

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No. 28 – FEBRUARY 2013

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the February Newsletter and, firstly, I must thank our Chairman, Mick Derbyshire, for his report on the Wealden League Tournament (see below) and it was good to see that it was held successfully this year after its cancellation in 2012. Well done to all the Crowborough entrants and to the organising team from Wealden.

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2012/13

The second half of the season is now under way and both our teams have started well. The top of the table clash between our 'A' side and Ridgewood 'A' resulted in a close encounter, which Crowborough won 19-16. This keeps the team on top of the table with 205 points from 9 games.

The 'B's have played three times, with two wins and a draw. Somewhat fortunate in the win by 21-15 over Broad Oak 'A', who could only field two players, they followed up with a resounding victory against Broad Oak's 'B' side by 27-11 and a hard fought 19-all draw versus Ridgewood 'C'. They are on 179 points from 11 games and currently stand 2nd in the table, although some of the teams below have played less games. Nevertheless a very encouraging start to the second half.

WEALDEN LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

The 2013 Wealden Tournament took place over three consecutive Wednesdays, at Broad Oak Village Hall, on the 9th, 16th, and 23rd January. There were 5 competitions in all, the Open Singles, Handicap Doubles, Handicap Singles, and Veterans Singles, with the first round losers in the Open Singles going forward to play in the Trophy Singles.

Crowborough club was represented by 4 players - Julian Liu, Greg Savva, Michael Gaughan, and Mick Derbyshire.

Open Singles

Julian and Greg were unfortunate to be drawn against each other in the first round, with Julian progressing to round 2 where he came up against eventual finalist Kevin Bignell. Mick and Michael were both in the tougher half of the draw and Mick made it through to the quarter final before losing out to Jon Goater, and Mike Gaughan was beaten by the same player in the semi final. The final was an all Herstmonceux affair with Jon Goater overcoming Kevin Bignell in straight sets.

Trophy Singles

This event was won by Ian Dowling, who beat Colin Campbell in the final, both of them surprisingly losing to lower ranked players in the opening round of the Open Singles. Julian was awarded a place in the Trophy competition despite winning his first round Open match, due to a withdrawal. There he again met Greg, before going on to the semi final where he lost to the eventual winner.

Handicap Doubles

The format for this competition is interesting in that the highest ranked player is paired with the lowest ranked, and so on through to the middle rankings. This saw most of the top ranked players fall in the early rounds, although Michael Gaughan and his partner did well to make it to the semi finals, before losing to Julian and his partner. Julian and Keith Barber then went on to contest the final against the very solid partnership of Pam Winter and Mark Cooper. The final turned out to be an absorbing match, going to 5 tight sets, and with Pam and Mark 10-6 up in the final set it looked as if they would snatch it. However, Julian and Keith went on to save the

4 match points before clinching a thrilling victory.

Handicap Singles

Some keen handicapping saw the early exit of most of the top ranked players. Julian and Michael were casualties in the first round, and Greg and Mick went out in the 2nd round. The competition was eventually won by Andrew Hancock, who overcame Mark Cooper in the final.

Veterans Singles

Julian and Greg both progressed to the quarter finals before losing to the two finalists. Greg was again unluckily drawn against a Crowborough colleague, beaten by Mick in the quarters. The final was a very close match between Mick and Michael Williams of Ridgewood, again going to 5 sets. Michael Williams eventually prevailed 12-10 in the final set, having saved a match point on the way, with Mick relinquishing the title he has held 7 times in the last 10 years, and Michael winning it for the 2nd time.

Overall the tournament was a great success, and well supported, with representatives from all the clubs in the League. Congratulations to all the winners, and particularly to Julian for his success in the Doubles. Crowborough club has had a pretty successful record at the Tournament over the years and, hopefully, more players from our club will be encouraged to participate in future.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN TABLE TENNIS

1880s: TT invented as an after-dinner game by British military officers overseas.

1890s: Because of the acoustics of TT, nicknames such as ping-pong and whiff-whaff became common.

1926: First World Championships took place at the St Bride's Institute, near Blackfriars Bridge in London, using sandpaper bats.

1929: Fred Perry, perhaps better known as a tennis player, became the first Briton to win the TT World Championship, in Budapest.

1949: Marty Reisman, of the USA, won the English Open and is thought to be the most dazzling hard-bat player of his era.

1952: Sponge is used for the first time at the World Championships in Bombay, bringing in a technological revolution.

1959: Rong Guotuan becomes first Chinese World Champion in any sport, in Dortmund.

1992: Jan-Ove Waldner, of Sweden, wins Olympic Gold, keeping up his reputation as the sport's greatest sponge player.

2013: World Championships of ping-pong staged at Alexandra Palace, taking the sport back to its sandpaper roots. (NOTE: Marty Reisman, who died in December last year, had long campaigned for a hard-bat revival and this was his dream, which unfortunately he didn't live to realise.)

THE NEW SOCIAL CRAZE

What do the words 'Spin', 'Bounce' and 'Ping' mean to you? Perhaps not quite what you were thinking? They are, in fact, the names of Social Table Tennis Clubs founded over recent years.

Spin is a club, in New York, set up by actress Susan Sarandon with 15 competition-spec tables plus a long bar serving cocktails and a dance floor! The other two are clubs in London, in Earls Court and Holborn, again with plenty of tables plus drink and music.

Can't say I've tried them yet - well the London ones anyway!

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