

# Bristol Civil Service

# Table Tennis Club



Bristol Civil Service  
Table Tennis Club  
Newsletter

Issue 2  
March 2012

## Cup news from Paul Barlow, Club Secretary

We have no teams left in the Mordecai Cup which is the first time that one of our teams has not been in a semi-final for at least 4 years. We are however still in the Belsten Cup which is a Club knockout competition and this is the first time we have got further than the first round. Congratulations to the team that knocked out a strong Failand side on their own turf. Next up, Knowle & Brislington at home in the semi-final on Wednesday 29 February.

### STOP PRESS:

Some really good stop press news. I am pleased to say the Civil Service Team has progressed to the **Final of the Gilbert Belsten Cup to be played on Thursday 26 April** – venue to be confirmed. They beat Knowle & Brislington in the semi-final 5–1.

**It would be good if as many people as possible could support them.**

## REMINDER: Friday 23rd March CSSC Table Tennis Taster Day— come and play, come and stay!

We are holding a Table Tennis Taster Day which will be open to all members of the Civil Service Club and their families.

It will be held from **5pm to 10pm on Friday 23rd March**, when visitors can drop in, have a knock, find out about the Table Tennis club, watch an exhibition match, ask about coaching and chat with members. Free snacks and hot drinks will be served... **so please come, for some, if not all of the time, and play—and stay to help! Any help you can give will be much appreciated.**

This is our chance to encourage new players to our sport and we may even find a new Table Tennis star or league players.

**For more information please contact Terry Toghill at [terrytoghill@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:terrytoghill@blueyonder.co.uk) or telephone 07505 104454**

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## Bristol Closed Tournament—Sunday 19th February

The Civil Service club was well represented at the Bristol Closed on Sunday 19th February with Paul Barlow, Dean Barmby, Martyn Bryan, Rob Dixon, Mikael Durand, Bob Hindle, Sven Pettersson, Silfan Rhys-Jones, Charlotte Taylor, Ian Thomas, Terry Toghill and Dave Webber all there to play in the different sections—and Club President Ken Simmons there to support. Unfortunately no players from the Premier Division and Division 1 could make it because of other commitments, so Garth Kinlocke was not able to defend his open singles title. **Many congratulations to Dean Barmby who won the Div 6–8 singles title!** Paul & Terry were runners up in the 3–5 doubles, and Sil and Rob were runners up in the 6–8 doubles. See Martyn Bryan's team report for the Cavaliers for a perspective on the day.

**Winners** (see <http://bdtta.org> for a full report and photos):

Over 55 singles—Gary Baldwin	Ladies' singles—Michele Reeves
Div 1–2 singles—Barry Fudge	1–2 doubles—Mark Williams & Will Hollingworth
Div 3–5 singles—Kevin Phillips	3–5 doubles—Tony Brown & Bernard Nash
Div 6–8 singles—Dean Barmby	6–8 doubles—Adrian Price & Ralph Mundy
Mixed doubles—Dave & Michele Reeves	
Open singles—Dean Cundy	Open doubles—Dave Reeves & Paul Hooper
Veterans' singles—Phil Payne	Veterans' doubles—Paul Hooper & Gary Dunning



## 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—Sven Petterson starts us off...

Close to thirty years ago I ventured into the 'dark side' by investing in a sheet of anti-loop rubber called Super Anti. This type of rubber has very little grip, and is ideal for coping with the spin of your opponent. But as with all rubber types, you have to learn to use it well.

I wondered why things were not going my way in using this rubber as I was making many mistakes, putting too many balls into the net! The problem was that

I was still using the same technique with this little-grip rubber as I was with my former grippy backhand rubber. It's all well and good having a 'funny' rubber that causes an opponent problems if used by an experienced player, but prior to using a radically different rubber you have to accept that your technique will have to change. Eventually I did become skilful in using it and the results followed. And in those early days the two-colour rule was not in force, so the use of anti-loop rubber was much more dangerous for the opponent, as you could have a grippy rubber on the other side. The range of deceptive spins by twiddling the bat during play could be huge, and because both rubbers were the same colour it was very difficult for the opponent to know which particular rubber had stroked the ball.

Time goes on and I hear long pimples calling to me. With many of the top combination bat players at that time using long pimples on one side of their racquet, I decided to have a go. The two-colour rule had still not come in at this time. I had a similar experience with regards to long pimples as I had to my first funny rubber. I remember enjoying the long pimples more though.

Amidst all this activity I was still trying to sort out what type of player I wanted to be. Attacker, defender or penhold perhaps. How about hardbat? I tried them all, and had great fun in the process. Eventually I settled on becoming a defensive player.

After some years the two-colour rule was brought in, which meant that combination bat play was not as effective as it used to be. The offensive quality of attacking style equipment kept on increasing, with little in the way of support for defensive players. But you have to adapt if you want to continue having fun in this great sport.

Over the course of so many years, I have tried many blade and rubber combinations. The one I am settled on is a defensive blade called Juic Ghost. My forehand rubber is red Tackiness Chop with a 1.1mm sponge, with my backhand rubber being black Long Feint II with no sponge. So after many changes I have a spinny rubber and long pimples combination which offers me the greatest opportunity to enjoy myself. The difference in spins is large, and the control of this setup is very good. But you could have the exact same bat as used by the current world champion, and if you left it by itself on the table, how many points would it win? You have to pick what suits your personality best, and then you have to put the time in to develop the technical skills to use it. The more we do this, the more fun we have.



### 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 is fielding 9 teams this season throughout the divisions from the Premier Division to Division 8

### Premier division – Raiders 16/02/12

Raiders have picked up a further 11 points over their last two matches including a 9–1 win over Almonds A, Feb/March will see some top opposition and hopefully every point picked up is one to avoid relegation. Well done boys.

**Andy Boucher**

### Premier division – Nomads

On 2/03/12 Nomads are 9th in the division, having won 3, drawn 4 and lost 7 so far. Their standout player is still Dan Kolesnik with an average of 92.59%

### Division 1 – Saracens

On 2/03/12 they are 7th in the division, having won 5, drawn 5 and lost 5. Rob Kendall is the most successful player in the team with a personal average of 83.33%

### Division 2 – Gladiators

As at 2/03/12 they are still struggling, having won 1 and drawn 1 of the 15 matches they have played. Good luck for the rest of the season!

### Division 2 – Warriors

On 2/03/12 they are second in the division, having won 9, drawn 3 and lost 3 of their matches.

### Division 3 – Vikings

As at 2/03/12 they have won 9, drawn 1 and lost 4 of their matches and are placed in fourth position in the division. Only 5 points separate them from second place.

### Division 4 – Saxons

With regard to the Saxons in Div 4, not much to report on outside of the league website. Mickael Durand has been our standout player winning 3 in each of his last

couple of matches including 3 playing for the Warriors in Div 2.

**Paul Barlow**

### Division 7 – Cavaliers

The Cavaliers are on their way to division 6, they are 28 points clear with 6 to play.

There have been some great performances recently:

Our most consistent player is Dean Barmby, he has a 100% average and was the winner of the Bristol closed div 6–8 singles.

Rob Dixon 86% and Silfan Rhys Jones 80% were runners up in the Bristol closed div 6–8 doubles, this was after a close fought out 1/4 finals with Dean Barmby and Martyn Bryan.

(Some would say D&M were robbed with all the nets and edges lol.)

Martyn Bryan has an average of 80% over the last 5 games, a captain's performance for

the closed season, 64% for the season.

Ken Simmonds has won some close match-winning games and is always on hand for his invaluable advice and game-winning knowledge. See you all in division six.

**Martyn Bryan**

### Division 8 – Partizans

As I write, the Partizans are 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 11 teams in the division. Over the season we have had every possible combination of results apart from 5–5 and 0–10 so are picking up valuable experience in dealing with victory and defeat; four of the remaining five matches we have to play are against teams which beat us last time so we have a tough job ahead. Radek is still our standout player with an average of 74.07%, with Mark not far behind on 66.67%.

**Charlotte Taylor**

**In the next few newsletters we will say hello to some of our club members who hail from foreign parts. We start off with "Salut!" to Daniel Stan**

I'm from Piatra Neamț in Romania, and I've been in Bristol for 18 months – after 5 years in Manchester I came south hoping for a better climate! I came to England because of the better financial opportunities here, and I work at Subway at Bristol airport.



I started playing table tennis when I was 14 – my high school friends and I played outside on a concrete table, with Hanoi Chinese wooden bats. Later I played in a club for three years, but mostly I have played for fun. In Romania if you want to compete in table tennis you have to start very young, and only the top players compete in a league. (The European women's table tennis champion is Romanian – Bernadette Szocs.) Here in the UK things are more organised, with clubs and leagues that everyone can participate in.

Table tennis is my hobby and my passion. I appreciate my wife Alina enormously, because she doesn't complain when I leave her on her own every Sunday (my only evening off) so that I can come and play at the club.

*Mulțumesc, Daniel!*

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Our website at  
<http://bristol-cssc-tabletennis.weebly.com/index.html>  
is being updated!



### 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](mailto:charlottejanetaylor@tiscali.co.uk)

I would particularly like to hear from you if you would be happy to write a piece about the bat(s) that you use, if you know any good table tennis jokes or if you have some good photos we could use in the newsletter!

### Photos from the Bristol Closed competition

