

## **2008/9 Season Weeks 1 - 7**

*To players old and new, welcome to the new season. For the benefit of any one new to the League, and also as a reminder to regular readers, you should know that anything in the match reports not appearing between square brackets was written by someone who had been at the match – so you'll know where to start looking if you disagree with it! Anything in square brackets will either be my comments based on a reading of the score card – minus a report – some weeks later, or, just occasionally where I've felt it necessary, a clarification/expansion of an existing report.*

*Have a good season,*

*Vernon Hyde  
General Secretary*

## **Match Reports – Division Two**

### **Commercial B 8 v 2 Hollingworth C**

[Adam Wilson won his three singles for Commercial, with only Dave Morris taking him past three games. Tony Lawton won two, beating Roger Atherton and Mike Osborn – both in four. Ian Wilson added a further two, also with wins over Roger and Mike. Dave Morris's victory over Tony and Ian gave the visitors their two points, the doubles going to Tony and Adam who beat Roger and Mike in straight games.]

### **Strines B 8 v 2 Stanley Square B**

Steve [Reese] couldn't make the first match of the season due to another holiday (some call him Judith Chalmers!). Tony [Blakie] was dragged in to play with a bad shoulder and managed to battle through. A good match, played with lots of laughs!

[For Strines : Mark Lambe 3, Tony Blakie 2, Tommy Hennegan 2. For Stanley Square : Ian Robinson 2, Lilian Peace 0, Ian Dagnall 0.]

### **Strines C 5 v 5 Hyde Cricket Club**

Splendid hospitality. Adrian makes the best cup of tea in the league! [Lee Brown]

In fact, he may make the only cup of tea in the League as hospitality is slipping. Back to the game. Hyde Cricket Club had only two players and managed to scrape a draw with Lee Brown and Ian Barker winning 2 each; both lost to Gordon Bickley. The doubles provided the only close match of the night, with the visitors winning in five. Both teams will struggle this year.

### **Strines 'X' Men 9 v 1 Hollingworth D**

Gary's amazing defensive skills almost resulted in several holes in the Strines Clubhouse wall, as well as a disconnected radiator, as he threw himself all over the place! Mike [McNulty] beat him, just, in a marathon match which ended 16 – 14 to Mike. He did pick up Hollingworth's only point though as they struggled to keep up with the young guns, Marcus and Tom. Great doubles match.

[For Strines : Marcus McNulty 3, Mike McNulty 3, Tom Roberts 2. For Hollingworth D : Gary Turley 1, Nesta Chambers 0, Barry Fordham 0. Tom and Marcus won the doubles, beating Nesta and Gary 13 – 11 in the fifth.]]

### **Hyde Cricket Club 5 v 5 Strines B**

Fabulous night's entertainment – nets, edges, and curses galore. Is there a forehand in Div. 2 better than Mark's? Ian and I are playing reasonably well but Alan's got the Memphis blues. My [Lee] game with Mark was the match of the night which I scraped 12 – 10 in the fifth. Mark was distracted when he heard the bar open.

[For Hyde Cricket Club : Ian Barker 2, Lee Brown 2, Alan Darnell 0. For Strines : Mark Lambe 2, Tony Blakie 2, Tom Hennegan 1. Lee and Ian won the doubles, beating Tom and Mark 13 – 11 in the third.]

### **Hollingworth C 1 v 9 Strines 'X' Men**

[Dave Morris prevented the whitewash with a straight game win over Tom Roberts. He lost in three to Mike McNulty, and in five to Marcus. The X-Men won all the remaining singles, against Mike Osborn and Lee Chapman, and the doubles, in straight games.]

### **Hollingworth D 9 v 1 Strines C**

Some quite tight games, making the match more exciting than the scoreline suggests. The match also finished almost too late for the pub!

[For Hollingworth : Gary Turley 3, Ben Thancanamootoo 3, Barry Fordham 2. For Strines : Gordon Bickley 1, John Ashworth 0, Adrian Bellis 0.]

### **Old Glossop Cricket Club 1 v 9 Commercial B**

New boys Gary Oke and John Walker struggled to make an impact against seasoned performers Ian and Tony who, whilst not impressing, did enough to win. Adam Wilson produced some skilful exhibition shots, but losing some points by being too adventurous. He had a shoulder injury as well! Gary and John showed some good shots, but overall they were poor. Peter Woodland should perhaps have beaten Tony, but he seemed to run out of steam in the fifth.

### **Stanley Square B 3 v 7 Stanley Square C**

[Steve Bartlett had a close match with Gary Owen which he won 14 – 12, 11 – 9, 4 – 11, 11 – 8, and he also beat Keith Fendall in straight games. Ian Robinson provided the 'home' side's other point by beating Keith in four. For the 'visitors', new signing Jack Christian won his three singles in straight games. Gary Owen beat the two Ians, and Keith added a sixth point with his 11 – 9 five-game win over Ian Dagnall. Jack and Keith took the doubles in straight games against Steve and Ian Robinson.]

### **Commercial B 3 v 7 Stanley Square C**

[The home team of Ian Wilson, Mike Stansfield and Tony Lawton scored a point each – Ian and Mike beating Gary Owen, and Tony beating Keith Fendall. Jack Christian won his three, Keith won two, and Gary one. Jack and Keith took the doubles in four against Ian and Tony.]

### **Strines C 8 v 2 Hollingworth C**

Hollingworth streaked into a 2 – 0 lead only to be overwhelmed by a rare Strines victory. Gordon Bickley kicked off the recovery, but star of the night was Adrian who won two matches with his fearless attacking play. John Ashworth won two also, and he combined with Gordon to win the doubles. Gordon picked up 3 points with his dour, defensive style which bores audiences, opposition and him in equal measure!

[For Strines : Gordon Bickley 3, Adrian Bellis 2, John Ashworth 2. For Hollingworth : Mike Osborn 1, Roger Atherton 1, Lee Chapman 0.]

### **Stanley Square B 3 v 7 Hyde Cricket Club**

Really enjoyable evening's table tennis, especially when Ernie scores. "What's the score Ernie?" "Five four" replied Ernie. "Who to?" "I haven't a clue, I'm only the scorer" Priceless! [Lee Brown]

Lee (Roadrunner) played some awesome rallies. Need first aid later! [Lilian Peace]

[For Stanley Square : Ian Robinson 2, Steve Bartlett 1, Lilian Peace 0. For Hyde : Ian Barker 3, Lee Brown 2, Alan Darnell 1.]

### **Strines B 7 v 3 Hollingworth D**

[3 to Steve Reese, 2 to Mark Lambe, including two close matches against Ben Thancanamootoo and Ryan Conway – both of which went the distance, and 1 to Tommy Hennegan who had a five-game win over Ryan. For Hollingworth, Nesta beat Mark and Tommy, and Ben also beat Tommy in a closely contested five-game match. Mark and Steve beat Nesta and Ryan in the doubles.]

### **Strines 'X' Men 10 v 0 Old Glossop Cricket Club**

Flattering scoreline for the 'X' Men who weren't at their best. Gary [Oke] gave both Mike [McNulty] and Tom [Roberts] some problems without anything to show for it, and the net cords seemed to go in favour of the home team. All matches were played in a good spirit.

### **Commercial B 7 v 3 Stanley Square B**

[Adam Wilson won his three singles against Ian Dagnall, Ian Robinson and Steve Bartlett. Tony Lawton was taken to five by Steve, finally winning 11 – 8. He also beat Ian D., but lost 10 – 12 in the fifth to Ian R. Mike Stansfield contributed a sixth point with a win over Ian D. The home side took the doubles in straight games.]

### **Old Glossop Cricket Club 4 v 6 Strines C**

An interesting evening. The match was tight. Peter Woodland was disappointed not to beat Dave Ball. He got off to a bad start, going to games to nil down before coming back to level only to lose 6 – 11 in the deciding game. Adrian Bellis managed to beat John Walker, but dropped a game. Gary Oke let a two game advantage slip away to lose in the fifth quite alarmingly. He seemed to lose his composure, but he beat Adrian Bellis quite easily. The doubles was easily won by the home team.

### **Hollingworth D 6 v 4 Hyde Cricket Club**

Excellent night's table tennis. Ian's game with Nesta was worth the admission fee alone. And the Kit-Kats weren't bad either! [Lee Brown]

[For Hollingworth : Nesta Chambers 3, Ben Thancanamootoo 3, Barry Fordham 0. For Hyde C. C. : Ian Barker 1, Lee Brown 1, Alan Darnell 1. Ian and Alan beat Nesta and Barry in the doubles in straight games.]

### **Hollingworth C 6 v 4 Strines B**

[Steve Oliver won all his singles for Hollingworth in straight games, but Dave Morris narrowly missed his trio of victories by losing to Mark Lambe 9 – 11 in the fifth. Roger Atherton couldn't add any points for the home side, but came very close to doing so when he went to five with Tommy Hennegan, just losing 10 – 12 in the fifth. For Strines, Mark won 2, Steve Reese 1, and Tommy 1. The home side took the doubles 19 – 17 in the fourth.]

### **Hyde Cricket Club 6v 4 Hollingworth C**

The Hollingworth lads provided really tough opposition and, in a great night's table tennis, they fought back from 0 – 4 to level the match at 4 – 4. Fortunately our 'Hogwarts' net once again came up trumps, and we ran out winners. My [Lee] first treble since 1936, or at least it felt like it, and my game with Steve [Oliver] was a belter. Ian [Barker] had a touch of the double faults, serving five on the run, but he redeemed himself by coming back from 1 – 9 in his game with Mike [Osborn] to win 16 – 14. Alan [Darnell] struggled to find his consistency but his win against Lee Chapman was crucial. We are looking for a new table, and all teams are invited to the ceremonial burning of the current one.

### **Strines C 1 v 9 Stanley Square C**

Strines C stuffed! Bickley saves the day!

[Gordon nearly saved it further, taking Stanley Square's new signing Adrian Borrell to five, but finally losing 7 – 11. John Ashworth also came close to adding another point for the home side when he took Jack Christian to five, but he too lost 7 – 11 in the final game. For Strines : John Ashworth 0 , Gordon Bickley 1, Adrian Bellis 0. For Stanley Square : Adrian Borrell 3, Jack Christian 3, Keith Fendall 2.]

### **Stanley Square B 1 v 9 Hollingworth D**

Youth against age! Fantastic evening.

[Steve Bartlett won the home side's only point of the night by beating Ryan Conway in the fifth. Whilst he took games off Nesta Chambers and Emil Tangham, he couldn't take the matches. Ian Dagnall and Lilian Peace both won games in their matches against Ryan, and Ian took a game off Emil as well, but it was no points for them on the night.]

### **Strines B 8 v 2 Old Glossop Cricket Club**

[Mark Lambe won his matches against Gary Oke, Peter Woodland and John Walker – all of them in four game. Steve Reese also won all his singles, although Peter Woodland pushed him close, 11 – 1, 15 – 13, 9 – 11, 13 – 11 to Steve. Tommy Hennegan provided an extra point for Strines with a win over John Walker, and Mark and Steve won the doubles in four against Gary and Peter.]

### **Strines 'X' Men 10 v 0 Commercial B**

Never a dull moment when Ian Wilson is around! His 'sense of humour' had us all 'cracked up' for most of the night, not to mention the regularity of his 'bottom burps' between rallies! Although Tom gave him a 'run for his money' in that department!! Tony pushed all the 'X' Men to work hard for their victories, but Strines just had a little too much, and ran out comfortable winners. Great fun!

### **Strines 'X' Men 10 v 0 Stanley Square B**

Fantastic sportsmanship. Best tea and biscuits in Strines [Lilian Peace]

Tom and Marcus remarked how 'cool it would be if your mum played table tennis! Stay 'cool' Lilian. Enjoyed meeting the Ians for the first time. [Mike McNulty]

### **Commercial B 8 v 2 Strines C**

[[For Commercial : Mike Stansfield 3, Tony Lawton 2, Ian Wilson 2. For Strines : John Ashworth 1, Pat Downs 1, Adrian Bellis 0.]

### **Hollingworth C 6 v 4 Hollingworth D**

[3 each to Dave Morris and Steve Oliver, with Mike Osborn coming close to adding further points. He went to five with both Nesta Chambers and Ben Thancanamootoo but lost 4 & 7 respectively in the final games. Gary Turley beat him convincingly in straight games. Gary partnered Nesta in the doubles and they beat Steve and Mike in three.]

### **Old Glossop Cricket Club 5 v 5 Hyde Cricket Club**

Thanks to Old Glossop Cricket Club for agreeing to arrange the match, and for a superb evening's table tennis [Lee]

Peter Woodland won three matches for the first time this season, but played 13 games doing so. Gary Oke won two, and lost a five-game match with Lee Brown. All Alan's matches went to 5. John Walker had a seesaw game with Alan but still didn't manage to win any points. Ian Barker and Alan Darnell outplayed Peter and Gary positionally and deserved their points for the drawn match.

### **Stanley Square C 7 v 3 Strines B**

[Jack Christian and Adrian Borrell gained maximum points in the singles, although Adrian didn't get it all his own way against Mark Lambe who lost 8 – 11 in the fifth. Keith Fendall added the seventh point with an 11 – 7 fifth game win over Tommy Hennegan. In the doubles Mark and Steve Reese beat Jack and Adrian 11 – 5 in the fifth.]

### **Hyde Cricket Club 2 v 8 Stanley Square C**

There should have been a fanfare from the Household Cavalry, or at least a blast from the Tin'sle Brass Band. Why? Hyde Cricket Club rolled out their new table. Well, not exactly new – 30 quid to be honest. Rejoice everyone, the Hogwarts table has been consigned to the 'bonty' complete with the saggy net. Stanley Square C had the honour of being first on and they seemed to enjoy the experience, once we had smoothed out the Snake Pass-type undulations of course.

Ian Barker battled hard, taking a game off each of his opponents, and Alan Darnell took great advantage of the fact that I had forgotten to tension the net by accumulating 27 net chords in his lone victory over Keith Fendall. Keith was not best pleased and it showed as he conceded victory by attempting a forehand smash – his first since 1983! We shall quickly gloss over my futile attempts, although I take umbrage with Adrian describing my lethal backhand chop as a push!

I save the best till last – the doubles. Ian and I have played together for almost 20 years, and this was undoubtedly our best ever performance. To come back from two down to two players of Jack and Adrian's stature was fantastic. A really good night.

### **Strines C 0 v 10 Strines 'X' Men**

An early finish thanks to the superiority of the 'X' Men. Only the doubles went to five, and only one single went to four. The youngsters are clearly impressive yet Mike McNulty was never taken to 'deuce'. They look destined for the 1st division, but there must be a doubt as to whether they can win enough games between them to survive. The smart money is on 'no'.

### **Stanley Square B 3 v 7 Hollingworth C**

[Hollingworth only had two players for this match but, given they were Dave Morris and Steve Oliver, the home side were never going to find it easy to get a point over and above the three 'free' ones. Ian Robinson came closest to getting one, taking Steve to five before losing 4 – 11 in the final game. Steve Bartlett took a game of Dave Morris, but the remaining matches were settled in straight games.]

### **Hollingworth D 3 v 7 Old Glossop Cricket Club**

A great match; some close games; some not so close; all played in a good spirit with few tantrums.

[[For Hollingworth : Nesta Chambers 2, Ben Thancanamootoo 1, Barry Fordham 0. For Old Glossop Cricket Club : Gary Oke 2, Peter Woodland 3, John Walker 1.]