

## **WEALD CLUB STALWART EDDIE WILSON RETIRES FROM TT**

Eddie Wilson, the oldest member and stalwart of the Weald Club based at Angley School, Cranbrook, has decided to retire from table tennis after more than 60 years in the sport. Eddie, nearing his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, said, “The aches and pains I get after playing keep reminding me that it is now time to make a dignified retreat and put down my bat. Seriously though, it is just that I am getting old and have decided that it is now the right time to stop.”

Eddie, from Tenterden – he is a former Tenterden Town Clerk – first picked up the game when he lived in Canterbury.

“I started a bit later than most people, when I was around 16 or 17. I played in the Canterbury League for a club which had a team of 3 whose combined ages came to 200 years! Two of them were around my age now. When someone learned that I was a Civil Service auditor, I was asked to become auditor for the league which I was for several years.”

When he changed offices to working in London, he played in the London Business Houses League for 25 years, ending up in the first division. Living in and commuting from Sevenoaks, he also played in the Sevenoaks League. Then on retirement from the Civil Service at 54, he stopped playing for a short time.

However, now living at Tenterden, he resumed playing in his late 50's at the Rolverden Club, and when that club folded 10-12 years ago, he joined the Benenden Club, which was renamed the Weald Club when it moved to new premises at Angley School Cranbrook. Representing the club in the Ashford League Eddie has picked up some divisional winners trophies, and only last season his team topped the 4<sup>th</sup> division at the halfway stage when they were then promoted into the 3<sup>rd</sup> division.

Eddie has enjoyed and been grateful for his table tennis. “Playing has done me good and kept me healthy to a ripe old age.” The Weald Club is also grateful to him. Ken Muhr, club chairman, said, “While we are always short of volunteers, Eddie has been a team captain and over the last two years been very good in supervising the mixed player club practice night on Mondays. He is also quite a character, playing in his famous green Fred Perry shirt, and causing the youngsters lots of problems with his spin and angles. Because he goes for fine placements he gets plenty of edges and nets, earning him the title, ‘Eddie the Edge’! We will miss him.”

15 year old club member from Cranbrook, Jaymee Coonjobeeharry, commented, “Eddie is a real role model, you are always learning new things from him. You don't think how old he is. He doesn't act like he is old when he is on the table or when you are talking to him.”