

Kent League Report

David Hill
Medway

TEAM TOURNAMENT REPORT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2017 "A" TEAM TOURNAMENT

The "A" Team Tournament was again played off successfully at the Howard School, Rainham on Sunday February 5th. with again 10 teams taking part. This year all the sides taking part were particularly strong with the defending champions Medway again being seeded No. 1 in Group One. While Folkestone were seeded No. 2 in group Two. North West Kent's team were somewhat depleted due to Peter Ives sustaining an injury playing in the final of the Maidstone Closed and Peter Davis also had a back injury. However Phil Wroe, and two of the Medway young players were drafted in at the last moment with Terry McKee captaining the side. Maidstone also made some major changes to their team.

I had to limit each league to a maximum of two teams, due to the fact that the Team Tournament has become extremely popular with all the players.

Many thanks to the Maidstone and the West Kent teams for entering as this was the first time for some of the players entering the Team Tournament. Also my apologies for not getting around enough to introduce myself. I do hope you all will enter next year.

The Groups again provided some major upsets with both Thanet teams doing particularly well. The major upset being Thanet B's win over second seeds Folkestone who were expected to top Group Two. Here, Andy Roberts played an outstanding game to beat Folkestone's Keith Yarnley in 4 games 11-9, 10-12, 11-7, 11-8. Phil Morford levelled the score winning the next rubber for Folkestone with an excellent win over veteran Keith Clark 5-11, 11-5, 13-11, 11-3. It's Keith Clark's first Team Tournament, and it's amazing to think that Keith has always been the No 1 Thanet player for over 50 years, now still playing into his 70's

Keith also played a major part in the vital doubles rubber. Partnered by Ian Mileham they won an incredibly close match against a strong Folkestone pairing of Keith Yarnley and Russell Bates. After trailing the Folkestone pair 2 games to one, they managed to save two match points in the fourth game, eventually winning 14-12. Again Phil Morford levelled the score for Folkestone beating Andy Roberts 9-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-6.

Thanet's captain Ian Mileham then played the match of his life to beat Russell Bates over five extraordinary games with many, many fine rallies played by both players. Russell looked well in command after winning the first two games comfortably 11-4, 11-6. Russell then faltered slightly with the win in his sights, and perhaps then did not press enough as Ian Mileham fought back with some magnificent forehand topspin attacking shots to win the next 3 games 12-10, 11-8, 11-9. Also saving a match point in the third game.

In Group One the No 1 seeds, and defending champions Medway were also taken all the way by Thanet A with the result again not being decided until the 5th and last game. Here Medway's Martin Hewitt surprisingly lost both his rubbers to David Jeavens, who attacked strongly to win in 3 close games, 13-11, 11-6, 12-10. Martin also lost narrowly, to Simon Hillier in 5 nailbiting games 11-9, 10-12, 11-7, 8-11, 11-13. However Andy Norwood steadied the ship for Medway, playing a fine attacking game to beat Simon Hillier, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-1. Pairing Up with Richard Carden they won the doubles, against Thanet A's David Jeavens and John Ferguson in a 5 games thriller. 11-6, 6-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-3. Richard Carden completed the win for Medway in the last rubber, proving too strong for Thanet's John Ferguson 11-3, 12-10, 7-11, 11-7.

Although the North West Kent team were without Peter Ives, Matt Emery and Peter Davis, they found an exceptional player in Philip Wroe, and he wrought havoc in their encounter with Folkestone, winning both his singles against, Keith Yarnley 15-13, 11-6, 10-12, 11-8. The second which proved to be the closest fought rubber of the day with again many fine rallies played by both players with Philip Wroe finally edging home to win 4-11, 12-10, 12-10, 10-12, 13-11. North West Kent's captain Terry McKee paired up with Charlie Cook to

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clinch the match for North West Kent, winning the doubles against Keith Yarnley and Russell Bates 11-4, 12-10, 11-7.

Other group highlights were Maidstone's doubles win in their 1-3 defeat against Medway. Here Maidstone's Miro and Petar Tancevski played above themselves to beat Medway's Martin Hewitt and Richard Carden 11-5, 4-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Dover B narrowly lost to North West Kent 2-3 with Derek Walker winning his first singles rubber of the day against Jordan Weller 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8. While David Riordan also beat Jordan 11-8, 5-11, 11-9, 11-5. However North West Kent finally established their win with Terry McKee beating David Riordan 7-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-5. While North West Kent's "Man of the Day" Philip Wroe paired up with Terry McKee to win the doubles against Dover's David Riordan and Derek Brown 7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9. Philip also won the last rubber of the match against Dover's Derek Brown 11-9, 11-6, 6-11, 11-4.

West Kent's 3-1 win against North West Kent where both John Dyson and Steve New beat North West Kent's Jordan Weller, while Steve New caused Philip Wroe's first defeat of the day winning 11-5, 11-8, 14-16, 9-11, 11-5. It was the first time that John Dyson, Steve New and Graham Windram have played in the Team Tournament.

Dover A's team Kevin Coleman, Barry Yarnley and Steve Powell also played well to finish third in Group One with solid wins over Maidstone and Canterbury. Their 3-1 win against Canterbury was especially good with Kevin Powell attacking well to beat Nico Waters 11-7, 14-12, 11-7. and giving Dover a winning lead with another fine win over Canterbury's Harry Law 7-11, 11-7, 12-10, 12-10.

The Folkestone side just managed to reach the semi-finals on count back at the expense of North West Kent who, if they had fielded their first choice side the end might have been different. Up against the defending champions Medway it was always going to be tough, and so it proved as Medway's Martin Hewitt and Andy Norwood both having comfortable wins, with Martin beating Folkestone's Phil Morford 12-10, 11-4, 11-4. While Andy Norwood beat Keith Yarnley 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7. Medway's Andy Norwood and Richard Carden proved too strong in the doubles beating Phil Morford and Russell Bates 7-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6.

It was unlucky that both the Thanet teams should meet each other in the second Semi-Final, As it was Thanet B won Group Two and Thanet A were strong runners up in Group One having beaten Dover A, Maidstone and Canterbury.

The younger team Thanet A prevailed in the end with David Jeavens getting the better of Keith Clark 11-9, 11-6, 11-2. While Simon Hillier narrowly beat Andy Roberts 11-9, 8-11, 12-10, 11-9. David Jeavens and John Ferguson proved to be too consistent in the doubles, beating Ian Mileham and Andy Roberts 9-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-3.

Like last year, the Medway Team again proved just too strong in the Final for their opponents, living up to their status as No. 1 seeds. Medway's Richard Carden won the first singles against Thanet's John Ferguson in straight games 11-9, 11-6, 11-7. While Martin Hewitt got his revenge against David Jeavens again in a gripping encounter with both players attacking whenever possible. This time Martin kept his composure to win 4-11, 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9. This again proved to be the vital rubber as Medway then led 2-0.

Richard Carden and Andy Norwood made no mistake, winning the doubles against David Jeavens and Simon Hillier 7-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-7. to win the title for a record 6th time since the Tournament was started in 2003.

My sincere thanks go to Neil LeMilliere for his help in collating all the scores etc. Also to Steve Bispham, Bob Baker and Malcolm Kay for dealing with the draw for each round. And to Bob Baker especially for dealing with all the food etc. And for transporting me to the Tournament. Without their help the tournament would not run as well as it always does.

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PLEASE GIVE A COPY OF THIS REPORT TO ALL OF YOUR TEAM

Next years tournament is already booked for:-
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4TH 2018
Winning team £60. 00 Runners Up £30. 00
Entry Fee will remain the same £35. 00 a team

RESULTS

TEAMS TAKING PART AS FOLLOWS:-

Maidstone: **Terry Clapperton (Capt)** Petar Tancevski, Martin Ball, Miro
West Kent: **Roger Harris (Capt)** John Dyson, Graham Windrum, Steve New
Folkestone: **Keith Yarnley (Capt)** Phil Morford, Joe Britnell, Russell Bates
Thanet A: **Ian Mileham (Capt)** David Jeavens, John Ferguson
Thanet B: **Simon Hillier (Capt)** Keith Clark, Andy Roberts
Canterbury: **Paul Walmsley (Capt)** Harry Law, Nicholas Waters
N.W. Kent A: **Terry McKee (Capt)** Phil Wroe, Charlie Cook, Jordan Weller
Medway: **Richard Carden (Capt)** Andy Norwood, Martin Hewitt
Dover A: **Kevin Coleman (Capt)** Barry Yarnley, Kevin Coleman
Dover B: **Derek Brown (Capt)** Derek Walker, David Riordan

GROUP ONE

Medway (Seeded One)
Maidstone
Thanet A
Canterbury
Dover A

GROUP TWO

Folkestone (Seeded Two)
North West Kent
Thanet B
West Kent
Dover B

Medway (Champions 2016)

ROUND ONE RESULTS:

Medway 3 Dover A 1: Maidstone 3 Canterbury 2: Thanet B 3 West Kent 0:
Folkestone 3 Dover B 0:

ROUND TWO RESULTS:

Medway 3 Maidstone 1: West Kent 3 North West Kent 1: Thanet A 3 Canterbury 2:
Thanet B 3 Folkestone 2:

ROUND THREE RESULTS:

Medway 3 Thanet A 2: Thanet B 3 Dover B 0: Dover A 3 Maidstone 0:
North West Kent 3 Folkestone 1:

ROUND FOUR RESULTS:

Medway 3 Canterbury 0: North West Kent 3 Dover B 2: Folkestone 3 West Kent 1:
Thanet A 3 Dover A 1:

ROUND FIVE RESULTS

Dover A 3 Canterbury 1: Thanet A 3 Maidstone 1: West Kent 3 Dover B 1
Thanet B 3 North West Kent 2:

GROUP ONE WINNER: MEDWAY: RUNNER UP: THANET A

GROUP TWO WINNER: THANET B: RUNNER UP: FOLKESTONE

FIRST SEMI-FINAL: MEDWAY 3 FOLKESTONE 0

SECOND SEMI-FINAL: THANET A 3 THANET B 0

FINAL: MEDWAY 3 THANET A 0

FIRST PLAY-OFF: 5TH & 6TH PLACE: DOVER A 3 N.W. KENT 0

SECOND PLAY-OFF: 7 & 8TH PLACE: WEST KENT 3 CANTERBURY 2

THIRD PLAY-OFF: 9TH & 10TH PLACE: MAIDSTONE 3 DOVER B 1

FINAL FINISHING POSITIONS:-

1. MEDWAY: 2. THANET A: 3. THANET B: 4. FOLKESTONE: 5TH DOVER A
6. NORTH WEST KENT: 7. WEST KENT: 8TH CANTERBURY
9. MAIDSTONE: 10. DOVER B