

Isle of Wight

Table Tennis League

April 2023

Message from the Chairman

So another season draws to a close, and it seems that most of us have enjoyed some good table tennis, whether it be playing or watching. Firstly, congratulations to our divisional winners – Ryde A, Vics B and St Lawrence Lizards. Stand-out performances for me include Lewis Johnstone, Ryan Cates and Graham Evans, all up from Div 2 into 1; Ethan Millward and Gaurav Shah (up from Div 3 and new to the league, respectively); and also Derek Pittard and Jye Lock (unbeaten and 67% respectively in Div 3). Cracking results all round from these players – well done!

Recent highlights within our community include Ryan and Lewis winning their regional heats in the English Leagues Tournaments; we wish them good luck in the finals next month, when they will trek up North to Derby! All of our juniors have made great progress this year, so my personal thanks to Glenn and his team of coaches (Elaine, Martin, Ricky, Graham, Hugh) and it's also nice to see great participation with the juniors from decent players such as Paul Rainford, Danny Burns and Steve Mills.

Anyway, full reports on all of the above are contained in this month's newsletter, so read on for results, scores, and photos! The only extra thing I want to do is remind everyone about the Mountbatten Charity Tournament, coming up on the 24th of June. Please feel free to enter, or if you don't fancy that, just come along to watch or help out on the day. All help gratefully accepted, contact me to volunteer! Entry forms are on the noticeboard at the Centre, or on TTE website here: [Mountbatten-Charity-Tournament-Entry-Form.pdf](#), just fill it in and send it back to me.

Have a great summer,

Alex Rorke (Chairman, IWCTTA)

alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk

News

Isle of Wight Sports Awards – Martin Dove

by Peter Clarke

The Isle of Wight County Table Tennis Association was delight to hear that Martin Dove had been officially nominated as a finalist at the County Press 2023 Isle of Wight Sports Achievement Awards. The ceremony took place at Medina Theatre on 30th March.

In 2012 Martin took over as IoW Table Tennis Centre Manager. Since then, he has been a committed and stalwart member of the IoW County Association, serving also as Treasurer on both the Island Committee and Ryde Table Tennis Club Committee.



Martin is an asset to the Association with his positive attitude, warm welcome to new players and his constructive participation and leadership on the committee, on which he has served for many years.

Martin is the manager of the Table Tennis Centre and he is the first person that we approach to resolve any maintenance or administrative issues or problems relating to the smooth running of the Table Tennis Centre as a safe and secure venue for the sport. The Centre at Smallbrook has been transformed from a cold and uninspiring basic (although functional facility) into a warm, inviting and thriving Centre. It is now one of the most attractive local table tennis venues in the south of England, with excellent facilities. Martin has arranged and overseen the upgrading of the toilets, lighting and heating system and the kitchen facilities.

In 2022 Smallbrook was selected to host the southern area Centenary Table Tennis tournament organised by the English Leagues Association. The event was so successful that the Island was invited to host the EEL tournament again this year. The Association website is maintained by Martin and he also organises the annual Presentation Evening. With Martin's support and encouragement, we now attract many table tennis enthusiasts; - experienced, quality players, promising youngsters and "social" players happy to come along for a knock and chit chat.

Martin was instrumental and a leading figure in a charity table tennis tournament last year in aid of the Mountbatten Hospice. This attracted a number of top players from the mainland and raised £1000 and is being repeated this year.

Martin is well respected by members and most giving of his free time, for the benefit of the association and the promotion of the sport. At this time, there are many juniors taking up table tennis and progressing rapidly into the Isle of Wight Table Tennis league and competing in tournaments. Martin himself plays in a Division 2 team, with his two grandsons, appropriately named "Ryde Relatives". The Isle of Wight Table Tennis Association believe that this nomination for an Isle of Wight Sports award is a well-deserved recognition of Martin's tireless work to raise the profile of table tennis on the Island. Previous IoW Table Tennis nominations were Lucy Pointer, Temeesha Hobbs and Danny Burns.

We often joke that Martin will, no doubt, be providing a bed at the Centre soon as he almost lives there, maintaining and cleaning the facility. With his “hands on” approach, he enjoys his work and contribution and his enthusiasm rubs off on to others who are only too glad to help. He even finds time to play! To many, he is the Island’s Mr Table Tennis.

Martin would probably be the first to acknowledge that this nomination reflects not only on him, but on the development of IW Table Tennis in general. The Association General Secretary, Peter Clarke, says:- **“Martin is well respected in IW table tennis circles, we are all delighted that his invaluable contribution to the sport on the Island over many years has been duly recognised with this nomination”.**

The 48th Isle of Wight Sports Achievement Awards were presented by Shirley Robertson, British Sailor & Olympic Gold Medallist on 30th March 2023 at the Medina Theatre, Newport.

Pat Thorley and Rob Smith attended the ceremony to represent us and to support Martin of behalf of the Island Association.

Weekend Coaching Sessions

Glenn Morley will be holding coaching sessions for adults on the first Sunday of each month between May and September inclusive, between 10 am and 12 noon. The cost will be £5 per person. If you are interested, please add your name to the poster at Smallbrook, or alternatively, email Glenn at zaffre1@uwclub.net to book your place.

Daytime League

The new daytime league has proved very popular, with twelve teams competing in this fun and competitive event. The winners were Neil Hedges and Lawrence Voong of the Gorillaz, who finished on 40 points, 4 points ahead of the second, third and fourth placed teams, who all finished on 36 points. On countback the Jam finished second, comprising Bryce Wilson and Julie Thorn, with the Beatles and East 17 finishing third and fourth.



Daytime League Champions - Neil Hedges and Lawrence Voong of the Gorillaz

Knowles Cup

The final of the Knowles Cup took place on 3 April between Ryde Revellers and Ryde D. It was a thrilling match which Ryde D won in the final set to take the match 5-4.



Knowles Cup Winners – Ryde D – Martin Johnstone, Ryan Cates and Lewis Johnstone

TTE English Leagues Tournaments

Two great days of table tennis were held at the IW Table Tennis Centre recently with mainland teams competing against our juniors and seniors in the Southern Sections of the English Leagues Tournaments.

You probably already know that Ryan and Lewis are through to the Junior finals in June, which is a wonderful achievement. Also congratulations to all the other boys who participated and performed so well and were a credit to our Association - Joe C, Ross, Ethan, Zak, Jye.



Ryan and Lewis with proud dads and coaches



Glen, Joe C, Lewis, Benjamin Saberi, Ryan, Ross, Jye, Zak, Bailey Page, Ethan, Karl Lee, Paul Whiting

Southern England Junior table tennis champions by Peter Clarke

There was terrific excitement at Smallbrook Table Tennis Centre, near Ryde, on Sunday 16 April when the Isle of Wight beat a strong table tennis team from Plymouth to reach the final of the English Leagues Junior table tennis championships.

Nine boys from the Island participated in an exciting tournament, with sixteen year olds, Lewis Johnstone and Ryan Cates, reaching the finals, which will take place at West Drayton Table Tennis Centre, Derbyshire on 4th June.

Older Island table tennis folk will remember and reminisce on great past young Island players who reached national finals: namely Lucy Pointer, Carl Preat, Lorna Dutch, Alex Rorke and Danny and Greg Burns.

IW Table Tennis secretary, Peter Clarke said "The IW Table Tennis Association is delighted with this achievement by the boys, especially in our centenary year. Our coaches, led by Glenn Morley, have worked really hard and the boys have responded and attained a high standard. They have great potential. We hope that they will maintain their interest in the sport and make even greater progress."

The Adult event was held on Saturday 22 April and this time there were teams from Plymouth and Guildford in attendance.



The ladies – Pat and Anna, plus the teams from Plymouth and Guildford



The men – Ryan, Don, Tim, Graham, Lewis, Alex, Scott, Hugh, Mark, plus their opponents from Plymouth and Guildford.

The adults had a much harder time in their tournament, playing against extremely strong opposition, but it was still an excellent day which everyone enjoyed.

Island Games 2023

A quiz was held at the Lifeboat Inn, East Cowes on 26th March in aid of our Island Table Tennis team (nine players) participating in the Island Games being held in Guernsey in July.

It was an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable event. Sixty six people attended and the winners were the Cates family.

Many thanks to all those who attended and to those who donated raffle prizes. Team captain, Danny Burns, gave a brief history of the Island Games. The players involved are already practicing and being coached by Glenn Morley. The Quiz realised a profit of £610. This will assist the Island team with travel and accommodation during the Games in Guernsey.



Winners of the quiz were the Cates family



Isle of Wight Table Tennis Clothing

ISLE OF WIGHT TABLE TENNIS CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE

An increasing number of table tennis players have purchased our new clothing. See below. There is a new wide range of clothing with a choice of colours and logo on front and rear. They are available, at reasonable prices, in all sizes across the product range, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies etc



Order today at the **BigWight** T-shirt company (based in Newport)
Google them at:-
<https://www.bigwight.com/iw-table-tennis/>

You can collect from them or they will send it out to you.



Click on the logo below to view and to order any of the clothing:



Shorwell and Wootton Clubs

**SHORWELL & WOOTTON
TABLE TENNIS CLUBS**

Two friendly Table
Tennis Club that
welcome new members.



Shorwell meet on Wednesdays 7-00 –
9-00pm in the Shorwell Village Hall.

Wootton meet on Friday mornings
9-30am – 12 noon at Wootton
Community Centre.

Both have four T. Tennis tables for Singles
& doubles games.

For Shorwell contact Kev Williams E. mail:
williams.k88@aol.com

For Wootton contact Dee Puttick - E. mail dputtick04@sky.com
or Mick Wills – E. mail mickwills1977@gmail.com



League News

We have reached the end of a successful and exciting season, and it's been good to see lots of new players of all ages along with some new teams, all enjoying their table tennis.

Division One

The runaway winners of the league are Ryde A, who finished 30 points ahead of second and third placed Ryde C and Ryde D. With Ryde B in fourth, it was a clean sweep for Ryde Table Tennis Club this year, despite spirited opposition from Newport Vics, Shanklin and Havenstreet teams.



All conquering Ryde A – Mark, Pat,
Scott and Rob

Ryde A's Scott was unbeaten all season, whilst Ryde C's Alex was second in the averages table with 94% and Ryde A's Mark had 86%. Other notable performers were Shanklin's Paul and Graham, and Hugh and Tim from Ryde. Junior players from Ryde - Ryan, Joe and Lewis all had impressive averages with 62%, 51% and 49% respectively.



Ryan



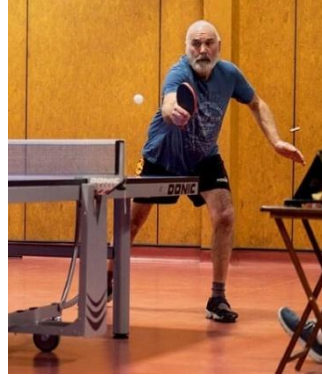
Lewis



Joe

Division Two

In Division Two the gap between first and second place was even wider than that in Division One, with Newport Vics B taking top spot with an unbelievable 41 point gap over second placed Ryde Rascals. The Relatives came third with the Rockets fourth.



Barry, Rob and Dave (plus Mike – not pictured) of Vics B, runaway winners of Division Two

Rob, Dave and Barry also topped the averages table, with Rob on 97%, Dave on 96.5% and Barry on 94%. Ryde's Trevor had 88% whilst other top performers were Vic's Mike and Ryde's Gourav, along with Ryde's junior player Ethan who averaged 71%.



Ethan, Martin and Joe of the Relatives who came third

Division Three

Division Three was a much closer affair, with the title being fought out between old favourites St Lawrence Lizards and newer contenders Shorwell Spinners. Everything came down to the last match, and St Lawrence ultimately took top place by 7 points over Shorwell.



Derek, Tom (and Andy - not pictured) of St Lawrence Lizards are Division Three Champions





Steve, Robert and Peter of Shorwell Spinners, who finished second

Derek was unbeaten all season and tops the averages table, whilst Robert of Shorwell Spinners finished on over 90%. The Spinners Steve had 79%, Tom from St Lawrence had 78% and Shorwell Saint's Kevin ended with 75%.

Junior Jye from Ryde Retailers had an excellent first season finishing with a 67% win average.

Jye



Hard Bat Tournament

Older folk will remember playing table tennis as a youngster with hard wooden bats, before the sponge bats emerged.

The IW Table Tennis Association have an annual hardbat event, and players often find it difficult to readjust to the more basic wooden bats which makes spin more difficult.

This year's hardbat competition held was held on 23 April and was dominated by Alex Rorke who beat Pat Thorley in the Singles final, and then teamed up with Maggie Preston to beat Ryan Cates and Tim Giles in the Doubles final. In the Runners Up Plate, Peter Clarke beat Bryce Wilson.

Finals Night Roundup

Finals night took place on Wednesday 26 April and was well supported and a very successful evening of fine competition in all the events.

Island Echo Centenary Cup

The final was contested between Joe Chapman and Zak Holbrook, after the semi finals were played earlier. Zak overcame Joe in three sets to take the cup, along with the £100 prize money, whilst Joe won £50, and losing semi-finalists Jye Lock and Lewis Johnstone won £25 each. The Island Echo were in attendance to take photos and present the trophy, and the IWTTA wish to thank them for sponsoring this event and their continued support for, and promotion of, Isle of Wight table tennis.



Zak with proud parents after winning the inaugural Island Echo Centenary Cup

Zak and Joe with Darren Toogood of the Island Echo



Brian Warne Handicapped Doubles

Bryce Wilson and Neil Hedges met Glenn Morley and Paul Cates, with Bryce and Neil taking the title in a five set thriller.



Brian Warne finalists Glenn, Paul, Bryce and Neil

Men's Doubles

Alex Rorke and Tim Giles played Paul Rainford and Lewis Johnstone, with Alex and Tim taking the title after a very close four set match.



Alex and Tim on the way to the title against Paul and Lewis.

Division Two Championship

Experience met youth in the Division Two Championship, with Barry Joyce getting the better of junior player Ethan Millward in four sets.



Ethan and Barry, the finalists

Division Three Championships

Robert Wendes met Shane Cates with Robert taking the title in four sets.

Shane and Robert – finalists in the Division Three Championships



Women's Doubles

Pat Thorley and Elaine Mills contested the Women's Doubles against Marlene Irving and Maggie Preston, with Pat and Elaine winning in four sets.



Maggie, Marlene, Elaine and Pat, the finalists

Mixed Doubles

Elaine and Pat were both in action again in the mixed doubles, with Pat partnering Tim Giles and Elaine partnering Graham Evans. Pat and Tim won the title in four sets.



Graham, Elaine, Pat and Tim, the Mixed Doubles finalists.

Gordon Burns Handicapped Singles

Danny Burns met Zak Holbrook in the final, which was a close, exciting battle which Danny ultimately won in the final set 11-9 to take the title.



Danny and Zak

Over 70's Championship

There were eleven contestants in the Over 70's Championships held recently. After some close competition, the finalists were Mike Lee and Pat Thorley. Pat won the final in three sets to take the title.



Mike and Pat in action



Over 60's Championship

Glenn Morley met Tim Giles in a very closely fought final, with Glenn winning in five sets.

Glenn took the over 60's title



Over 40's Championship

The Over 40's Championship finalists were Glenn Morley and Don Hobbs. An exciting match ensued, with Glenn overcoming Don in five sets, to add the over 40's title to the over 60's title he won earlier in the evening.



Glenn and Don were the over 40's finalists



Super Vets Over 60's Handicapped Singles

Keith Baker and Tim Giles met each other in the final, another very close match, which Keith took in five sets.



Tim in action

Junior Singles

Ryan Cates and Lewis Johnstone met in the final, which was a repeat of last year's final, when Lewis was the victor. Lewis came out on top again this year, winning in three sets.



Ryan and Lewis in action in last year's final



Women's Singles Championship

Pat Thorley met Nicky Dando in the final, which Pat won comfortably to take the title for the second year running.

Pat and Nicky



Men's Singles Championship

Hugh Idle met Alex Rorke and beat Alex in three sets to take the title for the second year running.



Alex and Hugh in action in the final

And finally...

Barry from Newport Vics was at working at a private house recently, when he came across some old newspapers which had been used for wrapping items for storage within the property.

He found this from an old County Press circa 1997, with a report on the Under 16 tournament and a photo of an extremely young Danny Burns!

Shankin Legion 15 5 8 2 68 In the two wheel drive, group 4wd: 1 O. Buckett 98.

Hookey and Burns in third consecutive final

DESPITE A disappointing entry, the annual top 16 tournament provided some scintillating table tennis at the Carl Prean Centre, Smallbrook.

However, the top 16 turned into only ten although the best players were on view.

A chance was given to two of the top

and Matt Hobley win their groups. Hobley, the number four seed, beat Steve Barsdell, the second seed, en route to the semi-finals.

Burns, seeded three beat the top seed Roger Hookey to win the group.

Hookey had to beat Mike Turner in three close games to gain second place in the group and his place in the semi-final.

In the other group Roger Nevell, battling with flu just missed a place, ending in the third spot in his group.

Burns defeated Barsdell 11 and 16 in the first semi-final and looked sharp.

Hookey beat Hobley with very great difficulty in the early stages, 18, 13 and 11.

The scene was set for the third successive Hookey-Burns final and it proved the best match of the tournament.

Hookey won the first 21-15 and led 9-4 in the second game.

Burns then embarked on a winning streak which took him to 19-11.

Hookey kept catching up, but Burns ran out the winner by 21-18.

The match could not have been more even than it proved in the third, decisive game.

The players changed ends with Burns 10-8 ahead.

He consolidated to lead 15-12, but Hookey ploughed him back to 15-15.

Then it was 18-18 and Hookey took the next three points to win 21-18.

It was his seventh win in this event, second only to the Island Championships and a record which will take very many years to eclipse.

For much of the game Hookey had looked tired and battling against the odds and an opponent 20 years younger, but he kept calm, while the younger man seemed to grow ever more anxious in the closing stages and, at times, earlier.

His time will come, but Hookey will be in his way for some time to come.

Earlier Hookey's son Andrew had won the first year juniors event in convincing style.

He is only 11 and the chances for Island youngsters to progress have never been better.

Both the facilities and role models are there.

At the Carl Prean Centre kids can play all evening for only £1.

Table Tennis

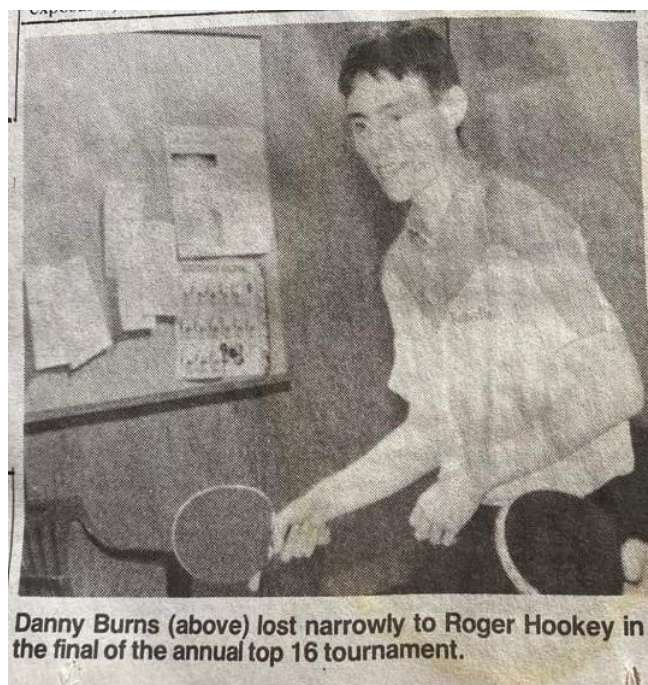
Under-14s. Nathan Godolphin and Lucy Pointer.

They were not expected to uproot any trees in this elite company, but they played well and found out how much they still need to do before they can compete successfully at this level.

Two groups of five saw Danny Burns

Rambling

Forthcoming rambles, Saturday: Tesco car park, 10 am, ten miles. pl. Monday: Brading Downs car park, 10 am, six miles. Tuesday: Whitwell Church, 10 am, five/six miles. Wednesday: Approximately 20-mile walk, 9.30 am, pl. Phone 402647 for further details. Thursday: Ventnor Botanical Gardens, 10 am, five miles.



Danny Burns (above) lost narrowly to Roger Hookey in the final of the annual top 16 tournament.

Plus some new scientific research based on an experiment involving table tennis:

[Robots: Do you work harder when competing against them than other humans? - BBC Newsround](#)



Thank you for reading. Thanks go to Peter Clarke for his valued contributions and photos which are much appreciated.

Please note that the Archive section will return in the next issue. There was so much news this time that it has been paused owing to the length of the newsletter.

The next newsletter will be in July 2023. All contributions are very much appreciated so do please send any suggestions, articles or photos to: deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk