

03.08.14

Team Tebbett Takes The Trophy

This year's summer competition was hotly contested with teams from all divisions entering, and a few new players who made their first appearances. There was no better example of the standard of play than the final that took place earlier this week, which was between Steve Tebbett/Trevor Goldsmith (right) and Roger Munden/Sheena Stevens (left).

In traditional Hollywood fashion, all the games ended with close score margins, but particularly in the first game between Tebbett and Munden. Munden had returned to play this tournament after a few years out due to a knee operation, and was doing well to set the tone for the rest of the match. Tebbett was having trouble with Munden's close range attacking shots, and was lucky to snatch the first end 25-24. In the second end, Tebbett changed his approach and was able to squeeze in a few more points to take it 25-20.

The next game was between Goldsmith and Stevens. Goldsmith was initially struggling with his backhand attacking shots, which gave Stevens an early lead, but it was clear that nerves were running high as both players had their share of unforced errors. Towards the business end of this game, Stevens' experience allowed her to prevail two games to nil.

Stevens stayed on to play the opponents skipper, Tebbett. Stevens' fast attacking game had worked well in her opening game, but was beginning to let her down in this bout, with Tebbett dictating the pace of the game, and winning points through his consistency. Tebbett wins the first end, but Stevens rises to the challenge and almost wins the second end, but again, the steely composure of Tebbett grants him the victory 2-0.

Munden then stepped up to play Goldsmith in the last of the singles games. Having lost their opening games, both players were keen to deliver for their team. Munden started well, and quickly rounded off the first end. Goldsmith was not troubled by this set back and fought his way to victory in the second end. However, in the deciding third end Munden's attacking game proved too strong and the game ended 2-1 in his favour.

With all the singles game over, the scores were tied going into the doubles. Both teams were looking to capitalise on their winning tactics in the singles, and gelled together well. It was a tight affair, with both teams gaining ground, but Tebbett and Goldsmith found their groove early on, and showed no signs of coming out of it. They were victors in the doubles, which consolidated their team victory of 7-4.

Congratulations to Tebbett and Goldsmith, and thank you to all the teams who participated in what was a thoroughly enjoyable competition. All eyes now look forward to the start of the winter league!

Report by Liam Hazelton.

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 (until then the existing ball type will be used for league matches during the transition).

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.

06.05.14

Quickenden & Burden Cup Report

This year's finals were unique, primarily due to the fact that all the teams came from the same division, but also because the two finals were played on different evenings, and in different venues. Both were supposed to be played at the Odd Fellows Hall in Ramsgate, but due to players being away during the Easter break, this was unable to happen. As a result the Quickenden cup was played the week after at the Hartsdown Club instead. Before we get to that match however, I shall start with the Burden cup.

BURDEN:

This saw two division 3 rivals clash for the title, in the form of Richard Hazelton's Rebels F, and Richard Llewellyn-Jones' Invicta A. Many had believed that R. L-J would be playing, but he was unable to join his team due to illness, and so his stronger team of Tom Bowling, Dave Benfield, and newcomer Peter Paetow played instead. They came up against Richard H, Charmane Fitch, and longstanding Rebels veteran, Dave Rolfe.

It took a while, but eventually, the competitors and the committee were settled to watch the bout. The first game

was Rolfe vs Benfield, the pundits believed Dave would win, but actually, it was a draw. Rolfe's attacking shots were seamlessly slicing through Benfield's defensive chopping, making for a close match. In the end, both players took one leg each, sharing the spoils, 17-25, and 25-24.

The next game however, saw Rebels go into the lead as Charmane stepped up to play Tom. The first end was close, ending 25-22 in Charmane's favour. She kept her cool through the second leg with back bench coaching from Alan Radford, which led her to win 25-13, and take her team into the lead.

The third game was between Richard and Peter. This was another close game, arguably, between the two team's talismans. Richard clenched the first game in what was a knife edge finish, 25-24. The second game was equally close, with both players exchanging forehand topspin's and defensive shots alike. The second end also finished in Richard's favour, maintaining his team's lead.

Under pressure to keep the status quo, Charmane stepped up to play Dave Benfield, arguably her hardest game. The pace of the game was as you'd expect, with Dave dictating the tempo of the game, but what he struggled with was Charmane's ability to adapt to the backspin, which was causing him some issues. As good as she was, Charmane was unable to make up for the shaky start, and was defeated 19-25, 20-25.

Next into the ring was Dave Rolfe and Peter Paetow. The first end was an explosive affair, with Dave and Peter pulling out their best shots. Peter's forehand, again, was dominating and gave him the edge in what were two exciting ends, which concluded 17-25, 18-25.

With Invicta now in the lead, Rebels skip Richard needed to lift his team's moral a little. He did this through a convincing win against safe and steady Tom Bowling. The first end was Richards to lose, which he didn't, prevailing 25-17. The second end however was far tenser, ending 25-22, again in Richard's favour.

The heat really began to rise in the next game with both teams tied (as near as makes no difference). Charmane needed to take advantage of Peter's attacking game which suited her equally attacking style. She did exactly this in the first end, dominating down the backhand, and winning 25-21. Peter's experience came into play during the next end which he took 25-24, leaving the two teams on exactly 315 points each!

Once again, Richard was given the opportunity to steer his teams into the lead, with his final game against Dave Benfield. Richard was attacking hard and fast, which paid off and earned him the first end 25-19. Unfortunately, it was not to last, as Dave dug in and forced mistakes from Richard which cost him the second end, which he lost 14-25.

The final singles game saw Dave Rolfe take on Tom Bowling. Dave narrowly lost the first end 23-25, but responded well to the pressure and produced some blinding backhands in the second end, which he won 25-14.

With Rebels only 4 points in front, the doubles was key to victory for both sides. There was some debate over who would play for Rebels, with some believing that Richard and Dave would be best, while others suggested Dave and Richard, but the outcome was Richard and Charmane playing together. The pairing in all honesty, didn't work. To be fair to the players, they did well to combat their differences, but doubles is all about teamwork, which let Rebels down at the wrong moment. Nevertheless, you can't take it away from what were the better team on the night and this year's Burden champions, Invicta A.

QUICKENDEN:

As mentioned previously, this occurred the week after the Burden cup, at the Hartsdown. It was contested between BT and Rebels G. Both teams have performed well in the league and were in form going into this match up.

First up was Eric Davies versus Dennis McIntosh. The Rebels handicap champion was controlling the ball and appeared to be on top, but Den went on the offensive and completely battered Eric off the table, winning 25-13, 25-14.

Next came Mark Stephens and Tony Dannell. In the first end Mark seemed to be coping with Tony's spin and control by keeping the ball on the table, and, despite a shaky finish to the end, he won 25-24. In the second end however, Tony recovered and steamed past Mark, and earned himself a 25-15 win.

Tony Mills then stepped up to play Trevor Goldsmith, captain on captain, skip on skip. Both players had it all to do, and the tight score line showed the effort that went in. Despite Trevor's best efforts, Tony was able to win both ends 25-18, but Trevor had definitely earned his team some points in the process.

With the teams locked level, Mark came up against Den. Mark's defensive capabilities really shone through in this match, with Den rarely finding a way through. He was hitting well, but it wasn't enough to provide his team with a win, and Mark prevailed 25-9, 25-17.

With BT now behind, Trevor needed to beat Eric to level the scores. The result was in effect a draw. Eric won the first end 25-19, taking advantage of his pimples. But Trevor adapted to this and was able to engage Eric down the forehand, which gave him the second end 25-20.

Tony Mills then took on Tony Dannell in what both teams knew would be a crucial game. The first end was sketchy, with both players having good and bad moments. Dannell took it, but only by 25-24 so the game was still on. Mills needed to come back from this stronger, but Dannell was just too consistent with his shots, and he won the second end 25-8.

In order to keep the team afloat, Mark needed to put a beating on Trevor. He did win both ends, but Trevor stayed with him all the way and played his socks off to keep in contention. The result was 25-21, 25-20 in Mark's favour, leaving the teams level again.

Whereas Tony had fallen earlier in the evening, he was able to make amends via his win over Den. Tony had been playing well all evening and managed to carry this form through into this game, winning 25-9, 25-17.

This put Rebels in the lead, but the final singles game was in BT's favour, with Eric vs Tony. Tony appeared not to struggle with Eric's pimples in the first end, and won 25-13. But in the second, Eric was able to find a weakness and exploit it. Tony still won, but by a lesser margin of 25-20.

Going into the doubles the teams were level again, so they had it all to play for. Both teams were experienced at in their doubles pairing which showed in the equal score, 25-16 to Rebels, and 25-18 to BT. With the application of the handicap, BT came out on top and had shown outstanding class to get there. Rebels also fought well and were gracious and complimentary in defeat, having no issues hailing the eventual winners.

As ever, I would like to extend, on behalf of the committee and players alike, a massive thank you to Margaret Pugh and Keith Clark for making these finals events a reality. Congratulations to the winners and runner-ups of both competitions and good luck to all teams for the league later this year!

Report by Liam Hazelton

27.04.14

Kent League Update

Thanet's last fixture was home to Maidstone D on the 27th April. The outcome was a 6-4 win for Maidstone. Dave and Becki narrowly missed converting their five ender singles matches into wins but as a doubles pair won in three convincing ends. Congratulations to the Maidstone team.

Becki Stevens 1
Dave Stevens 1
Richard Hazelton 1
Doubles 1 (DS/RS)

15.04.14

Cockney Rebels Tournament

Tour De Rebels 2014 was an all-day handicap tournament consisting of a singles event, a drawn doubles event, and a consolation event. It kicked off at 12 noon and carried on through into the evening.

GROUP 1

The opening game saw veteran returnee Tony Shingleston take on resident octopus arms Paul Ursell. Tony started well which gave him the edge in the first end which finished 25-21 in his favour. Paul then recovered and won the second end with a convincing 25-7. The final end was predictably tense with both players looking to consolidate their previous end wins, but Paul in his un-holy steadiness conquered all and took the last game 25-22.

The next game was a battle between John Jarvis and Rebels figure head Wayne Osborne. Wayne took the first end after a tense skirmish, but ran low on gas going into the next two ends, and dropped them both to John. After this defeat, Wayne was keen to make amends, and stayed on the table to play Tony. Despite Tony's best efforts, he couldn't find the form that he had shown in his game with Paul. Make amends was what Wayne did, taking the match 25-19, 25-14.

Paul and John then stepped up to decide who would go into the lead in the group, having each beaten their previous challengers, only one of them would jump clear from the rest. John's handicap was fierce making for close ends. Nevertheless, Paul appeared in control and took the match 25-22, 25-23. John then met Tony in what was another close encounter. John just scraped the first end, but Tony 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 Wayne. Wayne took the first end 25-17, but as with his match against John, he couldn't keep up the momentum. Paul came back to win the next two ends with narrow margins, 25-20 and 26-24.

Winner: Paul Ursell

Runner-up: Wayne Osborne

GROUP 2

This group was only a three man battle as Rob Biagolowicz, for reasons unknown, didn't appear, so the top two spots were hotly contested. The first match saw favourite and defending champion Eric Davies take on Albert Fuggles. It was a valiant challenge from Albert, pushing Eric close on both ends, but Eric came through 25-21, 27-25.

In the wake of defeat Albert stayed on to play Derek Mills. This game was closer and Albert was unlucky not to win, he took the first end, but Derek upped his game to win 2-1. Eric then played Derek, which on paper was Derek's to lose, was in reality a tough one to call. But the actual result was a clear victory for Eric, beating Derek 25-17, 25-13.

Winner: Albert Fuggles

Runner up: Eric Davies

GROUP 3

Group three was opened up with a fight between Trevor Mason and Liam Hazelton. Liam started well winning the first end 25-21, but lost momentum in the second end losing 18-25. The final end was the closest with both players exhibiting their best attacking shots to try to topple the other. Liam just nosed in front and won 25-22. Next up was Tony Mills and Charmane Fitch. Charmane looked set to cause an upset, but Tony was comfortable in attack and defence, shutting down Charmane's game, winning 25-20, 25-22.

Then Tony played Liam in what was the closest game of the day by far. Tony was still hitting well going into this game and Liam struggled to take the attacking initiative that he had against Trevor. The first and second ends ended 25-23 with both players even. The last end stressed both the players and the umpire as it ended 30-28, with Liam falling over the line to take the match.

Charmane was also still playing well, and stood up to face Trevor. In the same way as her first game, Charmane was nudged out by consistent defending from the division 1 maestro, who was almost faultless. Trevor won 25-20, 25-21. Charmane then stepped up for her final game against Liam. She fought hard and brought the match to the full three ends, battering Liam with a full array of attacking shots, and was unlucky not to win, Liam won 2-1.

The deciding match for second place was between Trevor and Tony. As with their previous games, both players were playing at the top of their game and made very few mistakes. Trevor's forehand topspin proved too much however, and Trevor prevailed 25-17, 26-24.

Winner: Liam Hazelton

Runner up: Trevor Mason

GROUP 4

Group 4 was a showdown between Trevor Cornock, Mark Stephens, Richard Hazelton, and Rod Hall. The division 2 rivals Trevor and Rod started off the proceedings with a high calibre match up. They both took one close end each before battling it out for the last end. Trevor was looking strong, but Rod dug in and forced a 25-15 win.

Richard then played Mark. This division 3 rivalry was just as intense with both players having beaten each other on many occasions in the league making it a tough won to call. Richard was hitting well, but Mark retrieved everything and was flawless in defence, earning him a 2-0 victory. Richard stayed on to play Trevor, who's attacking game suited Richard's equally offensive style, but lightning struck twice, and once again, Richard lost, by a margin of 25-18, 25-21.

Mark's defensive excellence shone through again when he came to play Rod. Mark took the first end having riled Rod, but Rod came back and hit harder, winning him the next two ends. The final result: 15-25, 25-21, 25-18 to Rod. Mark stayed on to play Trevor, and once again, caused trouble with his consistency. He lost the first end to Trevor 25-20, but fought hard to win the next two, which he did giving him a 2-1 victory. Rod then played Richard in the last game of the group. Their styles complemented each other which was clear from the close score line of 25-18, 17-25, 25-22, which ended in Rod's favour.

Winner: Rod Hall

Runner up: Mark Stephens

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.

MAIN SINGLES

Group 1 winner Paul Ursell took on Group 4 runner up Mark Stephens. Both Paul and Mark had claimed their previous wins through consistent attacking and defending with very few errors made. This made for a tense battle that continued through the break while everyone else were stuffing their faces. Only four points separated the players in both ends with the winner, Paul, taking them 25-21, 25-21.

Next up was Group 2 winner Albert Fuggles versus Group 3 runner up Trevor Mason. Albert had been pushing well having defeated Derek Mills in the group stage, but against experienced division 1 player Trevor, this was just not enough. Trevor used his full array of attacking shots to lift the spin and dominate the rallies, earning him a 2-0 victory.

Group 3 winner Liam Hazelton then played Group 2 runner up Eric Davies. Liam won the first end convincingly 25-13 giving very few points away and managing to avoid Eric's pimples. But Eric forced Liam to play down his backhand side to his pimples and as a result managed to win the next two ends 25-18, 25-21.

The last of the quarter final bouts saw Group 4 winner Rod Hall take on Group 1 runner up Wayne Osborne. Wayne started well and gained an early lead due to the accuracy of his forehand attack, and was unlucky not to take the opening leg, which went to Rod 25-20. Rod then found momentum and increased the margin of victory by taking the next end 25-16, and progressing into the semi-finals, where he met Eric. Eric narrowly took the opening end 26-24 and was shaken up from Rod's attack which was likely to see Rod win the next end. But Eric pulled it out the bag in the next end and defeated Rod 25-7, sending him into the final.

Eric's challenger in the final would be either Trevor Mason, or last year's runner up Paul Ursell. Trevor and Paul have played each other in the 1st division and know each other's game which made for a tough battle. Trevor took the first end 26-24 having caught Paul napping. Paul then woke and took the next two ends 25-16, 25-21.

For the second year running, the final was between Paul and Eric. Paul's calm composure was most tested against Eric who had of course beaten Paul before but also was a nightmare to play due to his use of pimples. In fairness to Eric, equipment does not a champion make, and he played out of his skin when it was needed most. Eric took the first end 25-20 but was under pressure going into the next end. Unfortunately for Paul this ended with a similar margin and after an outrageously lucky serve from Eric, the match ended with Eric winning the title.

CONSOLATION

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

Then came the family rivalry of Tony and Derek Mills. The form that Tony exhibited in the group stage allowed him to dominate the match and take two ends on the trot, ending 25-19, 25-11.

Next was the match between Richard and Tony Shingleston. This was perhaps the closest of the knock out rounds, ending 25-22, 25-23 in Richards favour, sending him into the semi-finals against Tony Mills. They started from scratch as they are very close together in their league. Richard narrowly took the first end 25-22, but Tony came back and won the next two, sending him into the final.

The other semi-final match up was between Trevor and Charmane. Charmane gained her place through a bye, so was looking to continue her run. As ever, she was hitting well, and was giving Trevor trouble. Trevor adapted by adopting a pushing game, and took the match 25-23, 25-23.

The final was between Trevor and Tony 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 Tony the lead, and he kept it till the end, winning 25-15. As much as Trevor came back fighting, the second end followed suit, 25-11. Tony Mills was crowned champion.

DRAWN DOUBLES

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

The first game saw Tony Mills and Liam Hazelton take on Paul Ursell and John Jarvis. The strong pairing of Tony and Liam was just too much for John and Paul, who were defeated 25-14, 25-8.

The next game was Rod Hall and Mark Stephens versus Tony Shingleston and Wayne Osborne. Rod and Mark took the first end after a convincing start, 25-16. Tony and Wayne then fought back to take the next end by a narrow 25-22. Rod and Mark then consolidated their first end tactics and came through 25-21.

Eric Davies was due to play with Rob Bialgolowicz against Trevor Cornock and Richard Hazelton, but Rob had failed to show for the tournament, so Paul Ursell stepped in last minute to help out. This arguably made the team stronger, which showed in the close first end which went the way of Rich and Trev 25-23. They then won the next end 25-14 and won the match. Considering the circumstances, Eric was more than happy to see his opponents victorious.

The last quarter final match was between Trevor Mason/Charmane Fitch and Derek Mills/Albert Fuggles. Trevor and Charmane were strong in attack, but Derek and Albert persisted in defence, giving them a 2-0 win, and a place in the semi-finals against Trevor and Richard. This game was extremely close with the winning team taking a 27-25, 28-30, and 25-20 victory. It sounds straight forward, but actually, the teams couldn't decide how many ends they'd played, with some believing four ends had gone by, but ultimately, the result stayed.

Liam and Tony then stood up to play Rod and Mark. The first end was close, with Rod and Mark taking it 25-23. Liam and Tony were confident that they could claim the next end, but Rod and Mark were solid, and won the end 25-18, putting them through to the final against Trevor and Richard. This contest was surprisingly one-sided with Trevor and Richard locking shields and dominating the entire game, winning 25-19, 25-17.

Singles winner: Eric Davies
Consolation winner: Tony Mills
Doubles winners: Trevor Cornock and Richard Hazelton

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.

Report by Liam Hazelton.

26.03.14

Summer Competition 2014

Get ready for the next competition planned for week commencing Monday April 28th. Entry form on the Summer Competitions page.

12.03.14

Margate Tournament

This year's Margate Handicap Tournament had just twelve entrants. It started with a group stage with three players per group with the winner and runner up going through to the quarter finals.

Table one put Barry Cullen, Tony Morgan and Trevor Kelly together with Trevor finding the handicap too much to bridge and Tony won with Barry runner up.

Table two pitted Rob Pugh, Roy Lambert and Dave Stevens together. The handicap made for all close games going the full three sets with Rob Pugh winner and Dave as runner up.

Table three put Danny Lansdown against Denise Whalen and Paul Whittaker. Paul's awkward style saw him though as winner with Danny runner up.

Table four saw Sheena Stevens, Ron Knight and Bill Hackney together and Ron's consistent play ensured he went through as winner with Bill runner up. Sheena had tired herself out making the sandwiches in the morning.

Quarter Finals:

Ron Knight beat Dave Stevens
Tony Morgan beat Danny Lansdown
Paul Whittaker beat Rob Pugh
Bill Hackney beat Barry Cullen

Semi Finals:

Paul Whittaker beat Ron Knight
Tony Morgan beat Bill Hackney

Final:

Tony handled Paul's awkward style better than anyone on the day but it still wasn't good enough and Paul won the match and the title. Congratulations to the winner Paul Whittaker.

Report by Dave Stevens.

03.03.14

Finals Night - Review

Venue : Oddfellows Hall, Ramsgate, 28th Feb 2014

This year, like many years previous, was a spectacular showcase of grit, determination, and excitement. The venue was packed to the rafters from the off with the crowd supporting every contestant.

The under 16's final kicked off the evening with style. The juniors showed remarkable professionalism and composure under the pressure of the unfamiliar arena. Both Henry and Hugo appeared calm and in control which provided the crowd with a riveting opener to set the pace. Both players were hitting well, giving no clear indication of the eventual winner. In the deciding leg however, Henry's steely determination prevailed and he was crowned Under 16's champion. Having seen the calibre of the entire array of juniors under Alan Radford's wing, I look forward to seeing next year's bout as there is every chance that a new winner could emerge.

In the first of the league match ups, the division three singles, steady front-runner Tony Morgan took the reins in this match over challenger Mark Pemble. Both players were struggling to exhibit the quality of play that had seen them to the finals stage, and it was clear that testosterone levels were running high. Despite Mark's best efforts, the expected result came through, and Tony prevailed with a 3-0 victory.

Next up was the division two singles which saw anti-spin legend Rod Hall square up to red hot favourite Rob Pugh. The first leg was close. Rod's offensive strategy was pushing Rob's defensive capabilities to the limit, but as ever with Rob, his deceptive consistency eroded away Rod's powerful forehand, and he took the upper hand. After a tense battle, Rob succeeded, beating Rod 3 games to love.

The Allocated Doubles final saw Liam Hazelton and Paul Whittaker take on Rob Biagolowicz and Mark Stephens. Hazelton and Whittaker were deemed the favourites by some, but 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.

The Ladies singles, in the absence of Denise Whalen, took the form of a family affair betwixt Sheena and Becki Stevens. It was unclear who would come out on top, with Becki being the favourite on paper, but this was in question having lost to her mother in the consolation event of the tournament. It was a real ding-dong battle that saw sharp attacking shots fly across the table. The vital tipping point was Becki's competence in defence away from the table that gave her the edge and allowed her to beat Sheena 3-1.

The Consolation singles was in this writer's opinion, the most closely contested and enjoyable match to watch. It was a high quality matchup between division one players Jack Stewart and Trevor Kelly. You just couldn't pick it! Trevor's powerful attacking game looked set to see him through, but then Jack was defending champion and has had a cracker of a season. They each took two ends to force the fight into the deciding fifth end. At the start of the match, Jack had been offensively minded in an attempt to quash Trevor's opportunities to attack, but found added strength in the last end by stepping back and lobbing Trevor from afar. After all was said and done, Jack prevailed 3-2, and retained his title.

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 John Ferguson. Both players cruised into the final and were on good form. Many spectators may have guessed that Ian's uncanny ability to tolerate pimples would stand him in good stead, but John dominated from the get go, taking the attacking initiative, which as we know against Ian, is no easy task. The players exchanged looping forehands and precise backhands that provided the quality that is expected from players at this level. John took an early lead, and dominated till the end, earning himself a 3-0 victory.

The Open Doubles was contested between Margate A pair Andy Roberts and Dave Jeavons and Odds A pair Keith Clark and Dean Harris. Roberts and Jeavons went into the game as slight favourites due to their number one seeding and previous victory over the Odds pair in the league, 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 first leg that ended 18-16 in Odds' favour. Untroubled by this set back, Andy and Dave continued their assault and with some blistering forehands, took the second leg to even the score. Keith and Dean worked hard to re-ignite the form that had seen them win the opening leg, but fell once more to the lightning attack of the Margate pair. In the final end, Keith and Dean threw up some exhibition rallies in good taste to honour Margate's victory, which was appreciated by the crowd. 3-1 to Andy and Dave, Open doubles champions.

The evening reached its climax with this year's Open Singles event, which saw both a regular face, and one not so regular. Number 1 seed and reigning champion Ian Mileham faced number 2 seed and first time finalist Simon Hillier. Having witnessed the previous events, Simon was keen to capitalise on Ian's defeat earlier in the evening. In the league, he has had no luck in his games against Ian, but appeared to have a clearly defined strategy going into this stand-off – attack with the backhand, wide to Mileham's forehand. In the first leg, this was getting results,

and Simon steamed ahead in what were decidedly tricky waters. But Mileham retorted with a forehand torpedo to the hull of HMS Hillier. Simon made a valiant effort to stay afloat, but no one can deny the iceberg that is reigning champion Ian Mileham, this year's winner, by three games to love.

Report by Liam Hazelton

03.03.14

Kent League Update

Thanet's fifth fixture was home to Gravesend on the 2nd March. The outcome was a 6-4 win for Gravesend with Thanet narrowly missing out on a draw. Dave and Sheena both battled hard against Gravesend's star player Andy Lerner but found consolation in their strong wins against Damian Milton. Sadly Dave/Richard's doubles pairing couldn't clinch the draw. Congratulations to the Gravesend team.

Sheena Stevens 1

Dave Stevens 1

Richard Hazelton 2

Doubles 0 (DS/RH)

25.02.14

Closed Championships - Review

The 2014 Thanet Table Tennis Championships provided explosive games, high drama and the customary shock results. With each event played out to the end of the semi-finals, the finals can be seen at the Oddfellows Hall, Ramsgate from 7pm on Friday 28th February, spectators welcome!

This year's Open Singles event will see a regular face and one not so regular. Number 1 seed and reigning champion Ian Mileham eased his way into the showpiece final, dropping just one end along the way. Having dispatched Dave Stevens and Ron Knight in the group stage and John Jarvis in round 1, he met old adversary Dean Harris in the quarters. Harris had played well to cruise past Paul Ursell in round 1, but failed to replicate that form when faced with the topspin of Mileham. A 3-0 win saw the current champion move ominously into the semi's.

It was there he faced his toughest challenge in Dave Jeavons. Jeavons has performed well all season and showed his best when it mattered in the quarter finals having defeated Thanet stalwart Keith Clark from 2-0 down. Mileham was a class apart though, not allowing Jeavons any room for manoeuvre and pinning him to the barriers with a barrage of forehand and backhand loops. Jeavons did fight back to secure the third end and set up a grandstand finish, but Mileham upped his game again to book his place in the final once more.

His opponent will be number 2 seed and first time finalist Simon Hillier, whose route to the final saw him drop just two ends. Hillier found himself in trouble early on, with Becki Stevens playing exceptionally well to level the opening game of the day up at 1-1 all. Stevens led in the third, but couldn't quite keep up the levels of play that saw her win the second end, and eventually succumbed to a 3-1 defeat.

Round 1 saw a less than ideal looking tie for Hillier against Dennis Cannon, one of just three players to get the better of him over the course of the season. Hillier sneaked the first two ends 11-9, before opening up with confidence in the third to take a 3-0 win. The quarter finals saw one of the tightest games of the day against Andy Roberts. Hillier took the first end 11-9 before a mammoth and ultimately crucial second end also went the way of Hillier, taking it 19-17. Roberts did fight back to take the third end and showed even more fight in the fourth end, but with the game back in the balance, the luck swung Hillier's way to take it 14-12 and with it the match.

The semi-final saw Hillier come up against bogey player John Ferguson. Having already fallen to Ferguson twice this season, Hillier was certainly considered second favourite going into the game. Hillier took a scrappy first end and then found luck on his side for the next two ends, with the net offering some favourable bounces on several occasions to deny Ferguson a place in the final. The 3-0 score line was slightly flattering, but Hillier was still delighted to book his place in his maiden open singles final.

The Veterans final will be contested between Ian Mileham and John Ferguson. Mileham had a superb run to the final, defeating Bill Hackney, Rod Hall, Chris Hearn and Ron Rowley without dropping an end. Mileham's last two results were particularly impressive, with both Hearn and Rowley running Mileham close in the league this year.

Ferguson's passage to the final was also fairly smooth, defeating John Jarvis, Trevor Mason, Lee Edgington and Keith Clark. Mileham will be considered favourite for the game, but Ferguson will feel confident of running him close at the Odds.

The Open Doubles will be contested between Margate A pair Andy Roberts and Dave Jeavons and Odds A pair Keith Clark and Dean Harris. Roberts and Jeavons will go into the game as slight favourites due to their number one seeding and previous victory over the Odds pair in the league, but they will certainly not be taking the long

standing pair lightly. Roberts and Jeavons reached the final having ousted reigning champions Ron Rowley and Denis Cannon in four sets in the semi. Clark and Harris picked up an impressive win over Margate B pair Chris Hearn and John Ferguson to book their place having already defeated another long standing doubles pair in Trevor Kelly and Danny Lansdown.

The Allocated Doubles will see Liam Hazelton and Paul Whittaker take on Rob Biagolowicz and Mark Stephens. Hazelton and Whittaker look like the pair to beat having cruised through the earlier rounds, dropping just two ends in the process. Their semi final victory over Danny Lansdown and Dave Stevens looked tricky on paper, but their 3-0 win puts them right in the driving seat for Friday's final.

The Ladies singles sees a long awaited family affair, with Sheena Stevens taking on daughter Becki Stevens. Becki secured herself a spot in the final due to having the highest ranking out of the entrants, but Sheena had to overcome Charmane Fitch, which she did in style with a 3-0 win. Becki will go into the final as favourite, but Sheena's victory over Becki in the Consolation event will stand her in good stead to cause an upset.

The Division 2 singles provided us with the final that everyone expected, with Rob Pugh taking on Rod Hall. Pugh received a bye to the quarter final stage, then dispatched Darren Jones and Liam Hazelton to reach the final. Rod Hall had a slightly longer route to the final, defeating Billy Summers and Dave Stevens before an impressive 3-0 win over Roy Lambert booked his place in the final.

In Division 3, top seed Tony Morgan had a fairly comfortable route to the final having seen off newcomer Bill Hackney and Barry Cullen. Cullen did push the finalist the distance, but couldn't overcome Morgan's consistent attack. Mark Pemble is a surprise finalist after he picked up two good wins over Charmane Fitch and Richard Hazelton to reach the final.

The Consolation singles sees another high quality final, with both finalists Jack Stewart and Trevor Kelly coming from the first division. Kelly suffered a surprise defeat to Danny Lansdown in the group stage of the open singles, which immediately made him the favourite to take the Consolation crown. Jack Stewart though is in good form, and he will be more than a match for Kelly in what could be one of the games of the night.

The Under 16's event sees two new finalists in what will be a breath of fresh air to the event. With all previous winners now too old to compete, Henry Mileham and Hugo Ursell will battle it out for the league's only junior event. Both will be confident of victory, and fathers Ian Mileham and Paul Ursell (both top division players) will of course be cheering their son's on from the sidelines.

The finals night on Friday 28th February at the Oddfellows Hall in Ramsgate. Spectators are warmly welcomed and entry is free! The under 16's final will kick the evening off at 7pm.

20.02.14

Closed Championships - Preview

This year's Thanet Championships is fast approaching, and with the 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 an epic final against Alan Taylor. However, things look to be substantially more difficult for him this year with a huge clash with Dean Harris on the cards in the quarter finals. Should he battle past Harris, Dave Jeavons looks his most likely opponent in what would be a semi worthy of the final.

At the other end of the draw, number two seed Simon Hillier will be looking to finally get one over his quarter final opponent Andy Roberts. The pair have met at the same stage in the two of the previous three competitions, with Hillier yet to take an end. Should he overcome the challenge of Roberts, he will await the winner of the pick of the quarter finals, Ron Rowley and John Ferguson, in the semi's.

However, despite all this talk of quarter and semi-finals, there are some excellent looking second round ties to look forward to. Number five seed Dave Jeavons will have his work cut out against the unpredictable Chris Hearn, while Ron Rowley and Trevor Kelly will also lock horns in round two.

Where is the potential upset in the knockout rounds? Should things go to plan, the in-form Jack Stewart will face Keith Clark in round two in what could be a huge upset. The Hoath star has been in fine form recently and will certainly be a match for Clark.

The group stage could also see the odd upset along the way as well. Chris Hearn will have the unenviable task of getting past the steely push and block of Rob Pugh early in the morning, not for the feint hearted!

In the Division 2 competition, Rob Pugh will start as red hot favourite. In fact, Pugh has a bye through the quarter finals, where he will await the winner of Darren Jones and Ron Knight.

Liam Hazelton will be a firm contender to face Pugh in the semi's. Hazelton's first season in the second division has been a huge success, and he could cap this success with a monumental tournament victory at Ramsgate.

Where do the potential upsets lie in Division 2? Becki Stevens is capable of beating anyone on her day, and Derek Mills will have to be on form to keep her at bay.

Billy Summers has had a difficult first season in Division 2, but will fancy his chances against Rod Hall in round one, who he took to five sets earlier in the season.

In Division 3, Tony Morgan starts as favourite in the absence of average leader Steve Tebbett. Despite Morgan being number one seed, there are any number of potential winners, with Mark Pemble, Richard Hazelton, Dave Benfield, Barry Cullen and Mark Stephens all eager to get their name on the trophy.

Game of the day in Division 3 could be Mark Pemble vs Charmane Fitch who are due to meet in the quarter finals. Both play attacking games, and if both are on form it could be the game to watch in Division 3.

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 Jeavons will be confident they can reach their first doubles final, but will face some stubborn resistance from Lee Featherbe and Mick Palmer in the quarter finals before a compelling match up against the chop of Dennis Cannon and hitting of Ron Rowley.

Number two seeds Keith Clark and Dean Harris will be looking to reach their 935th (ish) doubles final. They will however have an early test against the equally long standing pairing of Danny Lansdown and Trevor Kelly in the quarter final. Their semi final could be as equally well match as the semi on the other side of the draw, with Chris Hearn and John Ferguson their potential opponents.

Potential upset? Derek Mills and Rod Hall face the scratch pairing of Simon Hillier and Trevor Mason in round one. Too tight to call!

In the Vets singles, Ian Mileham will again be looking to retain his title he won last year. He does face some tricky potential match ups though, with Trevor Kelly or Chris Hearn likely opponents in the quarter finals before a semi final with Ron Rowley or Dean Harris.

In the other side of the draw, John Ferguson has the number two seed spot. He will also face a tough draw though if he is to make it through to the final, with Lee Edgington a quarter final opponent before a match up with bogey player Keith Clark in the semi's.

Where are shocks in the early rounds of the vets? Trevor Kelly will need to be firing to book his place in round two as he faces Division 3 number one seed Tony Morgan in what could be a tight game. Elsewhere, Derek Mills will fancy his chances against the higher ranked Danny Lansdown in round two.

The Ladies event sees just three entries, meaning that number one seed Becki Stevens has her place in the final booked without even having to pick up her bat. She will face the winner of Sheena Stevens and Charmane Fitch in the only semi-final.

20.01.14

Handicap Singles Competition

This year's January Singles Handicap Tournament, much like years previous, attracted players from all divisions, vying to get their name on the all important trophy.

Group 1 saw Paul Ursell, Sheena Stevens, and Tony Morgan, step up to contest a tight opening group stage. Only two players from each group are put through to the knockout round, so in a group of three players, the fight was on. Tony achieved first place with his comfortable wins over both Sheena and Paul. He was then followed by Sheena who also beat Paul, sending the two of them safely through.

Group 2 was also a three man battle. Dave Stevens sent both Rob Pugh and Mark Pemble packing with his solid performances, leaving the remaining space to be fought between Rob and Mark. Mark, who this year has been playing division three, played some blinding shots that made the audience think twice about who the successor would be. But the deceptively steady Rob pulled through and nudged Mark out of the top two spots.

Group 3 was shaping up to be a real cracker, with Danny Lansdown, Becki Stevens, Barry Cullen, and Bill Hackney all squabbling over those top two positions. But sudden news arrived that Barry would be a no-show, which really turned up the heat. Just to make it even worse for the contenders, all three players won one game each, bringing the deciding difference down to ends won. The result: after the calculations were over, Becki took first and Danny took second.

The last of the group stages, Group 4, was the by far the most intense. It was the only group to account for four players, who were Ron Knight, Charmane Fitch, and the father and son duo, Liam and Richard Hazelton. Ron took the lead from the beginning and dominated till the end; first place slipped away within a flash. Liam and Richard eliminated Charmane who, despite her efforts, walked away without any wins. The fight for second place was therefore left down to a family match between the Hazeltons. Liam was the victor, who defeated his Dad 2-1 (he received no dinner later that evening).

The knock out rounds then began, with the winner of Group 1 (Tony) vs. Group 4 runner-up (Liam). Tony had been on good form going into the match, but was unable to answer Liam's tricky services, which handed him the advantage in what were close ends, and saw him through to the semi-finals.

The Group 2 winner (Dave) then faced Group 3 runner-up (Danny). This contest stretched to the full three legs with the first two divided evenly between them. Having lost the second end to Danny 25-24, Dave was eager to take revenge and seal the deal, but Danny found his footing, and his division 1 experience helped him take the final end, and the path into the semi finals.

Group 3 winner (Becki) then came up against the Group 2 runner-up (Rob). This also finished 2-1, with some displays of brilliance from Becki who appeared to be adapting to Rob's defensive style. But Rob fought back and dug in like a tick on a camel, stealing the win from under Rebecca's nose, sending him into the semi finals.

Group 4 winner (Ron) stepped up to play Group 1 runner-up (Sheena) in the last of the quarter final match ups. Both players were close both in ability and handicap, which resulted in the ends being won by just 2 or 3 points a pop. After all was said and done, the rampaging Ron Knight took the win, and the final place among the semi finalists.

The first semi final saw Liam and Danny exchanging blows from early on in the fight. Liam took the first end after capitalising on his serves and loops, but Danny quickly adapted and sent the dismayed teen out of the competition with style.

The second semi was between league team mates, Rob and Ron. Rob was the favourite to win, but Ron remained calm and collected right the way through the match, and controlled the game from start to finish, seeing him through to the final duel with Danny.

Many of the contestants stayed behind to watch the game, wishing to cheer on the people that beat them. Both players had played astonishingly well all day, and in the case of Ron, had not lost a single game on his way up. The two ends ended 25-23, which accurately represented how close the two of them were. It was a thoroughly enjoyable game to have witnessed. Commiserations to Danny Lansdown, this year's runner-up, and congratulations to Ron Knight, who won the trophy for 2014, and was without a doubt the strongest player there that day.

Report by Liam Hazelton.

19.01.14

W/C 13.01

Margate B had the opportunity to cut the gap on leaders Margate A, but their game with Odds B failed to follow the script. John Ferguson picked up a routine hat-trick over a strong Odds side, but only Denis Cannon could add further to the Margate singles tally. For Odds, Lee Edgington and Peter Chapman both picked up two a piece with Derek Brown supporting with one win. It was a disappointing night for Chris Hearn, who failed to trouble the scorers. Margate did register another doubles win to secure the draw, but Odds will be pleased to come away with five points as they look to claw themselves away from trouble.

Odds A did manage to pull themselves back into the title race with a 9-1 win over mid-table Hoath. Keith Clark and Dean Harris both registered hat-tricks, with Andy Cannon dropping the only point of the night as he went down in five to Jack Stewart. Neither Steve Cannon nor Adam Goodall troubled the scorers, but both did go the distance at some point in the evening, with Cannon just falling to his brother Andy and Goodall going the distance with Harris.

Ian Mileham continued his comeback with a straight forward hat-trick for Margate C against Rebels B. He did drop an end to the ever improving Liam Hazleton, but that was as far as he was pushed as the everlasting quest for fitness continues! Trevor Kelly also recorded a hat-trick despite being pushed to five by James Barker, but it was a quiet night for Danny Lansdown, who secured a win over Ian Barker but fell to both James Barker and Hazelton. Margate's 8-2 win has pushed them above Hoath as the race for fourth begins to hot up.

Rebels C went some way to securing the second division title with a 6-4 win over second placed Rebels E. The only hat-trick of the night came in a losing cause, with the E side's Alan Dennahy securing an outstanding trio of

wins. However, he received little support, with Alan Radford winning the only other game for the E side. For the victors and champions elect, Liam Hazelton and Trevor Cornock both won two and Tony Shingleston one.

Margate D moved into fourth having defeated lowly Sandwich A 6-4. Rob Pugh and Ron Knight continued their good form with a hat-trick apiece, but Billy Summers' attempts fell short, although he did push Derek Bailey to four.

In Division 3, the title race continues to hot up after Margate G's 9-1 over Margate H kept them five points clear at the top. Tony Morgan and Steve Tebbett both registered hat-tricks, with only Pete Limond the only player to drop a game as he fell to Dave Hanson in straight sets.

Sandwich B kept up the pressure on Margate G with a 9-1 win of their own over Invicta A. Hat-tricks from Derek East and Andy Smith sent them on their way, and they were well supported by Graham Watson who chipped in with two wins. Vic Woods and Richard Llewellyn Jones left empty handed for Invicta, but Dave Benfield did avert the whitewash with his win over Watson.

Rebels F fell to a surprising 6-4 defeat to Invicta B. For Invicta, Mark Pemble and Roy Byford both battled to two wins a piece, with John Croft winning one. Richard Hazelton had a topsy-turvy night for Rebels, defeating John Croft and Mark Pemble, but then fell in five to Byford. Rebels were relying on stand in John Jarvis to pick up a point or two along the way, but he failed to trouble the scorers, but did take John Croft to four.

STAR OF THE WEEK - Alan Dennahey

13.01.14

Report W/C 6.01

Table Tennis returned to Thanet after the Christmas break with some great games and surprise results.

In Division 1, Margate A now have one hand on the trophy having defeated second placed Margate B 8-2. Only John Ferguson could register a singles win for the B side as he overcame Simon Hillier in the first game of the night. Andy Roberts had an exceptional night, overcoming both Ferguson and Ron Rowley having been 2-0 down in both. Dave Jeavons also performed well to secure yet another hat-trick. It was a barren night for Rowley and Chris Hearn who both left empty handed. The B side did secure the doubles, which leaves them 18 points behind the A side.

Odds A did all they could to keep up with the top two, picking up a 10-0 win over basement side Rebels B. Dean Harris, Andy Cannon and the returning Sharon Clark all secured comfortable hat-tricks to keep them in touch.

Hoath picked up the result of the week in Division 1 as they overcame Rebels A 9-1. Mike Chapman and Jack Stewart both registered hat-tricks over the two man Rebels side consisting of Paul Ursell and JJ Llewellyn Jones. Rebels only point came from Ursell, who defeated Steve Cannon in four tight ends.

Rebels C succumbed to their first defeat of the season as they fell to Margate D. Rob Pugh was the hat-trick hero for Margate, with Ron Knight supporting with two. It was a disappointing night for Rebels, with Liam Hazelton and Tony Shingleston only picking up one win each. Trevor Cornock fared slightly better as he defeated Knight and Billy Summers to register two wins. The all-important doubles went the way of Margate in 5 close ends to boost their chances of a top four finish.

Rebels E couldn't take advantage of the C side's slip up as they were held to a 5-5 draw by Margate F. Alan Radford did all he could with his three wins, but with Alan Dennehy and Clive Beerling winning just two between them, it went down to the all-important doubles, with Margate creeping over the line in five to secure the draw.

Division 2 stalwarts Barnstonworth are now in serious trouble at the bottom of the table. Their 8-2 defeat to Rebels D did nothing to help their cause, although Bob Malins victory over Rod Hall was the one bright spot on the night in what has been a disastrous season so far. Barnstonworth's only other point came from Jeff Stephenson who defeated Albert Fuggles in four.

Margate E continued their revival with a 6-4 win over Sandwich A. Roy Lambert picked up his customary treble and received good support from Denise Whalen who defeated Sandwich's Derek Bailey and Ed Matthews, and Chris Davies who defeated Bailey.

Margate G moved to the top of the third division with a resounding 8-2 win over BT. Steve Tebbett continued his fine form with a hat-trick, but was pushed to five by Den McIntosh and Tony Dannell. It was Dannell who picked up BT's pair, defeating Tony Morgan and Peter Limond.

The two remaining Invicta sides clashed in a third division basement battle. Mark Pemble continues to keep his B side in touch with another hat-trick. John Croft did well to register a win against Tom Bowling, but that was all the

B side could muster as they slipped to a 6-4 defeat. For the A side, Dave Benfield and Richard Llwellyn Jones both secured two wins.

For the remainder of the season, a star of the week mention will go to the player or players who has performed above expectations.

Star of the week – Andy Roberts (Margate A) and Bob Malins (Barnstonworth)

13.01.14

Juniors Club Coaching

Help and support needed. Interested Members are invited to apply (details on the Juniors page)

17.11.13

Kent League Update

Thanet's third fixture was away to Canterbury C on the 17th November. The outcome was a 7-3 win for Canterbury but Sheena impressed most of all by winning two of her games while Dave supported by adding a third. Congratulations to the Canterbury team and many thanks for their hospitality and advice.

Sheena Stevens 2
Dave Stevens 1
Richard Hazelton 0
Doubles 0 (SS/RH)

The fourth fixture was home to Canterbury B on the 12th January. The outcome was a 6-4 win for Canterbury with Dave winning all three of his matches (including an impressive 3-0 win against their strongest player who until now had 100% average). Sheena also delivered a sturdy win which made up the fourth point. Dave and Sheena went on to battle in the doubles and narrowly missed making it a draw overall. Nevertheless, this was the best result for the team to date but congratulations must go to Canterbury who were rewarded with both victory and victuals.

Dave Stevens 3
Sheena Stevens 1
Richard Hazelton 0
Doubles 0 (DS/SS)

17.11.13

Report W/C 11/10

Margate A continued their 100% winning start with an 8-2 win over Margate C. With talisman Ian Mileham missing, the C side were always going to be up against it, but they made life difficult for the A side throughout. The only player to come away with three wins was Simon Hillier, who was well supported by Dave Jeavons and Andy Roberts who both picked up two a piece. John Ferguson was Mileham's stand in, and he played well to inflict Dave Jeavons first defeat of the season. Trevor Kelly played well to defeat Andy Roberts to pick up the C side's other point.

Margate B tightened their grip on second place with a fantastic 8-2 win over Odds A. John Ferguson was the star of the show, dropping just one end on his way to a hat-trick. Chris Hearn and Ron Rowley supported well, with two wins apiece. However, the most suprising result of the night went in Odds favour, with a 3-2 win for Derek Brown over Rowley. Odds now have a battle on their hands to catch either Margate side, but it will be a challenge they will surely relish.

In the battle at the bottom, Rebels B were thrashed 9-1 by Hoath. Mike Chapman and Jack Stewart both recorded hat-tricks, with only Steve Cannon dropping a game to James Barker. Trevor Mason and Ian Barker were both unfortunate not to add to the score, but their first visit to Hoath ended in a heavy defeat.

In Division 2, Margate F picked up an important 7-3 win over Margate E. Both Becki and Dave Stevens picked up impressive victories over Roy Lambert to guide them home. Derek Walker also weighed in with two wins over Denise Whalen and Chris Davies. The win moves the F side off the foot of the table and back in the hunt for a mid-table spot.

In the all Rebels clash, the E side got the better of their D side with a 6-4 win. Alan Dennehy was the only hat-trick hero of the night, defeating the D side's trio of Derek Mills, Albert Fuggles and Rod Hall. Alan Radford also weighed in with two wins, falling only to Rod Hall.

In Division 3, Margate G tightened their grip on top spot with a 10-0 victory over Rebels F. Steve Tebbett's impressive form continues, winning his three without dropping an end. Tony Morgan and Pete Limond secured

hat-tricks to seal the maximum. Ian Rackley came closest to an upset, only to fall in the 5th to Morgan.

BT's recovery from their disastrous start continues, with a 7-3 win over Invicta B. Only Mark Pemble managed to put up resistance for Invicta, recording a hat-trick to keep his side in touch with the other teams in the division. For BT, Trev Goldsmith, Tony Dannell and Den McIntosh picked up two wins each to secure victory.

Derek East returned to his imperious best with a comfortable hat-trick to steer his Sandwich B side to a 6-4 win over Rebels G. Andy Smith picked up two wins, but couldn't overcome the consistency of Tony Mills. Graham Watson's sole victory came over John Jarvis to add to the Sandwich tally.

03.11.13

Summary

Due to the recent lack of reports posted on the website, the gap will be plugged with Thanet Table Tennis' very first stat attack!

Division 1

Average Leader – Dave Jeavons (100%)

Most wins – Dave Jeavons (15)

Win of the season so far – Jack Stewart (Hoath) 3-2 Dean Harris (Odds A)

Match with the most five enders – Margate C vs Odds B (4)

Most fifth end defeats – Danny Lansdown (4)

Most fifth end victories – Danny Lansdown, Mick Eames (3)

Division 2

Average Leader – Alan Radford, Roy Lambert, Rod Hall (91%)

Most wins – Rob Pugh, Trevor Cornock, Liam Hazelton (13)

Win of the season so far – Dave Stevens 3-0 Rod Hall

Match with the most five enders – Sandwich A vs Barnstonworth (4)
Rebels E vs Margate F (4)

Most fifth end defeats – Derek Bailey, Becki Stevens (4)

Most fifth end victories – Ron Knight (4)

Division 3

Average Leader – Steve Tebbett (100%)

Most wins – Derek East (13)

Win of the season so far – Eric Davies 3-2 Pete Limond

Match with the most five enders – Sandwich B vs Margate H (4)
BT vs Rebels F (4)

Most fifth end defeats – Dave Hanson (3)

Most fifth end victories – Derek East (4)

19.10.13

Thanet play first Kent League matches

Thanet have entered one team into the Kent League this season and the first fixture was away to Folkestone B on the 6th October. The outcome was a 7-3 win for Folkestone but with three of the losing games going into tight fifth ends then arguably a bit more confidence could have made it a 6-4 win for Thanet so the team are optimistic

and looking forward to the next challenges. Congratulations to the Folkestone B team and many thanks for their hospitality.

Dave Stevens 2
Sheena Stevens 0
Richard Hazelton 1
Doubles 0 (DS/RH)

The next fixture was at home against Maidstone C on the 20th October. Thanet were faced with a Maidstone team comprising one first division and two second division players. With ratings ranging from 2625 to 2829 there were predictable results (Maidstone won 9-1). Dave snared the only win in a five ender that went right to the wire. Similarly, two more games went to five ends with the exception that Richard failed to convert either. Sheena also put up a good fight against their first division player, but as often occurs the end result didn't reflect the effort. Thanet were gracious in defeat with an impressive banquet of sandwiches and cakes courtesy of the Stevens clan.

Subsequent 3rd division fixtures are as follows:

Canterbury C - Sunday 17-Nov-13 at 2.30pm (Away)
Canterbury B - Sunday 12-Jan-14 at 2.30pm (Home)
Gravesend - Sunday 2-Mar-14 at 2.30pm (Home)
Ashford C - Sunday 6-April-14 at 2.30pm (Away)
Maidstone D - Sunday 13-April-14 at 2.30pm (Home)

(Kent League match on 2-Feb-14 has been cancelled as Ashford D have had to withdraw from the league due to long term injury)

08.10.13

Week 2

Monday 30th September

Odds A secured their second 9-1 win in as many weeks, this time over their B side. Keith Clark and Dean Harris were again in fine form, winning their three. For the B side, it was Mick Eames who picked up their solitary win, defeating Andy Cannon in four.

Margate A extended their lead at the top of the table with a 9-1 win over Hoath. Dave Jeavons and Simon Hillier both recorded comfortable hat-tricks, but it was Hoath's Jack Stewart who put in the performance of the night, defeating Andy Roberts in four.

Rob Pugh's Margate D secured a 6-4 win over Margate F. Pugh recorded consecutive hat-tricks, but was pushed all the way to five by Derek Walker. Ron Knight also registered a hat-trick for the D side. Sheena Stevens, Dave Stevens and Walker all picked up one win a piece over the luckless Billy Summers.

Tuesday 1st October

Paul Ursell registered what could already be the shock win of the season with his 3-1 win over reigning Thanet singles champion Ian Mileham. What made Ursell's win even more surprising was his failure to overcome either of Mileham's team-mates, Trevor Kelly or Danny Lansdown. For Rebels, Mick Palmer picked up two wins, along with one a piece for Rob Biagolowicz and Ursell in what was an entertaining 5-5 draw.

BT's woeful start to the season continued at the hands of Sandwich B, who inflicted an 8-2 defeat on Trev Goldsmith's men. Derek East and Andy Smith's hat-tricks steered the way for Sandwich, with Graham Watson winning one to top up Sandwich's tally for the evening. For beleaguered BT, only Den McIntosh and Tony Dannell could trouble the scorecard, both picking up wins against Watson.

Pre season title contenders Margate H have suffered a poor start to the season, this week falling to Rebels G. Tony Mills bagged an impressive hat-trick, defeating the Margate trio of Dave Hanson, Caroline Hanson and Barry Cullen.

Wednesday 2nd October

Rebels B recorded their first points of the season, perhaps where they weren't expecting to. James and Ian Barker both picked up wins over Margate B's Dennis Cannon, although any thoughts of a shock victory for the Rebels side were soon wiped out by hat-tricks from Chris Hearn and John Ferguson.

Roy Lambert put in a great performance to secure a hat-trick against Rebels E. Lambert overcame the challenge

of Alan Dennehy, Alan Radford and Clive Beerling to guide his side to a narrow 6-4 defeat.

Margate G thrashed Invicta B to continue their solid start to the season. Tony Morgan and Steve Tebbett both secured hat-tricks for Margate, but Pete Limond's shaky start to the season continued with defeat to Mark Pemble.

Thursday 3rd October

Barnstonworth's start to the season has been a disaster, with their opening night thrashing backed up by a further mauling at the hands of Rebels C. Only Darren Jones victory over Tony Shingleston was of slight consolation, as Rebels romped home with a 9-1 win thanks to hat-tricks from Liam Hazelton and Trevor Cornock.

Sandwich A suffered their second defeat of the season as their faltering start also continued. They were beaten by a Rod Hall inspired Rebels D, whose hat-trick steered his side to a 6-4 win. For Sandwich, Derek East picked up two, with Rob Smith and Derek Bailey picking up just the one win apiece.

28.09.13

Week 1

Monday 23rd September

Odds A started their campaign with a comfortable 9-1 win over Rebels A. Dean Harris marked the new season with an impressive return to form, dropping just two ends all evening. Keith Clark was also on form, but he had to work hard to overcome Mick Palmer, who had raced into an early 2-0 lead.

Andy Cannon was the only man to fall for Odds, having succumbed to bogey player Paul Ursell. Ursell's steady style of play has always troubled Cannon, with neither player generating any pace for the other to work with.

Odds will be confident that if they can maintain the early form they have shown, they will be pushing the other title contenders to the wire.

Rob Pugh's return to division two ended in an inevitable hat-trick, with only Roy Lambert pushing him past the minimum three legs. Division 2 stalwart Ron Knight secured two wins for his side, defeating Denise Whalen and Chris Davies. On his second division debut, Billy Summers can be rightfully proud of his victory over Davies. Not only did Summers claim victory, but the manner of his 3-0 win will stand him in good stead for the rest of the campaign.

Early title favourites Rebels E begun their season with a 7-3 win over Barnstonworth. With skipper Alan Dennehy having dropped himself for the opening bout, it was down to Alan Radford and Peter Burton to secure their expected maximums. Both obliged, with neither showing any signs of early season rustiness. Clive Beerling struggled though, with the Barnstonworth trio of Bob Malins, Colin Tyman and Darren Jones going through the mystery pimples with a bit to spare.

Tuesday 24th September

Game of the night could be found in Division 1, with Margate C entertaining Margate B. The game saw the return of Ian Mileham, who had been struggling all summer with a wrist injury, and his lack of match practice very nearly showed. Mileham was pushed all the way to a deciding set by an inspired Chris Hearn, and was also challenged by Ron Rowley in four tight sets. Mileham's hat-trick wasn't backed up by his team-mates though, with both Danny Lansdown and Trevor Kelly failing to trouble the scoresheet.

In Division 2, Margate F got their campaign off to a fine start with a 6-4 win over last year's table toppers Sandwich A. Derek Walker proved to be the hero for Margate with an early season hat-trick, and he was well supported by Dave Stevens who secured a brace. Becki Stevens was unlucky not to get her name on the scoresheet, after tight defeats to Derek Bailey and Ed Matthews.

Title contenders Rebels C have started the season in excellent form after a stunning 9-1 win over Rebels D. The C side, who are much changed from last season, will be looking to challenge for the title with the additions of Tony Shingleston and the ever improving Liam Hazelton. However, it was Rebels stalwart Trevor Cornock who was the mainstay of the win, dropping just two ends for his hat-trick.

Sandwich B, who have dropped down to Division 3, will be confident of returning to the second tier at the first time of asking. They begun their campaign with a comfortable 8-2 win over Invicta B, with Andy Smith steering the ship with a comfortable hat-trick.

Wednesday 25th September

Hoath made a losing start to life in Thanet having been beaten 6-4 by Odds B. Mike Chapman will be satisfied with his start though, having picked up two wins over John Walker and Derek Brown. Steve Cannon will also be pleased to have picked up his first win early on having also defeated Brown. Adam Goodall failed to trouble the scorers. For Odds, Mick Eames was the hero, winning his three to make it a successful start to the season for Odds.

In Division 3, it was a dismal start for BT, who were thrashed by lowly Invicta A in what was the shock result of the opening week. Tom Bowling and Dave Benfield both recorded hat-tricks for Invicta, with Richard Llewellyn Jones supporting well with two. For BT, Trev Goldsmith was the only player to trouble the scoresheet, with Bill Hackney and Den McIntosh especially suffering poor starts to the season.

Thursday 26th September

Reigning champions Margate A got their campaign off to the perfect start, defeating Rebels B 10-0 and dropping just two ends in the process. The night marked a division one debut for Trevor Mason, but he found the going tough, winning just one end all night. James Barker played some exquisite shots throughout the night but failed to back them up when needed.

Rebels F made a winning start to life in Division 3, with Charmane Fitch recording a hat-trick in their 6-4 win over Margate H. Fitch was supported well by Richard Hazelton who won two, and Dave Rolfe who picked up one. It was an unfortunate night for Dave Hanson, who lost all three games in five ends.

Title contenders Margate G made a good start to the season, defeating Rebels G 6-4. Tony Morgan and Steve Tebbet bagged hat-tricks, but it was a dismal start for Pete Limond, who failed to register a win. For Rebels, Tony Mills, Mark Stephens and Eric Davies all picked up one a piece.

20.08.13

Kent League Entry Forms

Closing date is 31st 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.

Events

Event 28.08.13

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Hartsdown Table Tennis Centre is closed for floor preparations from Wednesday 28th August to Monday 2nd September inclusive.

Event 20.10.13

Kent League Home Match

One table required for fixture against Maidstone C (2.30-6pm approx)

Event 26.10.13

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Hartsdown Table Tennis Centre is closed for heater/electrical work weekend commencing Saturday 26th October.

Event 12.01.14

Kent League Home Match

One table required for fixture against Canterbury B (2.30-6pm approx)

Event 19.01.14

Handicap Singles Competition

Event commences at 10am at the ITTTA Centre. Entry fee is £2.50. Entry form is on the notice board at the centre. Apply fast to avoid disappointment!

Event 23.02.14

Closed Championships 2014

This season's event is scheduled for Sunday 23rd February at the Ramsgate Leisure Centre 9am prompt. Entry forms will be made available in due course.

Event 28.02.14

Finals Night - Closed Championships 2014

This is to be held for all competition categories at the Odd Fellows Hall Ramsgate on Friday 28th February commencing 7pm prompt.

Event 02.03.14

Kent League Home Match

One table required for fixture against Gravesend (2.30-6pm approx)

Event 12.04.14

Open Weekend

COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN WEEKEND
Between 10.00am and 1pm on Saturday 12th or Sunday
13th April at the Hartsdown Table Tennis Centre and
Discover that Hidden Table Tennis Talent!

Event 15.04.14

Quickenden/Burden Cup Finals

This is scheduled to occur 7.30pm at the Odds Ramsgate

Event 27.04.14

Kent League Home Match

One table required for fixture against Maidstone D (2.30-6pm approx)

Event 17.05.14

Presentation Evening

The annual ITTTA Presentation Evening will be held at The Odds, High Street, Ramsgate commencing 8pm. Tickets will be available from Committee Members in due course and the price will include Food and Entertainment.

Event 24.05.14

Dover & Folkestone Ping Pong Tournament

Dover Sports Centre 9am

Event 18.06.14

2014 AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Hartsdown Centre on Wednesday 18th June commencing at 8pm (Minutes from 2013 AGM will be provided at the event).

Event 24.07.14

Summer Coaching School 2014

For details and booking view the News & Event attachment bar.