

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No.37 - NOVEMBER 2014

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Following the September Newsletter, I was pleased to get feedback from a couple of ex-members of the Club - Mike Garland and Mike Gorman - so, if your initials are MG do please get in touch! Both live some way away now, in Ireland and Devon, but it was good to hear from them. And the bonus for me was an Article from the Devon Mike, which you can read below. Thanks, Mike.

Whether you're playing in the League or just socially on Friday nights, I hope you continue to enjoy your table tennis.

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2014/15

The season started in the first week of October. Unfortunately the increase in the number of teams did not materialise and, again, there are only seven teams in the League, which is a shame.

Early results have shown great performances from our teams. Our 'A' side has had victories over Broad Oak 'A' by 26-11 and Ridgewood 'A' by 28-9, whilst the 'B' team has had three successes over Broad Oak 'B' 25-11, Ridgewood 'B' 22-15 and Herstmonceux 'A' 24-18, which was a fine victory. Long may it continue!

MEDIA SNIPPET (1)

WILL BAYLEY

Will, who played for Crowborough some years back now, and lives locally has won gold in the men's class 7 event at the 2014 ITT Para Table Tennis World Championships in Beijing.

To get to the final he had a tight 3-1 win over the European champion and former world number one, Mykhaylo Popov, the last set at 12-10.

That set up a final with another Ukrainian, world number one Maksym Nikolenko. Again a close match that went to five sets and Will came out on top by 9-11, 12-10, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11, on the way coming from 7-1 down in the second set.

Having taken silver at the 2012 London Paralympics and also at the European Championships last year, Bayley proved again he loves the big occasion. Well done Will.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sorry to keep on about outstanding subscriptions, but the Club has just had to pay hire costs for the Jarvis Brook Hall, together with Liability Insurance, totalling over £700. For those who haven't, if you could send yours, together with a completed membership form, that would be great. Many thanks.

TABLE TENNIS RE-VISITED

by Mike Gorman

'Some of you will remember me from my playing days at Crowborough playing alongside the likes of Mick Derbyshire and Michael Gaughan in the Tunbridge Wells league during the period from 1991 to 2002 when we lived in the town. The competition was always enjoyable as were the many exchange visits to and by members from the twinned town of Montargis which we will always remember fondly.

After moving to Devon nearly twelve years ago I continued to play for one season in Exeter but didn't get much enjoyment from it and was then tempted into the world of bowls. This is, of course a much more sedate past-time although having improved my game over the years, I now play mainly in local leagues and both County and National competitions which believe me are of a high standard and can be very competitive. Playing all year round, both outdoors and indoors it is very enjoyable, and unusual in the sense that it is not uncommon to be playing against an England international or world ranked players which I doubt happens in many sports.

Having effectively left the sport of table tennis behind after so many years (I do still have my bat however, why I'm not sure) I renewed my acquaintance at the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow where we spent an enjoyable few days. Along with other sports, our programme included a morning session at the Scotstoun Centre for table tennis where we saw quite a number of singles matches in the qualifying stages. I have to say the standard was excellent together with the

set-up and presentation of the event, a comment one could make about the whole games experience.

It was most enjoyable to watch with the highlight for me being a match involving a 14 year old from Vanuatu (no I'd never heard of it either) called Alan Lin. Although losing a very close match his smiley face and considerable skill for one so young quickly endeared him to the crowd and he walked out of the arena to much applause, waving and even stopped to sign a couple of young girls autograph books. What an experience for a young man from an island somewhere in the South Pacific.

However, despite my brief renewed association with the sport I have to say I have no plans for a comeback of any sort and will stick with the bowls but wish all the members at my old Club in Crowborough the best of luck in the future and continued enjoyment of a great sport'.

MEDIA SNIPPET (2)

More success for local young players from Tonbridge. Both Helshan Weerasinghe and Daniel Lawrence, currently ranked number one and two in the national junior rankings, have been selected for the performance group of Table Tennis England's 28-strong England youth squad.

This involves attending regular training camps and working with England coaches at their clubs, hopefully enabling them to progress to senior level rankings in time.

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