



## West Kent Table Tennis Association Annual Championships Newsletter



The 2014/15 West Kent Table Tennis Association (WKTТА) Championships were held at Byng Hall Table Tennis Club on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. This season they comprised the Annual Closed Tournament for WKTТА registered players as well as a Junior Invitational Competition for younger players from the area.

The Junior Event had four competitions, Under 18 Singles, Under 15 Singles, Under 13 Singles and Mixed Doubles. Two pupils from Tonbridge School, Nicolas Ng and Kevin Ho took first and second places in the Under 18's. It was a tight competition with the runner up spot only decided on a count-back of sets won and head to head results.

### Byng Hall's Nicky Dawson is a Double Champion

In the Under 13's and Under 15's Byng Hall star, Nicky Dawson, ruled the roost by winning both events with her almost unstoppable flat hitting style. George Sainsbury did well to finish runner up in both events but could not out manoeuvre Nicky in either of their head to head matches.

George had better success in the Mixed Doubles where he partnered Becky Hancock to the title. Nicky Dawson and Oscar Featherstone Csillag were runners up.



Kevin Ho & Nicholas Ng



R Hancock G Sainsbury  
O Csillag & N Dawson



George Sainsbury & Nicky Dawson

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## Stalberg retains Vets Singles Title for 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row as Rotunno upsets top seed

In the Closed Tournament, the day started with the Vets and Senior Vets (Over 60's) events. Ty Stalberg reigned supreme for the fourth year in a row with victory over Brian Lees in the final of the Vets Singles and then partnered Roger Pingram to complete victory in the Vets Doubles Event over previous winners, Nick Smith and Ming Majoe. Filippo Rotunno rolled back the years in the Vets Singles with a first round victory over No.1 Seed, Martin Tate and followed that with a second round three game win over Steve Day.



Ty Stalberg

## Surprise winner in the Over 60's Singles

Spectators watching Day's straight forward loss to Rotunno would not have predicted the turn of events in the Senior Vets Singles competition, which he won with straight game wins over Peter Duke and Roger Pingram. Having not beaten either of these players in the past, nobody was more surprised than Day himself. "Finally I brought my practice table form to the match table" he said.



Steve Day

The Division 2 Singles was next underway with No.1 Seed, Paul Homewood, being pushed all way on his route to the final, by, amongst others, Andy Larner. In the other half of the draw, No.2 Seed, Heidi Smith, had a more comfortable time reaching the final. Rotunno was unable to repeat his form of the morning in losing his quarter-final rematch to Day, in five closely contested games. Day then ran out steam against an in form Smith in the semi-final. The final between the No. 1 and 2 Seeds was highly entertaining with Smith taking a two games to love lead only to be hauled back to two all. In the fifth game Smith re-asserted her early dominance to gain two match points. However, Homewood had not read the script and came storming back to level it at 10 all; and subsequently take the match. A great comeback in a thrilling final.



Heidi Smith & Paul Homewood

All was not lost for Smith as she took the Division 2 Doubles title, ably supported by Sue Sullivan. In the final, the left and right hand combination was just too strong for Byng Hall pairing of Rob Webb and Andrew Hancock.



No question as to who ate all the pies, or in this case, 'toasties'

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Becky Hancock & Dan Powley

## Hancock wins Handicap Comp at a canter

Becky Hancock went one better than her Dad, in the final of the Handicap Competition, soundly beating Dan Powley. In Dan's defence, Becky did have quite a good points start! Interestingly, this event through together Day and Rotunno, for their third match of the day. With a six point advantage Rotunno's victory was never really in doubt.

## Smith and Sullivan surprise finalists in the doubles and Tate confirms his seeding in the singles

The last two events of the day were the Open Doubles and Open Singles. The pairing of Smith and Sullivan continued their good run of form, beating the Stalberg/Pingram and Day/Larner partnerships on their way to the Doubles final. Day and Larner having already eliminated previous winners Smith and Majoe in an earlier round. In the final the Otford team came up against the highly accomplished pairing of Petar Tancevski and Miro Danadzhiev from Weald TTC. The Weald team were just too strong for the Otford ladies.



New Open Singles Champion, Martin Tate, in action earlier in the day

The Open Singles saw top seed Martin Tate reach the final where he faced his Otford club colleague Matt Emery. In a tight match which featured plenty of attacking topspin rallies, Tate took the first game 11-8, only for the left hander Emery to take the next two, 11-6, 11-9. Facing defeat in four, Tate powered back to take the fourth game 11-7, and set up a one game shoot out. Tate was not to be denied in living up to his seeding by taking the final game, 11-8 as Emery missed one too many looped forehands. Tate said subsequently, "I enjoyed taking part and was delighted to win"



Organiser, Nick Smith, with his trusty 'left hand' man, Dan Powley

Although it was long day, the tournament as a whole was a great success with trophies being shared by almost all the league's clubs. Finally a big thank you Nick Smith and his band of helpers, Malcolm Cole, Dan Powley, Ming Majoe, Geoff Curtis, Brian Lees and Steve Day, for organising and running the day. Also we must thank Sheila Cole for handling refreshments and last but certainly not least to Gary Howes and the Byng Hall club for hosting the event.