

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

January 2022

Message from the Chairman

Hello All!

We are almost at the two-thirds point of the season now, with most teams having played each other twice, and all three divisions now have a clear favourite for their respective titles. Division 1 top team Ryde A are now looking unstoppable, especially since the redoubtable Scott Lawson has started playing more often; Shanklin Warriors are still making their presence felt, though, and have a second-place finish clearly in their sights.

Division 2 is looking promising for Havenstreet Locos at the top, but second place is being fought out closely between Ryde Relics and Shanklin Skuas; it might go down to the wire with these two teams since they play each other in the penultimate week of the league! Incidentally, Ryde Relics' superstar Glenn Morley is the only player left in the League to have played all the matches and still be unbeaten. **Please please please** can someone beat him?? I will personally buy a drink at this year's presentation evening for the first person to beat him in a Div 2 league match!

Division 3 is looking more comfortable for Vics C, as they currently have two matches in hand and a small lead at the top, but again a close battle is developing for second place between Ryde Rustics and Shorwell A.

Twenty-four players decided to try burning off some Christmas turkey recently by entering the Brian Warne Plate which was held at the Centre between Christmas and New Year. For those of you who don't remember him, Brian Warne was a seasoned campaigner for Ryde club who retired from table tennis in the early 1990s, and when he died, his daughter Pauline kindly donated the lovely plate for which we now compete in his memory. At risk of showing my age, I recall Brian playing in those days – he would always knock with the kids but never give them an inch! We played a very good-natured tournament, fuelled by some of Pat Thorley's lovely cakes, with Pat/John Penny due to do battle with Lee Orton/Joe Millward in finals night (full tournament report below).

We have had good attendance so far for the Ladies' Sessions, which Alison Botha has ably organised, and take place on Fridays between 1600 and 1830, and very positive reports have come back to me. Please contact Alison for further information.

As most of you will be aware, we had a little excitement recently down at the Centre, with a burst water main leaving us, and half of Ryde, without mains water for a couple of hours. As the water flooded across from the Smallbrook Lane roundabout into the Stadium, unfortunately our building was affected too – many thanks to Martin Dove for the clean-up operation, and also to Nicky Dando

who stayed on after the Ladies' Session to help him sort out the floor. The electrics in the water treatment plant were also compromised, and new parts were required, but were fitted today

(31/01) so we are now back on track. Please re-arrange any matches that you had to cancel due to the unavailability of the venue last week.

Anyway, enjoy the rest of the season, and don't forget to support the tournaments – they are great ways to play against different people and meet new friends!

Take care,

Alex Rorke (Chairman, IWCTTA)

News

Christmas Fun Tournament at Smallbrook

Thirty two people entered the tournament, the format of which was pairs, with the highest rated player partnered with the lowest rated and so on. Every pair played every other pair and points were awarded for a win and number of points scored.

A fun evening was had by all and many dressed in appropriate Christmas finery to add to the festive atmosphere.

Here's a photo of Mike, Alison and Pat who were the organisers, with winners Bryce, Trevor and Tim. The other winner was Martin Johnstone.



Brian Warne Plate

For this competition, the competitors are paired with a partner, and since it is a scratch doubles tournament, the highest-ranked player is matched with lowest-ranked, second highest with second lowest until they meet in the middle.

The 12 pairs were drawn on the night into three groups of four pairs; top two pairs progressing automatically to the next round, with two “best 3rd place” pairs going through as wildcards to make up 8 quarter-final places.

Group 1 saw young favourites Joe Chapman/Lewis Johnstone finish top, just above close rivals Darol Wilson/Marlene Irving. Paul White/Nicky Dando had good results so went through as a wildcard, and Alison Botha/Ryan Cates finished fourth.



Paul White



Peter Clarke

Meanwhile in Group 2, Lee Orton/Joe Millward had some very close matches but went through the group undefeated. A three-way tie complicated the rest of the results, as Peter Clarke/Manfred Gelhard beat Glenn Morley/Bert Paice, who then beat Alan Dennis/Bryce Wilson. Alan/Bryce then went on to beat Peter/Manfred, but count-back revealed Alan/Bryce as runners-up.

Alan Dennis



Group 3 had its fair share of close matches too, finally being won by Alex Rorke/Ethan Millward, with Pat Thorley/John Penny in second place. Martin Johnstone/Frank Kelly went through as a creditable third-place wildcard, while Martin Dove/Elaine Mills ended up fourth.

So, onto the quarter finals, and Lee/Joe M start to put their stamp on the proceedings, with a convincing win over Martin/Frank, 11-4, 11-9, 11-5. Pundits' favourites Joe C/Lewis managed to overcome Alan/Bryce 11-7, 13-11, 6-11, 11-7; after a tricky start Alex/Ethan got the better of Paul/Nicky 12-10, 11-5, 11-7. Quarter-final Number 4 saw Pat/John comfortably despatch Darol/Marlene 11-7, 11-5, 11-5.

Semi-final Number 1 saw the youngsters Joe C/Lewis take on the rapidly gelling pair of Lee/Joe M, with the first four sets being shared equally; the fifth set turned out to be a nail-biter, but Lee/Joe M eventually pinched the set to earn their place in the final, 11-7.

Semi-final Number 2 was a re-run of the Group 3 match as Alex/Ethan tried to repeat their performance and dispose of Pat/John - but the latter clearly had other ideas, taking the first set 12-10. Alex/Joe fought back to steal the second in a tense deuce game, 19-17, then took the lead with a comfortable 11-2 third set. Back came Pat & John to take the fourth, and after a lot of tactical play had entertained those watching, Pat/John managed to close the game out by winning 13-11.

Well done to Pat/John and Lee/Joe M who will meet on Finals' Night!



John Penny



Lee Orton

Permission Forms

There are still a number of permission forms yet to be returned. If we do not have these then your name cannot be mentioned in this newsletter or the weekly press reports, owing to GDPR regulations, so please return these as soon as possible.

League News

Division One

Ryde A look favourites to win the League once again, as they lead by 10 points with a game in hand over Ryde Raiders and Ryde Royals, who are equal on points.

The Royal's Hugh and Raider's Alex have both now lost two games. Hugh lost against Ryde A's Scott and Alex against Shanklin's Michael, and they have both lost against each other, setting things up nicely for a third meeting later on in the season.

Hugh leads the averages on over 94% just ahead of Alex on over 93%, whilst Scott has 100% but has played only 12 games. Ryde A's Mark and Lee are also high in the averages. Special mention goes to the Rival's Joe who has had some good wins, including beating the whole of Vic's B team, Mike, Dave and Barry, at their last meeting.



Ryde A's Scott Lawson



Ryde Raider's Alex Rorke



A younger Hugh Idle
In action for Ryde Royals

Division Two

Havenstreet Locos head the Division Two table with an 11 point lead over Ryde Relics and Shanklin Skuas, who are equal on points. With a large pool of players to call on, the Locos are sharing out the matches between them, with all their players on over 50% win average. However, Graham is their star player, having played 30 games and lost only one, against Glenn.

Glenn remains unbeaten at the top of the averages table, with Havenstreet's Graham on 96% and Shanklin's Spike on 86%.

Other players performing well include Shanklin's Elaine Mills and Undercliff Belter's Bryce Wilson.



Spike Hughes of Shanklin Skuas



Mike Lee of Havenstreet Locos

Division Three

Vics C lead Division Three with a six point lead over nearest rivals Ryde Rustics, and with two games in hand. Back in the league after a few years break, Shorwell A lie in third place.

Ryde Rookies Ryan has had an excellent first season in the league, having lost only one match and leading the averages on 95% with Ryde Rocket's Steve following closely behind with 94%. Also new to league table tennis is Vic's C's Paul, who has a 91% win average.



Ryde Rustics Bert Paice

Memories

In the last newsletter we had some excerpts from the Isle of Wight Table Tennis Newsheet of 1971.

A few people got in touch regarding the article and here are their memories and thoughts:

Barry Joyce had fond memories of NYC as this was his first club, Newport Youth Club , and he knew all the four young Vics players mentioned, Keith Steele, Martin Mitchell, Mark Wray and Tim Axford.

Danny Burns remembered some of the characters: *“I remember Martin Mitchell, son of the legendary Freddie Mitchell. Tim Axford is still around and both his sons played for a bit too. The lady that wrote it was Joan Rossi. Lovely lady and the first person who taught me to play at Newport Vics. She used to watch all the matches and sit in the corner by a fire and back then, when smoking indoors was the norm, she would go through a packet of 20 in an evening easily.”*

Bert Paice remembered that Newport Youth Club played in a hall in the building complex at the junction of St. James Street and Lugley street, and that JSW was J.S. Whites, the Cowes shipbuilders who ceased trading in 1981.

Matt Mair had a few memories of the clubs and players: *“J.S.W. was J. S. Whites , which was a shipyard in Cowes down by the floating bridge which I believe now is an industrial estate. Whites used to actually build destroyers at one time and was a shipyard which started sometime in the 1800s.*

They had a sports and social club which is now I believe a Community Sports Centre in Park Road Cowes opposite the rec.

I played football for them in the 70's and also TT! In fact in the league tables you will note the D team finished bottom in Div4, that's who I played for! That being my second ever season in TT!

Howard Flint was a firm in Ryde , I can't remember for the life of me what they did, but it may possibly have been a clothing factory, I'm not too sure.

Martin Mitchell became one of the top players in Div 1 a couple of seasons after that piece shown. I remember playing Tim Axford many times, always 'going to the wire' with him at all times and the same with Martin Wray! They played in a portakabin in Mount Pleasant Road at the time.”

Thanks to everyone who responded with memories of that time long ago!

From the Archives

We reach 1986, when Table Tennis News increased its price from 60 pence to 80 pence, except the January issue which was even more expensive at £1. In addition it had cut the number of pages and articles and this did not go down well with the readers.



No Perks

Annoyed, disappointed and disillusioned but somehow managing to keep my enthusiasm for the game.

I was annoyed that *Table Tennis News* should be so late in arriving. I was furious that when it did its content was reduced to 38 pages from 56 pages, yet the price has risen from 0.60p to 0.80p per copy. How on earth can this be justified? Is it because of the better quality of paper? If so, I, for one, would have been quite happy to have stayed with last year's quality if it meant maintaining the content. I do not want to read about somebody's holiday. I want to read about table tennis. If you are short of material then get John Prean to write and stop being so bigoted.

The Isle of Wight was short of mentions as we no longer had any local write ups, and our county team was struggling. However, the Island's Carl Prean continued to make his mark, climbing the rankings in England and Europe.

Rankings

Prean back into 2nd place *Fiona Brown*

Men No.	Name	Town of Residence	Points
1	Desmond Douglas	(Birmingham)	2400
2	Carl Prean	(Ryde)	1682
3	Alan Cooke	(Chesterfield)	1293

Des down one but Carl swaps with Boris

England international Carl **Prean**, winner of the Belgian Open in November has soared up to No 13 in the latest ranking list issued by the European Table Tennis Union.

Prean, whose previous ranking of 28 caused an ETTA protest to

be lodged, will now join Desmond Douglas on the trip to Sodertalje in Sweden — reserve for what could be his first top 12 in February. Joy Grundy is also ranked but just misses the top 30 names, having dropped two places to No 34.

The January edition also had the excitement of a table tennis themed Word Search. If we were back in lockdown maybe some of us would be tempted to do it to pass the time...

English Open Winners

Names

FRED PERRY
ICHIRO OGIMURA
SANDOR GLANCZ
LI CHUNG KUANG
SEIJI ONO
GABRIELLA SZABO
MILAN ORLOWSKI
MARIA ALEXANDRU
RICHARD BERGMANN
DIANE ROWE
DENIS NEALE
LI CHEN SHIH
MARY SHANNON
EVA FOLDI
JOHNNY LEACH
PERCY BROMFIELD
DAI LILI
LINDE WERTLE
ROSALIND ROWE
ILONA VOSTOVA
TENG YI
JILL HAMMERSLEY
VERA DACE
ZOYA RUDNOVA
BO PERSSON



In the March/April issue it was reported that Carl Prean had qualified to play for the first time in the Europe Top 12 in Sweden. Carl finished 11th in the competition.

In the June/July issue there was good news as Carl had won his first Open title in Belgium:



Carl **Prean** — a true professional

The final County League tables of the season were printed and it was a humiliating sight for our local players in Division 3B:

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonshire 2nd	9	9	0	0	77	13	18
Avon 1st	9	7	1	1	70	20	15
Somerset 2nd	9	5	1	3	53	37	11
Cornwall 1st	9	5	1	3	52	38	11
Dorset 2nd	9	5	1	3	48	42	11
Avon 2nd	9	5	0	4	46	44	10
Glamorgan	9	4	0	5	45	45	8
Hereford	9	1	1	7	26	64	3
Cornwall 2nd	9	1	1	7	25	65	3
Isle of Wight	9	0	0	9	8	82	0

In the August/September issue it was reported that Carl had won an Olympic Award:

Olympic Award

England number 2 Carl Preat received worthy recognition for his junior performances during 1985 when he was awarded with the British Olympic Association's 'Year of Youth' trophy at a recent luncheon. Carl won the BOA nomination, ahead of young stars from many established Olympic sports, as a result of his victories in the 1985 European Junior Top 12 and European Youth Championships. The award for the most promising performance by a young female athlete went to ice skater Joanne Conway.



Carl Preat and Joanne Conway pictured after receiving their awards from Charles Palmer, Chairman of the British Olympic Association.
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In the October issue it was reported that the newsletter was to be revamped in an attempt to improve circulation, with none other than the Island's John Preat being welcomed back into the fold on the working party:



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No. 160 OCTOBER 1986 80p

MAXTACK PRO SPIN
The Maxtack Pro Spin offers the player unparalled control and feel. The secret lies in the highly developed rubbers which are fitted to the well established epoxy blades perfected for Dunlop by a Chinese company. These new rubbers have been acclaimed by top players as some of the best ever made. The Maxtack Pro Spin is a very tacky rubber which

MAXDRIVE PRO
produces exceptional spin for aggressive attack plus excellent control. The Maxdrive Pro is a top rubber ideal for the attacking player whose game depends on a loop drive and counter attack style. Both rubbers are available on their own so that players can make up their own bat combinations with either the Maxtack or Allround blade.

DUNLOP SPORT

New lift-off coming....

THE ETTA Public Relations Committee under vice-chairman Brian Spicer has appointed a new team to run this magazine from the next edition. The new Editor will be John Woodford. Fiona Brown continues as Associate Editor. The magazine working party will include John Preat signalling another attempt to improve the quality and circulation which we hope will make *Table Tennis News* a worthy flagship of our sport.

The November issue had some 'interesting' new features added, including a 'How To' photo step-by-step, a crossword (not re-printed here, the Wordsearch was enough!) and a letter from an annoyed Carl Prean:

Equipment

Ready, steady, go!

Cover your new racket successfully by following these twelve easy stages described by Clive Oakman.



1. Prepare a clean, flat work area, with a firm base, and assemble your kit.



2. Apply glue in a line across the base of the wooden blade.



3. Using a piece of card (cut from the rubber packaging) spread glue evenly, paying particular attention to the edges. Place the blade aside.



4. Ensure that the work surface is glue free. Then place rubber, playing face down, on the board and apply glue. If the rubber is covered by a protective paper it is wise to leave this in place.



5. Spread glue evenly.



6. Reverse blade and position rubber correctly at the handle.



7. While holding the handle, gently lower the rubber into place.



8. Using an ordinary clean kitchen rolling pin roll firmly 2 - 3 times.



9. Turn the blade over. Press down firmly on the blade as you cut around the perimeter with a sharp knife to snap off model making blade is also.



10. Remove all the excess rubber and repair the operation on the other side of the blade.



11. Edging tape is inexpensive and will protect your blade from damage.



12. Finally remove the protective papers which have prevented damage to the rubber during assembly and you are ready to play.

Clive Oakman Table Tennis Services will be represented at most major events during the season, including all of the Stiga J Star Grand Prix Tournaments. Clive or his assistant will be pleased to advise you on all aspects of racket construction and equipment selection.

Equipment provided by Teessport 0642 223333
All photographs by Stephen Line 0273 730788

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No Go for Carl

YOUR article 'No go for Douglas and Prean' (October) gives the wrong impression. I turned down the Europe/Asia tournament because it does not fit in with my schedule. There is a limit to the number of commitments I can take on. For instance, I can't play an important match two days after coming back from Japan (jet lag, time difference, etc.). I don't want to let the public or myself down. I have to earn a living.

I still see the Magazine from time to time and I am very disappointed. There is no more than ten minutes reading in it and the October one had the worst cover ever. Who wants to see two bits of wood?

Finally, I didn't like the prize-winning letter "A wise head" which was from a fifteen year old who had read the Magazine twice which he felt entitled him to be rude to a former World Champion, but I suppose that is our sport all over. Lots of disasters and non-events and, when someone does achieve something, no respect.

I don't come back very often these days and when I see what goes on, I am not sorry.

Carl Prean
Am Hülsenbusch 1,
Hamm, Germany

The final issue of 1986 came with the news that the Island's John Prean had been voted Chairman of the ETTA in a sweeping victory:

And a nice little snippet of Isle of Wight based news:

Martin Mashed

Former Irish international Martin Kinsella, now an exhibition table tennis player for Colin Deaton's International World of Sport, was taken to the cleaners at the Isle of Wight motor show recently when a challenger from the audience beat him in convincing fashion to claim a £100 prize - no prizes for guessing the identity of the local hero!



JOHN PREAN, 62, from Ryde, Isle of Wight, father of Carl Prean the England No. 3, recorded a sweeping victory on November 22 when he became the new chairman of the ETTA with 260 votes against 113 for Aubrey Drapkin, the honorary treasurer of the Association. Mr Prean travelled the length and breadth of the country and recognition of his dedication came when the leagues and counties voted.

And Finally

As part of their Centenary celebrations, Table Tennis England are producing a series of articles on their website called Centenary Stories, celebrating figures from the history of English table tennis. Read their first story about England pioneer Gilbert Belsten by clicking on the old photo below.



"Table Tennis is like an atom. To the ignorant it is merely microscopic and insignificant in existence, but to the dedicated, it is intricate in design and the building block to everything we know."

- Matt Hetherington

Thank you for reading. The next newsletter will be in March 2022. All contributions are very much appreciated so do please send any suggestions, articles or photos to: deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk