News Bulletin

Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League

Volume 11, Issue 2

Winter 2010

Are you committed to table tennis?

You will have read pleas in this newsletter before for volunteers to help run the League. Someone has to do it, and the Management Committee is currently running low on the numbers needed to ensure the smooth running of all table tennis activities in the area. The pace of 21st Century life may be fast, and spare time is in short supply, but unless people are prepared to come forward, there will be no coaching of new players, no website, no cup competitions or tournaments and ultimately no League at all.

The Management Committee currently has several vacancies – can you help with coordinating coaching, running events and competitions or liaison with the ETTA?

Any assistance would be welcome. Please contact League Chairman David Hayman on 020 8866 6519 if you can help.

Additionally, the League needs someone with technical wizardry to take the website to places it can't reach at the moment. If you have any expertise or suggestions in this area, please contact the editor.

Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League

Enquiries about this Bulletin should be made to:
Steve Leven on 01923 227457
or email: wembley.harrow@btinternet.com

Don't forget to visit our website at www.wembleyharrowtt.f9.co.uk

Table Tennis streaming

If you can't get to Sheffield, there's another way to follow the top international players. Readers may have heard of the streaming website www.myyp2p.eu where all sorts of sporting events, being shown on a television station somewhere in the world, are consolidated. Find the event you want, click on the link and you will be able to watch a stream of the broadcast on your internet browser.

The picture quality can be poor at times, the commentary may be in another language and the pop-up adverts are nothing if not annoying, but it's better than nothing. Most of the top table tennis events are covered (it's more comprehensive than the ITTF coverage on www.ittf.com/ittv) and there is no registration, nor cost.

The good news for junior table tennis in our area is that not only is the Olympus Shield back after a 16-year absence, but that no fewer than ten teams have entered the 2010-11 competition.

The inter-club event will be played in single knockout matches leading towards a final in the spring. The Davis Cup format of four singles and one doubles, with two players in each team, will be used.

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Friends and teammates of Harvey Burns were saddened to learn of Harvey's death in October, aged 71, less than three months after being diagnosed with cancer. Harvey was for many years a member of the League and was a serving Management Committee member at the time of his death.

Harvey joined the League in the mid-1970s and played for The Drive, Edgware, Headstone and ultimately Kenton, and was most often a member of a team in the middle divisions of the League, usually with Geoff Rabbow as his teammate. He was perhaps most feared for his tricky service and was renowned for giving fellow players an audible assessment of his own play (usually negative after he had lost a point). In addition to joining the Committee in 2006 as Representative Match Coordinator, Harvey encouraged his own grandsons from the time that they could see above the line of the table and gave them regular coaching at the Harrow Leisure Centre.

Initially trained as a chemist, Harvey became involved with the American direct selling organisation Swipe in the 1970s. Those who knew Harvey could not have been surprised as he became an instant success as a salesman, cajoling potential customers with a magic mix of persuasion and logic. Later on, Harvey turned to insurance, a career from which he retired in 2008.

He is survived by a wife, Helen, two sons, a daughter and several grandchildren.
English Open Championships at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield

The English Open is undoubtedly the crown jewel of elite table tennis events and last year it was voted the best Pro Tour event of the season by the International Table Tennis Federation. This year prize money of £150,000 is on offer and most of the top world table tennis talents are expected to play.

Tickets for 66th English Open International Table Tennis in Sheffield on 26th - 30th January 2011 are available online at www.arenaticketshop.co.uk or through the ticket hotline on 0114 256 55 67 (there is a 15% discount available if you quote ‘TABTEN2012’ over the phone). Prices start at £6 up to £35.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all

League and Cup scorecards

Here are some top scorecard tips:

• Scorecards should be legible, PLEASE! If you think that the scorecard is becoming a bit messy, you can always start a new one.

• Make sure the full names of each player are stated, i.e. first name and surname.

• In the For and Against columns, the score in games should be entered, 3-0, 3-1, 3-2, etc., and not 1-0 or 0-1 to the winner.

• Each team should keep a record of the scores of their matches. This will serve as a reference in the event of a later query and also you will find it useful when it comes to completing the details on the right-hand side of the scorecard.

• Ensure that both captains sign the card.

• Don’t delay in sending it off. One of the worst things for any league or cup organiser is the late notification of results.

Please note that scorecards MAY be submitted electronically. Provided that they have been completed, signed and are legible when scanned (preferably in pdf format), you can send by e-mail instead of by regular post:

League: evelynandgeorge@talktalk.net
Cups: tony.dias@btinternet.com

Handbook Changes

Team name change:

1. At the start of the season, the club formerly known as Maccabi was entered into the League with a new name, JETTA. In October, a request was made to the Management Committee that the name be changed back to Maccabi with immediate effect, and this was agreed.

Directions and location changes

1. DHS Greenhouse Progress will now be playing at the West London Academy, Bengarth Road, Middlesex UB5 5LP. The venue is to the south of the Target roundabout, cross the A40 on the A312 towards Hayes (Church Road) and turn first right down Bengarth Road.

2. Hillingdon 2nd and 3rd Teams will now be playing at the Botwell Green Sports and Leisure Centre; (Directions are already in the Handbook for Hillingdon 1st Team).

3. Carrara Polska will now be playing at Harrow CC, Paynes Folly, Wood End Road, Harrow HA1 3PP.

4. Brunel University have provided more detailed instructions on how to reach their campus venue: “Kingston Lane is a turning off Hillingdon Road/Hill (A4020). Turn right at the roundabout half way along Kingston Lane, bear right and through the automatic barrier. The Sports Centre car park is the first entry on the left and the entrance to the building is at the far end. At the entrance to the Sports Centre continue straight up the pedestrian ramp (to the left when facing away from the S.C.) The IAC building entrance is immediately on the right at the top of the first ramp. Ask at the reception for the Table Tennis. The nearest station is Uxbridge (Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines). Buses U3 (alight at Cleveland Road) and 222 (alight at Cowley Road and use the path via the University flats. Brunel have also introduced some more security and when you arrive at the traffic barrier it you may have to speak to security via the adjacent push button intercom and tell them you are there for a TT match. Coming out it is automatic.”

Other changes

1. Vagabonds 3rd Team have withdrawn from Division 2.

2. Apollo TTC’s Emergency Officer (and 3rd Team Captain) details are as follows:- Shivji Patel, 11 Shrewsbury Avenue, Harrow, HA3 9LX. Tel: (Home) 020 8357 0679, (Mobile) 07545 734319 Email: shivji.d.patel@hotmail.co.uk

3. Eastcote CA’s 7th Team Captain, John Figg’s Email address is john@jfigg.freeserve.co.uk

4. Kenton’s 3rd Team Captain, Geoff Rabbow’s Email address is g.rabbow@ntlworld.com