

KENT LEAGUE TEAM TOURNAMENT REPORT 2008

The 2008 Team Tournament was again run successfully at Bying Hall, (St. Johns Junior School), Cunningham Road Tunbridge Wells on the 17th February 2008. and I am indebted to Garry Howes and the School for the use once again of the School premises.

8 Teams took part this year which is two more teams than we had for the 2006 and 2007 tournament.

After consulting with Neil LeMilliere we decided to run the tournament in one group "All Play All". as per last years tournament. We only just completed the competition which ended at 6.30pmm. Again the players enjoyed the day, with the standard of play being extremely high. Many of the matches again being decided in the 5th game.

The Team Tourament seems to be getting more popular with the players as they get to grips with the Swathling Cup system. The original idea was for the Tourament to stimulate play in the Mens Division. Again with this in mind we had a mixture of Mens and Vets playing and this year I would like to give a big welcome to the following new players for this tournament. They are as follows:- John Boreham, Chris Ogedegbe, Akos Branyai, Russell Bates, Alex Facey, all from Bromley. Jack Brown from Dover. And welcome back after 2 years Barry Yarnley and Kevin Powell also from Dover. For various reasons absent players were David Fraser & Chris Turpin from Bromley, Daniel Ives from North West Kent. Mark Buckley, from Medway. Hopefully they will return next year.

So the Teams taking part are as follows:- Medway A and Medway B last years joint winners, Bromley A and Bromley Mens, North West Kent, Dover A, Dover B, Dover C.

The Swathling 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/C v X/Z, AvY, CvZ. The Team that reaches 3 first, wins the match. The fact that 2 tables are used for each match does help considerably.

If we again have eight teams entering the tournament I would have to consider moving the tournament to the Howard School where I would have 8-10 tables available. 8 teams would be better playing on 8 tables.

Pick of the matches in the first round, must be that between Medway A and Medway B. Wayne Youngs played magnificently for Medway A to beat Ian Gordon 11-7, 11-8, 11-8. Going on to beat Graham French in a fantastic close match. The scores telling their own story 12-10, 10-12, 11-8, 10-12, 12-8. However Graham French partnered by Neil LeMilliere came back in the

doubles to win in another 5 game thriller 5-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9.

With Graham French beating Scott Friday in yet another 5 games encounter 11-5, 11-8, 8-11, 6-11, 11-3 to draw level at 2-2. It was Neil LeMilliere who rose to the occasion to finally beat Chris Marr. LeMilliere used his top spin game to great effect unseating Chris Marr who finally went down 15-17 in the fourth game.

It was to be Medway A's only defeat of the day as they forged ahead to beat both Bromley teams who were extremely strong on the day.

Although Chris Marr lost the first rubber to Bromley's George McGlone in straight games 7-11, 5-11, 8-11 Scott Friday was able to smash his way out of trouble to beat Russell Bates in 4 extremely close games 11-7, 11-8, 10-12, 12-10. With Scott Friday also having a good win over George McGlone, he partnered Chris Marr to win the doubles against Bromley's Alex Facey and Russell Bates.

Medway A got their best win of the day when they defeated Bromley Mens team 3-0 with Chris Marr beating Bromley's Chris Ogedegbe in straight games 11-8, 11-6, 11-7, while Wayne Youngs played superbly to beat John Boreham 9-11, 11-7, 11-6 11-3. Chris Marr and Scott Friday overcame John Boreham and Chris Ogedegbe to win the doubles 11-7, 7-11, 11-9, 11-4.

North West Kent's team took Medway A all the way as Peter Ives attacking style always had Medway's Chris Marr in trouble winning in 4 games 2-11, 11-2, 11-5, 11-6. Peter Davis then put North West Kent 2 points up beating Wayne Youngs 11-4, 11-5, 11-9. However Scott Friday and Wayne Youngs combined well together to win the doubles 11-9, 11-5, 11-9. The reverse singles also went Medway A's way with Chris Marr having a fine win over Peter Davis 11-6, 11-7, 11-7 while Scott Friday beat North West Kent's Mick Kilden in the final rubber 11-7, 11-5, 11-2.

One of the best performances of the day was Kevin Powell's win for Dover C in his match against Bromley's Acos Branyai. His counter attacking on the backhand often surprised the Bromley player. Powell kept attacking when ever he could and his game seemed to improve as the match wore on to finally outwit his opponent winning 11-9, 5-11, 7-11, 12-10. And after trailing 8-10 in the final game saved two match points before just getting home 12-10.

Jack Brown was another young player to excel on the day. Playing with his father for Dover B also seemed to relish the all round standard of play as he surprised Medway B's Ian Gordon to win the 3rd game before going down 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11. Jack Brown also played a fine counter hitting game against Bromley's Alex Facey, just losing the first game 11-13 but winning the second game in fine style 11-5. Finally surmounting to Alex Facey's more experienced play 8-11, 7-11.

Perhaps one of the most crucial matches of the day occurred in Round 6 where

Dover A held a 2 points advantage after Dover's John Glass had a fine win over Medway A's Scott Friday and Alan Rutherford's pimple rubbers often confused Wayne Youngs with the Dover player edging home 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 11-9 However Wayne Youngs and Chris Marr pulled the Medway side back into the match after a tremendous tussle in the 4th game 11-6, 9-11, 11-8, 18-16. Scott Friday made the score 2-2 after beating Alan Rutherford 9-11, 11-8, 11-8 8-11, 11-9 while Chris Marr put the Medway side into the lead beating Barry Yarnley in straight games 11-9, 11-5, 11-9

Medway A's team Scott Friday, Chris Marr and Wayne Youngs all round skill saw their team home on the day winning the tournament outright for the first time only losing the one match to Medway B and finishing with a total 12 points tally from 7 matches played.

Bromley A and Bromley Mens shared second prize with a total of 10 points from 7 matches played.

RESULTS

Teams

Medway A (joint holders) Chris Marr, Wayne Youngs, Scott Friday

Medway B (joint holders) Neil LeMilliere, Graham French, Ian Gordon

Dover A: Alan Rutherford, John Glass, Barry Yarnley.

Dover B: Derek Brown, Jack Brown, Lee Edgington

Dover C: Jim Wraight, Kevein Powell, Kevin Coleman

Bromley A Alex Facey, Russell Bates, George McGlone

Bromley Mens: Tony Dixon, John Boreham, Alex Facey, Acos Branyai, Chris Ogedegbe

North West Kent: Peter Ives, Peter Davis, Mick Kilden.

Round 1: Dover A 3 Dover C 2: Bromley A 3 Bromley Mens 1: Dover B 3 NWK 1:

Medway B 3 Medway A 2:

Round 2: Dover B 3 Dover C 0: Medway B 3 Dover A 2: Medway A 3 Bromley A 2:

Bromley Mens 3 NWK 1:

Round 3: Bromley A 3 Dover A 2: Bromley Mens 3 Dover B 1: Medway B 3 Dover C 0:

Medway A 3 NWK 2:

Round 4: Medway B 3 Dover B 0: Medway A 3 Bromley Mens 0: Dover A 3 NWK 0:

Bromley A 3 Dover C 0:

Round 5: Medway A 3 Dover B 0: Bromley A 3 Medway B 0: Bromley Mens 3 Dover A 1:

NWK 3 Dover C 2:

Round 6: Medway B 3 NWK 1: Bromley A 3 Dover B 1: Medway A 3 Dover A 2:

Bromley Mens 3 Dover C 2:

Round 7: Dover A 3 Dover B 0: Medway A 3 Dover C 1: Medway B 3 Bromley Mens 1:

Bromley A 3 NWK 1:

Many thanks to all the players that took part
DATE FOR NEXT YEARS TOURNAMENT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15TH 2009
venue to be advised

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