

Graham Spicer Table Tennis Club News 2008/09 season

Another playing season is complete, with teams and individuals from the Club participating in a number of leagues and events, both nationally and locally, achieving extremely encouraging results.

I am therefore commencing my report with brief details relating to the performances of those teams and individuals.

Local League Team Competition

The majority of members that play league table tennis represent teams from the Club in both the local Thames Valley, and Sutton & District leagues.

Sutton & District League

Only one GSTTC team is entered and is playing in the top Division. The team, consisting of Joel Clancy, Richard Parke, John Fannin, and Janice Lee finished in 3rd place, with the top performer being Joel Clancy (75%).

The Sutton & District League Closed Championship.

This competition was held in February 2009. Notable performances by Janice Lee who won the Ladies Singles title, and John Fannin who won the Super Veterans Singles title by beating another GS TTC member, Joel Clancey. Geoff Grange was the losing finalist in the Veteran Singles event.

Thames Valley League :

5 GSTTC teams are entered within 4 Divisions, and of these 4 teams entered the Handicap Cup competition.

Division 1, (2 teams). Finishing in 2nd, and 4th places. Each team retains its place in the Division for next season.

Division 2, (1 team). Finished in 8th place. This team retains its place within this Division for next season.

Division 3, (1 team). Finished in 3rd place, retaining its place within the Division for next season.

Division 4, (1 team). Finished 5th place. This team retained its place within the Division. Excellent performances throughout the season by Jo Lambert and Delores Boase.

The Thames Valley Handicap Cup.

Graham Spicer TTC has provided the losing finalist in the Mervyn Wood Plate event. The GSTTC team 5, consisted of Frank Middleton (captain), Harald Wollinger, Paul Digweed, Peter Hards, and David Robinson.

The Thames Valley Closed Championship.

The Championship was held in November 08. The best performers from the Graham Spicer TTC were Joel Clancy (losing finalist), and Geoff Grange (losing semi finalist) in the Open singles competition.

ETTA Team Competitions

ETTA - British Veterans League.

The Club have 1 team playing in Division 1A. The team of Derek Holman, Steve Davis, Dave Bangerter, and Steve Horton just failed to win promotion to the Premier Division by only 1 point.

Other Club members, David Harding playing for Unity Northampton (Division 1A), Tony Needham, David Solman, & Tony Morris, playing for Holme Park Dev 2 (Division 2A), contributed to successful promotion winning teams.

ETTA – National Veterans League.

The Club have 1 team participating in Division 1B of this feeder league for the ETTA British veterans League. The team of Geoff Grange, Steve Giles, Tom Adams, & John Fannin, finished 4th, and retained their place within the Division for next season. Four teams finished on the same points total, including the GS team, with one team being promoted and one being relegated.

ETTA – Cadets League.

The Club have 2 teams entered, one in each of Division 1 & 2, finishing 4th and 5th respectively. Team 1 was represented by Kim Beard, Lydia Regan, Anna Driscoll, Helena Foylan, and Sophie Lucas, whilst Team 2 was represented by Zain Doorah, Jack Montague, Scott Robinson, and Joseph Mallett.

ETTA – Junior British League.

The Club did not enter a boy's team this year.

The Club teamed up with York Gardens TTC to jointly enter a girl's team to participate in this year's competition. The team included Lucy Lou of GSTTC, Fei Fei Pei, and Lucy Burke who attend the Surrey TTA coaching sessions run by Jane Barella.

The team were awarded the 'team of the weekend' award, and also finished top of their division after the first weekend. The team managers decided that to participate in the second and final weekend, held in Wolverhampton, was inappropriate due to the poor driving conditions following many days of extreme wintry weather.

England Schools

Marcus Giles, and Lucy Lou, participated in the National Schools championships held in Doncaster on 25th April 2009. Both represented the winning London Region squad in the team championship. In the Under 11 boy's individual event, Marcus reached the quarter final stage, losing to Hugo Pang(Dorset), the eventual winner, by the narrowest margin in the fifth set.

Congratulations to Marcus on attaining the ETTA number 1 Ranking in the Under 11 boy's category. Lucy is currently ranked at number 36 in the ETTA under 14 girl's category. Both players have worked extremely hard over the last year, and will hopefully continue to improve during the next year.

Individual Competition.

Veterans.

Club members currently participate on a regular basis in individual events run by various TT Organisations which include the ETTA, and VETTS. Although the Club does not fund entry to such competition, the results achieved by its members deserves recognition, and also demonstrates that GSTTC are a Club at the forefront of Veterans Table Tennis.

6 Nations Competition.

David Harding and Tony Needham were selected for the over 50's teams for both England and Wales respectively. England won Gold, Wales the Silver.

Derek Holman was selected for the Gold winning Over 60's team.

County TTA.

GS TTC members represented their County TTA as follows :

Surrey - Team 1. Ian Girdler, David Harding, David Bangerter.

Surrey - Team 2. Steve Davis, Tony Needham, Jane Barella, Carmen Vajdi.

Surrey - Team 3. Steve Giles

Surrey - Over 60's. Derek Holman, Tony Needham, David Solman.

Middlesex – Team 2. Geoff Grange.

Essex – Team 1. John Payne.

Kent – Team 3. Tom Adams.

Kent – Over 60's (Champions). Tom Adams

VETTS Regional Masters Competition.

A number of successes in these events and these are shown below :-

Sunderland Event : David Harding, runner up Over 50 doubles.

Wolverhampton Event : Ian Girdler, runner up Over 50 singles. Tom Adams, Winner Over 70 doubles, and also runner up Over 70 singles.

Norwich Event : Tom Adams, winner Over 70 doubles.

Hereford Event : Tom Adams, runner up Over 70 doubles, Derek Holman, runner up Over 60 doubles.

Blackpool Events : Derek Holman, runner up Over 60 doubles.

Crawley Event : Ian Girdler, winner Over 50 singles. Derek Holman, runner up Over 60 doubles. Tom Adams, winner Over 70 doubles, David Solman, winner Over 60 singles plate. Steve Davis, winner Over 40 plate.

GSTTC members, David Harding, Ian Girdler, Derek Holman, John Fannin, and Tom Adams have all been invited to play for the VETTS in the forthcoming 2nd International Veterans Team Event in Sofia, Bulgaria on 10-12 July 2009.