



Newsletter – September 2025

From the Chairman

Welcome to the 2025/26 season and I hope you will enjoy the content of this first newsletter which includes information about the new season which starts on **Monday the 8th of September**.

Unfortunately, we have lost three teams as Ringwood, Branksome and Sharkstone will not be entering the league this season. In addition, the Stourpaine club will only be entering one team. However, both the Broadstone Club and Bournemouth Sports Club have each entered an additional team which means that we will have ten teams playing in the league this season. May I thank all the clubs involved for the efforts they have made in recent weeks to ensure the league has sufficient teams playing in the league this season and my best wishes to the three clubs who for various reasons will not be taking part.

I hope that any players who are new to the league for this season will enjoy playing in it and will do their best to maintain the ethos of this league which prides itself on being competitive but above all else very friendly.

At the AGM held in July, two new members were elected to the committee namely:

- Geoff Cherrill who has replaced George Goodbody as Treasurer
- Ryan Lewendon who has replaced Ruth Atkin as Tournament Secretary

We welcome them both and I know that they will prove to be valuable members of the committee.

League Matches

As mentioned above, we will have 10 teams in the league from the following clubs:

- Broadstone A, B, C, D, E and F
- Bournemouth Sports A, B and C
- Stourpaine A

A full fixture list is available on the website and as you will see, the league programme will start on Monday the 8th of September and run on consecutive weeks through to the end of Week 10 after which we will be adding Team handicap matches and Tournaments to the schedule. Please see below for further information on this.

This will be a very crowded schedule although one 'catch up' week commencing on the 5th of January 2026 has been built into the schedule if required, in addition there will be no league or team handicap matches played during the week of a tournament.

Captains, please remember that you can play with just two team members or use a substitute player from another team within your club. However, if you have a major issue and have no alternative but to postpone a match, can you please inform the Match Secretary at wl3.comms@wdttl.co.uk as soon as possible so that he can keep a track on which matches have not being played.

Team Handicap League

The Team Handicap league will start on Monday the 17th of November and will be scheduled to run on the following weeks commencing December 15th, January 26th, February 16th and 23rd March with the final being played in the week commencing 30th March.

There will be a few changes to the playing conditions this season namely:

- Each match will consist of just 9 sets of singles with no doubles as the inclusion of this last season made the matches too long!
- The individual handicaps will be calculated at the end of week 9 (Friday the 7th of November) and will be used for all handicap matches and the handicap tournaments.
- You will be pleased to hear that there will be no minus handicaps this season as the lowest handicap will be 0.

As with last season, the five teams for each of the A and B groups will be based on their current league positions after Week 9 matches have been played. A full set of rules for the team handicap will appear on the website and further information about the event will be sent out nearer the time.

Tournaments

Once again we have a full complement of tournaments, all of which will be held at the Merley Community Centre on the following dates and starting at 7.15pm:

Scratch Singles	Wednesday 3 rd December 2025
Hard Bat Singles	Wednesday 7 th January 2026
Veterans Handicap Singles	Wednesday 25 th February 2026
Handicap Singles	Wednesday 25 th March 2026
Drawn Doubles and Presentation Evening	Wednesday 29 th April 2026

As last season, entry for the tournaments must be made online using the entry form on the league's website therefore please not just turn up on the night and expect to play as you will be disappointed. Also, please note that the maximum number of individual entries for each of the tournaments has been capped at 24 players for all singles tournaments as this is as many players we can accommodate at the venue. This cap will not be applied to the drawn doubles.

We experienced quite a few instances last season where players had forgotten they had booked in for a tournament and subsequently did not turn up. As you can imagine this caused some hurried rescheduling on the night for the tournament organiser. We have therefore discussed ways in which we can improve this situation, and you will therefore receive a reminder email a week or so before each tournament however better still, please note down somewhere the tournaments you have entered so that you will not forget them.

Please remember, if you have booked, and your circumstances change and therefore cannot play, you must inform Ryan before the tournament at rdlewendon@outlook

New Table Tennis Balls

As with last season, each team will be provided with sufficient new balls by the league as a new ball must be used for every home league match. There will not be enough new balls to cover the team handicap matches as well, therefore please use a good ball which has been in a league match.

Inter League Matches

Last season, we enjoyed two very enjoyable interleague matches with one event organised by the Dorset TTA and the other our annual match with the Blackmore Vale League. We look forward to playing in these again this season and further information will be published when dates etc. are available and we will be seeking players to participate in them.

And Finally

In closure, it only remains for me to wish you all good luck and enjoyment in the season ahead and I look forward to seeing many of you as the season progresses.

Rod Fry
Chairman