

Waterloo TTC Club End Of Season Championship Season 2017

Every season Waterloo hold a club championship as an end of season tournament/pre-season curtain raiser. Its always difficult to organise around holidays and venue availability and this year was no exception. Our growing membership now numbers 26, and holidays aside we managed to organise and plan the tournament in 3 sections with a record entry of 18.

Juniors

First tournament was the juniors qualifier who competed in a mini-league early in July. 7 of the 8 juniors competed minus Sean Chandler, with the mini-league based on a handicap system which had been calculated based on age, experience & playing record. It made for some close matches and made it difficult for the clubs most experienced scratch players Lewis Campbell (last years D4 closed runner-up) and Gary Corran, but also helped showcase the talent of the clubs emerging juniors. The top two from this mini-league would go on to contest the junior final with the 3rd & 4th placed players contesting the plate final and it was the younger brother of Sean Chandler, Ciaran and Nathan Jago who came out on top as the 2 finalists. Shock of the tournament was an in-form Gary Corran who ended up finishing 5th being edged out by Aiden Mooney who secured 4th spot with the clubs top junior Lewis Campbell from last season only being able to manage 3rd place. It was a great evening enjoyed by players and parents alike with some great table tennis on show and great experience for all who participated.

Seniors

Format of this tournament was a seeded competition of 4 groups x 4 players which included 4 juniors who entered. This was played the week after the juniors tournament were all would play each other in a best of 5 format with the top two from each group going on to contest the seniors QF draw and bottom two going into a plate knock-out on finals night. Jeff Hornby, Stuart McGhee, Gary Corran, Lewis Campbell, Sean Chandler, Geoff Metcalf, Nathan Jago, and myself all emerged as group winners and runners-up. Notable absentees on the night were Nikolay Primuk, Phil O'Mullane, Peter Roberts and Paul Mainey who would have added to the mix still further in what was a very competitive and enjoyable evening. Another great night which saw some new members emerge (Dave Regan ex Otis who has rejoined Waterloo following a lengthy absence from the business houses days, John Mooney (Aiden Mooneys Dad) and Paul Kelsey) who Im sure you will be seeing more from these guys in the coming weeks ahead.

Finals Night - held on Fri 8/9

Lewis Campbell was forced to withdraw due to conflicting commitments meaning Gary Corran was promoted into the junior plate final and Peter Roberts substituting into the main seniors QF draw.

Junior Plate Final was the first final of the night and was a great match. Having mixed fortunes in the initial juniors draw, Gary Corran managed to overturn his surprising 5th place finish by overcoming Aiden Mooney in what was arguably the final of the night. Gary didn't have it all his own way and had to fight hard in a 5-setter only managing to edge out Aiden aided by some great back hand top spin winners were Aiden countered Gary's spin serves and attacks with some great blocking, defence and top spin counter attacks throughout and right up until the deciding game.

Next Up was the Main Junior Final with two of our U13 JDD Squad. Ciaran's attacking forehand top-spin was countered well by Nathan who produced a solid all-round performance to win the match 3-0 with two of the games going to a tie-breaker so we could have been in for a longer night. Nathans point scoring throughout the contest was aided by an effective tomahawk serve which troubled Ciarans serve return throughout this contest and was a deciding factor in the final outcome. Notable that both junior winners had to overcome 1 point handicap deficits which helped to produce some very close games in both finals.

Seniors Plate Final was whittled down to 3 after an initial knock-out phase who contested a round-robin final which would be determined by the number of games won. Chris Jago, My Dad and Dave Regan all involved here and it was Nathans Dad Chris who secured maximum points and a double win for the Jago family on the night. Im sure you will be seeing a lot more from both with Dave Regan finishing runner-up who will become a key member of Geoff Metcalfs Div 5 B team in the season ahead. Dave will be missing

for the opening 3 games of the season so it will be a short wait before Dave is reintroduced to the competitive arena.

On to the main Senior final were Jeff, myself, Stuart and Sean won the respective quarter finals to set up the last four. All draws were made on the night to add to the anticipation were Jeff overcame Stuart and I edged out Sean Chandler 3-2 having been 2-0 up and managed to hold off a fightback from a very strong junior. So it was onto Jeff and I to contest the last final of the evening. Jeff and I are good mates and have lots of close matches who know each others game very well. Jeff's league record showing he was the clear favourite and the player most likely to hold his nerve but on this occasion it was me who reversed my normal fortunes against Jeff going 2-0 up and eventually winning the match 3-1. Fix, I tell you, but I can report we are still good mates and Jeff is looking forward to getting his own back very soon.....which Im sure he will!

All in all a great friendly, but competitive tournament and some good fun and preparation for the season ahead. We at Waterloo are all looking forward to it were there will be opportunity for you to meet some new and some familiar faces and best of luck to all teams. Im sure all club secretaries are relieved the pre-season preparation of player registration and ranking lists is now behind us enabling all to focus on what we all like doing - playing. Spare a thought for where would we all be without the important role the league committee undertakes each and every pre-season in administering and managing the great league in Liverpool we have so a thank you to all involved here and to all players from other clubs who came down to see us over the summer, notably all our friends at Sefton Park.

Graham Chellew
Match Secretary