

Bristol Civil Service



Table Tennis Club

Bristol Civil Service
Table Tennis Club
Newsletter

Issue 3

May 2012

Gilbert Belsten Cup Final—Thursday 26 April

Congratulations to the Civil Service team for reaching the final of this prestigious competition. Garth Kinlocke, Dan Kolesnik and Chris Price (Chris Hansell was injured—best wishes to him) took on the Filton team of Dean Cundy, Je Kwon Choi and Young Min Kim. Garth played magnificently and kept a cool head, winning against Dean and Je Kwon in tense and exciting matches of four and five games respectively, but sadly the Filton players proved too strong for Dan and Chris on the night. Dan seemed to be having a bit of an off night, and although he nearly clawed his way back in the third game against Je Kwon, ended on 9-11. Chris produced some spectacular shots but succumbed to the greater consistency of his opponents. His good humour and funny remarks lightened the tense atmosphere at the end! The final result was Filton 5–Civil Service 2. See our website for full scores.



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CSSC Table Tennis Club Room

You may have noticed that we have started to develop the table tennis section Club Room in the CSSC loft. When completed, the Club Room will be our lounge, which can be used to watch matches from behind the glass wall in warmth and comfort. (The blinds will be changed or removed.)

It is our intention to upgrade the lighting and eventually remove the halogen lighting under which we play at present.

We also intend to create a table store at the new end and cease using the present table store. In addition the new room will be fully equipped for use as a meeting room.

It will be possible to fit out the room as we all would like eg we may even have a TV fitted for sports fans.

If you have any ideas which you would like considered please let us know.

Thank you.

The Executive Committee
Table Tennis Club

Please contact Terry Toghill if you have any comments or suggestions:

terrytoghill@blueyonder.co.uk

Summer league

The Civil Service is fielding a team of 5 for the summer league: Dean Barmby, Martyn Bryan, Stuart Murray-Williams, Charlotte Taylor and Steve Williams.

Table Tennis Club AGM

The provisional date for the Annual General Meeting of the Table Tennis Club is set for **Wednesday 20 June**.

Further details will be sent to all members by Paul Barlow as Club Secretary within the next week.

All current members are encouraged to attend as there will be some important issues to address both as a club and for individual players.

Fees

First 6 visits cost £3.50 per session

After 6 visits you must apply to become an

Associate Member of the Civil Service Sports Club (£42.00 p.a.)

Membership of the Civil Service Table Tennis Club is £18.00 p.a.

Sessions for Associate Members cost £1.50 per session

Remember:

- Please put the tables and nets away tidily
- Only plastic glasses and bottles upstairs, please

Me and my bat: an occasional series in which club players talk about their choice of bat— Bryan Taylor takes us down memory lane... and up to the present

About the year of Queen Elizabeth's coronation my friend Don and I were learning how to play table tennis on my parents' dining room table; this was with the old hard bats. My father showed us how to spin the ball – his bottle glasses got in the way of his natural talent but as budding senior school pupils we learnt what was for me to be the start of a lifetime's education in sport.

As a 23-year-old, a manager at work came in on a conversation between a workmate and me about how we had been playing table tennis whilst on a works course at a large country hall where the caretaker and his daughter had a table tennis table upstairs in a large flat above the grand hall; the manager was a division 1 player who took us to the works club, evaluated our skills (or lack of them) and started our league careers: by this time I had a Toni Hold blade with Tacky C on the backhand.



Soon it became obvious that a funny rubber was required for my virtually nonexistent forehand – at this time my backhand was chop chop chop and topspin was a big problem for me. Butterfly Scriver Killer was the first antispin (very slow) followed by Butterfly super anti (a bit faster). Then later still the dreaded long pimples, starting with the British-made Lentec Swing, then Friendship 755 with many more to follow.

Back to the backhand and after working my way up slowly through medium-paced tacky rubbers, I heard of a chap in Sheffield who made his own rubbers to ITTF spec. But he could not afford their stamp, so for £10 I obtained a sheet of Terry Curran Spoof and at the age of 47 for two years this rubber changed my life. First impressions of this very large low-profile pimples rubber were that it was just a touch fast for me, so I fitted a 0.5 dampening sponge. Playing for the town (Scunthorpe) in the second largest county in England, we won the Butlins Veterans' Cup two years running, with me losing only one rubber the first year and not much more the next. Chopping, pushing – hardly any mistakes. The quality of this rubber ensured complaints about no ITTF stamp, so after the two years I had to move on (or backwards, depending on whose point of view). During the following few years medium pimples appeared on my forehand (Winning NP2) and on my backhand (Koman Winning 730 first, then Friendship Fasttack 2000). This was on a slow homemade 3 ply blade. Then I emigrated from the frozen north to sunny Bristol to be near my grandchildren (who then went with their parents to live in the Channel Islands).

The Winning NP2 went off the approved rubbers list so I kept trying long pimples, preferably with smooth tops, till DR Neubauer Super Block adorned my blade!!! Ah, bliss again, but it was only a passing relationship as those at the top cried all change to the rules. Since then Tibhar Grass D Techs and Friendship 755 Mystery have been the main contenders for my forehand's affections, whilst first Tibhar Rapid D Techs then Donic Vario Big Slam have been my main backhand attack firepower as my aggressive style came more to the fore. Now to the present: I have progressed to Butterfly Tenergy on the backhand (if you can't beat them, join them) and Up Up Unique on the forehand (this is a very controllable pimple) with limited effect, but I have learnt that it is more important for me to have control than worry about the other person's game – as my mentor Peter Skerrett who is now deceased used to say to me: 'Always respect your opponent, Bryan – not too much, mind!!!'

Bryan Taylor

PS Who knows what the future holds?

Table tennis club committee

President

Ken Simmonds

Chairman

Marcus Berry

Deputy Chairman

Mark Kinlocke

Secretary

Paul Barlow

Treasurer

Richard Oram

Welfare Officer

Terry Toghill

Publicity Officer

Charlotte Taylor

Coaching Sessions at BCSTTC:

Juniors: Saturday afternoon 13.00–14.30 @ £3.00 per session with coach **Daniel Kolesnik** (ETTA Level 2 coach).



Advanced: Friday 19.30–21.30 @ £7.00 per session with coach Daniel Kolesnik, supported by Marcus Berry and Mark Kinlocke.

Civil Service team reports—the Civil Service fielded 9 teams in the winter league throughout the divisions from the Premier Division to Division 8

Premier division – Raiders

93 points was enough to keep Raiders up by four points in their first season in the top division. Garth Kinlocke was the team's top player with 93% average. My thanks go out to those players in the club who stepped in at short notice and I thank Darren for keeping the team together in my absence. Finally this will be my last season in the Bristol league for a while due to re-location to north east Somerset. I have had 6 fantastic years at Civil Service winning three league championships, a runners up and a Mordecai cup winners medal to add to my collection.

I have met some good friends at the club over the years and will miss them. I would like to wish all the club members the very best for the future and I now look forward to playing my table tennis in Bath and Mendip. **Andy Boucher**

Premier division – Nomads

The Nomads finished 8th in the division. Dan Kolesnik was the standout player with an average of 85.11%.

Division 1 – Saracens

Saracens cemented their position in Div 1 following their promotion from Div 2 last season finishing in 7th place overall. There were a lot of closely fought matches, 8 of which were drawn, with a great team spirit and matching shirts at times giving us the edge in a very competitive division. Winning a lot of the doubles matches also proved important in the final league position. **Rob Kendall**

Division 2 – Gladiators

A difficult season with a bad start due to the illness of two of the regular players. With a full team for the second half of the season we enjoyed the challenge and played some very good table tennis taking a few 'scalps' along the way. However, the task was too great and in spite of our efforts we could not escape relegation. Stats: Bob 50.9% from 57 games, Mark 50.0% from 36 games, Dick 8.3% from 60 games. **Bob Hindle**

Division 2 – Warriors

The final match of the season sees the Warriors team gain promotion to Division 1. Many thanks to our two regular team members who have been out some while due to injury for giving us such a strong start to the season. And big thanks to all the subs who helped us along the way. Warriors by name, warriors by nature. Magnifique! **Sven Pettersson**

Division 3 – Vikings

Vikings have had a very satisfactory first season in Division 3 after being promoted at the end of last season, finishing fourth. Although results varied from winning 9–1 to losing 1–9, many matches were closely contested and the results turned on one or two games (or even points), but we ended up winning as many matches as any team except the runaway winners of the Division. The three regular members of the team – Tim Harris, Terry Toghill and myself – all struggled with illness or injuries for parts of the season, which impacted our form and results. But we all ended up with averages over 50%, Tim and Terry over 60%. We were grateful to Paul Barlow, Gary Luchman and Silfan Rhys-Jones for stepping in when necessary – and Paul recorded a very impressive 100% record, winning all six of his games for Vikings. **Stuart Murray Williams**

Division 4 – Saxons

We had our last match of the season against Nailsea Tigers which unfortunately we lost 4–6 which we seem to have done quite a few times this season. That meant they finished ahead of us in the table and we finished 6th which isn't bad considering we only had half a team for most of the second half of the season. Many thanks to members of the Cavaliers team that filled in for us. We did better on our travels than we did at home winning 4 and drawing 2 as opposed to only winning 2 & drawing 2 matches at home. The most notable result came early in the season with a 9–1 victory away to Filton Pegasus who ran us close in Div 5 last year beating us both times.

Rich Cable finished on 56% average and I finished on 62%. Mike Durand who played around 6 matches for us was on about 84% before he moved up to the Warriors in Div 2. Terry Ridsdale (33%) was our other player for the first half of the season before his wife became ill and he has not played since. Our best wishes go to them and we hope she gets well soon.

We should remain in Div 4 next season but will be in search of some players during the summer. **Paul Barlow**

Division 7 – Cavaliers

The Cavaliers gelled more and more as a team as the season progressed, and have gone from being table tennis enthusiasts to being table tennis addicts. The great fun and enjoyment was accompanied by great success, conceding only one loss through the entire 22 matches. Despite this almost flawless record, we still managed to finish runners-up after a team with the same record but a better average and with whom we enjoyed two very engaging 5–5 draws. The Cavaliers are excited to have been promoted and are enthusiastic and looking forward to the challenge of a higher standard division.

There were also outstanding individual performances and records with three players in the top 8 on the table of player averages, Dean Barmby and Robert Dixon having the second and third best average out of around 60 players, and deservedly so! Martyn Bryan became known for his sometimes frightening good form and forehand smash, which could turn itself on and see him dominating the best of the players in the league. Ken Simmons held his experienced poise and picked up important wins, aided by his snappy backhand smash. His vast wealth of experience benefited the team in a variety of ways. Thank you to Radek Mastalerz who played up for 3 games and returned a 50% average. One final big thank you to Martyn from the team for captaining. **Silfan Rhys-Jones**

Division 8 – Partizans

We finished the season 7th out of the 11 teams in the division and only one point behind Filton Britannias, having won 8 of our matches, drawn 3 and lost 9. Our star player was Radek Mastalerz who finished on 72.73%, with Mark Orriss not too far behind on 63.64%. A highlight for me was Radek and Mark beating Andy Cooper and Nick Gingell of KCC E in a most elegant doubles match which our opponents chose to be played at the start of the evening; this was KCC E's first doubles defeat and was really satisfying to watch.

I hope that next season we may finish a place or two higher, and thank Radek, Mark, John Bedwell, Steve Williams and Joe Ebdon for being such good team mates. **Charlotte Taylor**

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BS7 0AT

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

Half Term Training Camp at the WISE 6th & 7th June 2012

The Easter training camp proved to be another success and the Bristol Table Tennis Academy Club is running another half term camp on Weds 6th & Thurs 7th June. It is open to players of all ages who want to improve their technique and games. The camp will be coached by ETTA qualified coaches and academy players. Different drills will be set to suit your level.

Venue: South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (Filton WISE campus), New Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8LP

**Dates: Wednesday 6th June
and Thursday 7th June**

Time: 10am-3pm (with an hour lunch break in between, bring your lunch box if you want)
Cost: £14/day

Enquiries: Choi Sze To at
0117 9192616 / 07962528573
Choi.To@filton.ac.uk

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 Marcus Berry at Marcus.Berry@tesco.net mobile 0792 982 3185

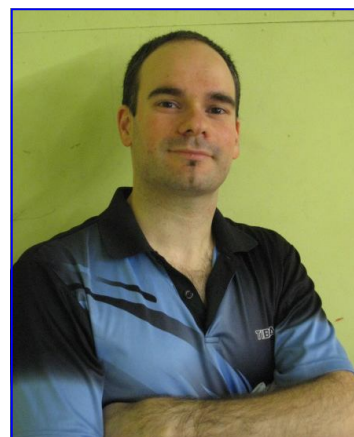
If you have any comments on this newsletter, or items for the next one, please contact Charlotte:

charlottejanetaylor@tiscali.co.uk

The next newsletter will be prepared at the end of the summer. All contributions welcome!

This is the second in our series where we say hello to some of our club members who hail from foreign parts. Here we say "Salut!" to Mickael Durand

I'm from Toulouse in France. After working in Germany for a while I came to the UK with my girlfriend and have been working at Airbus since last July. We hope to stay here for two or three years. I started playing table tennis when I was 13, and played for 7 years before returning to my first love, football. When I was 26 I had to stop because of an injury, and I started playing table tennis again 3 years ago.



In France the sport is organised on a national, regional and departmental level (a département is one of the 96 administrative divisions in France) and everyone has a ranking; you gain or lose points whenever you play in departmental or regional competition.

I notice two main differences between French and English table tennis: firstly, in France all training sessions take place in the week, and all competitions happen at the weekend – there are no competitions in the week at all. This is because, whereas the local leagues in England are very local, in France you may have to travel 20 or 30 km to go to even a departmental match and this is only feasible at weekends. The other big difference I notice is that in France you always warm up; you arrive at least half an hour before a match and warm up for at least 20 minutes. In England players hardly warm up at all and just launch straight in! I would say that I am an attacking player, and my favourite stroke is my backhand block. I have tried just about every different kind of rubber for my bat but have settled on a fast spin rubber on the forehand and an almost defensive rubber giving more control on the backhand.

Bristol is quieter than Toulouse and my girlfriend Claire and I are very happy to be here.

Merci, Mickael!

Pongwell Green TT Club

Newly created Bristol Club, "Pongwell Green", welcomes all players for practice throughout the summer and onwards. Great venue with 4 tables, singles/doubles, casual/social and serious play. Coaching also available from one of Bristol's top coaches, Dan Kolesnik. Opportunity to join league teams when season resumes.

Every Wednesday, 7.30pm till 10.30pm, Longwell Green Community Centre (Phipps Room), Shellard's Road, Longwell Green, Bristol, BS30 9DU. £4.00 per session, no membership required.
For info, please call Pete on 07921 953471