

KENT LEAGUE TEAM TOURNAMENT 2007 REPORT

The 2007 "Team "Tournament" was run successfully at Byng Hall, St. Johns Junior School, Tunbridge Wells on the 18th. February 2007.

6 Teams took part out of a possible eight and the "All Play All" in one group went down very well using the Swaythling Cup system, and a very high standard of play was achieved by all the players throughout the day.

The original idea was for the Tournament to stimulate play in the Mens Division and to give them something extra to play for during the season. With this in mind, I did in fact circulate all the Mens Teams and the Vets Division One.

And so with a few of the Vets teams in Division One not playing such as Ashford, Medway B and Medway C, we finally ended up with the 6 teams. This was a mixture of Mens and Vets. Thanks go to Neil LeMilliere (Medway) for getting a second team together at the last minute.

Teams therefore taking part was as follows: Dover A, Dover B, Medway A Medway B
North West Kent and Bromley.

Last years champions Dover A were without their captain Alan Rutherford, and Alvin David was brought in to replace him on the day.

Medway A's team was extremely strong with Graham French playing in his first Team Tournament and partnered by Ian Gordon and Mark Buckley. Medway B's team was also extremely formable with Scott Friday, Chris Marr and Wayne Youngs also playing in their first ever Team Tournament. A big welcome also to David Fraser, Bromley, and young Daniel Ives from North West Kent, who both played their hearts out during the day.

The Swaythling Cup system is unique, and goes down with the players very favourably, as they are playing for most of the day apart for a short break for lunch. By drawing "lots" for each round, no player is quite sure whether he has to play 2 singles, or a singles and a doubles. The order of play being:- AvX, BvY, B/CvX/Z AvY, CvZ. The team that reaches 3 first wins the match. And the fact that 2 tables are used for each match helps considerably.

Many thanks go to Gary Howes and the Byng Hall Club for the use of the school four this tournament, which was much appreciated by all the players.

Round One saw last years champions Dover A getting a comfortable win over Dover B. Alvin David came into the A team in the absence of Alan Rutherford, and together with Mike Howard and John Glass, they got the better of Kevin Coleman, Jim Wraight and Paul Smallman.

Medway's A team was perhaps the strongest they have ever fielded in this competition, with Mark Buckley, Ian Gordon and Graham French. However they were taken all the way by Medway B's team which included Scott Friday, Wayne

Youngs and Chris Marr, all playing in their first Team Tournament. Here Scott Friday won both his matches against Graham French in straight games, but had an outstanding match against Ian Gordon winning in 5 fantastic games 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8. However Mark Buckley saw the "A" team home with a straight games win over Chris Marr, the final match score being 3-2.

North West Kent brought in young Daniel Ives (still a junior), and together with his Dad Peter Ives and the experienced Peter Rushbrook, they defeated Bromley's team which included David Fraser, George McGlone, Chris Turpin and Tony Dixon 3-2. The outstanding match being Peter Ives win over Bromley's Chris Turpin. Peter edging home in 5 games 11-8, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7, 15-13.

Round Two brought some of the best attacking play of the day as Dover A just got the better of North West Kent also winning 3-2. The best table tennis coming from Mike Howard who beat Peter Ives in a thrilling encounter 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 15-13. Although Young Daniel Ives surprised both Dover's Alvin David and especially Mike Howard in another outstanding match 7-11, 15-13, 11-9, 1-11, 11-7. Dover's Alvin David and Mike Howard were able to get on top in the doubles against Peter Ives and Peter Davis winning 10-12, 8-11, 11-5, 13-11, 11-6. Dover's John Glass beating Peter Davis in the last match.

Medway B gained a hard fought victory over Bromley with Chris Marr especially effective beating both David Fraser and Chris Turpin. Chris Turpin however fought back to beat Scott Friday in 5 games 11-8, 3-11, 2-11, 11-8, 11-8.

Medway A gained a comfortable win over Dover B but Ian Gordon was taken all the way by Paul Smallman before finally winning 13-11, 11-4, 8-11, 9-11, 11-5.

Round 3 brought the first real surprise of the day with Medway B beating last years champions Dover A 3-2. Dover A looked in command as they won the first two singles with John Glass beating Chris Marr and Alvin David beating Wayne Youngs in 5 games. However Chris Marr and Scott Friday won the doubles against Dover's Alvin David and Mike Howard. Wayne Youngs proved too consistent for John Glass and Scott Friday gained the vital 3rd point with a 5 games win over Mike Howard 11-7 9-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-6.

Round 4 brought another set of close matches with Medway A being taken all the way by North West Kent before finally winning 3-2 and Dover A also being forced into another close match by Bromley before winning 3-2.

North West Kent took a 2-0 lead in their match against Medway A. But the Medway Team came back to win the doubles and then Graham French winning an outstanding match against North West Kent's Peter Ives 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 15-13. While Ian Gordon just scrapped home against Peter Davis 11-3, 1-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5.

Dover A struggled to overcome a strong Bromley team. Although Mike Howard gave Dover an early lead by beating Chris Turpin 11-3, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, David Fraser made the score level at 1-1 by beating Alvin David in straight games. Dover's Mike Howard and John Glass proved too strong in the doubles beating David Fraser and George McGlone in 5 games 11-3, 11-9, 8-11, 9-11, 11-7.

Medway A and Medway B reaching the final on count back with North West Kent and Dover A.

The final provided some fantastic play by both teams. Scott Friday gave Medway B the early lead with a fine straight games win over Graham French. While Mark Buckley pulled one back for Medway A beating Wayne Youngs in 4 games. 11-6, 5-11, 11-6, 11-9. One of the best doubles was then played by Mark Buckley and Ian Gordon against Scott Friday and Chris Marr. With some fine all round attacking play, Buckley and Gordon finally got home winning 10-12, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Wayne Youngs then raised the level of his play, to surprise Graham French with his topspin attack to put Medway B level at 2-2. Winning in straight games 11-9, 11-4, 11-8.

The final match between Ian Gordon and Chris Marr was agreed a draw at 1 game all. As Ian Gordon was called away to work the spoils were shared by two very competitive teams.

North West Kent beat Dover A 3-2 in the 3rd & 4th place final, again the match being played out the full distance. Daniel Ives was the star player in this match as he beat Dover's John Glass in what turned out to be the closest match of the day, winning 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 12-10. He followed this with an all out attack to beat Mike Howard for the second time 11-3, 7-11, 11-9, 17-15.

Bromley overcame Dover B to win the 5th & 6th place final. David Fraser putting Bromley B in a commanding lead, beating Jim Wraight 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 13-11. This was followed up with an all out attack against Dover B's Paul Smallman 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6.