

Dorset Table Tennis Association AGM 2020 – Andy Millar

Dorset County Cadets

The Cadet team played at Cippenham in November. They came top of Division 2A, being unbeaten and drawing just the once against 2nd placed Kent 2. The team was Owen White, Logan Macey, Felix West, Sam Taylor, Jess Moggeridge and Ashleigh Browne. Many thanks to Pete White for organising and coaching the team at the event.

Dorset County Junior 2nd Team

Dorset Junior 2nd team played at Matravers School, Westbury in February. They were runners up of Division 2B, winning four games and losing twice. The team was Ben Howe, Owen White, Brett Bentley, Logan Macey, Jess Moggeridge, Holly Calton. Many thanks to Pete White for organising and coaching the team at the event.

County Development Officer

Whilst all development opportunities must be considered, the initial aim is to establish contacts and support practices outside of the popular table tennis towns of Bournemouth/Poole/Weymouth, such as West Dorset and North Dorset.

There has been contact with a youth club in Charmouth (Lyme Regis). They are looking to establish a practice session with an experienced coach and parents are keen to support. Space is a concern and has held back the purchase of a second table. We will look again at this next season.

I have suggested a County Directory to advertise opportunities to play at various competitive, social and health venues throughout the whole of Dorset. There are lots of village and church halls practices we could add to a full map of established county venues. From this we can also investigate where to direct more help.

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.

Wimborne Table Tennis League Annual Report 2019-20

The league commenced in September with one division consisting of ten teams from the following clubs – Broadstone 6, Stourpaine 2, Ringwood 1 and Branksome 1. Unfortunately we were two teams short from the previous season as Bournemouth Sports declined to enter and Branksome could only raise one team rather than two. Nevertheless 53 players from the four clubs registered to play in the league.

Despite the drop in number of teams the season proved to be very competitive and enjoyable with all teams making every effort to ensure that matches were played on time. As a result there were only two matches that needed to be awarded as one team or the other could not raise sufficient players.

Like all leagues, the Wimborne league did not complete all of its matches due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic and its resulting lockdown of all sporting activities in March. The committee therefore took the decision to conclude the season, and as they could not be caught, the Broadstone A team were declared the winners of the league for the seventh year in a row.

The early end of the season and lockdown of all activities has meant that some tournaments and the Presentation Evening have not taken place, however efforts will be made to ensure that an award will be made to the league winners and individual tournament winners sometime in the future.

It is sad to report that the League lost three of its long term stalwarts during the season as John Way (President), David Turner (Chairman) and Les Whittaker (Vice Chairman) all passed away. Their contribution to the running of the league over many years should be celebrated and they will be greatly missed by all who played with or against them.

The committee has continued to operate with the majority of the work involved in running the league being undertaken by Melvyn Gregory and the tournaments being organised by Ruth Atkin for which we are all very grateful.

As for the future, all clubs are totally reliant on the opening of the facilities they use and at this stage there is no indication of an easing of restrictions on these premises. It is hoped that over the coming couple of months there will be a lifting of the restrictions on indoor sports and also the use of community hall facilities so that we can start playing table tennis again. However, we may have to face the distinct possibility that there may not be any table tennis played at all until 2021 at the earliest.

Although the league and the individual clubs will not be affected by this financially, it will clearly have an impact on the income for both Table Tennis England and the Dorset TTA.

Rod Fry
Acting Chairman, Wimborne Table Tennis League

30 June 2020