

# BRAINTREE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

*Affiliated to the English TTA and the Essex County TTA*

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## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Harry Warde 1918-2011**

Most of you will have seen my note about Harry, but I feel it is only right that it should be the lead item on the newsletter:

You will all be sad to learn that the league's founder Harry Warde has died. He was 93.

I know for some of you Harry was just a name at the top of the first page of the handbook, and there are few players around now who will have actually faced him across the table, but Harry is the man we all have to thank for putting the league together. He called the initial meeting, did all the arranging, acted originally as secretary, and then had a total of 16 years as chairman and a further 20 years as president. He was elected a life member many years ago, the first, I believe, to be honoured.

He was also a fair player, winning the veterans' singles on four occasions.

Most of you will remember Harry for his appearances at finals night. He was always pleased to come along to present the trophies, although had been too frail to do so in recent years. Those who attended the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinners will also remember how honoured we were to tell our ETTA guest speaker that we were able to invite our founder to our celebrations – not many leagues, I suspect, could do that.

The league will always be in his debt.

### **History**

Harry's own account of the league's early years can be found under the History tab on the league's website [www.bdttl.org](http://www.bdttl.org).

## **League Structure 2011-12**

Following a lengthy discussion at the AGM, it has been decided to revert to the old system of three divisions with no play-offs. Although recognising some of its benefits, the meeting was almost unanimously against the play-off system. The management committee felt it right, therefore, to return to the former league structure.

### **New teams**

This decision was made easier by an increase in the number of teams. At the closing date, 29 teams had entered compared with 26 last year. Sadly, since the entries were received, Liberal B have lost a number of players and, despite considerable efforts by a number of people, have been unable to find anyone to fill the gaps. The No.2 place in the division 2 grid will now read No Match.

The total of 28 teams is the highest for ten years.

New clubs joining the league are from Felsted British Legion and Stebbing. Both will be putting one team in division three and in both cases hope they may be able to increase this next season if all goes well. A warm welcome to both clubs.

Rayne and Netts have also entered an additional team, but White Lions, having commendably run two teams with only six players for two seasons, have found that impossible this year and are reduced to one team.

### **Cup events**

It was also agreed that the experiment of running the opening cup weeks together in the middle of the season would not be repeated. Cup weeks are again spread throughout the season but in contrast to previous seasons, the handicap cup will intersperse with the team and restricted cups, rather than being run after they have reached their final stage.

The semi finals of all three cups will be played in the week beginning 29 April, and the finals the following week.

### **Rule changes**

The main rule changes this year concerned the cup competitions. It was agreed at the AGM that the entry fee for the cups would be included in the entry fee for the league, which will rise as a result from £9 to £10 (£4.50 to £5 for juniors). All teams will automatically be entered for the cup competitions unless they ask to opt out.

The cup regulations were also rewritten to make it clear which players are eligible for each competition. Details are in the league handbook (under Knock-out Cup Regulations, on the page after the rules).

### **Martin Bawden award for service or achievement**

This year's award was won by Robin Armstrong, the league's coaching secretary since 2003.

In presenting Robin with the award, I pointed out that he had been around for ages and tended to be taken for granted

He has been on the committee for eight years and in addition he's one of those people who's always willing to help out in any way he can, both for his club and the league, mostly on the coaching front but also as a general fixer about the place.

Typically last season he stepped in when the inter league teams looked like folding up and agreed to take over the running of them.

For that, and many other things, we are extremely grateful

### **Life membership for Ian Whiteside**

Ian Whiteside has become the latest player to receive life membership of the league. He is only the seventh person in the league's 62-year history to be honoured.

The citation presented to Ian at the AGM reads:

Ian Whiteside has been elected a life member of the Braintree and District Table Tennis League.

This award is in recognition of his long and meritorious service to the league which has included four years as competition secretary, five years as vice-chairman and eight years so far as fixtures secretary. It is also recognises his service to the county, of which he is a life member, and to the ETTA, where he is a former vice-chairman, as well as his 35 years as secretary of Rayne TTC, which he founded in 1976.

### **Management committee**

The main change on the management committee this year is the retirement of Tim Huxtable as competition secretary. Tim held the post for a total of eight years, season 2001-02 and again from 2004 to 2011. In addition he doubled up as general secretary from 2006 to 2009. He was given the Martin Bawden Award in 2009 in recognition of his services to the league.

Keith Martin takes over as competition secretary but the cup competitions will this season be run by Ian Whiteside.

Keith's promotion and the retirement of Roy Hooper left two vacancies on the committee, which were filled by Zach Harrington and Mark Brown.

### **Congratulations**

to Vicki Stredder, on gaining a first-class maths degree from London University, and to Andrew McEwan, who also obtained a first, in his case in law, at Warwick.

## **Website**

Everything you need to know (hopefully) can be found on the website: [www.bdttl.org](http://www.bdttl.org). Many thanks to Alan McEwan for keeping this going.

## **Some gentle nudges from the fixtures secretary**

First of all, every player must do two things before they play their first match. They must have an ETTA Individual Membership number and payment must have been made for the current season. I have access to the website and whilst the vast majority of players expected to be playing in Braintree are listed, there are a few who are not. It's easy to register or update membership – Lyndon sent out details a month or so ago.

In addition to the ETTA registration, every player must be registered with the Braintree League. Electronic forms have been sent out a couple of times, and paper versions are also available.

Just to stress, that both ETTA IM and BDTTL fees must be paid before the first match is played.

Last season, most teams were very good at sending in results. So a reminder that match results must be with me no later than seven days from the date of the match. To clarify, if the match is played on a Tuesday, then the results have to be with me no later than the following Tuesday.

All clubs should now have scorecards. There are sufficient for all home matches, with a few spares. I am happy to accept results electronically but only if it is a scanned scorecard.

This season we are using a new IT program to maintain results etc. As yet I don't know what it will look like when results etc are entered but it will be different from the previous version. Two benefits are that I don't have to enter every player's details – these are taken from the ETTA IM record – and also that the format of the results means they are more easily added to the League web site. As I have said, exactly how this will all work out has yet to be seen. All I can ask is that you bear with me for a week or two whilst I get used to a new system.

I am not yet sure whether the new program means that I can or will send out weekly results updates or whether they will appear in some other form – again, please be patient whilst I work this out.

So, in summary, I hope you are all ready for the season with all the information you need for the League programme to run smoothly.

Any questions, please let me know.

*Ian Whiteside*

And from me:

Refreshments: Team captains are reminded that refreshments must be offered during a match to visiting teams (and your teammates, come to that). This has been in the last couple of newsletters, but it is still sometimes not observed. Whether it is tea, beer or orange squash, players should be offered something during the evening.

## Coaching

League coaching will begin at Notley on October 2 and then run regularly on Sunday afternoons. Interest has been high this year and there is currently a waiting list of people hoping to join. The league is grateful to those players who have helped out at the sessions. More help is needed this year. Anyone who thinks they can lend a hand in whatever capacity should ring Zach Harrington on 07587 145105

## Diary dates

Quiz night: Saturday 21 January, Rayne Village Hall

Individual tournament: 24-26 February, Black Notley Community Association

AGM: Thursday 24 May, Liberal Club

## Child Protection Officer

Should it become necessary, and of course we sincerely hope it won't, the league has a child protection officer. If any junior, or parent of a junior, has any concerns, they should contact Clare Johnson on 0794 165 4434.

## Summer League

### TUESDAY TABLES

Team	Team Matches	Team Wins	Games Won	Games Lost	Matches For	Matches Against	Points	Games Difference
<b>The Terminators</b>	7	6	81	49	24	11	<b>24</b>	32
<b>Pohl Position</b>	7	4	73	41	22	13	<b>22</b>	32
<b>Timo's All Stars</b>	7	5	79	62	21	14	<b>21</b>	17
<b>Rayne Desperados</b>	7	3	67	62	19	16	<b>19</b>	5
<b>Pharmer Boyz</b>	7	4	59	67	18	17	<b>18</b>	-8
<b>Ollie Wally Doodles</b>	7	3	63	64	16	19	<b>16</b>	-1
<b>The Young Ones</b>	7	2	53	76	12	23	<b>12</b>	-23
<b>Super Hoopers</b>	7	1	33	87	8	27	<b>8</b>	-54

## THURSDAY TABLES

Team	Team Matches	Team Wins	Games Won	Games Lost	Matches For	Matches Against	Points	Games Difference
<b>Felsted Royal British Legion</b>	7	6	91	45	26	9	<b>26</b>	46
<b>Notley Rejects</b>	7	5	89	46	25	10	<b>25</b>	43
<b>King Spins</b>	7	3	75	69	19	16	<b>19</b>	6
<b>Bainesies Battlers</b>	7	4	68	68	18	17	<b>18</b>	0
<b>Monsters Inc</b>	7	4	71	73	18	17	<b>18</b>	-2
<b>The Loonies</b>	7	4	66	77	16	19	<b>16</b>	-11
<b>Rayne Athletes</b>	7	2	52	86	11	24	<b>11</b>	-34
<b>The Scramblers</b>	7	0	45	93	7	28	<b>7</b>	-48

### Final Positions

1. Felsted RBL
2. The Terminators
3. Notley Rejects
4. Pohl Position
5. Timo's All-stars
6. King Spins
7. Rayne Desperados
8. Bainesies' Battlers
9. Monsters Inc
10. Pharmer Boyz
11. The Loonies
12. Ollie Wally Doodles
13. The Young Ones
14. Rayne Athletes
15. The Scramblers
16. Super Hoopers

Ron Fosker  
Chairman