

January 2020 Newsletter

Chairman's Message

Happy New Year to All!

Hopefully all of us managed to have some fun but also get some rest over the holiday period, and no doubt we're right back in the swing of it already!

Firstly, one great development for Island Table Tennis is the establishment of a new coaching session on Thursdays, down at the Centre, run by Glenn Morley. This session is open to all standards and ages, and runs between 10am and 1pm, costing £4 per person. There is no need to book a place, if you fancy it, just turn up! As I write this, Glenn has just finished his first session, and he tells me he got around 20 players through the door, so this is a promising addition to our weekly schedule at the Centre.

We are fortunate once again to have been sponsored by Wightlink, who have offered to help us out towards Solent crossing costs should we want to get players over to the mainland for matches or competitions. If you would like more information on this, and think you may be able to benefit, give me a call or drop me a line and I will explain eligibility rules.

I mentioned last time that we have been invited up to the Isle of Man this year, possibly around Easter/Springtime; this would be a fun way to meet and play new people, not to mention visiting a different island. All ages and all abilities are welcome; please let me know if you're interested.

Regards, Alex Rorke.

alexrorke@hotmail.co.uk

News

County Press Handicap Pairs Tournament

Sixteen pairs contested the tournament on 2nd January, and there were many close matches which indicated that the ratings have improved. The first semi-final was contested between Tim Giles and Martin Johnstone (last year's winners) and Tom Waddell and Alan Dennis, with Tim and Martin making it through in five sets.





Martin and Tim in action on their way to the final

In the second semi, Alan Burch and Neil Hedges overcame Derek Pittard and Tom Flood in four sets. The final will be played on Final's night – April 29th.

Toby Woolgar, IWTTA Photographer at Smallbrook Thursday 30th January

Toby will be coming along to Smallbrook on Thursday 30th January when there are two Division Two matches and three Division Three matches being contested. The captains of the teams playing should have received an email regarding this. If your permission forms have not been returned then Toby will be unable to take your players' photos, although we will endeavour to have forms available on the night. However, it would make things easier if these were returned to Smallbrook prior to the evening, marked for the attention of Heather Wykes. Any photographs taken may be sent to the press or used in the newsletters.

League News

Going into the Christmas and New Year break, Division One were already over halfway through their season, with Divisions One and Two at the halfway point.

Division One

At time of going to press, Ryde A lead the table by 15 points over Shanklin Sharks, with Alex still on a 100%-win average whilst Scott lost his perfect record to Hugh in an epic match prior to Christmas. With team mates Glen and Roger both performing well, the League title looks to be their's again. In the averages table other top performers are Hugh on 89%, Don on 83% and Tim on 78%.



Alex who remains unbeaten

Division Two



At the halfway point of the season, the clear favourites were Vics C, who led the table by 13 points over Havenstreet Locos. Dave, Barry, Trevor and Michael of Vics are all high in the averages with Trevor on 93% and Dave on over 90%. Other top performers are Rob on 92%, Ian on 89% and Carl on 81%.

Barry from Vics

Division Three

At the halfway point of the season, Division Three was tight at the top, with St Lawrence Lizards just one point ahead of second placed Ryde Revellers, and Ryde Rackets one point behind them in third. Any of these three teams could take the title and it looks to be an exciting second half of the season. Players performing particularly well are Derek on 96%, Alan on 89% and Ken on 87%. Martin and Peter remain unbeaten as they alternate playing with Ethan and Joe.



Heather from Rackets

170 years' worth of talent!

If you ever feel a little weary, then look to these two players to give you some inspiration to keep

going. Bert Paice and John Penny met in the league and produced an epic and entertaining game, despite their combined ages being 170! Bert is 88 and John is 82 and they are still going strong and proving more than a match for players half their age (or even a quarter their age). In the end John won the game in four sets. No doubt Bert will be looking for revenge in the return fixture due to take place at the end of January!

Bert and John in action

Memories

Following on from the last newsletter Alan Hulbert kindly answered my plea for memories of Wroxall Table Tennis Club who were the biggest club on the Island at one time.

Wroxall Table Tennis Club by Alan Hulbert

I joined Wroxall Table Tennis Club maybe in the late '70's or early '80's. Bill Kittle was running the club then and they had a few teams playing across the divisions. At that time, I was playing for Temperature Ltd, but due to unforeseen circumstances I was left without a team in which to play and was offered a place in a Wroxall team. I can't recall who I was initially playing with but ended up playing with Ian Young and Janice Badcock in maybe the 3rd division. There were 5 or 6 divisions at that time, and they had quite a few teams. We were promoted to the 2nd division in 1982, although I missed the second half of the season as I had appendicitis, and I believe it was then in 1983 that I played in the 1st division. I played for many years with several players whom many of you will remember: Dave Johnson, Paul Brading and Bill Kittle to name a few. Other members of the club were Roy Wiltshire, Charlie Rann, Don Penny, Bill Taylor, Keith Taylor and Amanda Will. Joining us later were Heather and John Wykes, Ray Hater, Chris Angus, Steve Bardsdell and many more. Bill Kittle moved to the mainland and more or less handed the reins to me.

We played our matches in the hall adjacent to the church in Wroxall and our practice nights were held in the community centre. We had around 9 teams at this time. Bill took junior coaching classes at the beginning of the evening at 6.00pm for an hour or two and I carried that on. They were well attended and included Tom Johnson, Kevin Gatrell (a little older than the others), Mathew Slade and his sister, Ben Johnson, Amanda Will, Richard Hillsum, and a few others. Everything was going

swimmingly for a good few years. One year we managed to win the 1st Division, knocking Sandown off the top spot which they had held for many years, I was playing with Chris Angus and Steve Bardsdell at that time as I recall we won the title on games as the points were level.

The Community Centre had a bar and used to hold an annual bar game night consisting of rings, darts, shove halfpenny and a few other games concluding with a team draughts or chess game. It was held among different sections of the community clubs which included Badminton, Darts, Social, Crib, Table Tennis and one or two others. Each sport played

one of the others and the winner at the end of the series won the prize, it was all good fun.

One day the community centre said that if we played all our table tennis games there we could have the practise nights free. I forget what we paid for the hall at the church but it meant that there was a good saving for the players as we had 4 tables at the centre and we didn't have to pay for every night at the hall, so we transferred all our matches to the centre. That meant we could play all our home matches on one night of the week. All went well for a few years, then one of the committee members who was supportive of us unfortunately passed away, and the new committee decided that they wanted to charge us for the practice evenings which meant there would be a doubling of the charge to about £60 per player per season (as we didn't charge for the juniors), which was very expensive at that time so unfortunately we had to close our club.

I think it's a pity that club rooms are becoming so expensive for table tennis and many have shut down. I used to enjoy playing in different venues as there seemed to be a lot of character in the old church halls or club rooms. Some teams which have gone include Sandown (in their many venues), Ronsons in Forrest Road, Shanklin Police, Ryde Electricity, Cowes Liberal Club, Plessey, Britten Norman, Wroxall, Ventnor*, Ryde School, Columbia, GKN, Boys Brigade, Temperature Ltd and the latest to go is Shorwell*.

*Please note these venues are still running for social table tennis, but no longer have teams in the League.

Thank you, Alan, for a really interesting article on Wroxall Table Tennis Club and we appreciate the time you have taken to produce this for us. Unfortunately, the Community Centre is struggling at the moment, with the bar now only open for special events. I have played rings there for many years, but this year we have had to move elsewhere. However, the hall is one of the best on the Island and is currently used for badminton, short bowls, dog training and special events. It would still be an ideal venue for table tennis.

From the Archives

In our series looking at local interest in the England Table Tennis Association newsletters we cover the years 1982 and 1983.

In January 1982 it was reported that our local lad Carl Prean had won the England Under 17's Championship and there was plenty of other Island news.

John Prean reports from ... THE ISLE OF WIGHT The Isle of Wight first division could not be more interesting. One commiserates with Ryde who started off like a bomb. then lost Fred Sillwood (broken ankle) whilst John Stacey battles on with shoulder trouble. Only "iron man" Jim Daly remains indestructible. Columbia beat them 7-3 (three again from you-know-who). Columbia lost to Sandown (4-6), Ryde (before the iniury plague) beat Sandown 9-1. Wroxall shared the points with Ryde and suddenly Columbia and Sandown, who have shed 2 points each. are top. Ryde have shed 3 and are 3rd and surprise package Wroxall, 4



to **Keith Taylor** who keeps chopping away to good purpose locally, but not yet on the County scene.

In Division 7 Cowes Trinity (Operatic Society) are hitting high notes. No clear favourites have emerged in the other divisions. Our three up/three down promotion and relegation system keeps things lively

points dropped, are fourth, a great deal due

DIVISION 3B
Cornwall 4 Avon 6
Gloucestershire 7 Somerset, 3
Dorset II 7 Isle of Wight 3
Berkshire II 3 Hampshire 7
The Islanders' Carl Prean fought in vain with Jason Creasey taking two for Dorset.
Cornwall 4 Avon 6
Gloucestershire 7 Somerset, 3
Dorset II 7 Isle of Wight 3
Berkshire II 3 Hampshire 7
The Islanders' Carl Prean fought in vain with Jason Creasey taking two for Dorset.

DIVISION 3B
Avon 6 Hampsihire 4
Somerset 5 Berkshire II 5
Dorset II 7 Cornwall 3
Isle of Wight 5 Gloucestershire 5
Carl Prean's wins supplemented by Jim Daly and J.Fothergill for IOW.

In March there was a report on the Island's match with Gloucestershire, and local league news:

John Prean reports from .. THE ISLE OF WIGHT RED LETTER DAY

till the end.



Our County Match against Gloucestershire was a red letter day - a good crowd that really got behind our team, a visit from Les Smith the County Championships Administrator, an excellent match. a fair result - 5-5 - with constantly fluctuating fortunes. Gloucestershire with great traditions (Merrett, Simons, Morley, Harrison) now struggling to get out of the 3rd Division under their new County Coach Paddy Jackson, the Isle of Wight in its secondyear as a County. This was a great result for us.

Two from Carl, his 18th win on the trot for the County, one from **Jim Daly**, and how well Jim played, the Men's Doubles and the Women's - **Joy Batten** and **Jill Forthergill** after losing the first game 21-7! It was a great afternoon. That's what County table tennis should be all about.

The 1st Division of our Local League at the time of writing was again going Columbia's way. They defeated Sandown 7-3 (3 each from **Steve Harris** & C.P.). Sandown had previously defeated Ryde for whom I feel considerable sympathy. **John Stacey** gallantly battled on for some weeks with shoulder trouble which has now put him out till the end of the season. **Fred Sillwood** has only just come back after breaking his ankle. Though "iron man" **Jim Daly** has gone on with 3 wins weeks after week. injury problems have deprived Ryde of points and taken them out of the race. Columbia are 3 points clear, having made the most of their luck earlier when they scraped home 6-4 a couple of times.

In April the Island was fighting to avoid relegation:

DIVISION 3B

Gloucestershire 8 Dorset II 2 Avon 5 Gloucestershire 5 Cornwall 1 Hampshire 9 Dorset II 3 Berkshire II 7 Somerset 9 Isle of Wight 1 Somerset 4 Avon 6 Isle of Wight 5 Cornwall 5 Dorset II 3 Hampshire 7 Gloucestershire 5Berkshire II 5

Carl Prean (IOW) helped his team avoid relegation against Cornwall.

Junior Rankings

1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)

MARTIN ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

And that led him to a final appearance against the surprise packet of the tournament, 14-year-old Carl Prean. In the absence of both top seed Paul Day and No. 4 Don Parker, Prean came through an empty looking top half but the way he grabbed his opportunity can win him nothing but praise.

In the May/June issue there was a report on the end of the Island League season:

The predictions contained in my last notes nearly went wrong. I felt that Columbia would retain their Div. 1 title, having established a three point lead. The ink was hardly dry when they crashed 7-3 to lowly Ryde 'B', one of the biggest local sensations of all time, which added much interest to the meeting with Ryde 'A', for many years the high spot of the season. Columbia won this match 7-3, not without anxieties and then, winning their last two matches, held on to their one point lead over Sandown 'A' who replaced Ryde as runners-up. Sandown had done well to get there with Roger Hookey and Andy Coughlan winning a lot of sets whilst their No. 3 Kevin Attrill did not make the most of his undoubted talent. Ryde were pole-axed by injuries and though the season was not without its drama it lacked some of its former sparkle.

ESSEX SELECT
THIRD SUCCESSIVE DOUBLE
Cool, quiet and efficient Carl Prean
annexed the junior and cadet
double for the third successive
year at the Unigate Essex Junior
'Select' held at Harlow on April
17/18.



In October 1982 the Island's Carl Prean reigned supreme at the European Youth Championships:

CADET GOLD FOR CARL

by George Yates For the 'first time ever in the European Youth Championships both England's junior teams mounted the rostrum in Hollabrunn, Austria over the period, July 16-25, 1982, to collect bronze medals. So too did Carl Prean, in mixed tandem with Lisa Bellinger, the Isle of Wight youngster achieving the accolade of gold by winning the Cadet boys' singles with a 'final victory over Ilija Lupulesku of Yugoslavia. Young Prean will have fond memories of Hollabrunn with a haul of one gold and two bronze - he 'figured somewhat prominently in the boys' team event losing but two of his 18 sets to Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden and

Vladimir Dvorak of the Soviet Union!



Carl took time to write to the newsletter to thank his supporters:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WITH THANKS I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have written to me after my win in Europe. We shall reply to each one. I would like to thank particularly my captains, Don Parker and Jill Hammersley (Parker), the selectors who picked me to play in the Junior team whilst still a Cadet, all the Seniors who practised with me

during the last training camp, my teammates and the whole English party who gave me support, the Organisers of U-11 and U-12 tournaments who gave me an early start, the Isle of Wight Association where I began to enjoy my table tennis even earlier and all the others who have encouraged and supported me over the years, and of course my parents.

CARL PREAN

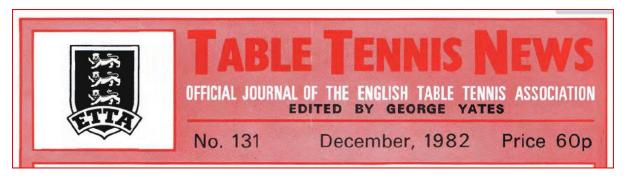
In November we read lots of Island news and it seemed young players were deserting the sport:

Back to our County Team: Our 7-3 win gives us a good start towards avoiding the drop to the dreaded Division 4. Our ladies (**Jill Fothergill** and **JaniceBadcock**) got a 'full house' of wins for the first time, Carl two, **Jim Daly** one and these two won their doubles against John Robinson and Jason Creasey Who, I thought, played more than well in doubles and singles. **Keith Taylor** nearly broke our No.3 position duck, losing two very close sets to Steve Davis. Quite a good crowd once again (for Table Tennis).

It looks as if Columbia's reign as Island 1st Division Champions is over as Carl's team mates **Neville Allen** (Veteran) and **Simon Lamb** (young) have retired). The former has given magnificent service to the Club and will continue to be available as Reserve if needed. The latter is part of a larger army that seems to be deserting our Sport. His replacement **Brian Price** joined Columbia from Havenstreet where he found himself without a team after his two team mates, both young men, had also decided to 'hang up their bats' after being part of the local scene for many years. That situation unfortunately can be multiplied here and all over the country and I hope to deal with some of the answers in future articles. At this stage the facts tell their own story. Many of us have had a great deal from Table Tennis and we shall all have to think very hard about putting something back.

The membership crisis seems an urgent one.

In December 1982 Carl continued his success:

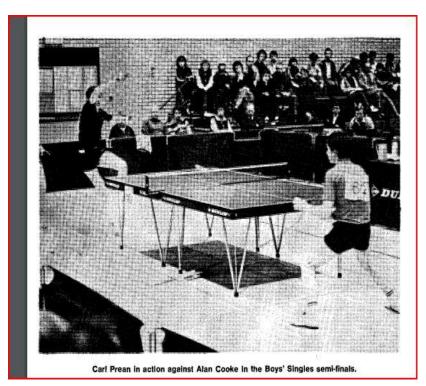


INTERNATIONAL

MATCH

At Grimsby Leisure Centre on Thursday, Nov. 11, local table tennis enthusiasts were treated to a fine display from a young England team and their more experienced opponents from Poland.

....despite the lateness of the hour almost everyone stayed to see young Prean's attempt to beat Grubba for a second time. As the announcer put it, "This match is like an Alfred Hitchcock thriller - will Prean succeed once again or will Grubba extra'ct the revenge he so desperately wanted following his defeat in Italy?". The previous evening John Hilton had shown up Grubba's lack of experience against the combination bat and we were well aware of Grubba's feelings and worries about Carl's rubbers and knew that Carl had a great opportunity to score once again. Well, the result is now history and maybe in the years to come Prean, if he continues to progress so well, as a star will look back on this evening as his first successful debut in a full International match. Oh yes, I forgot to say that Carl did win the set and Grubba, after the match, paid tribute to his young tormentor with the comment "he has great potential with an awkward style that I have never encountered before".



In the January/February 1983 issue Carl Prean had a letter printed responding to those who had complained about the Combination Bats:

I am the only attacker who plays with "funny rubbers" in the English Top 30. Obviously I cannot comment on my own game, but I would rather see Jonyer any day than Klampar who has the same rubber on both sides.

I can't understand what all the fuss is about. It is a lot harder to play with a Combination Bat than a normal one, especially under pressure. Players should be allowed to get on with the game and win and lose their matches on the table tennis

CARL PREAN

John Prean looks beyond ... THE ISLE OF WIGHT

I have travelled quite a few thousand miles since my last notes.

The main talking point among administrators is the membership crisis, amongplayers impending rubber legislation.

According to some there is a connection. Others blame the recession.

On the Isle of Wight the combination bat is no issue. The recession, although we feel it, has closed no clubrooms. There is ample opportunity for everyone to play league Table Tennis at a very low cost, often less than other Sports. Yet we have lost nine teams from a total of 81 in one season. In the Thirties too, there was a recession, but Table Tennis gained new players and supporters. Television was unimportant and represented neither a competitor for our time nor a publicity opportunity which has propelled Snooker and Darts to a place in the sun Whilst our shadows grow longer.

In the next three issues there were various items of Isle of Wight news:

DIVISION 3B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Berkshire 2	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Hampshire 2	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Somerset	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Avon	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Gloucestershire .	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Cornwall	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Isle of Wight	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Dorset 2	4	1	0	3	17	23	2

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Division 4 looms large. Beaten 6-4 at home by Somerset when Jim Daly and Carl Prean were our sole winners, points again proved elusive. They proved more than that on our visit to Bristol where Avon sank us without trace by 10-0. We were without Carl, on duty in the Czechoslovak Open, but could have no other excuses. Our hosts played extremely well and our team stuck to their task. No point was surrendered without a fight and no-one can ask for more.



"This is what you have to do" is the instruction given by John Prean to his son Carl.

LENTEC' JUNIOR COMPUTER RANKINGS

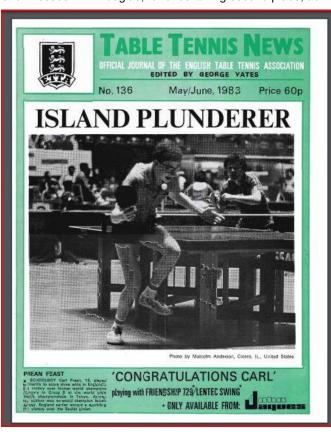
1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1) 415

In the May/June issue England had gained a bronze medal at the World Championships in Tokyo with our very own Carl Prean taking part. He also featured on the front cover, with an interesting comment on his serve.

37th World Championships Tokyo '83 BRILLIANT BRONZE FOR ENGLAND

by George R. Yates

Undoubtedly England's shock element was that unperturbable 15-years-old schoolboy, Carl Prean, from the Isle of Wight who, on debut in the world championships, whirled his combination bat with such devastating effect that memories of John Hilton's feats in Berne were evoked. Prean, in contesting 19 sets in the team event had 15 wins to 4 losses with Douglas, for once taking second place, achieving 14 wins to 7 losses.



Cover Picture

Serving in a manner that from July 1st, this year, will be illegal, Carl Prean, the Isle of Wight schoolboy, certainly set tongues a wagging at the 37th World Championships in Tokyo in returning a set analysis of 15 wins against 4 losses in the men's team event for the Swaythling Cup.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Our County Championships were just like the good (?). old days dominated by **Jim Daly** who won everything, Men's, Veterans', both Doubles (with **Mike Gallop** and **Joy Batten** respectively), thus nearly equalling his performance a few years ago when he won the raffle as well. **Janice Badcock** (Norman's daughter) is the new ladies' champion. The title eluded **Jill Fothergill** yet again. You can't keep 15year- old **Philip Nicholls** down. He won the "Consolation" defeating that excellent super-veteran **Norman Badcock**. Norman leaves us during the summer. What a servant of Island Table Tennis he has been! A former secretary of the Association, a player who has represented us at all levels for many, many years. Mr. "Reliable" for the club and county. The highlight of his career was probably winning the Island title when he defeated another great defender **Eric Green** in a final in which no quarter was asked or given. A late start saw these two battle it out till midnight when the lights failed. Repairs proved impossible and so they resumed on Monday evening when Norman pulled back a big deficit to take the title, a hard day's night indeed. We wish him well.

Our First Division title changed hands at last. Sandown and Ryde met in a sensational match. Ryde needed to win and any victory formula had to include a Daly hattrick.

As he was unbeaten all season it seemed a reasonable assumption. Mike Turner won two for Ryde and the doubles with Jim. Mike, the son of our Coaching qfficer Ray,. has made a lot of progresssince switching to long pimples. He was also the beaten Finalist in our Championships. Jim was beaten not only by Kevin Attrill, but by Roger Hookey. Roger played heroically, winning three, one of the great performances of this or any other season. Our County campaign ended with us firmly holding the wooden spoon. Thrice we were without Carl, twice on England duty. The practise of piling commitment upon commitment on our leading players continues, indeed gathers momentum. We went to Cornwall without him and lost 9-1. It appears too much to ask that we are able to field our best player all the time and for sanity to reign which enables players to enjoy their competitive duties, yet still have week-ends to improve their skills, in short ~ schedule that is not dominated by a st~nle hunt for computer points, that is English Table Tennis today, at any rate at the top. We closed on a high note with a 5-5 draw against Hampshire II being near to victory more than once in this match. Two from Carl, .one from Jim, both doubles made up our five. An excellent crowd watched this match. This time 3 points were not enough to avoid bottom place. At home we were a match for anybody, away we were often like fish out of water. We now await next season with trepidation. The 4th Division would be a disaster: Only. 4 teams and all far away. We were consistently the best supported team in the division. Our enthusiasm for County Table Tennis is undiiminished. A good base exists, one we can build on.

In October 1983 the newsletter had been re-vamped with a more professional look and typeface:



Cover Photo
The combination of Carl Prean and
Nicky Mason proved unbeatable
in the Boys' Doubles event in
Malmo.

PREAN REPLACES DOUGLAS AS No.1

by Robert Oldfield

Yet more controversy surrounded the Lentec computer rankings in June when the final lists of the 1982/83 season were issued showing 16-year-old Carl Prean, from the Isle of Wight, in No. 1 position held previously by Desmond Douglas. The lists heralded the end of a great season for Prean who followed a sensational World Championships in Tokyo with the English Junior Open title at Worthing and sixth position in the Norwich Union Masters in Jamaica and the 555 World Cup in Barbados.

In November 1983 there was more Island news:

Our first county match vs Cornwall ended in victory. Daly and C. P. contributed five, after which it was a question of whether we would manage a 6th to give us two points. The women's doubles and a men's singles (**Roger Hookey**) narrowly eluded us,but **Jill Fothergill** saw us through to the promised land of 6-4. Sympathies to our visitors who played and travelled well and were again well supported.

As the year drew to a close the December 1983 issue showed us that the Island's Carl was still England Senior Men's number one:

SENIOR MEN 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1) 681

However, he was not included in the England Squad...

PREAN OUT

Carl Prean was not included in the England squad that left on Nov. 30 to play in the Swedish Open Championships in Gothenburg. The team chosen was:- Desmond Douglas. Graham Sandley. Alan Cooke. Karen Witt and Joy Grundy

We will find out more about Carl's fortunes in the next newsletter.....

And finally:

Do you fancy cheering up your January with a good night out dancing to the brilliant rhythm'n'blues band The Sharpetones, with a lovely 2 course meal to enjoy as well?





More importantly though, would you like to watch our very own Frank Kelly performing on the drums? Of course you would! Depending on where you live, there may be a minibus laid on as well! So come and join us and have a great night out whilst raising money to help provide clean water for villagers in Gambia. Contact Frank for more information and tickets (details on the poster).

Thank you all for reading and please do send me any memories, articles or items related to table tennis to deboldyard@hotmail.co.uk as they are much appreciated and always used.