

Chairman's message

As always, I'd like to start by recognising the contribution of the volunteers on the Committee who through their efforts, ensure that we have a club to attend on a weekly basis. Thank you all for your dedication.

I'm pleased to see that we continue to enjoy a high visitor numbers on a regular basis and behind the scenes, we are always looking at ways in which we can attract more people to the club, especially over the Spring and Summer period. Have you any new ideas on how we might do this? If so, please share them with me or one of the other committee members and we'll formulate a plan of action.

On the league playing front, Ian reports that we have had a fairly mixed season to date;

- In the Bristol & District league, the Premier Division team are working very hard to hold onto their place at the 'top table'. Meanwhile, the Division One team currently find themselves in the top 6 and have a Cup Semi-Final to look forward to on 14th April. Fingers crossed that they reach and then go on to win the final!
- Our three Stroud & District teams have in the main enjoyed a successful season. The A team currently occupy their customary 5th place in Division One but have also reached the Albert Mann Cup Final scheduled to be played at Forest Green on 13th April. Please come along and support the team if you can spare the time. The B team have secured 2nd place in Division Two and will therefore be moving up the ladder next season. Well done team, a fantastic result! The C team have battled hard in their first season in Division Two but find themselves in the middle of a relegation battle despite having improved their individual abilities throughout the season. Keep fighting until the end Team Rubbish, you can do it!!
- Thornbury players got to the latter stages of the recently held Bristol and Stroud closed tournaments, with the Stroud finals night taking place on 17th April at Deer Park School, Cirencester. Please come along and support our players if you can spare the time.

Finally, the annual 'Hard bat' and 'Social Player' competitions will be organised in the near future. Please keep an eye out for entry forms next to the signing in sheets.

Julz

Secretary's message

Well, today I overheard someone say that this time last year the temperature was 18 degrees; it is somewhat different this year I feel! However I am pleased to see that this hasn't dampened your enthusiasm for table tennis, Mondays still go from strength to strength with many new people being welcomed, all bringing their own individuality to the evening, both on and off the table! It's also good to see a few more ladies in the club to keep Mabel, Sue and me company and we also have more juniors participating which is great to see. Let's hope these groups' numbers keep expanding.

The mandatory Associate Membership to Table Tennis England has been successfully implemented this year, so thank you for making the process relatively easy. Please remember that this is an annual subscription and will need renewing at the beginning of August 2015.

You may have surmised from Julz's message above that the current league season is drawing to a close, this does not mean that all talk of league play will cease, indeed there will be more talk and less playing action as we will need to sort out teams for next season. If you are a current player and wish to carry on next season please fill in the necessary form (see Tracy) or if you are currently a recreational player and would like to get involved in league play please speak to either me, Julian or Ian to find out more. It would be great to get another team into the Stroud League especially as I am aware of one or two players that would be interested in starting another team however a squad of players would ease the burden on the few.

- we welcome back Steve Taylor having recovered from a cycling injury and look forward to the return of Bob Randall and Jon Vaughan.
- congratulations to Peter Marshall on his success with the fourth U3A table tennis group that he has recently set up
- Farewell and good luck to Harry Gwilliam who will be moving on to university in September and to Billy Shilton who is moving to Sheffield Table Tennis Academy to further his career alongside his education.

Tracy

TABLE TENNIS FACT OF THE DAY

At the 1936 World Championships in Prague, there was an amazing game during which one point lasted over an hour with more than 12,000 shots being played! Good job we don't follow suit in our league matches.