

# MDTTA

Springtime

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

**The season is now approaching its conclusion for its players,**

**Top Teams** – the divisions are shaking out with the likely promotions and demotions almost resolved. Those involved in the top and the bottom can begin to look forward to a change of opponent next season. Those in the middle can still affect the outcomes. For those with web access the up to date position is shown on [www.maidstonetta.co.uk](http://www.maidstonetta.co.uk) or otherwise they are in the Kent Messenger.

**What's Coming Up - the AGM, as shown in the league Hand Book it is on TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2007 1930 hours at the Civil Sports Club. A good turn out would be appreciated to actively support the Association and its Committee.**

**Allen Cooper Handicap Trophy** – the semi-finals are w/c 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 and the final is w/c 16<sup>th</sup> April for those interested in watching the closing stages of the competition. Details of who makes it to these rounds will be in the Kent Messenger. Thanks go to David Bettle and his team for the organisation of the competition.

**What's Happened** – *The Closed Tournament at the Howard School in February saw a new name on the Men's Open Trophy with Phil Saxby beating Ian Gordon in the final. Ian having put out the then incumbent Champion Martin Hewitt in the semi final – an excellent performance and reversal of the result in last years' final. Alison Pearson could not over turn last year's final and had to settle for runner up to Tina Stewart. Alison's power hitting could not find a way past Tina's consistency. There were good wins in the Veterans events for Ted Tydeman (Over 50's) and Denis McConkey(Over 60's), in fact beating each other in process of winning these events. This year saw the return of Barry Skates back as a participant and Evelyn as part of the organising team. I am sure all those who took part would want to give their thanks to that team, headed by Julie Hall.*

*Again full details should be on the www site. NB – some may remember this is not Phil's first championship, he won it playing for Sutton Valence some twenty years ago in a superb match against Malcolm Francis of Westborough at Larkfield TTC.*

## Clubs in the Spotlight

Civil Sports and Coxheath with an add on for Barming.

Civil Sports is in its tenth year and is virtual certain to have achieved top dog position as division one winners in this anniversary year, breaking the MWMC monopoly of the last decade or so. Mike Porter is its Secretary and a founding member. The Club started with one

team but now supports three, two in division 1 and one in division 3. Generally the Club's teams hold their own in the upper half of the division but this year the first and third teams have done especially well. Evergreen Mike will be particularly pleased to part of a trophy winning team, having for so many years been an established and keen participating member of the league, previously for the MWMC club.

Coxheath, who play at Linton, were once known as Linton, who moved to Coxheath Village Hall and now moved back again to Linton village Hall. They have the likes of Martin Hobbs at their heart. He has worked his 'magic' over the years along with the Bettles and their regular membership, who have always brought about a good club spirit and a friendly ethos. Currently and pretty consistently they have run four teams across all the divisions, this year except division three, and are doing well in the majority of them. Their first team is struggling to hold their own in division one. Unfortunately it has always been the case the bottom teams can yo-yo between the divisions, the gap between 'divs' one and two can be quite significant.

*Civil Sports and Coxheath are two of the Associations small/medium size and 'newer' but now well established clubs and one's which retain our diversity in these times of diminishing numbers.*

Barming. One of our older Clubs - my little bit about the current Club in the last Newsletter initiated a follow up from its Secretary. Barming Youth Club was it seems probably the embryo for the current club, who entered the MDDTTA from about 1956 for ten years, before closing. From this arose a phoenix in the form of the nearby St. Andrew's YC, who took on the TT mantle for that area until 1970. The metamorphosis continued with the Barming Young Adults Club (BYAC), comprising of mainly the players from St. Andrew's but now playing until 1982/3 at Barming Village Hall. The Club gained in popularity and somewhat seamlessly became shortened to the Barming TTC, now doubt as the players moved into full adulthood. Among its members are Bill Lavis, the longest serving member, carrying out various roles in that time and who many years back achieved the status of and is still a national umpire (you may have seen him sporting the light blue ETTA coat on occasions), Brian Buckingham who has played in the MDDTTA for 57 years – (editor's footnote/ I played him in the AC Handicap last year for the first time in 25 years: Brian's parting comment was 'see you again in another 25 years!'). Martin Hewitt is its most successful (although now ex) player. We have young Terry Smith, who has played for Barming in all its phases – we are obviously now seeing it in a senior phase. Tony Craig's claim to fame is the current longest serving Secretary in the MDTTA. Does any one know better on that fact? Barming are proud to have been a force within the league over time, being the winners of Division one in 1977/8 (that year it was in fact called the Premier) and have won or been runner up in all its divisions (from and including one to seven) with the exception only of division six. Well done to those with such distinguished links to the local game.

*Over time, alphabetically all the Clubs will be spotlighted. If anyone has any tit bits they want to feed in, please feel free to do so. Here is just one such little snip it from MWMC, who hold their own Annual Closed Competition. In December 2006 Martin Hewitt lost his crown, being beaten by Mike Cripps in the final. Am sure he will though be back - with a vengeance.*

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**Maidstone and District Table Tennis Association sponsored by Hillreed Homes**

Affiliated to KCTTA and ETTA - 4 Divisions 46 Teams 9 Clubs – approximately 160 players  
Represented in the Kent League - Senior and Veteran divisions