

Graham Spicer Table Tennis Club Season 2009-10

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 Competitions

The majority of members that play league table tennis represent teams from the Club in either the Thames Valley or the 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, R. Parke, Tom Adams, John Fannin, Geoff Grange and Janice Lee, finished in 2nd place, the top performer being Tom Adams (87%).

The Sutton & District League Closed Championship:

There were some creditable performances by both John Fannin and Geoff Grange. Geoff won the Veterans Singles title by beating his team mate John in the final, with John in turn winning the Super Veterans Singles title. Geoff and John then went on to win the Men's Doubles event.

Thames Valley League:

6 GSTTC teams are entered within 4 divisions, and of these 4 teams entered the Handicap Cup competition.

Division 1 (2 teams). Finishing in 3rd and 4th places. Each team retains its place in the division for next season. Good performances in the individual averages by Geoff Grange (87% for Team 1) as always, and also by Simeon Giles (50% for Team 2) who continued to improve as his first full season progressed.

Division 2 (1 team). Finished in 2nd place, to be promoted to division 1 for the new season. Good performances in the individual averages by Carmen Vajdi (84%) and also by Horace Nelson (69%) in his first season of competitive Table Tennis.

Division 3 (1 team). Finished in 4th place, retaining its place within the division for next season. Richard Walker (79%) and Paul Digweed (63%) were the top two performers for the team in the individual averages.

Division 4 (2 teams). Team 6 finished in 3rd place with team 5 finishing in 4th place. Both teams retained their places within the division. Jo Lambert (77% for Team 5) maintained her usual high standards, but the best performance in this division was by Clive Green who topped the individual averages with 94% for team 6. Clive lost only 2 out of 32 games.

The Thames Valley Handicap Cup:

The best Graham Spicer TTC performance in the Mervyn Wood Plate event was by team 5, captained by Indrit Bajraktari, supported by Joseph Yoon, Clive Green, Simon Lee, and Paul Abrahams.

The Thames Valley Closed Championship:

The Championship was held on 10 November. Richard Walker was the only GS TTC registered player to be successful, winning the Restricted Plate event.

ETTA Team Competitions

ETTA - British Veterans League:

The Club have 1 team playing in Division 1A. The team of Derek Holman, Steve Davis (captain), Dave Bangerter, and Steve Horton failed, by just one point, to stay in Division 1a. The team experienced unusually poor results in Weekend 1, hence facing an uphill battle to survive during Weekend 2. It is to the credit of that team that it was only in the last match of the weekend that their fate was sealed.

Club member David Harding played for Unity Northampton (Premier Division) who were also relegated, with further Club members Tony Needham, and David Solman, playing for Norton Nomads 2 (Division 1A).

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 3rd, and retained their place within the Division for next season. The teams finishing 2nd and 3rd both completed the event on the same point's total, but for the second successive season the GS TTC team failed to clinch the promotion position on games difference.

ETTA – National Cadets and National Junior Leagues:

The club entered 2 teams, one in each league. The team participating in the Cadets League finished 2nd, with the Junior League team finishing 3rd.

ETTA – Junior British League:

The Club entered a girl's team to participate in Girls Division 2 of this year's competition. The team comprised of Lucy Lou, Fei Fei Pei, Lucy Burks, and Jessica Monis, all of whom attend the Surrey TTA coaching sessions run by Jane Barella. The team finished top of their division after weekend 1, but could not maintain their dominance for weekend 2, eventually finishing in 2nd place.

Lucy Burks and Fei Fei Pei performed admirably over the 2 weekends and finished the 1st and 4th respectively in the individual averages.

England Schools:

Marcus Giles continued to improve over the last year, and played impressively in the British Primary Individual Championships only losing in the final of the Individual Boys under 11's to Hugo Pang (Dorset), who took the title for the second year in succession.

Greater London Closed:

Marcus Giles also impressed in this event, winning the Under 15 individual boys singles by beating the England number 21 in the final, having already beaten the number 1 seed in the semi final.

Lucy Burks and Fei Fei Pei, both products of Jane Barella's Wednesday coaching session fought out the Junior Girls Singles final, with Lucy emerging as the winner in 4 games.

Individual Competition

Veteran:

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, and although not quite as encouraging as the previous year, the results achieved by its members deserve recognition, and also demonstrates that GSTTC are a Club at the forefront of the Veteran Table Tennis scene in the UK.

Veteran 6 Nations Competition

Derek Holman and Tony Needham were selected for the over 60's and over 50's teams for both England and Wales respectively. England won Gold, Wales finished 3rd.

Senior and Veteran County TTA:

GSTTC members represented their County TTA as follows:

Surrey – Senior Team 1, Ian Girdler and Chris Bush.

Surrey – Veteran Team 1, Ian Girdler and David Bangerter.

Surrey – Veteran Team 2, Steve Davis, Tony Needham, Carmen Vajdi and Derek Holman.

Surrey – Veteran Team 3, Patrick Caunt and Janice Lee.

Surrey - Over 60's - Derek Holman, Tony Needham, David Solman, John Fannin and Joel Clancy.

Middlesex – Veteran Team 2 and Geoff Grange.

Kent – Over 60's, Tom Adams

VETTS Regional Masters Competition:

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

Sunderland Event: Tom Adams, Winner - Plate event - Over 60 singles.

Wolverhampton Event: Tom Adams, Runner up - Main event - Over 70 singles.

John Fannin, Runner up – Plate event – Over 50's singles.

Norwich Event: Geoff Grange, Runner up – Plate event - Over 40 singles.

Blackpool Event: Tom Adams, Winner – Main event - Over 70 singles.

Thornbury Event: Tom Adams, Runner up – Over 70 doubles