

CROWBOROUGH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(www.crowboroughttc.org.uk)

NEWSLETTER No.41 - MAY 2015

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Can't believe it's nearly mid-May, the weather's improving and it'll soon be time for holidays!

This edition features reports on both the Wealden League (thanks to Mick Derbyshire), the Club's Annual Tournament and there's a few more memories in 'From the past'.

As always, any contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Advance notice that the Club's AGM will take place at the Jarvis Brook Hall on Monday, 8 June, at 8pm.

There will be an opportunity to play after the formal side of the evening is over. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

COACHING ASSISTANCE

We have recently made contact again with John Davies, who played for the Club back in the late 70s as a Junior and, in fact, won the Open Singles in the Club Tournament in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

John has offered his help with advice and coaching assistance to both newer Club members and more experienced players. In fact to anyone who wants to improve their game.

Whilst not coming to every Friday Club Night, John will try and come when he can, so why not take advantage of his help.

ANNUAL CLUB TOURNAMENT

This year's Tournament took place over two Friday nights at the end of April and the beginning of May. The events held were the Open Singles, Handicap Singles and Handicap Doubles. It was good to see several newer and social members taking part, along with the regular League players.

The Handicap Events were held on the first Friday and, in the Singles, the winners of the three groups joined the best placed second in the semi-finals. In the first semi-final Ken Young, making full use of his 7-1 start beat Mick Derbyshire in a closely contested game by 2 sets to 1. He was joined in the final by Nick Dawson, who overcame Michael Gaughan also by 2-1. The final also produced a 3 set game, which eventually went to Nick by 11-9 in the final set.

The Doubles was played in one pool of five pairings, giving everyone 4 matches with the top two reaching the final. Steve Hickey/Ken Young won all their games and, in a close contest for second place, were joined by Greg Savva and Elliot. In a very close and hard fought game, Steve and Ken came out as winners by 2 sets to 1.

So to week two and the Open Singles. Played in similar format to the Handicap Singles, the group winners were Michael Gaughan, Mick Derbyshire and John Neal with Steve Hickey making up the four semi-final contestants. Michael had a straight 3-0 success over Mick, whilst an epic battle between John and Steve went to five sets, with Steve coming from 2-0 down to clinch a 3-2 win at 11-4 in the fifth. The final saw Michael come out the victor against Steve to win the 'Ewen' Cup for the 4th time in succession and 8 times in total, the first in 1994.

PTO

WEALDEN LEAGUE

The Wealden League has been dominated by the 2 Crowborough teams this season, with Crowborough 'A' finishing in first place with 472 points, and the 'B' team coming second with 383. This must rank as the most successful League season ever for the Club, and demonstrates a high standard of play, despite the small membership.

For the 'A' team, this was their fourth successive year as League champions, and the team of Michael Gaughan, John Neal and Mick Derbyshire completed the season by winning every match as, in fact, they have done for the past 3 seasons. This year, however, saw that record almost fall as the match against Herstmonceux finished with victory by just 1 point. Herstmonceux bought their strongest team to Crowborough, something they are unable to do very often due to their commitments in the Eastbourne League, and they managed to win the first 4 matches, leaving the 'A' team with an awful lot to do to avoid defeat. However, Crowborough somehow managed to keep in touch and were at no point more than 5 points behind. After 9 games, with just the Doubles to play, Herstmonceux were still ahead 20-18, but Crowborough took the Doubles 3-0 to run out as winners by 21-20 and maintain their 100% record.

The 'B' team finished clear in second place with just 4 losses, 3 of which were against the 'A' team, although 2 of these were close encounters, providing stiff opposition to the eventual winners, with some gruelling individual matches, often going to 5 sets. The team of Steve Hickey, Nick Dawson and Greg Savva proved too strong for the remaining teams in the League and showed just how much their standard has improved by overhauling Broad Oak 'A' (beating them twice in the process) to finish as runners-up.

Well done to both teams, winning 32 out of 36 matches between them - quite an achievement. Let's hope they can repeat these results next season!!

FROM THE PAST

Keeping to the Club Tournament theme this time, here are some winners from times gone by.

Handicap Singles Winners:

1972 Malcolm Hickey (Steve's father)
1978 John Davies (See Article below)
1984 Tim Hanford
1990 & 2007 John Wilson
1992, 1993, 2008 & 2011 Mick Derbyshire
2006 John Neal
2014 Steve Hickey

Open Singles Winners:

1977, 1978 & 1979 John Davies
1980 Roger Bacon
1981 John Hanna (now living in the USA)
and, as mentioned in the Tournament Report, Michael Gaughan tops the list with 8 wins.

Mentioning Malcolm Hickey and John Neal above, I've just noticed that they came next to each other in the averages in Division One of the Tunbridge Wells League in the 1989/90 season. Malcolm with 52.38%, playing for Countrymen, and John with 43.85%, playing then for the Hospitals Club.

MEDIA SNIPPET

Congratulations to a team from Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys who will compete as one of the top four U13 teams in the country at the national finals to be held in Leicestershire.

The team, which were already Kent U13 team champions, progressed by being runners-up from a zone, which covered Kent, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Sussex and Essex.

Well done to them.

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