

Chelmsford & District Table Tennis League

Cup Secretary Report – 2021-2022 season

The team knockout cup competitions run reasonably well this season, with 2 weeks set aside for each round (except the first week of the handicap cup). In a change to previous years, the whole draw from first round to final for each event was published at the outset, with allocated weeks for each round, rather than drawing opponents each round and notifying the draw/matches a short while before a cup week. This approach seems to have been successful. There were only 2 concessions across all competitions (a record low?), and 1 occasion where a team only field 2-players. A number of finals have yet to be played, and trophies have yet to be purchased and presented.

My thanks go to the team captains and club secretaries for their diligence in contacting each other to agree dates for matches.

Handicap Cup

22 teams entered this competition (down on the 26 in 2019-2020). There were no concessions. Chelmsford H beat Buttsbury B in the final.

As always, determining handicaps is very difficult. They are initially based on the TT365 ranking and handicapping system, with adjustments to take account of early season form. The main issue that arises with the TT365 ranking system is that it does not keep up with improving players (especially juniors) and assessing the standard of new players is also very difficult. In a few matches it was evident that the large differences in player handicaps resulted in very one-sided games. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be an easy fix to this and, overall, the results indicate that there were a lot of closely fought games, which suggests that the system isn't broken but may need refinement.

Junior Cup

4 teams entered (compared to 7 in 2019-20) and, as expected, the 2 top-ranked teams contested the final with Chelmsford A prevailing over Chelmsford B.

Ladies Cup

Only 2 teams entered (down on the 4 from 2019-20). The final has yet to be arranged.

Open Cup

9 teams entered (almost double the number of teams that entered in 2019-20). In a closely contested final the old-heads of Writtle A just got the better of Chelmsford B's young-guns.

Division 2 Cup

7 teams entered (compared to 8 in 2019-20). There was 1 concession in the first round (quarter-final). The final was an all Danbury affair and the match went all the way to the final doubles with the D team beating the G team.

Division 3 Cup

6 teams entered (down on the 10 in 2019-20). There was 1 concession in the first round (quarter-final). The final is to be played at Writtle on Monday 30th May (and is between Chelmsford F and Danbury J).

Division 4 Cup

6 teams entered (down on the 10 in 2019-20). Danbury L beat Writtle E in a final that was much closer than the score line suggests.

Division 5 Cup

4 teams entered (compared to 8 in 2019/20). The final is to be played at Writtle on Monday 30 May (and is between Chelmsford J and Buttsbury).

Matthew Brown