

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No.38 - DECEMBER 2014

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Wow, what's this two Newsletters in a month! Well it was the only way to wish you all, at an appropriate time, both members and friends of the Club, a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2015.

Also the trend for contributions has continued, which really does make my life easier! Thanks this time to John Neal and Steve Hickey for articles, and Mick Derbyshire for the 'A' Team report - John reminisces over 'old times', whilst Steve has provided a match report on the recent 'A' v 'B' clash in the Wealden League.

And all this means we have a four-page edition (even if the font size is bigger!) - the first for quite a while! All I can say is 'keep the articles coming'!

WEALDEN LEAGUE 2014/15

'A' team report by Mick Derbyshire

With the mid-season break almost upon us, the 'A' team lies in third place in the Wealden League Table with 176 points. The current leaders are Broad Oak 'A' with 181 points, although both teams above them have played more matches than Crowborough 'A', which should put our 'A' team in a good

position to overhaul them when the outstanding matches are played. In the head-to-head matches between us and Broad Oak 'A' this season, we have so far managed to come out on top on both occasions.

Competition this season has been much closer than in previous years, and although Crowborough 'A' has remained unbeaten thus far, results have been tighter than usual, none more so than against Crowborough 'B' when four of the games went to 5 sets. In fact, we have seen more 5 set results this season than I can ever remember, but fortunately we have just about managed to sneak most of them.

In one of these 5 setters we probably saw a Wealden League record for the number of points played. The match between Mick Derbyshire and Colin Campbell of Ridgewood 'A' finished with a final score of 13-11 11-9 1-11 12-14 27-25 to Colin - a total of 134 points, or the equivalent of 7 sets, with no more than 2 points between the players apart from the 3rd set. The rematch in the second half of the season should be interesting! (ED. Phew!!!)

Meanwhile the 'B' side has also been having a particularly good season and have 178 points from 10 matches played. Well done to both teams.

(Continued)

The season will resume again in the first week of February, after the Wealden League Tournament has taken place during January.

REPORT ON 'A' v 'B' MATCH by Steve Hickey

On Monday 10th November, Crowborough 'B' faced its toughest match of the season, against our own 'A' team! The 'A' team are undefeated champions of the Wealden League and although Crows 'B' have got the season off to a flying start with 4 wins out of 4 matches played, this one was always going to be an uphill struggle.

First match up was between the two team captains, Steve Hickey for the 'B' team and Mick Derbyshire for the 'A' team. There was nothing separating them in the first game which went to a tie break ending in a win for Mick, 12-10. Suitably warmed up, Steve got into his stride in the 2nd game, winning 11-3. So, 2 games played and the score level at 1-1, still anyones match. The 3rd game also went Steve's way with an 11-8 win. Being 2-1 down Mick upped his game with a relatively easy win of 11-6 in the 4th, bringing the score back to level at 2-2, making for an exciting 5th game. This game brought out some of the best rallies of the match with neither player able to pull ahead and take the lead, so at 10-10 it was still all to play for. Some epic rallies with seemingly unreturnable balls keeping on being returned by both players, but in the end, Steve's persistence paid off with a 17-15

victory! Well done to both Mick and Steve who were both grateful for the long gap before their next matches!

Next it was the turn of Greg Savva for 'B' against John Neal for 'A'. Greg started well with some excellent forehand smashes but John's consistent backhand chops proved too much and John won the first game 11-9. The 2nd game followed a similar pattern with Greg unable to get into his game and John won that one 11-7. Mentally defeated now, Greg lost the 3rd game 11-5. John is a difficult opponent especially when he gets into his rhythm and its hard to break free from that.

Next was Nick Dawson for 'B' against Michael Gaughan for 'A'. Again, Nick started well, playing some well placed backhand smashes but Michael pulled it back, winning that game 11-9, with much the same story in the 2nd game and the same result, 11-9 to Michael. Despite playing some very good shots, Nick was unable to win the 3rd game with Michael seemingly having an answer for everything and winning the 3rd, 11-7.

Both of Steve's next 2 matches went to 5 sets, but John and Michael's depth of experience showed through in the end with the same 3-2 victory for the 'A' team. Greg's other 2 matches went the same way with 3-0 wins for the 'A' team.

Nick had a great win over John by 3-0, aided by his pimped backhand! Nick's final match against Mick got him hot under the collar so much so that Nick was forced to remove his tracksuit top! Almost unheard of! However this

(Continued)

revealed that Nick was wearing a light, off white t shirt, so Greg offered a spare black t shirt so as not to gain any unfair advantage! This change of outfit didn't help though, with Mick finally winning 16-14 in the 4th set.

So the match was already a victory for the 'A' team by the time of the doubles match, which saw the pairing of Steve and Nick against Mick and Michael. The first game was close with a narrow victory for 'B' by 11-9. The 'A' team fought back in the 2nd game to bag a 12-10 win. This in turn inspired the 'B' duo to win the 3rd game 11-5. The 4th game was a hard fought one with the 'A' team again snatching a win with 11-9. So for the 4th time that night, Steve was in the 5th and final set. Determined not to let this one get away, both Steve and Nick played extremely well to win the 5th set 11-6!

So, after nearly 3 hours of play the final score was 25-14 to the 'A' team, a well deserved victory but leaving them apprehensive about the 2 ensuing battles, against their up and coming rivals, in this Wealden League War!

TABLE TENNIS 'OLD-TIMES' by John Neal

Some Memories of Playing against
Crowborough teams in the 70's, 80's &
90's.

I moved from the deepest West Country in 1968, upon taking up a job in

London, and in 1970 I started playing in the Tunbridge Wells League.

I was living in Paddock Wood in those days and played for Horsmonden TTC. There were six divisions of 12 teams in the league back then and Crowborough ran at least eight teams. I started in Division 4, before progressing up to Division 2 after a couple of years.

My first recollection of playing a Crowborough team was in a small wooden building immediately behind the White Hart Inn. I seem to recall the floor was on a bit of a slope from side to side. Soon afterwards the club moved into the old Rugby Club buildings down at Steel Cross. I can well remember the floor with coloured tiles.

I recall playing against some well known long-serving Crowborough players down at the Rugby Club. These included the unflappable Eric Peerless, Peter MacDonald, evergreen Bill Abbott, Robin Streatfield, and also a very young, and in those days quite temperamental, Chris Buck. I can also remember Ron Tucknott, who, when he was not playing or umpiring, would be puffing away contentedly on his ancient tobacco pipe, filling the air with an acrid blue smoke.

In 1976 I moved to Mayfield and switched to play for Satellites TTC in Division 1 of the Tunbridge Wells League for three years, before playing for my employer, NPI, for another three years. Then in 1982 I started playing for the Hospitals Club in the small hut up at Sherwood Park, where I played for eleven years, until my work took me to Cardiff in 1993.

(Continued)

Over these years Crowborough moved to several different venues. First at the Aldene Centre, then later at Walshes Manor, which I believe at that time was a special school for disadvantaged children. This was followed by spells at the Tennis Club, the Leisure Centre and the Rotherfield Institute. Then the wheel turned full circle and the Club returned to the Aldene centre.

In these relatively later years I recall playing against Crowborough players like John Gibbs, Mike Gorman, John Hanna, Roger Bacon and the irrepressible Chris Reynolds. I also played against our present Club Treasurer John Sidey and had some real tussles with my current team-mate Mick Derbyshire back in those days.

Little did I know that soon after returning from Cardiff in 2000, I would join our Crowborough Club. As they say, if you cannot beat them, then join them!

MEDIA SNIPPET (1)

Yolanda King, 20, who plays for the Weald Table Tennis Club from Cranbrook, won two titles recently at the Nottingham Grand Prix. Her successes were in the U21 women's singles and the women's band one singles events. A triple win eluded her when she was beaten at the semi-final stage in the main open singles. Nevertheless, a great weekend's work.

MEDIA SNIPPET (2)

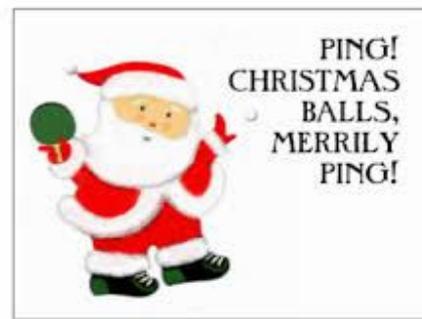
The English player, Paul Drinkhall, has moved to a career high of position 45 in the ITTF rankings list.

He moved up from number 80 following a great run to the final of the Russian Open in November. On the way, he beat three top-25 ranked players.

CLUB NIGHTS

Don't forget that Club Nights are held every Friday evening from 8pm at the Jarvis Brook Guide HQ.

Just turn up and play. Everyone is welcome.



LATEST NEWS FLASH

Our 'A' team goes top of the League with a 25-13 win over Ridgewood 'A' and now have 201 points and still two games in hand over Broad Oak 'A'.

EDITOR: John Sidey
01892 654306 - john@sidey.net