

## News

03.10.10

### **Report - Week 1**

The Isle of Thanet Table Tennis League begun this week, as the league welcomed both new and familiar faces back to competitive table tennis..

Division One started with a bang, with last years top two clashing at the Odds Hall in Ramsgate. Keith Clark's reigning champions Odds A squared up to Margate A, and last years unbeatable man, Ian Mileham. Clark got his season underway with a comfortable 3 set victory over Danny Lansdown, before the game of the evening between Dean Harris and Mileham. It's not often Harris is considered second favourite for a meeting at the Odds, and he seemed to enjoy the underdog tag, pushing Mileham all the way to a fifth set, despite dropping the first two. However, Mileham was not to be undone, winning a mammoth 5th set 14-12.

Keith Clark's steady start to the season was about to be undone, as Trevor Kelly picked up his first win of the season. Again, it went down to a 5th end as they matched each other hit for hit. It was Kelly though who managed hold his nerve in the final end to steal an impressive victory 11-8 6-11 11-7 4-11 11-9.

After their many long and gruelling battles in the past, it was time for Clark and Mileham to take to the table, with neither seeming to have quite found the form they would like to carry them through the season quite yet. Clark took the first end against the Thanet Open Champion, before Mileham up the anti, taking the next three to win the game 8-11 11-6 11-7 11-4.

A four set doubles win for Odds ensured they kept up their impressive record at the Odds, showing in the process that they are still the team to beat.

Elsewhere in Division 1, newcomers Margate C faced a stern test against Rebels A. Rebels have added to their squad for this season, with Rob Biagolowicz joining for their B side, giving them a squad capable of a top 4 finish. Paul Ursell will continue to lead the line, and he started his season well, winning his three in comfortable fashion, with only Simon Hillier managing to snatch and end off him. However, that's where this writer's good fortune ended, but due to the fact I write this thing, I will pad this out a bit to make it look as though I got close. Credit however, must go to Giulio Guariglia, who never gave me a sniff throughout, a top class performance. On the other hand, the story was very different for another Division 1 debutant, Rob Pugh. He claimed victory in his first match against Guariglia in 4 sets, and followed that up with a very impressive win over Rob Biagolowicz. He won the first two sets, nullifying Biagolowicz's dangerous loop, before a slip up and lapse in concentration meant that Biagolowicz was back on level terms at 2-2. Pugh looked to be on the back foot, but he fought back well and regained the initiative, and held his nerve to claim a well deserved victory. A Margate doubles win meant that they took three points home with them, a result to be content with at this stage of the season.

Division Two has taken a new shape this season, with the introduction of 2a and 2b. 2a's early leaders are Rebels B, who dismantled Margate E 10-0. Wayne Osborne guided his team through having rolled back the years to play a near perfect evening of Table Tennis. He was unstoppable, giving the Division Two debutants no chance of easing their way into the new division. Margate have been given a tough start to life in the second division, playing host to Rebels and next up is Sandwich A, another side who will be looking to push for honours this season. For Rebels, Trevor Cornock and Terry Osborne also had fine evenings, recording three wins apiece to see their side to the top of the table.

Close behind them though are Rebels F. Ian Barker made his debut for the side, and coasted to three wins against Rebels H. Only Tony Mills managed to grab a consolation point for the H side, defeating Geoff West in three sets to begin his campaign well. Chris Davies also walked away with three wins for the F side, who sit just one place behind Osborne's Rebels B side.

Division 2b's early leaders are Sandwich B, who with only two players, claimed an impressive win over Thanet Juniors A. Rob Smith and Derek Bailey restricted the Juniors to just two ends all night, winning their games comfortably. The Juniors will need to improve if they are to live up to expectations.

Invicta B and Rebels C played out an entertaining 5-5 draw on the opening night of the season. Invicta played the game with just two players, but still managed to grab a draw thanks to debutant Mick Palmer. He comfortably won his three, and looks to be a match for anyone in the second division this season. Doug Meer also picked up a well earned victory over Pam Mannings, before a doubles victory for Invicta meant they came away with a 5-5 draw.

Division Three also looks to be very competitive this year, with Invicta C perhaps the slight favourites to take the title. They started their season with a 7-3 win over Invicta E. Steve Tebbett continued his fine form from last season, winning his three. The positive for Invicta E was the impact of Kim Coles. He won two out of three, and looks to be a positive addition to the side.

Sandwich C will look to improve on last seasons performance, and have started solidly, with a 5-5 draw with Margate G. For Sandwich, Jeremy Smith won his three, with Jamie Davies and Terry Laslett also picking up one each. For Margate, Gabriel Awonusi won two, with Billy Summers and Stuart Greene bagging one each. Awonusi and Summers won a vital doubles to snatch a 5-5 draw.

Thanet Juniors continue the production line of players moving through into the league with two youngsters making their league debuts this week. Yemung Li and Dean Fitch both played well, with Li claiming a win in the process. The more experienced Aaron Samme started his season well with two wins, but it wasn't enough for the Juniors, as Invicta D ran out 7-3 winners.

13.10.10

## **Report - Week 2**

The second week of Table Tennis in Thanet served up some interesting match-ups, as the leagues begin to take shape.

In Division One, Odds A jumped to the top of the division after a resounding 10-0 win over Margate C. The champions were rarely troubled, with newcomers Margate struggling to make an impact on the game. Rob Pugh took ends of both Keith Clark and Andy Cannon, but that was as good as it got for Margate, as Odds flexed their muscles in brutal fashion.

Ian Mileham's Margate A look to be one of Odds biggest challengers for the Division One title this year, and they dropped just one point against Invicta A. Mileham and Trevor Kelly both recorded comfortable hat-tricks, with Mick Bowden grabbing a consolation point for his Invicta side, defeating Danny Lansdown.

Margate B opened their league campaign against Odds C, and recorded a comfortable 8-2 win. Margate fielded a strong team, with Chris Hearn and Ron Rowley both winning their three in strong fashion. Dennis Cannon chipped in with one, as Margate made an impressive start to the season. For Odds, John Walker and Sharon Clark picked up a win a piece, but they will need to improve if they are to challenge the top teams this year.

In Division 2a, Rebels B continued their perfect start to the season with their second consecutive 10-0 win. Trevor Cornock, Wayne Osborne and Terry Osborne all racked up comfortable hat-tricks against newly promoted BT, who will look to shake off the effects of the defeat in time for next weeks game.

Margate E had a better time of it this week than they did last, as they took on Sandwich A. Despite being on the wrong end of a 7-3 score line, there were many positives for the Stevens family to take from the game. For Sandwich, Derek East recorded a hat-trick to pick up from where he left off last season.

Barnstonworth also kicked off their campaign this week after last week's cancellation. They took on Rebels F, who started the week in second spot after demolishing their 'H' side last week. However, it was a different story this week, with Darren Jones picking up his first hat-trick of the season for Barnstonworth in a 7-3 win. Jeff Stephenson and Bob Malins also secured their first wins of the season, with Dave Rolfe, Chris Davies and Geoff West all winning a game each for Rebels. It was not enough to deny Barnstonworth the win though, who look to be a side capable of pushing Rebels B for the top spot in the division.

In 2b, table toppers Sandwich B couldn't continue their good start to the season having succumbed to a 6-4 defeat to Rebels C. For Rebels, Alan Dennahy, Pam Mannings and Peter Burton all won two each to ensure a solid start to the season continues. For Sandwich, Rob Smith and Derek Bailey both won two, and an impressive doubles win meant they finished the night on the wrong end of a 6-4 result. Both these sides look to be capable of top 3 finishes.

During the summer, Roy Lambert took the bold decision to step down from Division One to Division Two. Nobody could quite work out why, until Thursday night. He strutted in donning a leather jacket, shades, collar up, and a blonde on either arm. Denise Whalen and Zsannett Taylor have teamed up with our club chairman for the season to push Lambert back up into the first division where he belongs, and they have started with a win. Lambert rolled back the years to claim a hat-trick against Rebels D, defeating Rod Hall, Melissa Welch and Albert Fuggles. Taylor and Whalen both chipped in with wins to ensure that Roy and his angels got off to a winning start.

Division Three favourites Invicta C have continued their good start to the season, defeating Sandwich C 8-2. With skipper Steve Tebbett absent, Richard Hazelton stepped in, and did so by claiming an impressive trio of wins. He comfortably beat Jamie Davies and Terry Laslett, before a marathon 5 ender against Sandwich's number one Jeremy Smith. Karl Allen also weighed in with two wins, with John Croft also picking up two.

Hazelton then took to the table again, this time for his Invicta E side as they played hosts to Invicta D. A hat trick from Israel Awonusi ensured that the D side escaped with a draw, after Hazelton and Kim Coles both picked up two wins each. A doubles win for Hazelton and Coles secured them the deserved draw.

Margate F kicked off their campaign with an 8-2 win over Margate G. Tony Morgan started his season in fine form, winning his three. Roger Munden also picked up two wins for the F side, with Roy Byford also claiming a double. Munden and Morgan then took to the table for the doubles, securing a comfortable 3-0 win to take the match 8-2. For the G side, skipper Billy Summers and Gabriel Awonusi won one each.

21.10.10

### **Report - Week 3**

Game of the week in Division 1 turned out to be a bit of a mis-match, as Odds A and Odds B clashed on Monday. Last years top two looked set to give us a close encounter, with last years clashes both producing close scorelines. However this year, the A side showed why they are still the team to beat.

Dean Harris continued his good start to the season by winning his three, dropping just three ends in the process. Keith Clark and Andy Cannon both won two, as they overpowered their B side to take an 8-2 win. For Odds B, Jack Brown started his season with an impressive win over Clark, and Lee Edgington also kicked off his campaign with a win over Andy Cannon.

Margate A continue to be Odds closest challengers having picked up a 9-1 win over their C side. Ian Mileham and Trevor Kelly both recorded hat-tricks, with Danny Lansdown dropping their only point of the night, losing to Darren McCulloch Smith. As promised on the night, I can't write this report without claiming my moment in the spotlight. I will claim to be Mileham's toughest challenge of the night, with Mileham coming out on top 12-10 11-7 2-11 11-6. The inevitable drug test later revealed high levels of every performance enhancing drug available in my system during the 3rd end.

Rebels A once again showed that they are capable of a top 4 finish this season having picked up an impressive win over Odds C. Paul Ursell and Rob Biagolowicz both claimed hat-tricks, defeating the Odds trio of John Walker, Sharon Clark and Mick Eames. Odds picked up their points against Julio Guariglia along with a comfortable doubles win.

Invicta A picked up valuable points on Thursday night, drawing 5-5 with Margate B. Without Ron Knight, Invicta called upon Paul Walmsley, and he justified his call up by winning his three. Steve Cannon, Chris Hearn and Ron Rowley all failed to get the better of Walmsley, who will make a massive difference to how the bottom of the table will look come the end of

the season. For Margate, Ron Rowley and Chris Hearn won their other two games on the night, with Steve Cannon winning one. Mick Bowden also recorded a second win this season, defeating Cannon.

In Division 2a, Sandwich A have continued their fine start to the season, defeating newcomers BT 9-1. Once again, Derek East had too much for his opponents, winning his three. Bill Laslett also started his season in fine fashion with three wins. BT picked up just the one point, with Den McIntosh defeating Graham Watson.

Rebels B continue to occupy top spot, but this weeks game against Rebels F was not as straight forward as their previous games this season. Ian Barker was the star of the show for the F side as they picked up what could be four valuable points. He condemned Wayne Osborne, Terry Osborne and Trevor Cornock to their first defeats of the season, and now looks to be the man to beat. The F side picked up their fourth point through Chris Davies, who beat Terry Osborne. For the B side, Wayne Osborne and Trevor Cornock both won two to ensure that Rebels B remain top and unbeaten in the process.

Rebels H have started their season in far better fashion than they started their last, this week drawing with Barnstonworth. Tony Mills re-affirmed his position as the H side's number one with a comfortable hat-trick, with Mark Stephens chipping in with what proved to be a valuable win. Stephens and Mills then stepped up for the doubles, knowing a win would secure them the draw, and they did just that, taking the game 3-0. For Barnstonworth, Bob Malins and Darren Jones both won two, with Colin Tyman claiming one.

Division 2b looks to be shaping up nicely, with nobody wanting to grab the division by the scruff of the neck. Rebels C are the new leaders having defeated Thanet Juniors A. Alan Dennahy and Peter Burton both recorded very comfortable hat-tricks, but it was a very different story for Clive Beerling, who didn't pick up a win throughout the evening.

Lambert's Angels continue to keep the silver haired maestro feeling young, with Zsanett and Denise keeping our chairman's mind more than active. A comfortable 8-2 win for the Angels kept up their hopes of a top three finish, with Denise, Zsanett and Roy Lambert all picking up wins in the victory over Invicta B.

Sandwich B are continuing their strong start to the season, defeating Rebels E 7-3. Alan Radford continued his 100% record for Rebels, defeating Rob Smith, Tony Jones and Derek Bailey. The Sandwich trio all got the better of Rebels pair Charmane Fitch and Mark Pemble, despite Fitch taking Tony Jones to a fifth and final end.

Invicta C continue to stretch their lead at the top, defeating a side who were expected to challenge them at the top, Margate F. Steve Tebbett and Karl Allen both recorded hat-tricks, with John Crofts the only player to drop a point for Invicta. Tony Morgan was the man to beat Crofts to supply his side with their only point of the night.

Invicta E look set for a more positive season this time around as they begin to record points at a more regular basis. This week, they picked up a 5-5 draw against Thanet Juniors B. Kim Coles continues to lead the way, winning two out of three for the evening. Richard Hazelton and Charles Church also picked up a win a piece, and a crucial 5th end doubles victory ensured they escaped with a draw. For the Juniors, Aaron Samme re-affirmed his position as

Juniors number 1, winning his 3 in comfortable fashion, with Hazelton the only man to take him to a deciding end. Liam Hazelton continues to push him for the number one tag though, as he collected two wins for the evening.

Sandwich C slipped to a 7-3 defeat at the hands of Invicta D to keep them waiting for their first win of the season. Israel Awonusi claimed three wins for Invicta, with Jeremy Smith winning two for Sandwich. The ever improving Jamie Davies also picked up a win for Sandwich to keep the score respectable.

02.11.10

### **Report - Week 4 Cup Prelims**

There has not been time to prepare a report prior to the NYC Marathon and some score sheets were still missing anyway. Hence there will be nothing in the local Gazette either. Good luck to Simon on his run in support of Action for Children.

-Richard Hazelton

17.11.10

### **Report - W/C 8th November**

The two basement sides met in Division 1 this week, with Invicta A taking on Margate C. Invicta fielded a strong side, with Paul Walmsley, Simon Kear and Ron Knight charged with opening the gap between themselves and their relegation rivals. For Margate though, it was a very different story. Rob Pugh and Simon Hillier were missing for the C side, so Division 2 newcomers Dave and Becki Stevens stepped up to the plate to gain some valuable experience playing in the top flight. Both acquitted themselves well while enjoying the experience, but Invicta A seized upon the opportunity to seal a big win, claiming an 8-2 win to give themselves a cushion between them and bottom spot. Paul Walmsley sealed a comfortable hat-trick, with Simon Kear and Ron Knight both falling to Darren McCulloch-Smith.

At the other end of the table, Odds A cruised to a comfortable 10-0 win over Margate B. Only Chris Hearn really threatened Odds, taking an end of Keith Clark before narrowly missing out in 5 ends to Andy Cannon.

Elsewhere, there was an impressive win for Rebels A, who defeated Margate A. Margate were without Ian Mileham, with Andy Roberts deputising. However, it was not to be there night, as Rebels claimed a surprise victory to move them closer toward a top 4 finish.

In Division 2a, Rebels B have extended their already large lead at the top of the table, having defeated closest rivals Sandwich A. Again, it was Trevor Cornock who managed to record a hat-trick, defeating Derek East, Bill Laslett and Jeremy Smith. Wayne and Terry Osborne both picked up two, but were both victims of the evergreen East.

Rebels H recorded an important victory over BT, with both sides battling hard to avoid bottom place. Tony Mills guided them through with a hat-trick, but was pushed to 5 ends by Den McIntosh. Mark Stephens picked up two wins, and an important victory in the doubles secured them the win. For BT, Den McIntosh won two, with Trevor Goldsmith and Tony Dannell both picking up one each.

Margate E continue to improve, and are now unbeaten in three after a win over Rebels F. Sheena and Dave Stevens both won two, and Becki Stevens one. Sheena and Becki then went on to grab victory from the jaws of defeat in the doubles to give Margate a valuable 6-4 win.

Division 2b's title race seems to be far closer than 2a's, with just a point separating the top 3. This week's leaders are Roy's Angels, also known as Margate D, despite slipping to defeat to Rebels C. Alan Dennahy continued his good form, winning his three, with Peter Burton winning two to help the cause. However, Roy Lambert, temporary angel Sheena Stevens and Denise Whalen all won games to take the match down to the doubles, with the experienced pair of Dennahy and Burton comfortably winning it to put them up to second place.

Rebels D continue to push on towards the top of 2b having disposed of Thanet Juniors A, Albert Fuggles and Rod Hall both picked up hat tricks to secure the win early on. However, a win each for James Barker, Harry Walton and George Walton, followed up by a comfortable doubles win gave them valuable points to keep them away from the bottom of the league.

In Division 3, Invicta C are beginning to run away with the division, having beaten Thanet Juniors B 8-2. Steve Tebbett continues to lead the way, and it looks tough now for any team to prevent them from taking home the title come the spring.

11.01.11

### **Report - W-C 3rd Jan**

After the Christmas break, Table Tennis kicked off in Thanet again, with teams looking for a positive start to the second half of the season.

In Division 1, Keith Clark's Odds A look to have the title sewn up, despite dropping points to Odds C. The C side pulled out their not so secret weapon Peter Roberts for the tie against the league leaders, and it paid dividends, with Roberts beating Andy Cannon, and playing his part in an impressive doubles win over the champions. With the A side claiming an 8-2 win, it extends their lead at the top to a mammoth 30 points.

Margate A are leading the chase to finish second, grabbing a 6-4 win over Margate B. The game saw the return of Ian Mileham, who looked in ominous form despite a long lay off. He comfortably despatched Simon Hillier and Chris Hearn, before the game of the evening against Ron Rowley. Despite taking a 2-0 lead, Mileham lost his way in the 3rd and 4th ends, allowing Rowley back into the game to level at 2-2. In a nervy 5th end, it was Mileham who kept his cool to take it 11-9.

Rebels A will also feel as though they have an outside chance of snatching a top two place after beating Invicta A 7-3. Alan Radford returned to the top division for the first time this season, and acquitted himself well, winning two in comfortable fashion. However, the star of the show was Invicta's Simon Kear, who claimed his first top division hat-trick. He beat Radford and Gulio Guariglia in 5 ends, and then Paul Ursell in 3.

Margate C are now beginning to find their feet in the top division after a largely disappointing opening half. They took on a much changed Odds B side, and were unlucky to come away with an 8-2 defeat. On the night, 5 matches went all the way to a final end, including the opening game between Simon Hillier and Alan Taylor, with Taylor snatching victory with an 11-9 victory in the 5th. Rob Pugh and Darren McCulloch Smith then both went to 5 with Cliff Smallman, with both results going in favour of Odds. Smallman was after his money's worth, and went to 5 again with Simon Hillier, but his luck ran out, with

Hillier coming back from two sets down to claim victory.

Rebels B still continue to run away with Division 2a, and look to have top spot wrapped up bar a collapse in the second half the season. This week, Barnstonworth stood in their way of another 10 points, and it was the challengers who started well, taking two of the first three games. Despite a strong start from Trevor Cornock who defeated Colin Tyman, Darren Jones then levelled it up, before Bob Malins got the better of Wayne Osborne to give Barnstonworth the lead. That was where the joy ended though, as Rebels soon took control. They reeled off seven games on the spin, and left with an 8-2 victory.

Rebels F have continued their good start to the season with a 6-4 win over Sandwich A. Ian Barker recorded another hat-trick in what is proving to be a very successful opening season for him, having lost just one game all year. The only man to beat him so far is Sandwich's Derek East, but Barker gained his long awaited revenge with a 3-0 win in this game to push Rebels on to victory.

Margate E continue to push themselves away from the bottom of the table having defeated Rebels H 6-4. The star of the show for Margate was the Becki Stevens, who secured her first second division hat-trick. She defeated Eric Davies and Mark Stephens 3-1, before a hugely impressive 3-0 win over Tony Mills. Elsewhere for Margate, Sheena Stevens won two, and Dave Stevens one, as Margate pushed themselves away from danger.

In 2b, the race for top spot has got even closer, with Invicta B now joining the party. The claimed a 5-5 draw with top spot rivals Rebels D. Mick Palmer was pushed hard all evening, but claimed another hat-trick, beating Rod Hall, Albert Fuggles and Derek Mills. Peter Limond also played well, beating Fuggles and Derek Mills. As it stands, both teams are one good win away from top spot, as we approach the business end of the season.

Another team battling for top spot are Margate D. Mr Lambert found himself a new angel this week in the form of Becki Stevens, and she didn't disappoint. The stand in picked up valuable wins over Tony Jones and Derek Bailey, as Margate grabbed a 6-4 win. Lambert set the standard again with another hat-trick, with the returning Zsanett Taylor picking up one win. Ed Matthews picked up two wins and Derek Bailey one for a Sandwich side sitting comfortably in mid-table.

Rebels E picked up their first win of the season over their rivals at the bottom of the league, Thanet Juniors A. Alan Radford eased to three wins, with Charmane Fitch and Mark Pemble also picking up wins. The surprise of the night goes to Mark Pemble, who brushed aside the challenge of James Barker to pick up the most impressive win of his season so far.

In Division 3, a title race that once seemed very one sided has now heated up, with Invicta C and Margate F now looking to push on and put themselves in the driving seat. Margate closed the gap on Invicta with a 7-3 win over Invicta D. The evergreen Tony Morgan won his three in comfortable fashion, and was backed up well by Roy Byford and Roger Munden, who won two and one respectively. It leaves Margate just four point behind Invicta, and it looks like the remaining games between the two sides will decide who lifts the trophy at the end of the year.

Thanet Juniors B picked up a morale boosting win over a depleted two-man Margate G. Yumeng Li and Liam Hazelton both picked up maximum wins, with the ever improving Dean Fitch pushing the Margate pair Billy Summers and Gabriel Awonusi hard without success.

Invicta E's season continues to improve with a 6-4 win over Sandwich C. However, Sandwich will have every reason to be happy with the result. They were missing talisman Jeremy Smith, and fielded an inexperienced line up, Jamie Davies the only regular. He was joined by his son Ryan, and Mick Long, and neither disappointed. Both Ryan and Mick picked up a win over Charles Church, with Jamie beating Church and Kim Coles in what was an encouraging display all round.

11.02.11

## **Under 21's**

The Isle of Thanet's Closed Tournament kicked off last weekend, as the Under 21's competition took centre stage at Hartsdown. With last year's winner Jack Brown absent from this year's event, a place in the final was there for the taking for a number of players. Early favourites were Simon Hillier and Simon Kear, number one and two seeds respectively. With each of the four seeds given a bye to the quarter finals, Kear breezed through to the semi's with a comfortable win over Division Three's Gabriel Awonusi. Kear was rarely threatened, as he came out on top 11-3, 11-4, 11-4 to book his place in the semi final.

In Kear's half of the draw, 4th seed Aaron Samme had a tough opening game against Charmane Fitch. Division 3's Samme has shown how much he has improved this season, dropping just three matches all year, and he proved too strong for Fitch, winning in four ends, 11-3, 11-5, 10-12, 11-1.

The result meant that Kear and Samme met in the semi-final. On paper, Kear was the heavy favourite, having had a successful first campaign in the 1st Division, and should have had too much for the improving Samme. However, a shock was very much on the cards, after Samme raced into two set lead. Kear look rattled, unable to find any rhythm. Any time he did look like taking hold, Samme hit back, blocking loop after loop to secure his two set advantage. He was also up in the 3rd, and the shock result was almost complete. However, with his back to the wall and now nothing to lose, Kear began to hit out and eventually found some rhythm to take a tight 3rd set, and the game was back on. Samme still held the advantage, but the mood had changed. Kear began to look more like his usual self, and despite Samme's best efforts, Kear couldn't be prevented from taking the game to a final end. With the comeback now looking the most likely result, Kear again began to lose his way. He went into the mid-point change of ends trailing, looking worried that his chance to get his hands on the trophy had gone. However, Kear's most consistent hitting and looping came at just the right time, and despite Samme's best efforts, he couldn't keep Kear down, as he sneaked the 5th end to secure his place in the final.

The top side of the draw looked tough for all involved. The unseeded Harry Walton was tested in his first round match by cousin George Walton. Despite Harry being the favourite, he was given a fright, and eventually came through to take the match 11-9, 10-12, 13-11, 11-6 to secure his place in the quarter final.

Elsewhere, Yumeng Li almost pulled off a shock win over Division 2's Mark Pemble. Li took the first two ends, before Pemble sneaked the next three after a much needed team talk after the second end. A tight 5th end nearly gave Li victory, but Pemble made it through, 4-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6, 12-10.

In the quarter finals, Harry Walton's reward for his victory in the previous round was a tie with Simon Hillier. Walton took the first end, and looked favourite to take the second after playing some brilliant Table Tennis to restrict Hillier's game. However, Hillier just about claimed the second end, and took the next two to win the game 8-11, 11-7, 11-9 11-8.

The reward for Mark Pemble's victory in the first round was a match up with James Barker. Pemble beat Barker this season in the league campaign, but Barker proved far too strong this time around, winning the game 11-9, 11-6, 11-3.

Having already seen the drama of the first semi-final, both James Barker and Simon Hillier knew a final with Simon Kear awaited the winner, and the early signs suggested that it would be Barker who took him on. He took the first end comfortably 11-6, with Hillier never really getting in it. However, Hillier battled back to claim the second 11-9, before running away

with tie. Hillier eventually took the match 6-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-1.

After a successful tournament, and some very close games, Simon Hillier and Simon Kear will again lock horns on final nights, scheduled for the 18th February at the Odds Hall, Ramsgate.

22.02.11

## **Finals Night**

Alan Taylor came back from the brink of defeat to secure himself his first Thanet Open Singles title at the Oddfellows Hall, Ramsgate. His counterpart, Keith Clark, found himself two sets up against Taylor, having got off to a blistering start, taking the first end 11-2, before sneaking the second 12-10. Taylor knew he had a mountain to climb to get himself back into the game, but having re-focused at the end of the second game, he came out like a man possessed, looping Clark off the table while also forcing him to make errors not usually associated with the experienced Clark. Taylor's change in tactics and mind-set worked, brushing aside Clark in the next three ends to see the relative newcomer take the crown, winning the game 2-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4. All that was left to do was for last year's champion Ian Mileham to present the trophy to Taylor, who will be back next year to defend his crown.

The Men's Doubles saw a different outcome for Clark, who paired up with team-mate Dean Harris to retain their crown as Thanet's number one doubles pair. They faced Ron Rowley and Dennis Cannon in the final, who gave them a scare after taking the first game 11-7. Clark and Harris re-grouped though to take the next three after a stern challenge from Cannon and Rowley, winning the match 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-4.

The Under 21's final saw another five-ender between Simon Hillier and Simon Kear. League form suggested that there was little in the contest, and this prediction was spot on. Kear started the game like a train, hitting everything on his radar, and raced away in the first end. Despite a late comeback from Hillier, Kear took the end 11-9. With Kear's hitting ability on show for all to see, a change of tactics was needed for Hillier, and he upped the anti with some hitting of his own, and ran away with the second end 11-4. The third end proved to be key. Both players matched each other, with neither Simon managing to get away from the other. With Hillier 10-9 up, Kear hit out, and with Hillier at the back of the court only managing to loop the ball back up to him, a very lucky and frankly undeserved edge as the ball came down from the clouds from Hillier gave him the end. Kear wasn't finished though, as he stormed back to take the fourth end comfortably, but with the 5th end up for grabs, it was Hillier who took his chances, winning the 5th end and taking the match 9-11, 11-4, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6.

The Division Two singles saw Mick Palmer claim his first title since returning to the sport. He defeated Ian Barker in a four set game that perhaps should have gone the distance. Palmer took the first end comfortably, before Barker finally got started. Despite Barker losing the second end, he looked the better player in the third, taking the game to take it to a fourth end, before Palmer upped his game again, to take the match 11-4, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8. Barker and Palmer will hopefully be back next year to lock horns in the final, with Barker especially feeling as though he has unfinished business to attend too on the Odds table.

In Division Three, veteran Tony Morgan gave everyone a reminder that its never too late, defeating the rapidly improving youngster Aaron Samme. Morgan will be delighted to have gained revenge on Samme, who took him to pieces in their recent league encounter. With Samme failing to find top form on the night, Morgan took advantage, hitting the right ball on every occasion. To Samme's credit, he never stopped trying to play the game the way he

wanted, trying to attack and block when needed, but even when they chips were down Samme continued to play his shots, and even though Friday wasn't his night, he will have plenty of successful nights to come. Morgan took the game 11-8, 16-14, 2-11, 11-7. Samme returned to the table in the allocated doubles with partner Dennis Cannon. They took on the strong partnership of Lee Edgington and James Barker, and despite giving the latter a decent game, they were always on the back foot, with the heavy looping of Edgington and the quick hands of Barker seeing the pair through, winning 12-10, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9.

The ladies singles final saw Denise Whalen take the crown, beating Sheena Stevens. Nerves were the order of the night for both players, who both struggled to live up to the form book. Despite glimpses of both players best, neither could keep mistakes out of their game, and it was Whalen who managed to hold her nerve the most, taking the match 15-13, 11-4, 11-8. Both players will undoubtedly find themselves back at this stage again, and will both look to show everyone what they can really do.

The Veterans final saw a once sided result, with Ron Rowley getting the better of Lee Edgington. Rowley put in a first class performance that Edgington couldn't match, and took the game in three ends, 11-6, 11-7, 11-3. Edgington did show glimpses of form that would have matched Rowley, but couldn't pull his shots out of the bag on a consistent enough basis to trouble Rowley, who will not want to give up his Vets title next year without a fight.

The Consolation Final, Dennis Cannon's third final of the night, saw him take the crown in the best of three end competition. His opponent was Mick Palmer, who he dispatched comfortably, 11-4, 11-8.

James Barker also claimed the Juniors Title to add to his Allocated Doubles crown, as he defeated Harry Walton, having gone two sets down. Barker lifted the cup with a scoreline of 9-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-8.

26.02.11

### **Finals Night Results Summary**

Juniors : Winner – James Barker ; Runner Up – Harry Walton

Under 21: Winner – Simon Hillier ; Runner Up – Simon Kear

Consolation : Winner – Dennis Cannon ; Runner Up – Mick Palmer

Veterans : Winner – Ron Rowley ; Runner Up – Lee Edgington

Ladies : Winner – Denise Whalen ; Runner Up – Sheena Stevens

Div 2 : Winner – Mick Palmer ; Runner Up – Ian Barker

Div 3 : Winner – Tony Morgan ; Runner Up – Aaron Samme

Open Singles : Winner – Alan Taylor ; Runner Up – Keith Clark

Allocated Doubles : Winners – James Barker & Lee Edgington ; Runners Up – Aaron Samme & Dennis Cannon

Open Doubles : Winners – Keith Clark & Dean Harris ; Runners Up – Ron Rowley & Dennis Cannon

09.04.11

### **Cup Finals Results Summary**

Quickenden Cup : Winners – Thanet Juniors B ; Runners Up – Margate A

Burden Cup: Winners – Sandwich A ; Runners Up – Invicta C

26.04.11

## **Roll of Honour**

It's about this time of year we say congratulations to Odds A, and this year is no different. They have won the First Division title again, this time by a margin of 29 points, despite losing two games this season, something which can't often be said. Having checked the records, Keith Clark under his numerous team names has now won more first division titles than I have had birthdays, and I get the impression that trend will continue for a while yet. Runners up this year were Odds B, a side buoyed by the impact of this season's Thanet champion Alan Taylor.

Individual match Champion was Odds A's Dean Harris, with 53 wins from 60 games. Despite some late season jitters, Harris' superb start to the season was the foundation to what has been another consistent campaign.

Division 2's overall winners are Rebels B. They comprehensively won their sub division by a massive 44 points, and took the Division Two crown with a win over 2b's table toppers, Margate D. Thanet Table Tennis legend Wayne Osborne and Rebels stalwarts Trevor Cornock and Terry Osborne all finished with win percentages of 75% or higher, ensuring that they stormed to the Division 2 final with games to spare.

With the two different divisions in Thanet's second tier, we have two match champions. In 2a, Ian Barker of Rebels F will take the plaudits. In his first season back in Table Tennis since his last venture in the sport many years ago, he comfortably won the most games in 2a, with 49 wins in 51 games, an achievement not to be understated.

In 2b, match champion is Alan Radford. After dropping down from the first division, Radford will now be bouncing straight back up, winning 50 of his 54 games.

In Division 3, Steve Tebbett's Invicta C have taken the title again by a margin of 17 points. They were pushed hard all season, but pulled away towards the end thanks to the guidance of Tebbett. John Crofts and Karl Allen also played their part in what was another fine season for Invicta. Runners up were the evergreen Margate F, led by their skipper and this season Division 3 singles winner Tony Morgan. Roger Munden and Roy Byford also weighed in with consistent performances to ensure that second place was never in doubt.

Match champion in Division 3 is Aaron Samme. The youngster has come on leaps and bounds in the space of a season, and will be a match for anyone in the second division next year.

## **Events**

Event 17.06.10

### **AGM 2010**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on Thursday 17th June 2010 at the Table Tennis Centre Hartsdown, Margate. Please refer to the Forms Page for guidance on the new registration requirements.

Event 16.01.11

### **Margate Clubs Handicap Competition**

A handicap competition is planned for Sunday 16th January 2011.

Event 23.01.11

### **Thanet Clubs Handicap Competition**

A handicap competition is planned for Sunday 23rd January 2011 at 9am.

Event 06.02.11

### **Under 21's (Closed Championships 2011)**

This category of the Closed Championships to be played at Hartsdown at 1pm

Event 13.02.11

### **Closed Championships 2011**

This year's event is scheduled for Sunday 13th February at the Ramsgate Leisure Centre 9am prompt (with the exception of the Under 21's category which will be held at Hartsdown on Sunday 6th February). Entry forms must be submitted by 28th January.

Event 18.02.11

### **Finals Night - Closed Championships 2011**

This is to be held for all competition categories at the Odd Fellows Hall Ramsgate on Friday 18th February commencing 7pm prompt.

Event 22.02.11

### **Finals Night Results Summary**

Juniors : Winner – James Barker ; Runner Up – Harry Walton  
Under 21: Winner – Simon Hillier ; Runner Up – Simon Kear  
Consolation : Winner – Dennis Cannon ; Runner Up – Mick Palmer  
Veterans : Winner – Ron Rowley ; Runner Up – Lee Edgington  
Ladies : Winner – Denise Whalen ; Runner Up – Sheena Stevens  
Div 2 : Winner – Mick Palmer ; Runner Up – Ian Barker  
Div 3 : Winner – Tony Morgan ; Runner Up – Aaron Samme  
Open Singles : Winner – Alan Taylor ; Runner Up – Keith Clark  
Allocated Doubles : Winners – James Barker & Lee Edgington ; Runners Up – Aaron Samme & Dennis Cannon  
Open Doubles : Winners – Keith Clark & Dean Harris ; Runners Up – Ron Rowley & Dennis Cannon

Event 22.02.11

### **Finals Night - Closed Championships 2011**

Event begins at 9am at the Ramsgate Sports Hall

Event 04.04.11

### **Cup Final**

The Quickenden/Burden Cup Final will be held at the Odds Hall Ramsgate at 7.30pm

Event 09.05.11

### **Summer Competition 2011**

Commences 9th May - details via the Summer Competitions page

Event 14.05.11

### **Presentation Evening**

The annual Presentation Dance will be held at The Odds, High Street, Ramsgate commencing 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets are £8 each (incl. food) and are available from the Committee members.

Event 15.06.11

### **AGM**

This year's Annual General Meeting to be held at the Hartsdown Centre at 8pm (Minutes from 2010 AGM will be provided at the event). Please refer to the AGM page for previous

minutes/reports.

Please note that Summer Competition matches for the evening will take place on the remaining nights of the same week

Event 29.07.11

### **Hoath vs Pudsey Match**

On the 29th/30th July the Hartsdown Hall is booked for the Hoath verses Pudsey (Leeds) TTC. The Hoath team includes a number of Margate players. Each club to have 3 representative teams.

FRI 29th JULY 6.00PM ONWARDS  
and SAT 30th JULY 12 NOON to 5PM.  
Many thanks - Ian Mileham