

# Isle of Wight

## Table Tennis League

### September 2021

#### Chairman's Message

Firstly, I expect you have already heard, but last week we got the sad news that Dave Williams, a former luminary of our league, had passed away. Dave was a welcome sight around league matches and tournaments for many decades, combining his cheeky humour and love for the game with an affable approachability. He will be sorely missed.

So, to keep you up to date with any news you might have missed...

Mike Prior has decided to step down from his role as Tournaments Secretary with immediate effect; I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking Mike most sincerely for his hard work and dedication over the years. As the position is currently vacant, we are on the lookout for Mike's replacement; meanwhile, his duties will be spread among members of the Committee. If you are interested in stepping up to the challenge, or fancy lending a hand while we are in this transitional period, please contact me. I never turn down help! Mike continues to support Island Table Tennis with his duties as Coaching Officer.

The new season is almost upon us, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that we have 23 teams entered this year; for this reason, the Committee decided to use an 8/8/7 format for the league, with each team playing the others three times. It's a while since we last did this, so I'd be interested in hearing how you like it. If there are any team captains who have not yet collected their match balls, please contact Martin as soon as possible, and please remember that the balls are provided so that every league match can be played using a decent ball – if you are the home side, please do not hoard the new ones and dust off the antiques for the match!

Practice sessions down at the Centre continue to grow in popularity, and I'm hoping that we will get back to our pre-Covid levels of participation before too much longer. However, we do have a shortage of volunteers to help run the sessions, and are increasingly reliant on a small number of people. If you are a regular at any of the sessions at the Centre, please consider my final appeal: we are very much in need of some new members to act as Duty Officers, even if only on an "as and when required" basis.

As always, if you have any suggestions or ideas you would like to put forward, please feel free to get in contact with me or any other member of the Committee.

Have a great season!

Regards,

Alex.

[alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk)

## News

### **Dave Williams**

As Alex has mentioned we have recently received the sad news that Dave Williams has passed away. Alan Hulbert has kindly written this piece for us about Dave and his memories of him, and we have included a couple of photos from the presentation evening in 2012.



*Dave and Alex*



*Dave and Alan*

*I had known Dave for about 40 years plus although during the last decade or so our paths didn't cross all that often. He was always jolly and good fun to be with. He used to work at the mast station on top of Ventnor Downs. Ventnor club room was in Lowtherville road, it was a little run down and used to leak a bit when it rained, nevertheless it was a happy club room. I used to go there every Sunday to do a spot of coaching with what limited ability I had and play a few singles and doubles. They had two tables and around six regulars and we all had a bit of fun. Dave was the News Sheet editor for about 25 years, it was always a good read, full of wit and stories.*

*He was an active member of the Ventnor Jazz band which attended most if not all of the carnivals. He would dress up as a member of the foreign legion wearing their notable headwear and a painted on red nose. They did a lot of fund raising and visited many bars on the way. I'm sure they took in a few beverages on their travels. They were always good fun. Dave sat on the Islands table tennis committee for many years. I only saw him occasionally of late when he entered tournaments at Smallbrook but he always enjoyed himself. The Island has lost a good character and I'm very sad to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace.*

### **Open Day**

There was an Open Day held on 5<sup>th</sup> September with Peter Clarke co-ordinating the event. Many members supported the day and Pat supplied the sandwiches which were gratefully received!

We were lucky enough to have Chris Cornford from the Isle of Wight Observer attend and take photos which was much appreciated. He then put an excellent report in the next Friday's edition of the paper.

Ten new people came along to have a look at the centre and the feedback was very positive. There were quite a few Division Three standard players, plus two other players who were of a higher standard, and all were keen to attend practice sessions and possibly join a team when practicable.

A quiz was held and attendees had a chance to have a go with the table tennis robot, play a game and chat to the coaches.

## Open Day photos



Deanne Puttick ready to play with John Sillar, Dave Williams and Rod Medway watching on



John Kerr having a go on the robot with Mike Prior on hand to give advice



Our oldest league player, Bert Paice (90), with one of our youngest, Joe Millward (15)

## Junior Coaching

Mike has restarted the Saturday morning Junior Coaching sessions which run from 10 am – 12 noon, with the cost being £3 per session (payable by card only).

## Summer League

Ten teams competed in the Summer League, the first chance for competition since December 2020. The format was changed to teams of three instead of the usual two, as there were no doubles played.

League champions were Golden Balls who won by just 1 point over second placed South Wight Wizards. Golden Balls players included two previous Island Games representatives, Simon and Tom, along with Paul and Mike. Second placed South Wight Wizards comprised Glenn (playing left-handed), Alan and Neil.



Paul White of Golden Balls



Alan Burch of South Wight Wizards

## From the Archives

In our regular look through the old issues of the English Table Tennis Association magazine we reach 1985. There was still plenty of Island interest to read. In fact so much that we will only cover half the year this time owing to much controversy!

In January there was local league news and the continued success of our very own Carl Prean.

### 1st EURO JUNIOR TOP 12 REPUBLICAN VICTORY FOR CARL

DIVISION 38	P	W	D	F	L	A	Pts
Glamorgan	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Somerset 1st	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Avon 1st	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Cornwall	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Isle of Wight	4	0	3	1	17	23	3
Dorset 2nd	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Somerset 2nd	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Wiltshire 2nd	3	0	2	1	12	18	2

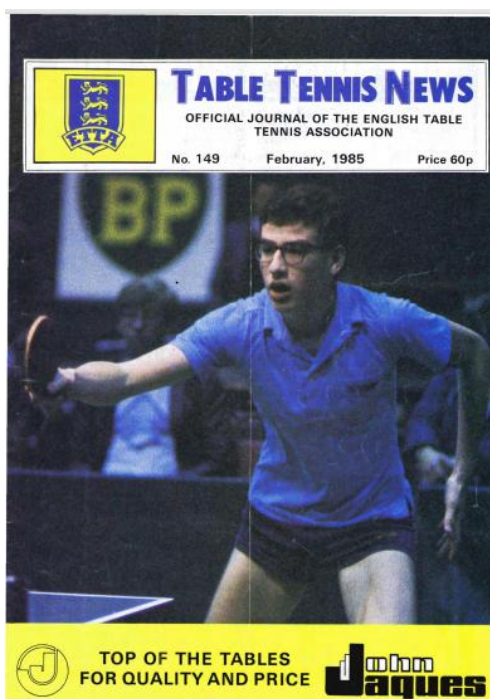


Carl and John Prean, the exultant team!

## LOCAL NEWS

Ryde's hold on the title was loosened when Sandown 'B' held them to a draw. With Mike Turner not so effective with a standard bat, the back-up for Jim Daly is more vulnerable and Sandown's challenge looks hopeful. Roger Hookey has only lost once and Andy Coghlan and the mercurial Kevin Attrill provide a well balanced side and Attrill's sweet left-handed forehand has been known to give Jim Daly his few moments of local trouble. Shanklin too have a well balanced side, but with 4 from Jim Daly (3 singles and the doubles) other teams still have a lot of work to do. Wroxall could have made it a 5 horse race if 50 year old Pete Smith was available more often. He is still a class player who has remained loyal to his hard bat and who once reached the 4th round of the English Open and won two Junior Open doubles titles (the Mixed with Rosalind Rowe, the Boys' with Jimmy Lowe who once beat Richard Bergmann and is now on the Bath Committee).

In the February edition, the Prean's were mentioned no less than 49 times. You will be relieved to hear that only a small percentage of these are included here!



## FLAG WAVING

English successes in foreign fields have been few and far between in recent years, hence hats off to Carl Prean who, in the very first Euro Junior Top 12, played in the Republic of San Marino last month, put his and England's name in the record books for all time.

## The Telegraph, who always gave good coverage to table tennis, reported on Carl Prean...

Widespread controversy continues to surround the teenager's development and in particular the coaching of him at the court side. ETTA officials maintain that his best results have been achieved on occasions when he has been advised at the table by the England coaches and when his father has not been present..."



**The March edition had more Preatn and Isle of Wight news:**

Peter Charters, the Vice Chairman of the ETTA was a little upset with John Preatn:

As far as my 'identity problem' is concerned I suggest to John that he stand for the post of national councillor for the Isle of Wight. This would provide him with the forum he seems to want and it would help him realise that those who manage the affairs of the ETTA are accountable to others, have to accept the majority view even when it conflicts with their own, and stick to the job when they don't always get their own way. They also annually put themselves up to be shot down. That is democracy and that is not only MY identity within the ETTA, but also the position of members of the National Council and Management Committee.

Division 3B	541	0	34	16	9
Somerset 1st	531	1	34	16	7
Avon	531	1	31	19	7
Glamorgan	521	2	22	28	5
Dorset 2nd	411	2	17	23	3
Cornwall	503	2	19	31	3
Isle of Wight	4' 0 2	2	17	23	2
SomeJset2nd	502	3	16	34	2
Wiltshire 2nd					



Carl Preatn receives the £350 winner's prize in the men's singles from Mike Buckley, Manager of the Office Management Department, BP International Ltd.

**The Island's John Preatn has been banned from the pages of the newsletter!**

**PREAN - THE LIMIT**  
 E'lsewhere in this issue John Preatn both in his "Beyond the Isle of Wight" notes and in his "My Critics and I" article has sought fit to lambast both the ETTA Hon. Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin, and Peter Charters, the Chairman of the National Selection Committee.  
 Both raise no objections to the publishing of John's latest outpourings only requesting that they be given the opportunity to respond within the same issue. However, from an editorial standpoint, the time has arrived - and I think anticipated - when, like many newspapers, particularly provincial on a local topic, the Editor draws the line by saying "This correspondence is now closed".  
 That is not to say that criticism of the establishment will not be tolerated, far from it. Controversy is the lifeblood of any publication but in the case of John Preatn his constant carplings have become far too repetitive to serve any further useful purpose in this publication.  
 The Editor.

**County Team hammered**

Sad news from our County Team. We were thrashed 8-2 by Glamorgan. Regina Stevens was called back to Germany which made tough in the ladies' sets, although Jill Fothergill played well, losing 18 in the 3rd to Carolyn Jones. C. P. won two, which must have been a change after playing Surbeck 3 days earlier before more than a thousand people. We too had an excellent crowd, though not quite of those proportions! Having played several super matches before thin numbers, it was a tragedy that we played poorly when we were so well supported. We worked really hard on the pre-match publicity. I was impressed with Glamorgan. Andrew Jones, Warwick Armstrong, David Chan, Carolyn Jones and Jayne Sully played with admirable motivation.

**A nice write up on the Peach Cup and mention of Newport Vics (still going strong today against the odds):**

**Our own**

At last we got some terrific matches in the Peach Cup donated by our late Treasurer Frank Peach. We are getting close matches, because no team may field 3 players with a combined average of more than 160% in our 1st division, Newport Vics, with an all Division 2 line-up (Graham Copp, Mark Buckell and the allconquering Richard Jackson) have reached the semi-finals, piling sensation upon sensation. With excellent new premises about which I wrote recently I am hoping that Newport will become a Table Tennis hotbed, which Ryde has been for so long.

### More sensations

**Columbia** too have a team in the Semis. This is C. P. and **Maurice** and **Christopher Fenn**. The latter, a Division 2 player, brought off the sensation of the round when he defeated **David Tolfrey**, a member of Ryde's championship winning side. 16-19 down in the third, he won the next 5 points and Columbia won 5-4.

### April continues with more Island news:

#### Erica Prean was not happy at her husband being banned:

'Why not ban the whole of the Isle of Wight? It would save us hundreds. With apologies to Clint Eastwood: Go on, make our day.'



### John Prean looks beyond the ISLE OF WIGHT

#### THE LAST HURRAH

Our last county match at home, at least for some time, compensated our supporters for the previous disappointment. After a magnificent match we drew 5-5 with Avon. It was less the result, more the manner in which it was achieved that made us feel we had seen a real match. **Jim Daly**, **Regina Stevens**, the men's doubles and two from C. P. gave us our five. The set between him and Andy Creed was a real crowd pleaser as the ball stayed on the table for rally after rally. I hope I will not be regarded as 'prejudiced' if I suggest that this is not always the case and see some of the Sport's problems in this. To which I would add that the case against the combination bat did not seem strong in this match. I note Ken Muhr's point that he feels the Game is now easier to sell. My impression is that attendances are down since the rule change and some defensive, but crowd pleasing players rather less effective. The plus 'sales points' may emerge later. I look forward to that happy day.

### ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Jim Daly** dominated the Island Championships with yet another treble which included the Men's Doubles with **Mike Turner** and the Mixed with **Joy Batten**. **Regina Stevens** won the Ladies against **Jill Fothergill**, not without difficulty. If you are a strong favourite, the crowd will warm to the 'underdog' and Regina was grateful when the second game was over. **Joe Daly** won the 'Consolation'. What a fluent player he is! I thought this again when I saw him in the final of the Veterans when he was eventually beaten by his brother **Jim**, but not till the third game of a splendid top spin encounter that made me feel young again for a while. **Ian Urry** had earlier won the Cadets and Juniors in one day and his sister **Sharon** also looked good. Let us hope that we shall have something to offer them if and when they outgrow our own 1st division. **Rob Warren** won the Intermediate (From Div. 2 down).

He was what he has been throughout the season - the best player in the section, though **Roger Merry** nearly won the final.

**FORMER JUNIOR CHAMPION**

**Rob** won the Island Junior title three times and took the 1st division by storm in his first season, but then retired from the sport for several seasons. Nice to see him back leading **Newport Vics** back into the top division.

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3-STAR Mike Turner** and **Roger Hookey** travelled to Farnborough and thoroughly enjoyed the experience without uprooting any trees; missing the boat and waiting 2 hours for the next made it a long day. I know how they felt. I hope they will play in more tournaments next season.

**ROGER HOOKEY** Roger leaves us to take up an appointment in Aylesbury and we are very sad to see him go. He is another young player who steadily worked his way through our divisions, to occasional appearances in our county side and the move may offer him much greater possibilities than exist here. His best days are yet to come. An admirable sportsman on the table and secretary of his club, we shall miss him. Good luck, Roger.

The May/June 1985 issue was a bit special, 97 mentions of the Preans plus also the confirmation of the banning of John Prean from the newsletter. Seems the Island was creating waves, but not in our county matches unfortunately:

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Somerset</b>	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Avon	7	3	3	1	44	26	9
Cornwall	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Glamorgan	7	3	2	2	40	30	8
Dorset 2nd	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Somerset 2nd	7	1	2	4	29	41	4
<b>Isle of Wight</b>	7	0	4	3	28	42	4
Wiltshire 2nd	7	0	2	5	17	53	2

At the English Junior Open Carl had to make some adjustments to his bat to take part:



**Prean** performs last minute adjustments to his bat at the referee's request.

**Many people wrote into the Postbag page about John Prean's ban, both for and against:**

**Here is a selection of comments:**

*Who are these Preans, who burst upon the scene and take it upon themselves to conduct a witch-hunt against men of integrity who have been democratically elected to run the E.T.T.A.? How many people had even heard of them before Carl started playing? Not many I'll be bound.*

*I wish to register a strong protest against the banning of John Prean from the pages of Table Tennis News. In my opinion, his were the only contributions that made an otherwise boring journal readable.*

*Concerning the banning of John Prean: Voltaire said it much better than I can. "I disagree with everything you say. but will defend to the death your right to say it."*

*Your decision to exercise editorial judgement to put an end to the welter of correspondence from Mr. John Prean has brought welcome relief to myself and. I suspect many more of our fraternity who have grown weary of the constant repetition on the same themes spread over thousands of word~. the reading of which eventually induced boredom to the point of nausea.*

*I wish to make it clear my over-riding message is one of total and utter support for John's ability to air his views whether I or any other person agree or disagree. it would be totally wrong and totally offensive for the Magazine to put a ban on John particularly if he offers criticism of the Establishment.*

*At one National Council meeting I heard Mrs. Prean describe the E.T.T.A. as a "Fascist Regime". Really. how low can you sink. I will never forgive her. We in this country are preparing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the end of the second world war. in which my father fought to help rid Europe of the fascism which -was destroying it. and I cannot. for the life of me. understand the mentality of a person who compares the E. T. T.A. with those who perpetrated such outrageous evil upon mankind.*

*I am afraid that the obituary notice for John Prean's views which appeared in the March issue will do less than nothing to reassure those of us who believe the sport faces very serious problems. There are too many causes for concern and too few evidences of effective action to meet this concern.*

**I wonder if the controversies surrounding the Prean's will continue? Find out in the next newsletter...**

**And Finally...**

The Paralympics took place recently, did anyone see Ibrahim Hamadtou from Egypt who serves with his foot and holds the bat in his mouth?  
Click on the photo to see a video of him in action.



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