

Chairman's message

Firstly thanks to my fellow volunteers who by their efforts, ensure that the club continues to open its doors on a weekly basis. Secondly, thanks to our regular 'social' players who choose to attend the club in front of others in the Bristol / South Glos area. Without you, the club would not be such a welcoming environment for the many new visitors that have come along over the last couple of months.

I am pleased to report that our 5 league teams enjoyed a very good 2013-14 season:-

- ◆ Thornbury A won the Bristol & District Premier League for the first time in the club's short history. This is renowned as one of the most competitive local leagues in the country, so it is no mean feat to have our club's name added to the perpetual trophy.
- ◆ All other teams retained their divisional status, with the club's B & C teams both coming third in their respective leagues.

If any social players are interested in playing regular competitive table tennis, we are happy to enter more teams in the local leagues. We are particularly keen to involve our junior players, so please speak to Tracy, Ian or myself if you want to learn more.

Other news;

- ◆ The club held its inaugural 'Hard Bat' tournament in August, with all entry fees being donated to the PinkPong Cancer Charity. Pre-tournament favourite Martin Gunn won the Main competition, beating Dave Reeves in a very entertaining final. This retro form of the game is having a resurgence at the moment and as all of the participants appeared to enjoy the experience, we hope to continue to run this competition on an annual basis.
- ◆ We will be holding the 'Social Players' tournament before the end of the year, so please keep an eye open for entry forms. Bob Randall is the reigning champ, so who's going to knock him off his perch!??
- ◆ What do you think about the re-introduction of regular coaching sessions at the club. Will you use this facility? Please give us your feedback so that we can make a decision either way.

Julz

Secretary's message

Well after a blissfully hot and sunny Summer I think Autumn has certainly come in with a bang! I hope the dark evenings will not deter people from picking up their bats to join us at The Castle School on a Monday (6.30pm-8.30pm) and/or Wednesday (7.00pm-9.30pm). Summer numbers for Mondays were excellent, despite the heat, and it would be great to see as many, if not more, people enjoying table tennis at our club.

Many thanks to those of you who have subscribed as Associate Members with Table Tennis England allowing us to retain our PremierClub status. This is a new requirement for club members this year and will involve an annual renewal hereafter. If you have not yet subscribed please speak to Julz or myself and we can help you with this, it only costs £4.

Congratulations go out to.....

- Nick Collins and Michele who got married in the Summer.
- Steve Taylor who became a Granddad for the first time.
- Billy Shilton who was awarded the GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire 2014 Award in recognition for his outstanding sporting achievements.
- Tom Lewis who was accepted into the SGS Table Tennis Academy at Filton.
- Benjamin Greve who is starting to make a name for himself in his national age group.

Tracy

BRIGHT IDEAS

If you have an idea which you feel would improve the club or the 'visitor experience', please speak to Tracy or Julian. Alternatively, send your idea on an email to; info@thornburysportclub.co.uk



TABLE TENNIS FACT OF THE DAY

Table Tennis was banned in the Soviet Union from ca 1930 to 1950. The sport was believed to be bad for the eyes! Anybody observing Grampy's forehand on a weekly basis would probably agree.

