

BLACKMOREVALE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE REPORT 2019-2020

At the TTE AGM 2019 there was a vote on whether to reduce the player's membership fees to allow for the continuance of TT365, there was a lot of controversy around the issue and the vote did not pass and so TT365 had to charge extra if leagues wished to continue to use it.

What was even more controversial was how the voting was and still is carried out whereby votes are allocated to leagues depending on the number of teams in that league, but on top of that a county has the right to a vote as well, the number of votes a county is given is equivalent to the total number of votes that all the leagues in that county have, which basically wipes out any votes the leagues may use. I find it incredible that something so antiquated a voting system, could still exist in this day and age. This is my personal opinion.

Back in September 2019 we started the league with 2 divisions with a total of 15 teams, up from the previous year and also with a team of Juniors from the Stalbridge club. The start of the season went well but in late December we heard that our League Chairman Dave Turner had passed away while on NC business in Milton Keynes, we then had more bad news that Les Whittacker had passed away in January, Les was TT through and through at every level and everyone knew Les, we also had another TT stalwart Steve Rideout pass away early in March.

So early March, we are heading towards concluding the season and Covid19 hits all sport and all sport is closed down for the foreseeable future. Eventually we decide to close off the tables and to run the rest of the competitions when we resume, hopefully later on in the year.

The social TT group aligned with the Compton TT club were meeting on Friday afternoons 2pm to 5pm, and were increasing in numbers up to 24 sometimes, it's a useful introduction to players wanting to take up the sport and to those returning after a break of many years, indeed several of the group now play in the league.

The TTE web site and League manager were promised to be replacements for TT365, but it turned out were poor substitutes and had many bugs and problems. They have taken a long time to sort these out and indeed the admin of Salisbury league needing help to just set up the basic league, and again about halfway through the season we had to spend hours resubmitting scores on previously submitted games because the league manager was displaying the scores as 7-3 etc. instead of 25-13.

Both BlackmoreVale admins wish to go back to TT365 and this will be voted on at the AGM. There are many players in the League who see very little value in belonging to TTE and with TT365 offering their services for free next season it's possible that consideration will be given to returning to being a league outside of TTE considerations.

Simon Cutler BVTTL Secretary.