

## What – With My Back?

Welcome to Issue 3 of What – With My Back, the in house magazine of Hockley Table Tennis Club. This edition includes a full review of our most successful season ever in the Southend and District Table Tennis League and a stunning debut season in the Basildon and District League. These team successes, together with the individual successes of our youngsters, have really put Hockley ‘on the map’ in local table tennis circles and we are now regarded as one of the biggest clubs in the area. Not bad for a club still in its infancy so well done to all our members, no matter what standard you are, because just by joining and attending you are doing your bit to help the club progress. Also in this edition the usual mixture of rumour, gossip, bad jokes plus news of an exciting event which nobody can afford to miss!

### Joke Break

*I installed a musical doorbell which has a large gorilla singing about table tennis. It's called the King Kong Ping Pong Sing Song Ding Dong!*

### The Winter Season – Team by Team

#### *A Team*

Made up of the Emperor Tim Pang, Captain Keith Abbott, Liam Squirrell, Alan Tideswell and Tony Vassallo they finished in a comfortable 8<sup>th</sup> place (out of 14) with a record of 13 wins and 13 losses. Tim was undoubtedly the backbone of the side finishing with an 89% average and they could have probably finished a little higher

but for the sudden “retirement” of young Liam, which gave Keith a few more selection problems in the second half of the season. All in all though a satisfactory season and keeping a team in Division 1 was undoubtedly one of our priorities so mission achieved.

### *B Team*

Operating with a very small squad of Captain Dennis Squirrell, Paul Strutt, Matt Stringer, Neal Klyman and Josh Copeland its size became its strength as for the most part the team was generally chosen from four players, due to Josh’s absence at Uni. This, however, gave us continuity, team spirit and a very balanced team. Although by the end of the season young Matt emerged as one of the strongest players in the Division. It’s always good to have someone in your team who is going to give you three wins most weeks! Despite the threat of Runnymede and Basildon Hospital, we eventually finished 12 points clear at the top of the table and a season of what we expected to be consolidation had turned into unparalleled success! Now we have two teams in Division 1 next season!

### *C Team*

Another team, another title! Captain Stuart Adshead led Paul Henlen, Brian Bissenden, Jon Knight, Matt Nariel and Laurie Witte to the Division 3 title (as planned!) finishing 21 points clear and dominating the league all season – suffering only one defeat. Stuart finished with an impressive 88% average with young Matt Nariel not too far behind on 80% but, like the B team, they were consistent in their ability throughout the team. Plus, they had the benefit of a cameo role from Tubby who came back from injury in the latter part of the season. This team will certainly face tougher tests in Division 2 next season, but there is enough experience in the side to ensure they can more than hold their own at a higher level.

## Page Three Stunner



This lady has been making headlines in Japan recently for her table tennis attire and not wanting to be left behind, Hockley TTC will be using one of these three outfits as the home kit next season. Which one wins? You decide!

### Joke Break

*Always borrow money from a pessimist, he won't expect it back!*

## *D Team*

Captained by John Jolley – Phil Pond, Jason Stringer, Jim Nariel, David Cross and Kevin Blythe made up the team with cameos from Brian Parker and Ron Rogerson. Despite a good start to the season their form dipped from about halfway through, but they still finished a respectable 6<sup>th</sup> out of 11. Jason finished “top dog” with a 58% average but the team missed the consistency of Kevin who played only 12 games all season. A repeat of last season’s form from him would certainly have pushed the team higher.

## *E Team*

David Cross acted as non-playing Captain for the team which, from the size and inexperience of the squad, we knew would suffer in terms of results. They actually finished 10<sup>th</sup> out of 11 in the division. No less than 13 players turned out for the team – Brian Parker, Ron Rogerson, Claire Stringer, Sean Miller, Roger Sherman, Ben Cook, Graham Gregory, Harry Sawford, Dennis Hanna, Archie Brace, Darren Johnson, Barbara Boshell and Paul Seymour. Nevertheless there were moments to remember for Brian, who finished with a healthy 64% average, a first hat-trick for Sean and Claire, a first double for Roger and Darren and first wins for Harry and Ben. And a big well done to David for organising such a big squad!

## *Hockley Juniors*

The Emperor’s team of “Tiny Terrors”, despite some strong pressure from their main rivals Setts A, eventually romped to the Division 2 title in the Basildon League with a winning margin of 25 points. The team of Justin Jeffreys, Matt Stringer, Zoe Davis, Liam Squirrell and Rebecca Lowman fully justified their coach’s faith in them achieving

the promotion he had predicted. Four out of the five players finished with over 80% - a tremendous achievement!

## Joke Break

*I decided to name my dog Five Miles, now I can tell everyone that I walk five miles every day!*

## Around The Club

Not content with winning 3 divisional titles, the individual success enjoyed by our junior players Matt S, Matt N and Liam Squirrell in the Annual Southend TTL Championships have been a real boost for the club. In addition, both Matt's have been improving their national ranking and Matt S, in particular, has shown great commitment and motivation in attending the different ranking competitions which are necessary to get the points to move up the rankings. Needless to say Matt owes a big thank you to his mum and dad for taking him!

I completed a form for the TTE recently collecting data about the club and they asked for the number of members in the categories of Juniors (under 18), Senior (19-39) and Veteran (40+). It was interesting to see that we have twenty one Juniors, four Seniors and forty Veterans! That will probably make a lot of people suddenly feel very old but at the same time highlights a huge gap in numbers in the Senior age group. If you also bear in mind that out of our Juniors, only 2 were girls then maybe we should be looking at some sort of recruitment drive in the near future!

Whilst on the subject of the juniors, our coaching sessions are now running well in the new time slots which has given our coaches Tim,

Brian and Claire a more manageable number to deal with. Our actual numbers have continued to increase during the year and new applications continue to be received either as a result of reputation or word of mouth. We should note here the overall impact that Tim has had on the club since he joined, and his personal standing as a coach continues to grow. He was recognised by our League at the Annual Awards Presentation in May and is the first recipient of the Laurie Neville Award – full details of which can be found on page eight. Congratulations to Tim and very well done!

Saturday sessions are now in full swing and although numbers are not high, they are regularly attended and apparently thoroughly enjoyed by those who do. This would be a good session to reintroduce the club robot which is now fully operative again and something we must make more use of.

Brian's Medal has been a big success and the sessions so far have been virtually 'sold out' with the system working very well. Not too well for the Chairman, however, as I have now been relegated twice and appear to be taking on the mantle of Norwich City – up one season and down the next! Big thank you to Brian for organising it so well.

## Joke Break

*What do you get if you cross a skunk with a pair of tennis rackets?*

*Ping Pong!*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards Presentation Dinner

I can exclusively reveal that we have decided to hold a separate Awards Presentation night for the first time. It will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, at the school, and in addition to presenting the awards for our Annual Championships, I can also exclusively reveal that we will be presenting 3 new awards in the following categories:-

*Player of the Year*

*Young Player of the Year*

*Clubman of the Year*

Full details of the Dinner and the new Awards, which will be voted for by you, will be sent out shortly so please look out for these e-mails as I am sure you won't want to miss out. If I tell you that the meal will be provided FREE to members then I am sure you won't need much more of an incentive!

## Southend and District Table Tennis League Annual Awards

You will have already seen the photos on our website of this event and, in case you were wondering, the reason I appear so often is that I was asked to present some of the prizes – although I did actually win one as well! Just to bore you once again, the full list of trophies presented to Hockley members that day were as follows:-

Matt Nariel Under 21 Level 2 Singles – Winner

Div. 3 Restricted Singles – Winner

Matt and David Zeffie Div. 2/3 Team Event – Winner

Liam Squirrell Prem/Div 1 Handicap Singles – Winner

Matt Stringer Div. 2 Restricted Singles – Winner

SDTTL Winter League Div. 2 Champions – Hockley B

SDTTL Winter League Div 3 Champions – Hockley C

An impressive list which became even more so when we received two additional trophies which we knew nothing about. Firstly, Matt Nariel was awarded the Stuart Gibbs Trophy for most promising newcomer and this was followed by Tim Pang becoming the first recipient of a brand new trophy for Coach of the Year, the Laurie Neville Trophy. These were very prestigious awards to receive and reflect extremely favourably on the club. Ken Field introduced both awards:-

*This Award was created to recognise the emerging Juniors, rather than our more experienced Juniors. At the same time it was designed to recognise the amazing career of Stuart Gibbs, our President, who has represented England at every level; once reaching the last 16 of the World Men's Singles Championships. He is of President of both the Essex County Table Tennis Association and the Southend & District Table Tennis League.*

*Stuart has always been a great supporter of Local Leagues, winning many titles during his career.*

*Stuart has always encouraged young players to develop their game and has had impressive results and is the current Essex County Coaching Officer and has worked very hard to run regular sessions for Essex up and coming Juniors.*

*This year's recipient is a Member of the Hockley Table Tennis Club, who took up the sport last season and under Tim Pang's guidance has made good progress this Season, winning both the Under 21 Novice Title and the Division 3 Restricted Title at this year's Southend Closed Championships.*

*The Southend & District Table Tennis League have great pleasure in presenting the:-*

*The 2014-5 Stuart Gibbs Award*

*To*

*Mathew Nariel*



*Followed by the Lawrie Neville Trophy:*

*Lawrie played for The Warehouse Centre in the Southend League until well in his 80s and thereafter continued to visit the Centre on Tuesday evenings and play friendly matches. Throughout his involvement with the Southend League, Lawrie was always interested*

*in the development of young players and last Season, Lawrie gave the Rawreth Junior Table Tennis Club £400 which he wanted used for the benefit of the Juniors who played at the Warehouse Centre. This money was used to help pay for the training of 4 of the Rawreth Junior Members to become qualified UK CC Level 1 Coaches at a course run at the Hullbridge Sports Association earlier this year.*

*Lawrie's Family asked us to decide on a suitable Award to present annually in memory of him and it was decided to create a new Award for Coach of the year.*

*This year's recipient has over the past two years done extremely well in coaching the juniors of the Hockley Table Tennis Club: Matthew Stringer and Matthew Nariel, both taking titles at the Southend Closed Championships this year.*

*The Southend & District Table Tennis League have great pleasure in presenting the:-*

*2014/5 Lawrie Neville Award*

*To*

*Tim Pang*

