

15.05.15

## **Margate Handicap Tournament**

This year's Margate tournament 2015 was held on the 10/05/15 and began at 9.30am. I feel it appropriate to first thank Sheena and Dave for their work in arranging the nibbles and also providing balls and coins. I would also like to thank Roy and Richard for organising the handicaps and groups. Thank you also to those players who were knocked out in the early rounds who chose to stay and support their victors.

And so...the results then. I shall begin with the group stage.

### **GROUP 1**

The opening game saw Ian Mileham take on Danny Lansdown. Ian started well, taking the attacking initiative and applying the pressure early. Despite Danny making a recovery, Ian was able to keep control and took it 25-17, 20-25, 25-20.

Ian then stayed on to play Billy Summers. Ian took the first end after a tense skirmish, and conceded the second after similar circumstances, but did just enough to keep hold of the third, winning 2-1.

The final game in the group was between Danny and Billy. Both players were fighting for the remaining qualifying space. After an entertaining game, Danny came through taking it 25-19 25-20.

Winner: Ian Mileham

Runner-up: Danny Lansdown

### **GROUP 2**

The first match saw last year's runner up Tony Morgan take on Dave Hanson. Tony was the clear favourite, but after a valiant challenge, Dave came through 25-23, 25-21.

Tony then stayed on to play Dave Stevens. This game was closer and Tony was unlucky not to win, he took the first end, but Dave upped his game to win 2-1.

The two Dave's then squared up for the battle for first place. Dave started well, but Dave fought back, applying pressure to Dave who in turn felt threatened by Dave. It was clear that both Dave's were playing well and Dave was unlucky to take it, but Dave (Hanson) came through 2-0.

Winner: Dave Hanson

Runner up: Dave Stevens

### **GROUP 3**

Group three was opened up with a fight between Adrija Orlova and Roy Lambert. Adrija started well, attacking the ball and varying with speed and spin. As such, she came through winning 25-19 25-21.

Roy then played Sheena Stevens. After his game with Adrija, Roy had ground to cover, but was thwarted in that task by Sheena who was playing far too well.

The last game was between Sheena and Adrija. This was to decide the winner and runner up of the group. As with their previous games, both players were looking to attack at every opportunity. But Sheena's head start was just too much for Adrija, giving Sheena the win.

Winner: Sheena Stevens

Runner up: Adrija Orlova

### **GROUP 4**

The first match was a showdown between Mick Palmer and Ron Knight. They both played well, battling it out for every point. Ron was looking strong, but Mick dug in like a tick in a camel and forced a win.

Ron then played Richard Hazelton. This was just as intense with both players fighting hard. Richard was hitting well, and it earned him the next two ends and the victory.

Richard stayed on to play Mick, whose attacking game suited Mick's equally offensive style. After a tight affair, Richard came through 2-1.

Winner: Richard Hazelton

Runner up: Mick Palmer

The top two players in each group qualified for the knockout stage of the main singles event.

## KNOCKOUT ROUNDS

Group 1 winner Ian Mileham took on Group 4 runner up Mick Palmer. Both Ian and Mick had claimed their previous wins through consistent attacking and defending with very few errors made. This made for a tense battle, and only four points separated the players in both ends with the winner, Ian, taking it 2-0.

Next up was Group 2 winner Dave Hanson vs Group 3 runner up Adrija Orlova. Adrija had been defending well, but against Dave, this was just not enough. Dave used his full array of attacking shots to lift the spin and dominate the rallies, earning him a 2-0 victory.

Group 3 winner Sheena Stevens then played Group 2 runner up Dave Stevens. Dave won the first end convincingly 25-13 giving very few points away. Sheena fought hard, but Dave won the next end by a similar margin, making it 2-0.

The last of the quarter final bouts saw Group 4 winner Richard Hazelton take on Group 1 runner up Danny Lansdown. Richard started well and gained an early lead due to the accuracy of his forehand attack, winning the first end. His momentum continued and increased the margin of victory by taking the next end, and progressing into the semi-finals.

## SEMI FINALS

Ian then stepped up to play Dave Hanson. Ian had a long way to climb against the handicap, and was able to overcome it after a narrow victory.

Ian's challenger in the final would be either Dave Stevens, or Richard Hazelton. Both players were attacking well which made for a tough battle. Richard took the first end having caught Dave napping. Dave then woke and took the next two ends going into the final.

## FINAL

The final was between Ian Mileham and Dave Stevens. Ian's attacking style was most tested against Dave with his devilish counter hitting. Dave played out of his skin when it was needed most. Ian took the first end but was under pressure going into the next end. Unfortunately for Ian the match ended after Dave took the next two ends and winning the title.

08.04.15

## Cockney Rebels Handicap

This year's rebel's tournament 2015 will be the last tournament to operate under the leadership of Wayne Osborne. He has guided the club from Vikings to Cockney Rebels and has led his band of ping pongers to many victories over the years. And although my membership with the club is still only in its infancy, I have grown to love the atmosphere of the happy family that is Cockney Rebels. He will no doubt be missed, but has left the club in the more than capable hands of Dave Rolfe (who worked extremely hard to make this year's tournament a reality) and Trevor Cornock who I'm sure will keep us going for years to come.

And so...the results then. As per the usual format the event began at noon and consisted of the Alan Hart Cup, drawn doubles, and consolation singles. I shall begin with the Alan Hart group stage.

## GROUP 1

The opening game saw flagship captain Paul Ursell take on Rebels figure head Wayne Osborne. Wayne started well, taking the attacking initiative and applying the pressure early. However, Paul was able to recover ground and stole it 25-23, 25-24.

The next game was a battle between John Jarvis and Tony Mills. Tony took the first end after a tense skirmish, and did just enough to keep hold of the second, winning 2-0. After this victory, Tony was keen to continue the streak, and stayed on the table to play Wayne. Despite Tony's best efforts, he couldn't find the form that had seen him through the first game, losing 25-16, 25-9.

Paul and John then stepped. John's handicap was fierce making for close ends. Nevertheless, Paul appeared in control and took the match 25-21, 25-22. John then met Wayne in what was another close encounter. Wayne took the first end, but John chased him down in the next two ends with a vengeance and won the match 2 games to one.

The final game in the group was between Paul and Tony. Both players were already through, but first place still needed deciding. After an entertaining game, Tony dominated the match taking it 25-8 25-13.

Winner: Tony Mills  
Runner-up: Paul Ursell

## GROUP 2

The first match saw Trevor Mason take on Albert Fuggles. Trevor was the clear favourite, and it was a valiant challenge from Albert, but Trevor came through 25-22, 25-20.

Favourite and defending champion Eric Davies then played Mark Stephens. This game was closer and Eric was unlucky not to win, he took the first end, but Mark upped his game to win 2-1. Mark then played Albert, which on paper was Albert's to lose, but was in reality a tough one to call. In the wake of defeat, Albert was looking to recover, but was ultimately squeezed out by a solid Stephens.

Trevor then played Eric. After a shaky start, Eric had ground to cover, and boy did he cover it! Taking the game 2-1. He stayed on to play Albert, which favoured him having just won his last contest. Albert fought hard, but just wasn't good enough, losing 2-0. Eric was through, but Mark needed to beat Trevor in order to qualify himself. Both players were hitting hard, and defending equally as hard. But unfortunately the handicap was just too much for Trevor to recover, losing 2-1.

Winner: Mark Stephens  
Runner up: Eric Davies

### GROUP 3

Group three was opened up with a fight between Tony Shingleston and Liam Hazelton. Liam started well, attacking the ball and varying with speed and spin. But Tony, who had watched the youngster carefully during his season, through a spanner in the works, and caused real problems, winning 25-19 25-22. Next up was Mark Pemble and Roger Munden. Mark had begun to find his form late in the season and was looking dangerous, but couldn't contain Roger, who came through 2-0.

Then Tony played Mark. Tony was still hitting well going into this game and Mark struggled to take the attacking initiative. However, Tony had picked up an injury when playing Liam, and was not able to win this bout, losing 2-0. Liam then stepped up to play Roger. Despite the handicap against him, Liam was keen to make amends for his previous defeat, and was dominating the rallies. But unforced errors crept in, and Roger clawed it back winning 25-23 25-20. Roger then stayed on to play Tony, Both players were tired, struggling to make any headway, but in the end Roger prevailed 2-0.

The last game was between Liam and Mark. This was to decide the runner up of the group. As with their previous games, both players were looking to attack at every opportunity. But Mark's 10 start was just too much for Liam, giving Mark second place.

Winner: Roger Munden  
Runner up: Mark Pemble

### GROUP 4

Group 4 was a three man battle after a no show from Ian Rackley. The first match was a showdown between teammates Rod Hall and Derek Mills. They both took one close end each before battling it out for the last end. Rod was looking strong, but Derek dug in and forced a 25-16 win.

Derek then played Dave Rolfe. This was just as intense with both players fighting hard. Dave was hitting well, and it earned him the next two ends and the victory. Dave stayed on to play Rod, whose attacking game suited Dave's equally offensive style. After a tight affair, Rod came through 2-1.

After the points were tallied up, the result was:

Winner: Rod Hall  
Runner up: Dave Rolfe

The top two players in each group qualified for the knockout stage of the main singles event, and the bottom two names were entered for the consolation event.

### ALAN HART KNOCKOUT

Group 1 winner Tony Mills took on Group 4 runner up Dave Rolfe. Both Tony and Dave had claimed their previous wins through consistent attacking and defending with very few errors made. This made for a tense battle, and only four points separated the players in both ends with the winner, Tony, taking it 2-0.

Next up was Group 2 winner Mark Stephens vs Group 3 runner up Mark Pemble. Stephens had been defending well, but against Pemble, this was just not enough. Pemble used his full array of attacking shots to lift the spin and dominate the rallies, earning him a 2-0 victory.

Group 3 winner Roger Munden then played Group 2 runner up Eric Davies. Roger won the first end convincingly 25-13 giving very few points away. But Eric fought hard and as a result managed to win the next two ends making it 2-1.

The last of the quarter final bouts saw Group 4 winner Rod Hall take on Group 1 runner up Paul Ursell. Rod started well and gained an early lead due to the accuracy of his forehand attack, winning the first end. His momentum continued and increased the margin of victory by taking the next end 25-16, and progressing into the semi-finals, where he met Eric. Again Rod's attack served him well and Eric could not cope. The game ended as quickly as it had started with Rod the victor going into the final.

Rod's challenger in the final would be either Tony Mills, or Mark Pemble. Both players were attacking well which made for a tough battle. Tony took the first end having caught Mark napping. Mark then woke and took the next two ends going into the final.

The final was between Mark Pemble and Rod Hall. Mark's attacking style was most tested against Rod with his devilish anit-spin rubber. In fairness to Rod, equipment does not a champion make, and he played out of his skin when it was needed most. He took the first end but was under pressure going into the next end. Unfortunately for Mark the match ended with Rod winning the title.

#### CONSOLATION

The first game of the consolation knock out saw Wayne take on Albert. Wayne played safe and took an early lead, but Albert used his backhand attack to find a way in and win the next two ends to seal the deal, and his place in the next round.

The next game was due to be Tony Shingleston and Paul, but Tony had to pull out due to an injury, putting Paul through.

Next was the match between Liam and Derek. This was perhaps the closest of the knock out rounds. Derek narrowly took the first end after fighting back from an umpire's call. Liam then came back after a strong serving and attacking display. But Derek won the third end and prevailed, sending him into the semi-finals.

The other quarter-final match up was between Trevor and John. John came out fighting, taking a close first end, but Trevor stayed composed and won the next two ends.

The first of the semi-final games was Albert vs Paul. Albert had done well to get this far, but was no match for the consistency of Paul, who won 2-0. The other side of the table was Derek vs Trevor. Trevor's attacking game was working well for him, as he lifted the deep chop of Derek and prevailed 2-0.

The final was between Trevor and Paul for the honour of Rebels Consolation Cup winner 2014. Many were uncertain as to the eventual victor, as both players had been convincingly good in their previous rounds. The first end appeared close to begin with, with neither player being able to gain any ground on the other. But a couple of unforced errors from Trevor gave Paul the lead. As much as Trevor came back fighting, winning the next end, the third end followed suit. Paul Ursell was crowned champion.

#### DRAWN DOUBLES

The drawn doubles event paired players together based on ratings, for a doubles knock out style event.

After Tony and Wayne dispatched Paul and John, they came up against Rod and Mark. The strong pairing of Tony and Wayne was just too much for Rod and Mark, who were defeated 2-0.

The next game was Liam and Roger versus Derek and Dave. Derek and Dave took the first end after a convincing start, 25-16. Liam and Roger then fought back to take the next end by a narrow 25-22. Derek and Rod then consolidated their first end tactics and came through 25-21.

Eric and Trevor then played Albert and Mark. Eric's pimples combined with Trevor's attack proved too much for Albert and Mark, sending Eric and Trevor through. They then stayed on to play Derek and Dave. Trevor and Eric were strong in attack, but Derek and Dave were equally strong in defence. The first end was close, with Derek and Dave clinching it. Wayne and Tony then battled back winning the next two ends in style and earning themselves the title of drawn doubles champions 2015.

Alan Hart Singles winner: Rod Hall  
Consolation winner: Paul Ursell  
Doubles winners: Wayne Osborne and Tony Mills

In conclusion, I would like to give a massive thank you to those individuals who organized the event, whether it be through organizing the handicaps, the nosh, and even the event itself, it was an extremely enjoyable day. Thank you to all those who attended and took part. And well done to the eventual victors.

08.04.15

**Singles Handicap**

This year's singles handicap tournament was held on the 22nd March and gathered a healthy number of competitors.

There were eight group stages, each putting the top two players through to the knockout stage, the three below were the most hotly contested.

Group one saw Division one stalwart Paul Ursell take on Gerry Aitken and Bill Hackney, Ursell gave a solid performance overcoming the 18 start against him, topping the table. Hackney fought hard against Aitken to earn himself the other qualifying place.

Group three was a tense affair between Rob Pugh, Billy Summers and Pearl Wheeler. Pugh remained strong, and dominated the round, but recent newcomer Wheeler was unfazed by the unfamiliar opponents, and went through in second place.

Group four was a battle between Trevor Mason, Robert Smith, and Paul Davies. Mason was the best on paper, and showed this in his performances. He remained composed, and fought his way past the handicap that faced him. Davies then recovered from his defeat to Mason, and beat Smith to go through.

The winners of the knockout round were Ron Knight who beat Paul Ursell, Hugo Ursell who beat John Wickings, Rob Pugh who beat Billy Summers, Richard Hazelton who beat Trevor Mason, Paul Whittaker who beat Paul Davies, Adam Dyer who beat Pearl Wheeler, Dave Stevens who beat Danny Lansdown, and Mick Micklethwaite who beat Bill Hackney.

In the quarter finals, Ron Knight beat Hugo Ursell, Rob Pugh beat Richard Hazelton, Adam Dyer beat Paul Whittaker, and Mick Micklethwaite beat Dave Stevens.

The first of the semi-finals saw Knight face his league team captain Pugh. Pugh's steady defence had worked wonders thus far in the competition, but Knight had other ideas, attacking the ball and playing positive table tennis for the entertainment of the crowd. Knight secured his place in the final with a convincing two-nil victory.

The second semi saw upcoming youngster Dyer battle against veteran Micklethwaite. Micklethwaite's experience seemed to be enough in the first leg, which he won 25-18, but Dyer fought back to take the next two legs with a comfortable margin of victory.

The final was a match of the best competitors of the day, with both players showing solid performances and flawless victories. It went to the full three ends, each end being closer than the last, but only one of them had the weapons to keep going and up the pressure. Congratulations to last year's winner and this year's defending champion Ron Knight. Commiserations to Adam Dyer who was a worthy runner up.

28.02.15

### **Finals Night - Closed Championships 2015**

This year's closed tournament, unlike previous incarnations, features many structural changes to the format which produced some unique results for the final. One thing that did not change however, was encouraging amount of people that turn out to support the contestants.

The under 16's final kicked off the proceedings. As we've come to expect from Alan's new crop of juniors, they showed remarkable professionalism and composure under the pressure of the spotlight. Both Joel and Hugo appeared calm and in control which provided the crowd with a riveting opener to set the pace. Both players were hitting well, but it was clear that Hugo's previous final experience was giving him the edge as he pushed steadily forward to a three games to love victory.

Next up was the division two singles which saw pimple powerhouse Paul Whittaker square up to the crowd favourite Derek Walker. The first leg was close. Derek's offensive strategy was pushing Paul's defensive capabilities to the limit, and at one game all it was anyone's to win, but as ever with Paul, his deceptive consistency eroded away Derek's powerful forehand, and he took the upper hand. After a tense battle, Paul succeeded, beating Derek 3 games to one.

Division three then followed, with a rather surprising matchup between Hugo Ursell and Bill Hackney. Having only had seven players enter this category, neither finalist had worked particularly hard to get to the final stage, but were eager to take advantage all the same. Hugo's first match with Joel stood him in good stead as his attacking game was simply too much of a whirlwind for Bill to control. Hugo 3, Bill 0.

In this year's Ladies singles, Adrija returned to the Odds in the hope of regaining the title that she had lost in her absence last year. Adrija would have felt confident going into the game, but as the two warmed up, it was unclear who would come out on top as Becki wasn't pulling any punches. It was a real ding-dong battle that saw sharp attacking shots fly across the table. The vital tipping point for Adrija was her competent use of spin, which

ultimately proved too much for Becki to handle, and earned Adrija the title

The Allocated Doubles final saw Richard Hazelton and Simon Kear take on John Ferguson and Joel Rogers. Ferguson and Rogers were deemed the favourites by some, but almost conceded the first end after a shaky start. They then locked shields and battled back. Their opponents were fierce, but they found the dominance that they had displayed in the tournament, and won the next three ends to become this year's allocated doubles winners.

An event exclusive to 2015 was the Senior Veterans category, which featured Keith Clark and Danny Lansdown as the first finalists. Danny made a strong impression in the first end, almost taking Keith by surprise. But the Odds helmsman got his act together and steered himself clear of an upset, winning three games to love.

The Veterans final is renowned for the traditional duel between Ian Mileham and Keith Clark. But this year, a new face emerged in the form of Trevor Kelly. Both players cruised into the final and were on good form. Many spectators may have thought that Trevor's uncanny ability to smash the ball at top speed would stand him in good stead, but Ian dominated from the get go, taking the attacking initiative. Ian took an early lead, and dominated till the end, earning himself a 3-0 victory.

The Open Doubles was contested between new pairing Simon Hillier and John Ferguson and Odds A pair Keith Clark and Dean Harris. Hillier and Ferguson went into the game as slight favourites due to their number one seed, but no one can deny the skill of the long standing Odds partnership. The desire to win was clear, as the no messin', gung-ho showdown delivered a heated battle. Keith and Dean worked hard to regain the title that they had lost the year previous, and were able to quash the lightning attack of the 1st seeds. 3-1 to Keith and Dean, Open doubles champions.

The Consolation singles was between Trevor Kelly and Lee Edgington, which on paper, was the closest bout of the lot. In reality however, it was a rather one sided affair, with Lee completely dominating every rally. Trevor had struggles against Ian, and was not able to recover for this game. In the last end the two players through up some exhibition for the crowd, but after all was said and done, Lee prevailed 3-0 to become Consolation champion.

The evening reached its climax with this year's Open Singles event, which saw two regular faces. Number 1 seed and reigning champion Ian Mileham faced number 3 seed John Ferguson. Having beaten Ian in the vets the year before, John was sure to cause trouble in the open especially as he'd dispatched number two seed Dave Jeavons so convincingly in the semi-finals. But as the game commenced it was a clearly a battle of the unstoppable force and the immovable object with both players producing shining displays of top class shots we expect from the elite of division one. However, after a three nil victory, Ian once again proved immovable from top spot, and was crowned Open singles champion.

15.02.15

### **Closed Tournament – Preview**

This year's Thanet Closed Tournament is fast approaching, and with the computer calculated draws done, it's time to take a look at how the front runners will fare and who will be the players to watch on the day!

In the Open Singles, Ian Mileham will be looking to retain his title which he won last year after a comprehensive victory against Simon Hillier. However, things look to be substantially more difficult for him this year with a huge clash with Dave Jeavons on the cards for the final. Number 2 seed Jeavons has beaten Mileham on the last two times of asking this season and will look to repeat these victories on the big day. At the other end of the draw, last year's runner-up Simon Hillier will be looking to once again reach the final and claim the title. To do this, he will have to overcome the likes of Keith Clark and Danny Lansdown in the earlier rounds, not games to be taken lightly.

However, despite all this talk of quarter and semi-finals, there are some excellent looking opening round ties to look forward to. Dean Harris will have to face Paul Whittaker in his first round game. Paul has not only had a flawless division 2 season but in last year's tournament he defeated a handful of division 1 players such as Trevor Mason and Rob Biagolowicz and so may prove a tricky opponent for Dean. Similarly, Simon Kear finds himself facing Mick Palmer who he defeated earlier in the league.

In the Division 2 competition, Paul Whittaker will start as red hot favourite. The allocated doubles champion has had a 100% success rate in both division three and division two and looks primed to walk away with the trophy. In order to do this, he may have to face Rob Pugh in the final.

In Division 3 there will be a new champion to crown and last year's finalists have since moved to division two, and with the arrival of the new generation of juniors, it looks to be an interesting event. Barry Cullen starts as favourite, but has been absent for a little while and may find it difficult to regain his form. In order to take the trophy, he will have to defeat the likes of Henry Mileham, Hugo Ursell, Joel Rogers, and Harry Brown, no easy task.

The Open Doubles is always one of the most entertaining competitions to watch, and this year is no different.

Number one seeds Andy Roberts and Dave Jevons will be confident they can reach their first doubles final, but will face some stubborn resistance from Keith Clark and Dean Harris in the semis. Should they qualify for the final, they will no doubt face new doubles pairing Simon Hillier and John Ferguson for what would be a cracking finale.

In the Vets singles, Ian Mileham is always looked upon as the favourite as much as in the open. But as I'm sure we all remember he was defeated by John Ferguson last year and will be looking to retake the title. He does face some tricky potential match ups though, with Danny Lansdown a likely opponent in the quarter finals before a semi-final with Dean Harris. In the other side of the draw, John Ferguson is the other finals contender. He will also face a tough draw though if he is to make it through to the final, with players such as Paul Ursell and Keith Clark all standing in his way.

The Ladies event sees just five entries, meaning that number one seed Adrija Orlova has a relatively simple path to victory, with a semi-final game against either Sheena Stevens or Linda Wickings and a final against either Denise Whalen or Becki Stevens the title is surely hers.

An event exclusive to 2015 is the Senior Veterans category. Given that there are no previous results to go by, this year's draw will probably set the precedent for seasons to come. The two likely finalists are division 1 stalwarts Keith Clark and Danny Lansdown who will reach the final virtually untested, and will provide an interesting spectacle for the night of the finals.

13.12.14

## **12 Days of Ping Pong**

A festive match report in the form of a familiar Christmas tune.

On the 18th of November Wayne Osborne gave to me,  
A sad defeat to Rebels 'E'

On the 19th of November Invicta gave to me,  
Much entertainment,  
For a cracking game against Sandwich 'B'

On the day after the 19th much drama did ensue,  
Trev C beat Trev Kelly,  
Rebels B delighted,  
And it must be said the games weren't easy

The 24th had four games and one ended a draw,  
Margate got a drubbing,  
Odds 'A' got 10 points,  
Sandwich was on fire,  
And Dave Jevons beat Ian Mileham

The 25th was boring so I'll move to 26th,  
TWO GOLD TEENS,  
Aarron lost all three,  
Liam won one,  
Dennis was impressed,  
But the team still lost so don't get cocky

On the 27th, Juniors were keen to take some scalps,  
Hugo flattened Tony,  
MORE GOLD TEENS,  
Alan coached his team,  
Score 9-1,  
What an awful shame,  
But good luck we'll see you next game

December came 'round quickly and on the 8th there was,  
The return of Darren Jones and,  
Two division one games,  
NO GOLD TEENS,  
Rebels 'F' got thrashed,  
Odds 'B' lost,  
Margate 'A' are 1st,  
Don't get excited it could all change

On the 9th of December Keith Clark spelled with an 'e'  
Paul spelled it wrong,  
No one really noticed,  
Rob threw a tantrum,  
BECAUSE HE LOST 3-2,  
John Jarvis had to play,  
Stevens playing well,  
But Dad, he beat them both,  
With a near win against D.Walker

On the 10th of December no prisoners were claimed,  
Invicta beat the juniors,  
What a bunch of meanies,  
Rebels 'C' beat Sandwich,  
It's taken them a while to,  
GET THEIR FIRST WIN,  
Keep it up so you're,  
No longer,  
In relegation zone,  
As you're not wanted in division three

The day after this closed out the first half of the year,  
Margate 'F' convincing,  
No one can touch them,  
Rebels 'D' are catching,  
Up with the leaders,  
Hampton were defeated,  
THINGS ARE HEATING UP,  
In the title race,  
Across the league,  
In every division,  
And thus concludes my winter report!

Have a good Christmas everyone, and I'll see you all back week commencing the 5th.

07.12.14

### **Course - Level 1 coaching**

A TTE Level 1 Coaching Course is being planned for the spring at Chestfield. We are actively looking for coaches in Thanet, so if you are interested in taking this opportunity, please contact a committee member.

15.11.14

### **Report W/C 3/11 to 13/11**

It is often said by many players that "it's tough at the top", and there was no better example than Odds 'A' vs Margate 'A', who are both battling for control over division 1. Clark's flagship side gained a narrow lead after a tight game between Cannon and Ferguson, which spurred them on to win the next two matches in succession. Margate then fought back with comfortable performances from Hearn and Rowley. When it came down to the doubles however, Odds had a five games to four lead and were looking likely to hold it with stalwart pairing Harris and Clark, but Margate pulled through and earned an important five-all draw, securing their first place position.

In the second division, Lambert's Margate 'G' (who were fortunate to have avoided relegation the season previous) have been putting in solid performances to ensure their division 3 survival. Two weeks ago they faced off against last year's victors Rebels 'C'. Given the proximity of the two teams on the table, this was a crucial encounter. After several inspiring performances from Stevens, Hazelton, and Whalen, Margate came away with a 6-4 victory, which could just have easily been 7-3.

Rebels 'D', who have had a sluggish start to the season, have begun to rack in the wins we all know they are capable of. This week they came under fire from rivals Rebels 'C', but remained un-fazed. Osborne and Cornock took early victories against Fuggles, but having spent all their bullets, came unstuck when faced with Mills and Hall, who dominated in the singles and the doubles giving the team a winning margin of 8-2.

The race for first place in division three has been equally as tight with BT, Margate 'H', Rebels 'G', and Sandwich 'B' all fighting for position at the top of the table. With Rebels currently in fourth, they were sure to battle their way back onto the podium with their game against Invicta, but it wasn't to be. Paetow, Benfield, and Findlay all played making it the team's strongest possible line-up, which caused all sorts of problems for Rebels. So much so that Invicta came away the winners 6-4.

Alan Radford's new juniors team have been fighting hard in the start to their debut winter season, taking vital points from various teams, which this week, was Rebels F. Hugo Ursell overcame both Roger Munden and Ian Rackley whilst Henry Mileham defeated Dave Rolfe in a five-ender. Joel Rogers gave some spirited performances and was unlucky not to have in the spoils. These important and exceedingly entertaining wins gave the juniors another three points on the table and keeps them off bottom. They should be extremely happy with this effort and will be in high spirits going into their next game.

26.10.14

### **Report W/C 13/10 to 24/10**

Once again the battle of the Odds teams created some interesting results for the premier division, especially with both teams having rearranged their squad. Bromley recruit Dave Emery stepped in to cover for Keith Clark, and last year's league winner Andy Roberts has joined Odds B. The first game between the new additions Emery and Roberts was perhaps the closest of the evening, with Emery prevailing 13-11 in the fifth. The B side then won the next three in succession, bringing the scores to 3-1, but the A team got their act together, and closed the match out 7-3.

Hoath played their fourth game of the season against podium contenders Margate B. On this occasion, Hoath skipper Chapman made way for last year's league winner Hillier in what would be his first game for the side. For the most part the evening went in Margate's favour, but there were a few close encounters that shone through. Kelly was unlucky not to come through against Hillier in what was a well contested fight, giving Hillier his only win of the evening. After this minor stumble, Margate again took control. Hillier then stepped up to play Lansdown, in what was believed would be Hoath's game to lose. In actual fact, Hoath did just that, and lost it. Lansdown stepped up to the plate and showed no mercy against the presumed favourite, completely dominating the game, and was victorious after three games to one, which in this writer's opinion is game of the season so far - Margate 'B' 9 – Hoath 1.

In the second division, Margate G faced Rebels E. In Roy Lambert's absence, Sheena Stevens acted as substitute. Stevens, Hazelton and Whalen all beat new Rebels recruit Malins, with Stevens also defeating Burton. The end score was 6-4 to Rebels, but Margate will be satisfied with this result, having staved off the bottom without their skipper.

Margate E have had a convincing start to their campaign, and continued to dominate earning themselves an eight game to two victory over Rebels C. Walker and Stevens won close games against Rebels stalwart Cornock, and the team very nearly came away with nine games after Osborne narrowly overcame Stevens in the last singles game of the evening.

Alan Radford's new juniors team have been fighting hard in the start to their debut winter season, taking matches from Margate H. Harry Brown overcame John Croft in a convincing three nil win, and Henry Mileham also defeated both Croft and Dave Hanson giving the team 3 points on the table. They should be extremely happy with this effort and will be in high spirits going into their next game.

Summer league newcomers and also debut winter league team Margate J found themselves facing Richard Llewellyn-Jones' Invicta. Invicta played a strong side for this match, with both Paetow and Findlay featuring in the line-up. As expected, they came away the victors, but Margate were able to steal some points from them with Gerry Aitken's two wins over Paetow and Llewellyn-Jones.

11.10.14

### **Report W/C 29/09 to 10/10**

This year's winter season has begun and has already produced some exciting results within the first two weeks.

In division one, title contenders Margate 'A' did well to fend off their 'B' side rivals in their first game out. The match ended 6-4 in A's favour, but the team were put under pressure by Mileham who won all of his games by a convincing 3-0 margin. Kelly also fought well to defeat 'A' captain Hearn three games to love.

The newly formed Margate 'C' captained by Mick Palmer made a strong start to their campaign by defeating Rebels 'A' 7-3. Rebels skip Ursell fought hard for his team but only managed to win one game, beating Orlova three games to two. Fellow team mates Kear and Biagolowicz also won one game each, but Margate were on top form and never loosened their grip.

Rebels 'B' played the second game of their campaign against Odds 'A'. Having earned a respectable five all draw against Hoath the week previous, spirits were high as the team prepared for what they thought would be a ten nil drubbing. In the end, Odds won 9-1, with a surprise point for Rebels coming from Hazelton who overcame Harris in what was perhaps the game of the evening. Samme also showed spirited performances and skipper Mason was unlucky not to have walked away with a win from his two five-enders.

In division two, last year's winners Rebels 'C' have had a shaky start losing their first two games 9-1 against both of the division's newcomers, Margate 'F', and Hampton Warriors. In fairness to Rebels, the score lines are deceiving and don't reflect how tight the matches were, but it has to be said that if Margate 'F' continue their run of form they are strong contenders for the title, having also beaten Sandwich 'A' 7-3.

Margate 'D' have also showed their strength with two five all draws going into the beginning of the season. With consistent wins from Knight and Pugh, the team is looking steady and capable of a mid-table finish, especially with the added bonus of Summers' increasingly impressive victories. Last year he beat the likes of Radford, this year he has already slain Matthews and Whalen and is a force to be reckoned with!

In division three, newly recruited Margate 'J' put up an honourable fight against Sandwich 'B' to mark the opening of their first season. Smith, Wheeler, and Aitken made an excellent effort against the title contenders and worked them hard. Both Smith and Wheeler were victorious over Watson, with Aitken narrowly missing out on following suit in a well contested five-ender.

BT earned themselves a solid eight points with their 8-2 victory over Rebels 'F' last week. The side are in good form and have taken a high position in the tables. Munden and Rackley played well alongside new recruit Beerling and claimed two wins to soften the defeat.

Title contenders Rebels 'G' suffered an early setback last week after their defeat to the recently strengthened Margate 'H'. The combination of Cullen, Hansen, and Jones was simply too much for the experienced Rebels despite their best efforts. Some eyebrows may be raised at the arrival of Jones, but Mills almost beat him narrowly losing 2-3.

In the next few weeks I will be liaising with Alan, Paul and Ian to write a feature report in the paper about the new junior team so keep your eyes peeled for that one! With regards to the league results, these will appear on the website every couple of weeks, and I will publish the best of these games into the paper after the junior report has been printed.

14.09.14

### **Season Preview**

After another successful summer league and dramatic transfer window, the winter league is back, and what a cracker it looks to be!

Division 1 looks more competitive than ever, with previous winners Margate A having disbanded, all the teams will be looking to capitalise on this absence and take the title. Simon Hillier and Dave Jeavons have now signed up to the ever strengthening Hoath side, which is sure to challenge for the podium this season. Andy Roberts has joined Odds alongside Lee Edgington, Lee Featherbe and Sharon Clark to form a solid B-team entry for the club. Chris Hearn's newly crowned Margate A and Keith Clark's Odds A are the two teams shaping up to battle for the title in what will no doubt be a tight finish. At the bottom of the division, Rebels B sees the addition of youngsters Aaron Samme and Liam Hazelton, both joining captain Trevor Mason for what will be an exciting venture.

Division Two is always a tough one to call, and this year is no different. Last year's winners Rebels C have enlisted Mark Pemble in a bid to consolidate their success, whilst Rebels E have signed ex Barnstonworth captain Bob Mailns to replace Clive Beerling. There is also a brand spanking new Sandwich A side leaping in to the mix, and also the Thanet debut of the division 2 side Hampton Warriors who are so far untested in these waters. But most interestingly, there is a team who has been promoted from division three that looks strong enough to cement their position in division 2. Steve Tebbett's team with Tony Morgan and Pete Limond dominated division 3 and have convinced allocated doubles champion Paul Whittaker to join them in their venture into division two making them very strong contenders indeed.

Division 3 sees the addition of some new teams entering the fray, including two teams who have risen through the ranks of the summer league, but also the return of Alan Radford's juniors who will be joining again after a few years gap. Whilst not the strongest division 3 the league has ever known, there is a clear race for the top spot between Sandwich B, Rebels G, and BT. Will the winners be Sandwich B, who were last year's runners up behind Margate F? Will it be Division 3 legends Rebels G, who have had many successful runs in the league? Or will it be the long standing BT who have condensed their squad into a division 3 killing machine?

As ever, the league will provide many surprises and highlights, and I for one am looking forward to watching it all pan out!

21.08.14

### **Kent League Entry Forms**

Closing date is 29th August. Any members interested in committing to a team should contact the Kent League Secretary ASAP. Kent League is open to all ages for the forthcoming season and fixtures are played on Sundays at various Kent locations.

01.08.14

**ITTTA Ruling on new balls**

Important notice to members. After due consideration and in alignment with other regional leagues it has been decided that the new plastic balls will not be introduced until the Summer Competition 2015. Prior to that and to ensure consistency and fairness during the transition, only the existing ball type must be used for all winter league/cup matches.

24.06.14

**ETTA Ruling on plastic balls**

Important notice to members. Please refer to the rules page for the Table Tennis England statement about the new plastic balls.

## Events

Event 22.02.15

### Closed Championships 2015

This season's event is scheduled for Sunday 22nd February at the Ramsgate Leisure Centre 8:45am prompt. Entry

forms are available on the website and the Hartsdown Centre.

Event 27.02.15

### Finals Night - Closed Championships 2015

This is to be held for all competition categories at the Odd Fellows Hall Ramsgate on Friday 27th February commencing 7pm prompt.

Event 22.03.15

### Singles Handicap

The event will be held at the Hartsdown TT Centre at 4pm.

Event 31.03.15

### Quickenden/Burden Cup Final

This is scheduled to occur starting 7.30pm at the Odds Ramsgate.

Event 11.04.15

### OPEN WEEKEND

COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN WEEKEND

Between 10.00am and 1pm on Saturday 11th or Sunday 12th April at the Hartsdown Table Tennis Centre and discover that hidden table tennis talent!

Event 27.04.15

### Summer Competition

Get ready for the next competition planned for week commencing Monday April 27th. Entry form on the Summer Competitions page.

Event 10.05.15

### Margate Handicap Tournament

The event will be held at the Hartsdown TT Centre at 9:30am

Event 16.05.15

### Presentation Evening

The annual ITTTA Presentation Evening will be held at The Odds, High Street, Ramsgate commencing 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from Committee Members in due course at £10 each (half price for under 16's) and the price will include food and entertainment.

Event 10.06.15

### 2015 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Hartsdown Centre on Wednesday 10th June commencing at 8pm (Minutes from 2014 AGM will be provided at the event).

Event 04.07.15

### Heritage Oil Cup

Please refer to News and Events attachments for details of the above (if interested contact Steve Pound directly)

Event 26.07.15

### Extraordinary AGM

An Extraordinary AGM will be held on Sun 26th July 5pm, in order to ratify the inclusion of a Dissolution Clause as a rules amendment. Please notify a committee member in advance if you will attend the meeting. The reason to add this clause at short notice is for the committee to proceed with a funding request for a proposed facility at

Ursuline School to attract and develop new players. Wording for the amendment is as follows:

In the event of the dissolution of the Club, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to one or more of the following sporting or charitable bodies:

- A registered charitable organisation
- Another Club in the local area which shares our goals and objectives
- The sports national governing body for use by them for related community sports.