

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT - SEASON 2021/2022

Following a complete absence of competitive activities due to the Covid pandemic during the previous season it was great to see a return to some semblance of normality during season 2021/22. As the situation was still tenuous in the run up to the season the EC took the decision to start the league slightly later and it is obvious from the number of teams competing that some players were still hesitant to register therefore it was a rather tentative return to play. Our excellent match secretary, Chris Davenport, has covered all the league and cup competitions in his report.

Table Tennis Scotland events resumed as normal and I have detailed below some of the highlights which involved local players.

The Perth Grand Prix was the first event to be held during the season and there was a healthy number of players from throughout Scotland competing in the ten events on the day. Tessa Yau lost to Lucy Elliott in the final of the Ladies Singles but won the Ladies Band 1 title with Ilona Obst-Wojcicka runner up. Ross Martin reached the semi finals of the Men's Band 1 but lost out to the eventual winner. Daniel Tibbetts was relatively untroubled as he claimed the Cadet Boys title while Maja Wojcicka secured a double success with hard fought victories in the finals of both the Cadet and Minor Girls events. Jakub Krzyzostaniak pipped his clubmates, Mathew Pszonka and Victor Chen, to take second place in the Minor Boys event.

There was another excellent outing for the ASV contingent at the **Scottish Primary Schools Championships** which took place in November at Ward Road in Dundee. Victor Chen lost only one match, against the eventual winner, to take the runners up spot but gained some consolation, teaming up with Mathew Pszonka to claim the doubles title. Kiishi Adekola also had a great day, finishing a competitive group in second place, and together with Nikki Mo, won Aberdeen's second doubles title of the event. Victor, Mathew and Kiishi therefore qualified to represent Scotland at the British Primary Championships.

Aberdeen youngsters secured four qualifying places at the **Scottish Senior Schools Championships** which were held in February in Perth. Daniel Tibbetts was again dominant to take the Scottish title in the U14 boys while Robbie Martin was delighted to secure his first Scotland cap by finishing in fourth place. The fast improving Harry Blackhall had a fantastic outing to claim second place in the U16 boys while Maja Wojcicka was undefeated in the U14 girls to add another title to her collection. Good luck to Daniel, Robbie, Harry and Maja who will be competing at the Senior Schools International which takes place in Largs next month.

The **Scottish National Championships** took place in early March in Perth where Maja Wojcicka claimed Aberdeen's only title of the weekend with victory over her ASV Academy clubmate Kiishi Adekola in the final of the U13 girls. Maja narrowly missed out on a second title in the U15 girls as she lost 13-11 in the deciding end to Drumchapel's Megan Mulhern. Jakub Krzyzostaniak was delighted to take the runners up trophy in the U13 boys with top seed, Joe Mulhern, in superb form. Sadly a couple of our youngsters, including the hot favourite for the U15 boys, Daniel Tibbetts, and Victor Chen, had to withdraw in the run up to the event due to Covid.

The final event of the domestic season, the **Scottish Interleague** took place a couple of weeks after the SNC's and a strong contingent of players travelled to Perth to compete over the weekend. Congratulations go to the Minor Girls (Maja Wojcicka, Kiishi Adekola, Nikki Mo), the Minor Boys (Mathew Pszonka, Victor Chen, Jakub Krzyzostaniak) and Cadet Boys (Daniel Tibbetts, Allan He, Robbie Martin) for taking these titles back to Aberdeen. In other events contested over the weekend the Senior Men (Ross Martin, Andrew McRae, Harry Blackhall) finished in 6th place while the Veterans team (Craig Cummine, Uwe Petermann, Mitch Reid) were placed 8th.

Victor Chen, Mathew Pszonka and Kiishi Adekola were joined by Nikki Mo (who was first reserve) and NPC Natalie Gallan as part of the Scotland squad who travelled to Guernsey over the Easter weekend to compete at the **British Primary Schools Championships**. There some great performances and the girls were delighted to take home silver medals for their efforts in the team competition while the boys were also happy with their bronze medals. The individual events took place on the final day and Nikki put in a fantastic effort to claim a bronze medal to add to her silver from the team event. Congratulations to all the players and their superb coaches for their outstanding efforts and results.

Local Tournaments

Thanks to the efforts of Gregor Ksiazek, Dave Curry and Chris Davenport, a successful Ping Pong tournament was held at Woodbank Sports Centre in December 2021. Charlie Matthew retained his title in great style without losing a single game on the day while Dennis Oon claimed the runners up spot.

Following a very slow start to entries we eventually had a reasonably good attendance for the final event of the season, the **North Confined Championships**, which took place at ASV in April. Congratulations go to Ross Martin for retaining the Rubber Shop Trophy following a four set victory over Andrew McRae. Allan He was a worthy winner of the AU Open with Neil Paterson runner up while Maja Wojcicka recorded some great results en route to lifting the Watt Cup. In the days' other events, Gregor Ksiazek defeated Craig Cummine to take the Over 40's while Brian Robertson again won the Over 60's event with Nigel Herbert runner up. Allan He capped a great day by taking the U15 title and was also runner up in the U19's which was won by Harry Blackhall. The Bert Park Trophy, which is presented to the winner of the U13 event, went to Victor Chen who defeated Jakub Krzyzostaniak in an entertaining final. Thanks to all the players who supported the event.

Finally

Thanks go to my fellow EC members for their continued hard work and efforts throughout this season – it was definitely good to return to 'normal'. Gregor Ksiazek and Chris Davenport have done a great job on the social media front, updating our tabletennis365 website on a regular basis and adding items of interest. We also have an ADTTA Twitter page which Gregor and Craig Blackhall have been utilising very well. I have continued to keep the Aberdeen Table Tennis Facebook page updated with news and other items which may be of interest to members so please send in a member request if you wish.

As always a large of vote of thanks go to Max, Dick, Natalie and all the coaches and volunteers who dedicate many hours of their time to ensure table tennis in Aberdeen continues to flourish. It is thanks to their efforts that our players continue to be successful.

Wishing all our members a good break over the summer period and we hope to see you all refreshed next season.