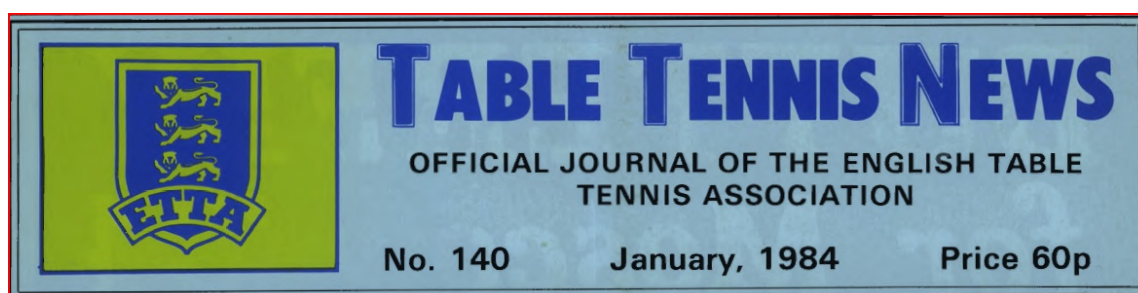
Masons Hall above a shop in the High Street before they moved to Melville Street and was the Island Junior champion in 1965.

Unfortunately I moved to London in 1969 when I was 21 and quickly lost touch with the Ryde club members (no Facebook or Internet then) and also stopped playing table tennis after a couple of years which I have always regretted.

I have enjoyed reading the archive section of your newsletters and really pleased to find out that Ryde became the dominant team of the 70s and that Jim Daly became such a top player.

From the Archives

In our regular feature looking at the England Table Tennis Association newsletters and items related to the Isle of Wight, we reach 1984:



For Sale: Jaques Table Tennis Robot
Excellent condition . Offers to Mr. R.
Turner, Union Street, Ryde. Isle of
Wight. Telephone 62877 (0983).

SENIOR DIVISION 38
Wiltshire 2nd 6 Isle of Wight 4;
Somerset 5 Dorset 2nd 5; Berkshire
2nd 7 Somerset 2nd 3; Cornwall 2
Hampshire 8 .

A piece of Wiltshire table tennis history was made when the king of English table tennis paid a visit.....and played against the county second team in a school hall.

This unique situation came about because the England No.1 Carl Prean plays for the Isle of Wight whose only senior team is in Division 3C of the County Championships.

An interesting editorial regarding a change of ball...

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The threatened boycott by Carl Prean of the Norwich Union English Open at the Brighton Centre because of the adoption of a plastic ball is an action that gives cause for concern. Whether a player likes the ball or not the fact remains that the ball is one approved by the International Table Tennis Federation and, as such, cannot be discounted. It is a poor workman that blames his tools and that old adage still applies, for countless championships have been played with such a ball with no lack of entertainment for the spectators to enjoy. Supposing, for instance, that such a ball were to be adopted for the forthcoming European Championships in Moscow. What then the predicament of England's selectors in choosing a team? And think of the manufacturers who, over the years, have poured money, not only into research. But into the coffers of the E.T.T.A. and elsewhere. Biting the hand that feeds them is one reaction and well might this be so if the boycott becomes widespread. As for young Carl, perhaps he has been ill-advised and, maybe, on reflection, wiser counsel prevail. for his place is still valid in the draw.

The Island's 16 year old Carl Prean had a letter published responding to criticism of his bat, in which he challenged the perpetrator to a match:

I have no intention of changing my bat till I find a better one, but I am prepared to make an exception in Mr. Greenberg's case and play him with what he regards as a 'normal' bat (Sriver or Mark V both sides?). My only condition is that the loser pays the winner's travelling expenses and donates a minimum of £100 to the Hammersley- Parker Foundation.

In the February 1984 issue more news about our Island teams:

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP by Murray Corbin

DIVISION 3B

Somerset 7 Berkshire 2nd 3
Dorset 2nd 5 Cornwall 5
Hampshire 8 Wiltshire 2nd 2
Isle of Wight 6 Somerset 2nd 4

The Isle of Wight, with **JILL FOTHERGILL, JOY BATTEN, CARL PREAN, JIM DALY** and **ROGER HOOKEY**, playing at home in the Columbia Club, found some resistance from the visiting Shirley Dart, Sarah Webb, David Wilson, John Crabtree and Mark Bryant, of Somerset. The possible highlight of the match, was the defeat of Wilson in the third by DALY, which may have been overshadowed by the feat of Referee J OH N BROOKS umpiring all ten sets, without a single mistake. Good on You, Dear John! I note that PREAN makes every possible effort to turn out for his County. Good on You too Son! There are many 'so-called good players' who would frown playing in the third division, and that is one of the reasons why they are 'so-called'.

On the letters page there were a couple of letters printed which were quite scathing to the Island's Prean family, plus this poem which some of you will love...

OH! MR. PREAN

Oh, Mr. Prean, what can we do?
Is there anything anyone can do to please you?
First its the balls, what about workmen and tools?
Then you refer to a change in the Rules.

Now it's the Rubber - Friendship 729,
o dear, this became an out of stock line,
"Black's unavailable, you'll have to try red",
Wembley was where Carl tried this out you said!
Even the debut in Poland was wrong,
No one to meet Carl, the journey too long.

The room was too small,
And no hot water at all.
Of course, the Selectors (nothing new on that score),
You can't say a thing that they've not heard before,
Back to the Worlds, when Carl had his day,
Something no one will ever take away.
You constantly remind us, lest we forget,
You're justly proud of your son and, yet,
Never, when you mention this scene,
Do you ever refer to the rest of "TH E TEAM",

Yes, there are others, all doing their best,
The rules and the rubbers, the travel, the rest,
Apply to them all, the girls and the lads,
But most do not have any help from their dads.

Please, try to see others point of view,
They have them you know, just like you do,
Don't blame other people, events or equipment,
Just study your player, and find where his form went.
You praise George Yates - and almost soften,
It shows you can do it - why not try it more often?

MRS. P. SIMPSON

In the March 1984 edition it was noted that the Island's Carl had boycotted the English Open because of the controversial plastic balls. He was supported in this boycott by other players and England's number one player Desmond Douglas had this to say:

'Carl Prean should be cheered for what he has done' said Douglas after his.. victory" "The selectors should have picked him on ability and not hold a grudge" - **Daily Express**.

Prean had been left out of the England squad for the European Championships and rumours were that this was as a direct result of his stance against the plastic balls.

In the April 1984 newsletter there was news on our County team:

Our County Team travelled to Hambledon to meet Hampshire. This was no away match in the true sense as our hosts selected a beautiful, close venue and delivered us to this. I could fault their hospitality only on one count: They gave us a good thrashing. The score was tight 6-4, but the better side won and with it deservedly the championship of the division. I brushed away a little tear in celebration of my oid county's success and wish them luck. For their sake, not ours, I hope they will have a long stay in the higher division. That really was a nice afternoon. It was almost a pleasure to lose both points. Heroic **Jim Daly** got himself on that famous computer when he defeated Derek Holman. When more players get 'mechanised' we shall feel that we have arrived as a table tennis power.

Philip Nicholls won our Junior Title in his last year and he cannot be far away from an appearance for the County. **John Poynter** won the Intermediate (Divs. 2-7) defeating **Mike Gallop** in the final. Both put in the practise and that's how you win things. Well done.

It was also reported that Carl had been called into the squad to go to Moscow for the European Championships, owing to Desmond Douglas's withdrawal.

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED



ETTA President Maurice Goldstein, OBE, lines up with the men's doubles finalists Donald Parker, Carl Prean, Des Douglas and Paul Day.

In the May/June issue we hear from Derek Grant's father (remember Derek, the young protégé who played for the Isle of Wight back in the 1950's before his family left the Island?). He wrote in support of the Prean family:

During this past 1983/84 season I have read in every monthly edition of Table Tennis News the controversy which has befallen the Prean family. One thing is for certain, the Preans have certainly put the Isle of Wight well and truly on the international scene much better than when I attempted to do so over twenty-five years ago when my elder son Derek became the island's first junior international.

Unfortunately, the England team had performed very badly in the European Championships and had not won a single medal. However, one of the young players had a birthday visit to cheer him up.

There was plenty of Island news:

MIKE TURNER'S debut for The Isle of Wight resulted in him scalping Martin Jerome and Martin Hughes of Dorset. Yes. Mike taking two the first time out . 'takes some doing'.

Good news at Home

Our County Team had its best season so far with 6 points which is as much as we got in the two previous seasons. Our last match gave us our biggest win ever- 9-1 against Dorset II who were still below strength. Still it was a splendid debut for **Mike Turner** who won two which I rate as a super Our girls (**Jill Fothergill** and **Sue Bruton**), achieved a full house in the women's sets. Our only defeat was **Jim Daly's** against Jason Creasey at "deuce" in the third. It was an excellent performance all round, but the 'gate' was disappointing.

Back at the Festival the Hard Bat Tournament was again the big hit attracting more entries than the Island Closed. **Graham Brimson** won this again, the third time in four years. He beat **Paul Oatley** in his semi. Paul leaves us to take up an appointment on the mainland next season. He always won more than he lost in our first division despite or because of his hard bat and was a great servant of his Sandown Club. We shall miss him despite some late nights caused by numerous 'expedites'. Two 'spongers' **Martin Mitchell** and **Mike Turner** battled it out in the other S/F. Mike won 21 in the 3rd. Excitement was unbearable.

Island Table Tennis Festival

The Island Championships were dominated by two trebles, **Jill Fothergill** and **Carl Prean**. **Jim Daly** dominated the Veterans (of course), but life did not begin at 40 this time. The entry was poor. I must mention **Stephen Jarvis** (14) who will be a very good player if he sticks it out on the road to fame which is a hard one.



DIVISION 38 Final Results and Table Wiltshire 2nd 3 Cornwall 7 (amended result)

Isle of Wight 9 Dorset 2nd 1
Somerset 2nd 2 Somerset 8
Berkshire 2nd 1 Hampshire 9

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire	7	7	0	0	56	14
Somerset	7	5	1	1	45	25
Berkshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	36	34
Wiltshire 2nd	7	3	1	3	31	39
Isle of Wight	7	3	0	4	34	36
Cornwall	7	2	1	4	32	38
Dorset 2nd	7	1	2	4	26	44
Somerset 2nd	7	0	0	7	20	50

I was full of admiration for the finalists of the Divisions 3 to 6 Championship **Peter Rudd** and **Kevin Gattrell** who fought out a 'they-shall not-pass' battle in the final, inspired no doubt by Victor Barna's advice to keep the ball on the table longer than the other fellow. Kevin, the underdog, won that one which neither deserved to lose.

I thank those who reminded me of my own record of 20 expedites in one season when my fellow players departed to the pub when I came on the table. The addiction only lasted for one season despite 18 victories. I look back on it as an aberration.

Ian Urry (13) won an awful lot, the championship of Divisions 5 to 6, singles as well as doubles (with **Vaughn Urry**) and then the Handicap Doubles with his father **Peter** who certainly meant to win this one as he flung himself all over the floor in search of points. I vividly remember Peter sliding head first into a corner and a piano in a club match with an awful thud that had us all rushing for our bandages, but his team mates were unconcerned. They had seen it all before. The piano would be alright. 'Peter really uses his head' said one of them.

In the October 1984 newsletter it was reported that Carl Prean had gained a silver medal at the European Youth Championships, plus a bronze in the team event:

SAIVE THE SAVIOUR *BUT PREAN SO CLOSE*

Carl Prean who only just failed to win the boys' singles title in Linz.



In the November issue there was Isle of Wight County news, and Carl continued to play for the Island County team whenever he could, despite now being a professional:

SENIORS 3B: Avon 9 Dorset
2nd 1. Gloucestershire 8 Wiltshire
2nd 2. Somerset 2nd 5 Isle
of Wight 5.

At the end of the ninth set, SOMERSET were leading 1.0.W. 5-4 and hoping to gain both points when John Crabtree came out to face wily **JIM DALY** to make it 6-4. Instead, John found Jim a tough nut to crack and he lost -16, -13.

Melanie Carey versus **REGINA STEVENS** of the 1.0.W. was voted the best set of the match, which Melanie won in 'the third at 18.

For the ISLE OF WIGHT, there were **JACKIE URRY, CARL PREAN** and **MIKE TURNER**, in addition to Regina and Jim.

Our first county match brought our first away point for 3 years when we drew with Somerset 2, Jim Daly's first victory over a combination bat player, the debut of Regina Stevens, our best-ever lady, who still lost to Melonie Carey- a fine player. She tells me she is No. 28 Junior. She has my personal guarantee that she will be a lot higher this time next year.' It was a cracking match. We had Carl Prean in the side this time, but will miss him quite often this season, though he wants to play. Fixture clashes remain part of a chaotic scene.

Carl still found time to earn some winnings though:

England's top young players provided an all-star cast for the junior tournament on the previous day, As expected England's No. 1, Prean, emerged as the "leading man". The tall, bespectacled Isle of Wight professional was in a class of his own as he picked up the £50 prize for the boys' singles, Prean added another £30 his weekend takings when he teamed up with Andrew Syed to outplay Clive Guest and Sean Gibson in the doubles final.

The final issue of 1984 had plenty more news of Island interest:

BEST-EVER COUNTY TEAM

I was quoted in our newspaper to that effect and that is what we have IF we can field all our best players at any one time. Murray Corbin called our 5-5 draw with Somerset II in Yeovil a good result - for Somerset. Thanks, Murray, for your confidence.

WE CRASH IN CORNWALL

Without **Jim Daly** who is a postman and sometimes works on Saturdays and Carl Prean who was on England duty (Desmond Douglas and he won the Men's Doubles at the Dutch Open) we sank with little trace in Launceston. **Regina Stevens** (again) and the ladies' doubles (with **Jackie Urry**) was all we got. Our players returned much impressed with Cornwall's veteran John Bassett who hounded them to conclusive defeats with his hard bat.

DIVISION 38:	P	W	O	I	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Somerset	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Cornwall	2	1	1	0	3	7	3
Avon	3	1	1	1	8	12	3
Isle of Wight	4	0	3	1	17	23	3
Somerset 2nd	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Wiltshire 2nd	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Dorset 2nd	3	0	1	2	8	22	1

DUNLOP 56th MIDLAND COUNTIES 3-STAR OPEN

Carl Prean, figuring at No. 2 in the other half of the draw, did manage to reach the semis having been at pains to fight off the challenge of Andy Wellman. But in his semi-final encounter with Alan Cooke, the 'cookie' crumbled very much in favour of the Chesterfield lad whose coolness was in direct contrast to the agitation visibly displayed by the Isle of Wight boy. Throwing down his bat in disgust when returning alongside his father I had to smile at the remark from father to son which likened him to an "idiot". A bit much really but I suppose, a bitter pill to swallow after his lad's conquest of Ulf Bengtsson and Jan-Ove Waldner in the European League match in Stockholm five nights previously.

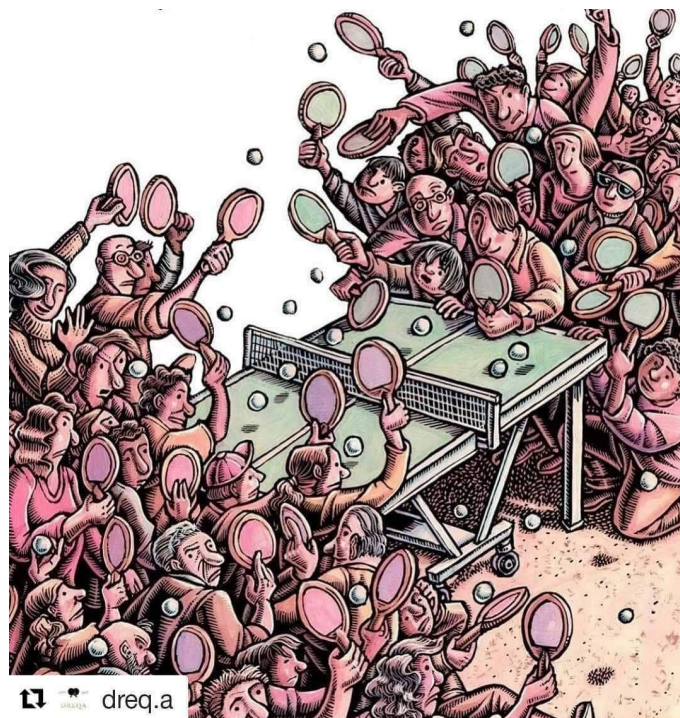


EURO JUNIOR TOP 12

Now ranked No. 1 Junior in Europe, England's **Carl Prean** has been invited to participate in the first Euro JuniorTop 12 to be played in San Marino (Jan. 5/ 6, 1985).

And finally:

Nicky Dando kindly sent me this photo showing how things might have been once we were able to start playing again:



This didn't quite come true but at least we don't have to do either of these things any more, at least until Lockdown 3 arrives...

[Play over the roof of a house](#)

[Make a funny video for World Table Tennis At Home Day](#)

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year and please do send me any memories, articles or items related to table tennis to deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk and they will be used in our next newsletter.