



**BANBURY & DISTRICT TTA**



**English Table Tennis Association**

(Affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

President: JOHNNY LEACH M.B.E.

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

Thanks to all for attending tonight's AGM at the end of what I believe has been another successful season for the league.

The league has run very smoothly during the season. The number of teams stayed around our usual consistent level which goes against the national trend. It was good to see on my travels during the season to see so many youngsters coming through the league. Many sports are struggling to get youngsters playing their games so it is great to see we are still getting the juniors playing the game & this is a testament to the hard work that goes within the clubs in our league. With a number of youngsters emerging from the various club coaching sessions I hope to see the number of teams we have increasing again in the near future. We again saw a number of new players joining & some old faces returning to the league across the 3 divisions. All of the divisions have in my opinion been stronger this season than it has been for many years. I'd like to thank Pete Jackson for yet again taking on the thankless task in forming the leagues for the season & the smooth running of the league during the season. Without the hours of work he puts in behind the scenes none of us would be playing the game as we do.

On the representative front, our players filled 3 of the top 5 places in the early season county junior trials. Our own number 1 was unavailable for these trials which goes to show the strength of the youngsters we have coming through the league. Michael Harrison spent the season as no 1 ranked junior in the county, with Jack Shardlow & Joe McGivern filling places 4 & 5. Michael who still has a couple of years left at this level & Joe in his final year as a junior both represented the county during the season. Jack also has a couple of years left in this age group as do a number of our other players that filled the lower places in the trials so I hope to see a strong Banbury contingent making up the county junior side over the next few years. John Camilleri was asked to represent the county senior side but was unable to due to work commitments. Unfortunately no other Banbury player was asked to take part in the senior trials. I have taken this up with the OTTA and they have assured me this kind of mix up will not occur again.

The Oxfordshire Inter league competition took place recently. This year it was hosted by the Didcot league at Moreton school with both the junior & senior events taking place on the same day. The league's representatives this season were Jason Tustain & Gary Jackson in the senior event, Michael Harrison, Jack Shardlow & Dominic DeGroot in the junior side. Despite not matching the feats of the senior side 12 months earlier all performed admirably with the seniors finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> & the juniors in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Again this year the league website has been used a method of invaluable method of communication. Many thanks to Rob Warnes for taking on the role this season. Rob has put a great deal of time & effort in trying to improve the site & the communication we provide to our members. This is an invaluable asset to the league so many thanks Rob.

Again this season we have received regular coverage in the Banbury Guardian with weekly reports published and tables & stats published when ever they have been supplied with them. Steve Smith at the BG has been very supportive of the league this year and I hope this continues as the local press is the best form of communication with have with the area. Again though we

need ensure we keep the press secretary & webmaster informed of events & updated as often as possible. If we do not filter information to them regularly it makes their job almost impossible

Peter Boyd Leslie again ran successful tournaments during the season. The top 12 was as competitive & as strong as it has been for a long time. The popular divisional singles saw each division was well supported which was pleasing to see as was the high standard of play in each division and sportsmanship that shone through during a number of tight games. This year saw a better turn out in the senior events at the Banbury closed but the junior events were very poorly supported. I am not sure of the reason for this and it may hopefully have just been a one off. Finals night followed shortly after and again attracted a bumper crowd and many tight games. Many thanks to Peter Boyd Leslie for his hard work again this year to ensure these tournaments run smoothly.

I would like to thank the various clubs who have staged events for the league this year, BGN where we held the top 12, divisional singles & the closed championships, Millennium where finals night was held & Chacombe where the handicap cup final was played. Also thanks to Robin Aston at Millennium for setting up the hall for finals night & likewise Arthur Beesley at Chacombe for arranging the handicap cup final venue

Recently Robin Aston attended a meeting on behalf of the league with the ETTA, Cherwell District Council and members of the Kidlington Forum & Bicester clubs regarding a possible partnership arrangement for a full time coach / schools development officer in the district. I will ask Robin to provide more details about this shortly & although still at a very early stage of the project this could be a good opportunity for our league & the clubs to grow & improve.

This has been my fourth year as chairman of the league and it has been a smooth 12 months and I believe we are progressing as a league. My job has been made much easier because of hard work and efforts of my fellow committee members. I'd like to thank you all for the hard work you have put in to ensure the league runs as smoothly as it does. Unfortunately committee meetings were few & far between this due in the main to a lack of a league secretary which we desperately need. I am hoping someone will come forward for this role tonight. I have enjoyed the past 12 months as chairman of the league and if accepted by the members would like to stand for re-election again for one more season in 2010/11 season to continue moving the league forward. However, having recently changed jobs & a number of other personal commitments I may not be able to stand past this year but I will keep you all more informed on that as the season progresses.

Finally I'd just like to congratulate not only the respective league and tournament winners over the season but all league members both playing & non playing for making this another successful year for the B&DTTA. I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you all at the start of next season.

Barry Hook