

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No. 33 - MARCH 2014

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the March issue of the Newsletter and, hopefully, continued better weather. And this time we've made two pages once again!

Although the Wealden League season is almost over, we can look forward to the Club's Annual Tournament and the AGM, which you can read about below. Thanks also to Club Chairman, Mick Derbyshire, for his report on the Wealden Tournament at which there was much success for Crowborough players.

And, of course, you can continue to play table tennis on Friday evenings at Club Nights at the Jarvis Brook Guide HQ, which continue through the year.

Happy reading!

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2013/14

Although there are still some matches to be played, Crowborough 'A' have now completed their fixtures for the season, and have secured enough points to ensure that they cannot be overtaken at the top of the League. The team of Michael Gaughan, John Neal, Mick Derbyshire and Paul Roberts will therefore retain the League Championship that they have won for the last 3 years.

In winning the title they have achieved a 100% record by winning all 12 matches with a points total of 329, with only 106 scored against them. With an average score in excess of 27 points per match, out of a possible 30, maintained over the whole season, this is an exceptional performance by our 'A' team even though with fewer teams competing this season the League is not as strong as in previous years.

The 'B' teams latest results include a win over Ridgewood 'A' by 28-10 and a good result against our own 'A' side going down 26-12. They are likely to finish 6th, but there are still matches to play.

CLUB TOURNAMENT

The last Annual Club Tournament was held in 2012, but I'm pleased to say that it will be held again this year.

The dates are **APRIL 25 and MAY 2**, both Fridays, and these will replace the usual Club Nights. Dependent on the number of entries, it may be necessary to play on Monday, April 28 and this will be decided on the first night.

Everyone is welcome to enter, especially social members, and the nights will include handicap events which will give all the chance of success!

It is proposed to hold Handicap Singles & Doubles events, together with an Open Singles.

You can just turn up on the night, but an email or 'phone call (see below) to say you want to enter would be useful.

MEDIA SNIPPET

Have you seen the latest table tennis innovation? It's three-a-side or triples and is thought to have been played for fun at Victorian dinner parties.

It's played on a large circular table, obviously with three players a side, and each player can only make two shots consecutively so all players get involved.

Apparently it has been pretty big in Australia in recent years. Sounds fun!

WEALDEN ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The 2014 Tournament took place at Broad Oak Village Hall over three Wednesday evenings in January, and Crowborough Club was well represented with 7 entrants. This year there were 6 competitions played, Open Singles, Handicap Singles, Doubles, Veterans' Singles, and additionally there was a Trophy singles and Trophy Doubles for first round losers of the Open Singles and the Doubles.

In the Open Singles, the early rounds saw several match-ups between Crowborough players, so that by the quarter final stage Mick Derbyshire and Michael Gaughan were the Club's only remaining representatives. Mick went out to Michael Williams of Ridgewood in the semi finals, but Michael Gaughan went through to contest the final, running out as winner in 3 straight sets.

At the quarter final stage of the Handicap Singles, John Neal and Julian Liu both went out, but Michael Gaughan continued his winning ways, making it into the final, where he faced Herstmonceux's Kevin Bignall. Making light of a handicap disadvantage of 3 points, Michael ran out a comfortable winner of this event.

At one point the Veterans singles seemed to be heading towards an all Crowborough affair, with Greg Savva, John Neal, Mick Derbyshire and Michael Gaughan all contesting the quarter finals, and John, Mick and Michael winning through to the semis, together with Michael Williams. The final was again contested by Michael Gaughan and Michael Williams, with the same outcome as in the Open Singles, although this time in 4 sets.

The Doubles, in which the strongest players are paired with the weakest, using the handicapping system, saw last year's winner, Julian Liu and his partner, eliminated in the semi finals, but the Club retained an interest in this event through the partnership of Steve Hickey and John Neal, who made it through to the final where they faced Kevin Bignall of Herstmonceux and Don Ward of Broad Oak. In an enthralling contest Kevin and Don came back

from an almost impossible position, having lost the first set and with a large deficit in the second, to take the title over 3 hard fought sets.

The Trophy events were won by Ryan Warner of Herstmonceux who beat Stace Gothard of Ridgewood in the singles, and by the Broad Oak pairing of Danny Sargeant and Ron Geesin in the Doubles.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable tournament, and congratulations must go to Michael Gaughan who won 3 of the 4 events in which he competed, and provided the Club with its best result in this competition for many years.

CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Advance notice that this will take place on Monday, June 16 at the Jarvis Brook HQ at 8pm. Once the Meeting is over, there will be opportunity to play, so don't forget to bring your bat.

More details will follow nearer the time, but please make a note in your diary now.

WANTED - LEAGUE PLAYERS

We have only managed to field two teams in the Wealden League for the last several seasons and it would be great if we could increase the number. This request goes to all social players for consideration. If you are interested in playing League Table Tennis in the 2014/15 season, which will commence in October, please get in touch (details below) or speak to Steve or Julian on Fridays. Thanks.

CLUB SHIRTS

There are still a few FOR SALE. Polos are £8, fleeces in large size are £15. Contact me if you would like one.

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