

Bristol Civil Service



Table Tennis Club

Bristol Civil Service
Table Tennis Club
Newsletter

Issue 14

May 2015

A message from *Stuart Murray Williams*, Table Tennis Club Chairman

AGM for the TT club on 23rd June

I hope many of you will choose to attend and take part in the AGM on **Tuesday 23rd June** at 8pm. It has been a very encouraging season for the club in many ways, so it will be good to celebrate this and look ahead to next season. This is your opportunity to consider proposals from the committee and to make your own suggestions. And, as an added incentive, there will be a **free drink** at the bar for everyone who attends!

Highlights of the past season include:

- Very good numbers at club practice sessions, with several new members joining
- The new coaching sessions for youngsters on Saturdays
- Improved lighting and an extra table (six now available for practice)
- Club finances are in a very healthy state
- Our league teams had a pretty successful season. The end-of-season tables show Civil Service

teams in the following positions:

Premier: Raiders 1st, Nomads relegated

First: Saracens 7th

Second: Warriors 1st, Vikings 6th

Third: Spartans 3rd, Saxons 7th

Fourth: Buccaneers 1st

Sixth: Partizans 3rd, Trojans 8th

Seventh: Pirates 7th, Cadets 8th

Three of our teams won their divisions, two others just missed out on promotion, and most of the rest were safely in mid-table, some of them after being promoted last year.

One important request: we need a **new treasurer**. Paul Barlow stepped in a year ago and has done a great job, but he is not able to continue after the AGM. If this is something you are willing to consider, please let one of the committee know.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM.

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The BDTTA AGM is on 1st June 2015 starting at 7.30pm at Almondsbury, followed by the presentation of awards at approximately 8.15pm.

Civil Service are runners up in the Belsten Cup – *Mark Kinlocke*

The Civil Service team consisted of Garth Kinlocke, Jan Surwilo, Chris Price and Michael Julian and this was their journey to the final:

Round 1 vs KCC 7-2

Round 2 vs Knowle & Brislington 5-2

Semis: vs Failand 5-2

The team suffered a blow when Jan could not play for the final against Filton Academy as he was overseas, but they showed great fighting spirit.

The first match proved pivotal when Michael was edged out in the 5th against Raj.

Garth won all 3 which continued his 100% record in all competitions this season. Michael then made amends by beating Shane Clark 15-13 in the 5th to make the match score 4-4.

In the final match Captain Chris put up a brave fight against Raj but in the end went down 3-1 for a match result 5-4 to the Academy.

So the Civil Service did not win the double this season but there's always next year. Congrats to the team.



Team reports

Many thanks to those of our team captains who have written an 'end of season report' for their teams

Premier Division

Raiders finished first

Nomads – *Miguel Oliveira* (captain)

The CSSC Nomads team had a great second half of the season in the Bristol premier division. The first half had seen us go through an initial period of adaptation, not only to the games themselves, but also in the way we organized and rotated team players. The second half was more stable and we settled for a core team of 4 players, and an extra super-sub! We were pleased to see our team level of play increase, specially in our home games. We also surprised ourselves in some of the doubles games, which we never practise, but still managed to be competitive (sometimes!). We cherish some of our great wins and learned a lot from our defeats. Along the way we enjoyed catching up with friends from other teams and replaying game 'battles'.

There were no big surprises in terms of the overall team result: Nomads finished last and will therefore be relegated to the 1st division. However, we're very proud of what we achieved, and the enjoyment we took from it. There were a lot of times when players had to play after 12 hour shifts of work, or had to travel back to Bristol at short notice, or do 10 min runs (in the rain!) to be in time to get buses to away venues. When all is over, these will be our memories and it was our love for the game that kept us going! Next season, we'll be back to div 1 with an almost brand-new team. It will be sad to part with this season's players, as they move away from Bristol. However, I'm looking forward to seeing the new Nomads team formed and getting to know new players! Meanwhile, through the summer, we'll be practising at our great CSSC club and hoping that when the season starts, we'll be motivated and adjusted to the new plastic balls (they are going to be adopted, aren't they ?? ☺)



Division 1

Saracens finished seventh

Division 2

Warriors – *Sven Pettersson* (captain)

One Season On For A Team Of Warriors

At the end of the season about one year ago, we of course had a number of months on our hands while we waited for the new season to begin. Two team members had thoughts about dropping a division, and Mickael 'Coup Droit Atomique' Durand was to be moving back to France with his family. This raised the question about who might form a new Warriors team for the season to follow. I worried that there might not even be a team, and that I might have to be absorbed into another team myself. Circumstances can change so quickly, and you might have to accept an outcome that you had not either planned for or wanted.

As time went on a new team began to emerge. I put it this way because you are given the idea that you may be given certain players. But you don't know until everything has been confirmed what sort of a team will emerge. When I found out the final formation of the team, I was very pleased. All of the team were strong players, and I was certain that we were promotion candidates. Whilst I never take anything for granted, the confidence was there. The team had a nice balance to it. Two very attacking players, one all round player who could play strong attack or defence, and one classic defence player.

I am pleased to say that we went the whole season without losing. But we were pushed mighty close at times with some very hard-fought draws. At times it was difficult to raise a full team, but that somehow managed to happen. So a very big THANK YOU to all the subs who helped us in this.

So now it's all about survival at the very least. It's quite a jump in standard from two to one, but it is a challenge that I am so looking forward to. Will there be changes to the team yet again? I don't know, but there are again a number of months ahead in which the club considers how it wishes to move ahead. We may get an influx of new players, and we may lose some. Some may wish to move up a division, some down.

We are experiencing exciting times at the club. A number of teams have been promoted, with a solid performance by the others who survived in their divisions. One team was relegated from the Prem, but it is such a tough ask for even excellent players to remain there.

And this brings me on to a point I have made many times. I personally think the standard across all the divisions is going up. And our club is certainly doing its bit in that regard, with great support being shown for practice nights.

So watch this space. It may have changed when you look at it again.

I almost forgot, Mickael did play for us. The outcome was welcome: "Qu'attendez-vous d'un Français? 100% au minimum!"

Vikings – *Stuart Murray Williams* (captain)

Vikings were promoted to Division 2 on the final day of the season last year. Our modest aim this year was to remain in this higher division. Although hampered from time to time by ill health affecting different members of the team, we achieved this aim and managed to climb to mid-table respectability, finishing sixth. We won 8, drew 8 and lost 8 matches, giving a symmetrical appearance to our results. The Warriors team was by far the strongest in the division and worthy champions. The rest of the teams were fairly evenly matched and few points separated us throughout a tight and hard-fought season.

.../...

Team reports continued

Division 3

Spartans – Dean Barmby (captain)

Our first season together as a team. Very happy to have finished in third position – just missing out on promotion – considering last season we were playing individually in divisions 4, 5 and 6. It was a pleasure to captain this team and we're looking forward to next season.

Saxons – Jim McLean

This year the Saxons team was Paul Barlow, Rich Cable, Geoff Dyer and myself. Unfortunately Paul aggravated an old injury in the first match so was sidelined for most of the season.

We were quite happy with a mid-table finish in what turned out to be a tough division – in fact Geoff and myself didn't really notice much difference from the 2nd division where we had played the previous season. One of the highlights of the season has to be the match against Nailsea Tigers which we won 8 – 2. All three of us managed to beat Mr Peter Butterworth who is a dour, 'steely' competitor as anyone who has played him over the years will know. We see ourselves as a fairly 'sociable' team in that we take the game seriously when at the table but we also enjoy a good 'noggin and natter' afterwards in the bar (this seems to be quite rare these days as most opposing teams disappear as soon as the last game is played) so another highlight has to be that we managed to get a well deserved pint after every match! Here's to another enjoyable season in 2015/16.

Division 4

Buccaneers – Rob Dixon (captain)

It has been triumphant year for the marauding Buccaneers as we have left the opposition in the doldrums. We have been spearheaded by our Galactico, Steve Tainton. He has both baffled and bemused all before him with his long pimples and enigmatic scoring style. He can disarm the opposition with a single swipe of his blade and is always on hand with a joke, it's just a shame it's the same one each week. Simon Monks has been a growing force, with his cannonball forehand sinking some major opposition. On a match night you can always find him with the wind at his back. Magda Janska has graced us with her sublime technical ability which has been unplayable as long as she hasn't got into choppy waters. It is with sadness we hear she will be setting sail for Poland again. England salutes you! Finally I have had the great pleasure of captaining the good ship Buccaneer. It has been a great season and I couldn't have asked for a better crew. We are delighted to be collecting the treasure and are looking forward to the challenges that lie before us in division three...



Division 6

Partizans finished third

Commandos – Duncan Jones (captain)

Another mediocre mid-table season for the Commandos with a poor mid-season performance being sandwiched between a good start and finish! We are working on consistency and Steve is doing even more practice. A summer league to try out new bats will hopefully help!

Trojans – Mark Orriss

It was always going to be an uphill struggle for the Trojans after we failed to win any of our first 5 matches – losing 4 of them 6–4 and the other 7–3. We then went on to go 4 games unbeaten before only winning 1 of the next 8. That pretty much summed up how the rest of the season panned out. We finished a disappointing 8th having finished 4th last season. Saying that we were only 7 points behind what we achieved last season highlights the fact that the standard was tougher this year. And it shows in the scores that we're not far off fighting for promotion – 14 of the 22 games we played were either 6–4 or 5–5 scores (and 6 of the others were 7–3)... Radek finished with a solid 80% win ratio, Mark 51% (exactly the same as last season) and John and Ken on 30%. Roll on next season where we aim to put things right. .../...

Table tennis club committee

President

Ken Simmonds

Chairman

Stuart Murray Williams

Deputy Chairman; Coaching and Competitions

Mark Kinlocke

Secretary

Chris Adamek

Treasurer

Paul Barlow

Welfare Officer

Tim Harris

Publicity Officer

Charlotte Taylor

More information?

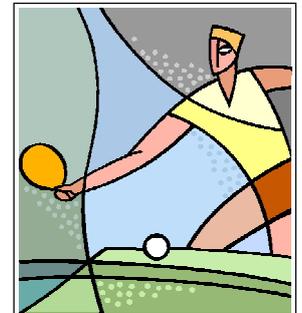
If you have any questions about any aspect of table tennis at the Bristol Civil Service Table Tennis Club – membership, coaching, costs, how to get involved in a team, what happens at club night on a Sunday – please get in touch with Chris Adamek at chris_adamek@hotmail.com

Team reports continued**Division 7****Pirates – Charlotte Taylor (captain)**

The Pirates have had their highs and lows during the remainder of the season. My personal lowest point was when I broke my fingers in February, leaving the team reduced just to three players – Pratik, Ron and Warren. With some uncanny foresight, however, I had just signed up Paul Mackereth, a recently joined member of the club, without whom we couldn't have fielded a full team for each match. Ron and Paul's accounts of their season with the Pirates are to be found on page 4. We finished the season a respectable 7th out of 12 teams, with 7 wins, 4 draws and 11 losses, and are hoping for swashbuckling glory next season!

Cadets (Juniors) – Duncan Jones (non-playing captain)

A great second season for the Junior side in with the big boys. They finished 8th in division 7 which was a superb performance considering they were bottom last year. They are improving all the time and are well worth getting to play up in division 5 or 6 as they would give a good account of themselves there. It is worth mentioning that they also play in the Junior league in two teams. The A team won division 1 and the B team were runners up in division 2! Some local derbies next year in that league and it goes to show that the senior experience is paying dividends so watch this space!

**Intense table tennis on 6 tables at Friday night practice**

Ron Money and Paul Mackereth talk about their first season in the Division 7 Pirates

First Season in the B&D Table Tennis League – Ron Money

It all started about two years ago when I saw a young couple playing table tennis whilst on holiday and had a quick knock-up with them. It brought back happy memories of playing my son on the dining room table when he was about nine years of age. (He is in his mid-forties now). On my return I looked on the Internet, found a small club in Redland, bought a bat and started playing. Very soon my enthusiasm and endeavour to improve my game out-grew this small club and in January 2014

I joined the CSSC Table Tennis Club and joined a group of players who regularly play on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

With regular practice, coaching, advice and encouragement from the likes of Ken Simmons (pictured with me in this photo), Michael Williams, Simon Monks, Steve Tainton and Chris Adamek, to name but a few, my game began to improve.

My philosophy in all my sports involvement over the years has been to set my imagined skill bar at a particular level – if I play above that level and lose I know that I have been beaten by a better player and know that I did my best but lost. If however I play below that level, win or lose, I go away disappointed knowing I could have done better and didn't really do myself justice. This way I can gauge if I am improving or regressing in my chosen sport.

Well, after a few months of practice I was asked if I would like to join the Pirates playing in Division 7 captained by Charlotte Taylor. How could I refuse, with the added bonus of her legendary Iced Lemon Sponge Cake at the home matches? So I willingly joined and looked forward to the forthcoming season's fixtures. I soon realised that league matches are not like practice sessions but it is all part of learning the game.

So how has my first season gone? I have won a few games, about 25%, but lost a lot more, but overall have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competitive games and meeting other players. I now know that there are some players older than me playing league table tennis but have been told that they cannot recall anyone of my age (75) making their debut at that age – it may be a record but I don't know.

I have travelled to the far flung areas of Bristol from Portishead to Nailsea, Brislington to St George and more locally to Filton. In the final game of the season in the doubles we lost 3 – 2 with four of the five games going to 11 – 9. At the end of the game our opponents paid us the compliment that they had gone through the whole season unbeaten but that was the most difficult game they had played by far – praise indeed.

So that has been my experience to date. I can now look forward to more hard practice during the summer and am really looking forward to next season to pit my skills against other players, to increase my winning averages and to hopefully raise my bar level even higher.

First Season in the B&D Table Tennis League – Paul Mackereth

As my children had all just left home, last autumn, I found myself with a little more time than had hitherto been the case for many years. It had been on my mind for my many years to start playing table tennis again and my 'Ascot Butterfly' had always been kept in a safe place. The gap between last playing being approximately 34 years! Having retrieved the bat with due care and respect, replete with 1970s cover, I was very saddened to discover that the rubber had perished beyond recognition.

After investigating clubs, I ventured somewhat nervously to practice on a Sunday night with a new bat, purchased on the twin assessments of availability and price, and found some friendly people who were prepared and happy to play with a novice like me. Clearly, in many aspects table tennis had gone forward and I had moved backwards. Most notably:

- Rules, only having two serves and playing to 11
- My eyesight
- Bat technology – bewildering number of types, rubbers and manufacturers
- My reflexes and coordination
- Bat cleaning products
- My best shot the forehand loop (or is it called drive?), much like my old bat rubbers, had also deteriorated beyond all recognition.

Frustrations aside, I was happy to fill in for the Pirates when needed for the final part of the season playing seven matches. This has been a pleasurable experience and I have enjoyed meeting the other teams who are generally very friendly. I was somewhat surprised when an opposing player whom I had never met introduced himself and said 'you must be Paul Mackereth – I've been studying the form'. I am very happy to carry on and my challenge and hope is to improve technically my whole play.



The Filton Super League – Eddie Roofe

The Super League started about in 2007, primarily as an event designed to give some match practice to the Academy's players on a Wednesday evening to supplement their training and to provide match play sessions to the public on a weekly basis throughout the year.

The format started out in a two-man team fashion with some cash prizes. This evolved into a multi table singles format designed to help players find their levels of play after a few weeks play.

The Super League's reputation means that it has attracted all types of players, from the local league player looking for some friendly competition to top internationals (such as London Olympian Darius Knight and multi Paralympian Will Bayley). Anybody can join!!



It takes place at SGS College, WISE Campus every Wednesday. The cost is £4.50 and play commences at 7.30 and usually finishes by 9.30. Equipment is provided if required. Please contact me by email at Edward.roofe@sgscol.ac.uk or by telephone on 07885 409366.

Note from Charlotte:

It took me a long time to pluck up the courage to go to the Super League as I thought that you had to be a super player to play in it, but the players are organised into divisions so you are sure to get very good games. The number of divisions varies depending on the number of players who turn up, so the more the merrier!

Coach's corner – advice from Dan Ives: Tip number 3: Sport builds a sense of belonging

Hey everyone, my name is Dan and I am one of the coaches here at the Civil Service Table Tennis Club. Each newsletter I will write a small piece about table tennis.

In January, I visited Beijing to film a documentary with STIGA about the life of a table tennis player in China. The video series looked at every level and age group in China. The video series is now available to watch on youtube. To watch the full series visit <http://www.tabletennisdaily.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?10359-STIGA-TableTennisDaily-China-Trip-Video-Series!> and you can then see all 4 episodes.



One thing I took away from the trip was how much everyone enjoyed the game. I think this is an extremely important aspect for life long table tennis. Out in China everyone enjoyed their table tennis. We visited a local club in Beijing and we did a couple of Europe vs China matches. It was really good fun, a player from STIGA and I lost to two local amateur players. The level out there was insane!

Whilst out in China I realised how table tennis is such a fantastic activity to play, it is non contact and all ages, abilities and backgrounds can play the sport.

When you have a minute head over to youtube and check out the video series. In Episode 4 we managed to record and interview the world's best players who took part in the recent World Championships! I hope you like it. Any questions? Give me a shout when I'm down at the club.

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See our website at
<http://bristol-cssc-tabletennis.weebly.com/index.html>
@civilservicett



SUMMER LEAGUE There was plenty of interest in the Summer League this year so the Civil Service has six teams, playing across the three divisions:

Civil Service A

Duncan Jones (C)
Ian Thomas
Steve Kingscott
Dean Wilson

Civil Service D

Charlotte Taylor (C)
Ron Money
Paul Mackereth
Pawel Rekawiecki

Civil Service B

Chris Adamek (C)
Dean Barmby
John Bedwell
Steve Tainton

Civil Service E

Simon Monks (C)
Mike Fox
Paul Jeffery
Andy Boucher
Bryan Taylor

Civil Service C

Stuart Murray Williams (C)
Julian Boucher
Alex Ono
Izzy Kahn
Joel Milhofer

Civil Service F

Terry Toghill (C)
Pradeesh Mappa
Andy Cooper
Sangha Bhattacharya

Thank you very much to everyone who said they would contribute to this newsletter – and did! Do send me your comments and ideas for articles for the next one. Photos would be very welcome.

Charlotte

charlottejanetaylor@tiscali.co.uk

THE BRISTOL PING PROJECT

Dear All,

The Bristol 'Ping' project will again take place this year during June and July. This is the fourth year that table tennis tables will be placed around the city for everyone to use free of charge.

The formal events where tables will be supplied and used, are listed below.

If anyone can offer some help at one, or more of the events, it would really help to promote our sport.

(N.B. For some members, this would be an easy and enjoyable way to add 'volunteer' to your CV at no cost).

A three hour 'Ping' training course will be provided free, as well as a free 'Ping Bristol' Tee shirt and bat.

Please contact Aled Howell on 07891 544319 if you are able to help.

BRISTOL PING EVENTS

- Make Sunday Special – 7th June & 5th July, City Centre
- Bristol Festival of Nature – 13th & 14th June
- Lawrence Weston Carnival – 27th June 12–4pm
- Bristol Harbour festival – 17th & 19th July
- Armed Forces day – 28th June, Queen's Square
- Bristol Pride – 11th July
- St Paul's Carnival – 4th July
- Grillstock – 11th & 12th July
- Bristol's Big Green Week – 13th to 21st June
- Rainbow Run – 20th June

Finally, you may like to know that this year there will be a National Table Tennis Day organised by Table Tennis England on Thursday 16th July 2015.

Many thanks
Terry Toghill
Chairman BDTTA



Table tennis at work

Hello all

My name is Aled and I work for Table Tennis England. My current focus is on increasing table tennis participation within Bristol. We are currently inviting businesses and organisations within Bristol to take up our offer of an Instant Ping Pong Pack (IPPP). There is no cost involved, we simply ask in return for some figures on how many people are using the pack. We are trying to encourage 30 minutes of play per week (that could be once per week for 30 minutes or just a few minutes per day) and we're ideally looking at 10–20 people per week (if you are interested but don't think you could reach those figures, please still speak to us and we can try to make something work).

More information on the packs, including a video, can be found at <https://vimeo.com/125662208> (please ignore the cut-off date). So, if you are interested in trying out a pack and/or you are aware of other businesses/groups that could also be

interested in this offer, please get in touch.

Regards **Aled Howell** | Coach Development Officer: South West

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