

# Bristol Civil Service

# Table Tennis Club



Bristol Civil Service  
Table Tennis Club  
Newsletter

Issue 17  
July 2017

## Hello from Julian Boucher, Table Tennis Club Chairman

Last year I became the new chairman for the club, taking over from Stuart Murray-Williams. I'm sure some of you know me from training on Sundays and various other nights. Our club has the largest number of players in the Bristol league (as far as I understand) and we are very lucky to have the facilities we have, with tables up all the time and a hall dedicated to table tennis. There are a few issues with our venue (heat in summer mostly) but that aside nowhere else can offer you a chance to play with and against as many players. We have teams in most divisions and mostly we all have done well this season, my team not being one but hey!

I'm looking forward to next season and I'm hoping you are too. The Cadets team did amazingly well last year and I'm hoping they will continue to do as well next season.

The painting of the hall has made a big difference to the look and feel of the place so thank you to John Bedwell for all the time and effort; we are always looking to improve the venue and welcome suggestions from players.

Needless to say, I have a few of my own!

Anyway that's quite enough chat from me, go on, get out there, play, train, enjoy your table tennis, it's an amazing, brilliant game we all love. Let's make next season one to remember for all the right reasons.

*Julian Boucher*



## A reminder of the rules concerning service – from Terry Toghill's report at the B&DTTA AGM

I would like to take this opportunity to address an issue which has been causing concern for some of our members including myself: there appears to be a regular disregard of the **Service rule**.

Most of us infringe the rule occasionally; this is natural and unavoidable. However, there are two types of players who serve illegally more often than the rest of us. These players either don't know the rule or are deliberately ignoring it to gain a personal advantage in a match by disadvantaging their opponent. For some reason many players are reluctant to call a foul serve, either as a player or as an umpire. It may be that it could spoil a good social match or that it could appear as 'sour grapes', or cause conflict, or that 'someone doesn't want to make a fuss'.

**This does not alter the fact that the Service rule exists and should be applied – please see page 2.**

Everyone is entitled to enjoy our sport fairly and equitably, despite the ignorant, or those trying to get an illegal advantage. Some would consider this as cheating. I am not suggesting that we all start jumping up and down at the slightest rule breach, but I am

suggesting that we all consider our responsibilities to the sport and our players, by politely questioning major rule breaches.

Finally, I would ask all players to take the time to better familiarise themselves with **all of the rules**. This would allow people to confidently challenge unacceptable behaviour.



## Inside this issue

Service rules	2
TTX	2
Team reports	3-5
Committee	6
Overview of winter season	6
Summer league teams	6
Report from Ian Thomas	7



## A reminder of the rules of service

### The Service – 2.6

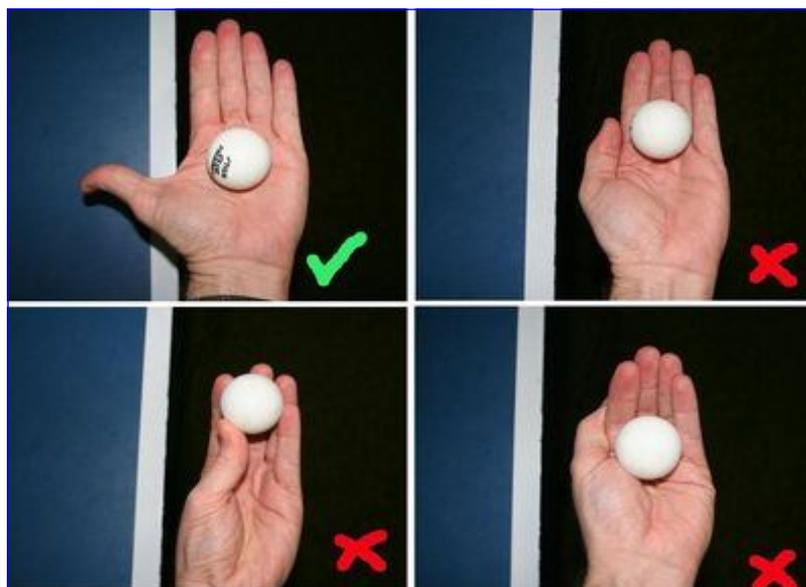
**Resting position – 2.6.1** – Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

**Projection – 2.6.2** – The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.

**Strike – 2.6.3** As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his court and then touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.

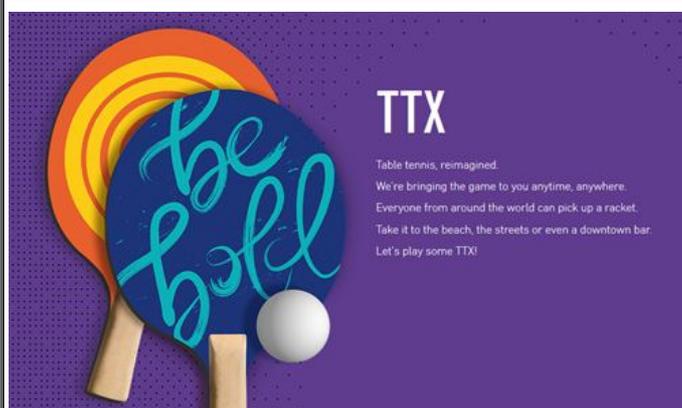
**Visibility – 2.6.4** – From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.

**Free arm – 2.6.5** – As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the area between the ball and the net.



© 2007 Greg Letts, licensed to About.com, Inc.

From <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/about/rules-regs/the-basic-rules-of-table-tennis/#TheService>



# TTX.WORLD

## HOW TO PLAY

The rules are simple - here's a quick snapshot!

- 1 TTX is time-bound. A single set is 2 mins long. Play a best of 3 sets or however long you want to.
- 2 No rules for how to serve, so freestyle it and serve it your way. The ball just needs to touch your side of the table once, before going over the net.
- 3 Scoring works just like regular table tennis but with a few fun additions.

Score a point when your opponent serves incorrectly or fails to return your ball. And to make it even more fun, score extra points with:

### "WILDCARD"

Each player has one chance per set to shout "wildcard" before a serve. If they win the subsequent play, they score 2 points instead of 1.

### "WINNER"

If a player returns or serves a ball the opponent doesn't touch at all, they score 2 points instead of 1.

### "WILDCARD" X "WINNER"

If a player scores a winner on the wildcard ball, they win 4 points!



## Team reports for the 2016–2017 season

**Premier Division**

**Saracens** finished 10th out of 14 teams

**Division 1**

**Warriors** finished 12th out of 14 teams

**Division 2 Vikings**

The Vikings had a strong start to the season (not) by holding up the rest of Division 2 from bottom place at Christmas.

During the second half of the season we only lost a further 4 out of our last 14 matches which meant that we picked up really strongly and finished a creditable 6th place, one place below last season.

*Terry Toghill (captain)*

**Division 2 Spartans**

A difficult season for Spartans in a very tight division saw us finish in 11<sup>th</sup> position. After losing 4 players mid-way through the season you could say it was mission accomplished to avoid relegation. In all, Spartans used 11 players this year so we never really had a settled team or much continuity. Thanks to all my team mates and the players who helped out by playing up which overall made the season a success as we avoided relegation by 13 points. Here's hoping for a more settled season next year and better things.

Abid Khan was our star player on 76% and his daughter Izzy, who jumped up from Div 7, played at 33%. Both players improved so much this year that they ended up playing for Warriors in Div 1.

But I must make a special mention of Jon Sellers who joined us late in the season without any previous league experience at any level and managed to win 4 games for us in Div 2.

*Chris Adamek (captain)*

**Division 3 Saxons**

The Saxons had a much improved season with most players improving on their previous season's average. For a short time we even led the division but as the season settled down we found a more realistic league position, finishing in a creditable sixth, one position higher than 2015/16. The team had a successful run in the Mordecai Cup too, reaching the semi-final, just losing by a handful of points to the eventual runners-up. Looking to 2017/18, the Saxons will be hoping to improve their league position once again.

*Rich Cable (captain)*

**Division 3 Buccaneers**

For the Buccaneers 2016/17 was about consolidating our position in Division 3 to keep competing with the giants of the Avon table tennis scene (not getting relegated). We bade farewell to all of the other members of the team from last year (I hope it was nothing I said) and welcomed in new talent.

We were joined by our marquee signing Ralph (Mundy) from Knowle & Brislington after protracted negotiations between our respective agents in the summer transfer window. Ralph brought a steady hand to the team with an indomitable defensive chop and much needed consistency in an up and down season. A big mention is needed for Ralph's knowledge of "which player should go next" which still confuses me but always worked out well!

Tom (Hicks) was given his shot in the big leagues after impressing in Division 6 and took it with both hands. He impressed with his elegant attacking style and on his day took down some of the biggest hitters in the league. Mid-way through the season Tom elected to have performance-enhancing surgery on his elbow to increase the speed of his forehand and although we lost his services for a few months we are reaping the benefits now and the only way is up next season.

Richard (Rees) was involved in our youth development programme and has spent the last couple of years on loan in the lower leagues learning his trade. He was recalled to the squad and it was clear to see that valuable experience has paid off. Richard has been a dedicated student of the game and his technique keeps on getting better. Instead of thinking "just chop one!" I've now found myself egging Richard on to attack everything which I never thought would be the case!

Last and probably least I've endured another season of mediocrity with the fabled "zone" harder and harder to find. I was proud we rallied in the second half of the season to move out of the relegation zone to finish a mighty

**Team reports continued**

10th from top (or 4th from bottom depending on how you are looking at it). If we can keep this exciting group of players together I've got no doubt we'll be pushing for top half of the table next year...

*Rob Dixon (captain)*

**Division 3 Partizans**

We knew it would be a hard season for us, as we were promoted two Divisions from 5 to 3.

Our main aim was to stay in Division 3, which we managed to do, Steve Allen had a very good season, finishing with a high win percentage. Myself, Julian (Boucher) and Tony (Cooper) did our best and won some games, a special mention for Tony, playing in his first season in the league. I had help from the other three players which made it easy for me as captain, and we never used any reserves all season.

*Colin Dowding (captain)*

**Division 4 Trojans**

The Trojans knew it was going to be a tough task challenging for honours in division 4 this year. Having topped division 6 last season (yes, a jump of 2 divisions) consolidating our position in 4 was realistically the best we could've expected. And so it proved as winning 7, drawing 4 and losing 15 of our games positioned us 10th in the league – but still only 3 points off mid-table. Not being able to put out a strong, consistent team (especially towards the end of the season) hampered our cause somewhat – we were grateful, though, for players from lower leagues coming in to help out at short notice. Tayo topped the averages with 79%, Radek next on 69% and

then Mark on 27% and John on 20% making up the numbers. A huge thank you to John Bedwell for managing the team when player availability proved to be a bit of a challenge due to injury and work commitments. Here's to next year and hopefully a less frustrating season...

*Mark Orriss for John Bedwell (captain)*

**Division 6 Commandos**

Commandos had their best season for ages with an equal 4th spot in Division 6. Dean Wilson was unfortunate with a knee injury so only played the first few games (still getting a great average!) The good news is he is on the mend with a return to the table not far off. We were lucky to acquire a new player in Jon Nomm who has stepped up to the plate and performed brilliantly so it's looking good for next season.

*Duncan Jones (captain)*

**Division 6 Cavaliers**

With our newly assembled team it took a little while to adjust to the higher standard of opposition in Division 6 and it subsequently turned out to be a season of two contrasting halves. We lost our first seven games before winning the eighth 9–1. That was the turning point of our season and we then went on to win the next seven. Eventually we finished in seventh position overall.

Special mention to be made of Paul Mackereth, who finished on 89%, John Scorey on 81%, ably backed up by Martin Turner on 55%. They were the backbone of the team. Unfortunately Charlotte Taylor was restricted in the number of games she could play as she was recovering from a very painful back injury which severely limited her movement. Fortunately it improved enough for her to be back at her competitive best at the end of the season. Unfortunately my contribution was a mere 10%.

Despite the early losses the team spirit throughout the season stayed remarkably high which made my job so much easier.

The general consensus after the final game was 'Roll on next Season'

*Ron Money (captain)*

Thank you very much to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. I am always very grateful for ideas for articles and offers to write them! If you have any photos of club members in action, do send them to me for the next newsletter.  
Charlotte: [charlottejanetaylor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:charlottejanetaylor@tiscali.co.uk) / 07976 922636

## Team reports continued

### Division 6 **Gladiators**

After gaining promotion to Division 6, we saw a few changes in our side with three players leaving and two new players, Razi Ahmed and Jeff Griffin, joining Zbys Trzaska, Steve Williams and me. After a tough start against two of the top three teams, we hit some form as we managed impressive wins against tricky opponents. Although we didn't challenge for promotion, we managed to keep out of the relegation fight. We eventually ended up in a mid-table battle with our Civil Service rivals the Cavaliers and Commandos, beating and losing to both. In the end, we finished between them after drawing with champions Westbury in our last match. Some success was achieved at the Bristol Closed Championships as Razi and I reached the Division 6–7 doubles final. We'll be losing Zbys over the summer, but Jeff, Razi, Steve and I all improved over the season, so I'm confident we can do well in our second season in Division 6.

*Rebecca Burton (captain)*



### Division 7 **Pirates**

The Pirates of (the Caribbean) Filton, avoid the trip to Davy Jones Locker

The Pirates had a new looking crew for their voyage into the season in division 7 with a mixture of new faces and old heads together with a distinctly international flavour. The Captain was Pete Harrington who together with Sirirat Harunrat (known to us all as Em) and Michael Miles were experiencing league table tennis for the first time, with Vasily Pribylov in only his second season and the team sage and guru Ken Simmons giving his guidance and support completing his 67th consecutive year in the Bristol & District league.



The voyage started on an unexpected high as we plundered points aplenty during the opening salvos and remained unbeaten after six encounters. Our only casualty being that sustained by our mentor Ken after our first battle when his already damaged peg-leg was reduced to splinters and he was sidelined awaiting a new replacement. Despite the injury he remained on board giving tactical advice on how to approach the opposition for a large part of the journey, unfortunately a further injury complicated matters and he had to leave before the voyage was complete. Unfortunately after the early successes loot, doubloons and even points seemed harder to come by and as we reached deeper water some defeats ensued, however the spirit of the crew remained on a high and we continued the voyage with optimism with Vasily showing us the way, as only he had sailed this far before.

The international contingent were the undoubted stars of the campaign, as Em who hails from North-East Thailand showed us that looks can be deceptive; with a demure smile and a slight frame she blew away the opponents with her powerful forehand. Whilst Vasily, our Russian assassin, proved difficult to beat with his dogged backhand defence switching to forehand attack. That left Pete and Michael trying to pick up a game here and there to back up the great work put in by Em and Vasily as we tried to squeeze out some further victories. The journey finished with the Pirates finishing in a very creditable fifth place, a chest full of pieces-of-eight and the Jolly Roger flying high as we moored up for some much deserved shore leave and ready for the next time we cast off.

The whole team wish Ken a full recovery from what has been a desperately difficult time, whilst awaiting a knee replacement operation he fell and suffered a broken leg, thus delaying any chance of a quick date for his operation, but his spirits have remained high... despite threats that he may have to walk the plank.

*Pete Harrington (captain)*

### Division 7 **Cadets (Juniors)**

The Cadets did themselves proud winning the Division 7 title with Rob Porteous and Tom Mould keeping 100% records. The whole team were excellent and it just goes to show that sticking with it pays off in the end. Four seasons ago they finished bottom but with encouragement and steely determination they carried on and have been rewarded. It has made me very proud to have seen them through the journey. Well done guys!!

*Duncan Jones (non-playing captain)*

**Table tennis club committee****President**

Ken Simmonds

**Chairman**

Julian Boucher

**Deputy Chairman;  
Coaching and  
Competitions**

Mark Kinlocke

**Secretary**

Chris Adamek

**Treasurer**

Mark Kinlocke

**Welfare Officer**

Tim Harris

**Publicity Officer**

Charlotte Taylor

**Members**

Terry Toghill, John Bedwell

**Overview of the 2016–2017 season**

CS Team	Division	Final position	Number of teams in division
Saracens	Premier	10	14
Warriors	1	12	14
Vikings	2	6	13
Spartans	2	11	13
Saxons	3	6	13
Buccaneers	3	10	13
Partizans	3	11	13
Trojans	4	10	14
Commandos	6	5	13
Gladiators	6	6	13
Cavaliers	6	7	13
Cadets	7	1	12
Pirates	7	5	12

**Table tennis help, advice and coaching online**

[www.tabletennisdaily.co.uk/](http://www.tabletennisdaily.co.uk/)

Dan Ives

<http://www.experttabletennis.com/>

Ben Larcombe

<https://www.pingskills.com/>

Alois Rosario and Jeff Plumb

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TableTennisMaster>

Table Tennis Master

<http://www.ttedge.com/>

TT Edge

**Summer League Teams 2017**

The Summer League is well supported again this year, and we are putting out six teams across the four divisions:

**Civil Service A**

Duncan Jones (C)

Steve Kingscott

Dean Wilson

Jon Nomm

Ian Thomas

**Civil Service B**

Chris Adamek (C)

Andy Cooper

Tony Cooper

Gary O'Neill

Jon Sellers

**Civil Service C**

John Scorey (C)

Paul Mackareth

Martin Turner

Anthony Simpson

**Civil Service D**

Charlotte Taylor (C)

Terry Toghill

Tim Harris

Rebecca Burton

**Civil Service E**

Pete Harrington (C)

John Bedwell

Colin Dowding

Em Harunrat

**Civil Service F**

Vasily Pribylov (C)

Mark Orriss

David Rees

Ron Money

**More information?**

If you have any questions about any aspect of table tennis at the Bristol Civil Service Table Tennis Club – membership, coaching, costs, how to get involved in a team, what happens at club night on a Sunday – please get in touch with Chris Adamek at [chris\\_adamek@hotmail.com](mailto:chris_adamek@hotmail.com)

**Ian Thomas: 2016–2017 Winter season report**

Wow, what a season and who would have thought over 12 years ago when I could hardly hold a bat and ball in my hand that I would see myself having a 100% match record in the 2016–17 Division 7 winter league season? Okay, I am being economical with the truth, but it is there on the Bristol and District 365 table tennis website for all to witness: Ian Thomas 100% when I made a guest appearance for Filton Britannias when they were one player short. It was also a first in this match against Portishead K, as not only did I win all my singles matches, but also the doubles match as well. A proud night. Whilst some people achieve this on a regular basis, it has taken me 12 years of hard work to achieve this feat.



So, people are wondering how successful I was in my own team, Filton Typhoons. Prior to the 2015–16 season I set myself a 40%-win match margin and nearly achieved this target but missed out by 0.61% – so near but so far. Could I find that extra 1% improvement in my game?

The first match of the season started well at home against Triangle, with me winning two of my three matches and this continued into my second match against Filton Tornadoes. Then the wheels went off the track with my first 0–3 reverse against Civil Service Cadets. Between November and the end of the year was when I was consistent and successful, winning on average two matches out of three.

New Year 2017 brought a new challenge; only some people are aware of the exact nature of my mobility and how it affects me on a daily basis as walking around can be a struggle. This was borne out when my form dipped when I was experiencing mobility issues and my consistent form dropped considerably. I just had to accept the fact that moving around the table was a struggle and I had to use all my years of table tennis experience to try to give people a decent game. Even when I thought my game was below par I was still able to pick up a one match win in some of these matches. I didn't let on about my difficulties because I was concerned not to have other people viewing me as unsportsmanlike in defeat and I didn't want to be disrespectful to any of my opponents.

Against Portishead G it took me eight sets to get going but whilst I lost all three matches, two of them went to five sets. Another giveaway is the jerks in my body and this was also evident and trying to control it can be extremely difficult. I've lived with cerebral palsy all my life and have just got to get on and deal with it to the best of my ability. Luckily for me there were some postponements during this period and towards the end of the season my form started to pick back up again and I won more matches on a regular basis.

On a personal note, there are some people in Division 7 that I've never beaten, but I was pleased when I took Robert Porteous to five sets, losing 5–11 in the fifth, with only three other people achieving the same milestone against Robert and still losing. Duncan Jones was impressed with my performance. Other personal achievements were taking Richard Sheppard to one five set match and two four set matches. I've never beaten either gentleman to date.

I always look forward to seeing and competing against Di Mcillwain and Charlotte Taylor and hopefully they are proud of what I am now achieving. Win or lose it is always good to see some familiar and nice people. However, there is one person I thoroughly enjoy seeing and playing against: Aziz Muscati, Portishead G; whilst I have never yet beaten him our matches always seems to go to five sets. Maybe next season?

I Thomas Average: 51.02%.

**Ian Thomas**