

2011/12 Season Weeks 1 - 8

Match Reports – Division Two

Romiley Cricket Club B 8 v 2 Strines Crusaders

The Cricketers made a good start to their promotion to Division 2 by defeating their fellow promotion partners. Peter Jepson had 3 good wins and was well supported by new signing Ken Wood, who also won his 3. They teamed up in the doubles and defeated Bickley and Ashworth very easily by 11 – 1, 11 – 4, 11 – 1. Tom Fowler, batting at three for the home team, recorded a good victory in three ends against his opposite number Adrian Bellis, but the experience of Gordon Bickley and John Ashworth proved a step too far and he lost to both in three. A match played in a good spirit.

Hyde Holl. B Res. 5 v 5 Glossop Bandits C

In a match featuring two teams with very long names it was the man with the longest name who proved to be the star of the show. Ben Thancanamootoo won all his three matches, with Barry Fordham and Dave Richardson winning one each to get the draw. Neil Coppard and Vernon Hyde both returned to Division 2 action after a stint with big boys and won 2 each, and the doubles. Dave Winterbottom, stepping up to Division 2, played well but couldn't win any on this occasion. All players (apart from Ben!) appeared a bit 'rusty' for this first game of the season.

Old Glossop Conservatives 8 v 2 Glossop Conservative Club C

A very tight game, which the scoreline doesn't suggest. Every game turned on a couple of points, and a bit of luck. Stuart recovered from losing his first to win the next two. Mike (3), Pete (2) and Ian (2) were all winners for Conservatives B. Ian and Pete (surprisingly) won the doubles.

Glossop Bandits C 5 v 5 Romiley Cricket Club B

A close match with even Peter Roberts having to work hard to beat Peter Jepson. Young Tom continues to improve, and even took a game off the startled Ben.

Strines Crusaders 5 v 5 Glossop Conservative Club A

The room has had a face lift and the carpet tiles are no more – it looks inviting! The hospitality suite is not yet open. The Crusaders return to Div. 2 suggests we might not be as successful as Richard the Lionheart, having picked up only seven points against the teams promoted with us. Alan Fishwick and Norman Wilson picked up two matches each, and Gordon Bickley won three for the home side, with John Ashworth and Adrian Bellis both beating David Bridge. Despite an early lead in the doubles, the Crusaders dropped a further point. A good night though.

Hyde YMCA 'B' 5 v 5 Strines Dragons

A very good close match, with the draw being a fair result for both sides. Pete Fowler proved too good for all the Hyde team. The match of the night was Peter Murphy 'v' Andy Bickley. Andy came from 4 – 8 down in the last game to win 12 – 10. Pete Green also won on deuces in the fifth against Pat Downs.

Glossop Conservative Club C 5 v 5 Hyde YMCA 'B'

Stuart began the season with his form from last season, winning his three matches. Mark won the fourth singles, beating Peter Green, but Fred – despite two matches going to five – was unable to record a victory. Martyn and Andy each won two for the YMCA, and Fred and Mark took the doubles against Martyn and Peter to achieve the draw.

Hollingworth C 1 v 9 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

Match much closer than the score suggests!

Glossop Conservative Club C 5 v 4* Strines Crusaders

(*Power failure before the doubles. Both teams agreed to play an extra doubles in the return match)

A typically close encounter. Stuart Higginbottom won all 3 singles, but had to work very hard in doing so. John Ashworth and Bill Woolley starred for Strines, winning two matches each. Adrian will count himself unlucky to leave empty handed having lost a close encounter with David Bridge. Mark Bennett and Dave

could easily have won two or three singles on the night, but good play from John and Bill kept them to one win each.

Hyde Cricket Club 3 v 7 Hyde YMCA B

As we were left in the lurch at the end of last season, when our No.3 jumped ship, I initiated a recruitment campaign and, in line with League policy, I targeted the junior section at Hyde C. C. Last week, at Stanley Square, our new recruit made his debut – Bill Foster, aged 73. Well, he is younger than Cliff Preston! He played really well but, unfortunately, when he bowled to Lilian to thank her for scoring he strained his back and will be out for a few weeks. Which meant that we went into tonight's match with only two players.

I started against Martyn, who I hadn't beaten for years, and, on the basis of serving less double faults, I won. All that pre-season training was paying off! Ian couldn't get going at all and was comprehensively beaten by Harry and Martyn, although he shook off his lethargy to beat Peter. I had my usual ding-dong battle with Peter, and a loud roar from the lounge greeted my winning shot. Unfortunately it was for Ashley Young's equalising goal! I lost to Harry in a fairly close match – ran out of steam I'm afraid in the fourth. You don't get much of a breather in a two-man team. Ian and I lost a cracking doubles in the fifth. So we are still looking for our first win. Perhaps when our 'junior' recovers?!

Romiley Cricket Club B 4 v 6 YMCA Holl. B Res.

A fluctuating scoreline saw both teams in with a chance of a win up to the final match. Dennis Bradshaw beat Peter Jepson in the final singles and then teamed up with Vernon Hyde to defeat Jepson and his grandson, Tom Fowler. The Romiley duo accounted for their four points with young Tom coming from behind to defeat Vernon, and Dave Winterbottom. Whilst Dennis easily won his three, Ken Wood had a poor run of form and was unable to help the Cricketers over the line.

Strines Dragons 4 v 6 Old Glossop Conservatives

Good job Strines had Pete Fowler or else it could have been a whitewash!

Glossop Bandits C 9 v 1 Glossop Conservative Club C

Quite a few laughs, most nets going against Fred. Barry should have won 3, but seemed to drift off – claims he's not well.

Old Glossop Conservatives 6 v 4 Hyde Cricket Club

The doubles summed up this very close match – Les and Ian winning 13 – 11 in the final game. The luck favoured the Tory Club, hence the 6 – 4 scoreline. Pete, Mike and Ian W. all won two for the Tories; Les 2 and Lee 1 for the Cricketers. Surprisingly little swearing for this fixture!

(report from Lee Brown)

Hyde C.C. introduced their second new player of the season and, once again, we are trying to follow the League's junior policy Les Craig, aged 63. Well, he is a few years younger than Bill, our first new player. Games between Ian Wilson's team and Hyde C.C. are not for the faint hearted, and the keep-fit girls in the next room were all issued with ear-defenders – even Peter was heard to utter an expletive! Les proved to be an excellent addition to Hyde's depleted squad and he set the evening off with a good win over Peter. Unfortunately I couldn't keep the run going as I succumbed to Ian Wilson. I must admit he took me by surprise as he played a couple of smashes which he doesn't normally unleash until at least January. Ian Barker is struggling a little at the moment – he says he's still knackered due to all the pre-season practice – and he went down to Mike. Les saw off Ian in a really good tight game, and I managed to beat Mike in a hard five-setter. Ian rallied briefly against Ian Wilson, and there were glimpses of the form he is capable of, but I think the sight of Peter doing a blood sugar test halfway through the game put him off. Peter – I think what you were doing is kind of personal, to be done away from nervous table tennis players. Needless to say, Ian lost. We all lost our final games but Les and Ian took the doubles to end a most enjoyable night's tennis. I had to dash off home to do my blood sugar reading as hearing Peter swear had sent my sugar levels sky high!

Strines Crusaders 3 v 7 Strines Dragons

A much awaited local derby, and the Dragons saw off the Crusaders – which seems to be wrong! Pete Fowler won all three for the 'visitors', and Pat Downs won 2. Much to Pat's disappointment, an injured shoulder led to him conceding his match with Gordon who was winning 2 – 1 at the time. As these two joined the same League team together almost 40 years ago, these are fiercely competitive matches. Naturally it was a good night, with all of us in the village pub afterwards – can't see the lads from City and United doing the same!

Hyde YMCA 'B' 6 v 4 Stanley Square C

Unable to field three players due to a sudden withdrawal through illness. But still a very friendly and enjoyable night's tennis.

Romiley Cricket Club B 10 v 0 Hollingworth C

The Cricketers whitewashed an under-strength Hollingworth C team, with wins from Jepson, Fowler and Wood against Atherton, Osborn and Chapman. Lee Chapman put up strong resistance in his singles and teamed up with Mike Osborn against Fowler and Wood in the doubles, going down 10 – 12 in the fifth.

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 7 v 3 Glossop Conservative Club A

Hyde's Dave Winterbottom was involved in two closely fought 5-game matches with very different outcomes. Firstly, he was two games to the good over Norman Wilson who then fought back and eventually triumphed in the 5th. The opposite happened when Dave played Alan Fishwick, with Alan losing his two game lead, and losing the match in the 5th. Neil and Vernon were unbeaten on the night in the singles, but then teamed up to give possibly their worst ever doubles performance (or maybe it was Eddie and Alan who played superbly!).

Glossop Conservative Club A 0 v 10 Romiley B

They came, they played, and they thrashed us!

Hyde Cricket Club 9 v 1 Strines Crusaders

(words in brackets are my guesses at what might have been there had the 'typed-up' text fitted on the page! Ed.)

(??) the 'Lionheart' lookalike Adrian Bellis, the Crusaders scaled Werneth Low only to be put to the sword by the (?)ting heathens whose leader was the fearsome Sa-Lee-Din! Not really. The scoreline does not (?) how close some of the games were. Our new player, Les Craig, was making his home debut and he is proving a (great) acquisition. When he played John there was 136 years experience at the table in what proved to be a (terrific) duel. John took the first two games but Les fought back to level as he got his backhand smashes going. (In the fifth) Les's younger legs proved to be the key and he won quite comfortably. He repelled the attacks of (Adrian) and Gordon to run up the first treble of the season for Hyde. This was soon followed by the second as Ian (beat) Gordon and John but was made to work extremely hard by Adrian before eventually winning in five. I am (delighted) to report that we have a convert. Yes, Gordon has renounced the pimples, although he says it is nothing to (do with) my tirade against them – but I suspect he fibs! Anyhow, he was still too tricky for me, pimples or not. I did (manage) to overcome Adrian and John, which left the curious game of doubles that nobody wanted to win! Never (have) I seen so many errors in one game, and it came as a complete surprise when Ian and I eventually won in five. (We) had played like complete Muppets, which doesn't say a lot for John and Gordon. And so the Crusaders were sent (packing with their tails between) their legs – but it had been a most enjoyable battle.

Glossop Conservative Club C 5 v 5 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

Vernon saved the day for Hyde by winning his three matches and partnering Neil to take the doubles from Fred and Mark. Fred broke his duck at last, beating Neil and Dave – as did Stuart, with Mark contributing the other win. Neil took the other point for Hyde after beating Mark.

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 6 v 4 Strines Dragons

Good evening's T.T. Pete Fowler was the star man, winning all his three matches with ease. Vernon didn't have a good night (not T.T.) – he pulled his leg, and then damaged his arm on the table. Dave Winterbottom played well, winning two of his matches, and improving all the time. Good doubles – except for the fifth! Yes, the score is correct, 11 – 0 in the fifth to the Dragons!

Strines Crusaders 2 v 8 Stanley Square C

Congratulations Stanley Square! Poor response from Strines. Looking forward to the next meeting.

Glossop Bandits C 7 v 3 Hyde Cricket Club

Nice to meet the new boys, Bill and Les, and we were impressed by the free-hitting Les who hammered Barry and Ben but was subdued by Peter. Bill was overcome with gratitude for the tea and Kit Kats.

Glossop Conservative Club A 0 v 10 Hollingworth C

Another thrashing for the Con. Club. New boy, Paul Carter, beat Eddie in three. Eddie was then called into work, so had to concede two. Lee won in five against Dave and Norman, the game against Norman lasting 40 minutes. Paul easily beat Norman and Dave.

Old Glossop Conservatives 5 v 5 Hyde YMCA 'B'

Yet another tight game with a draw being the correct result. Pete Woodland was the outstanding player, winning all his matches, but every player won at least one match. The best one was the doubles where Harry and Peter Green beat Peter Woodland and Ian 12 – 10 in the fifth.

Romiley Cricket Club B 7 v 3 Glossop Conservative Club C

A competitive match, with the score not doing justice to the efforts of the visitors. Peter Jepson won his three for the home team but had to work hard to beat Stuart Higginbottom. Stuart had been fortunate against Tom Fowler and Ken Wood, whilst Mark Bennett secured a third point for the visitors, defeating Fowler in 4. Fred Lilley had an unsuccessful night for him, failing to gain a point in his singles, and with Stuart in the doubles, losing to Fowler and Wood in 4.

Hyde Cricket Club 6 v 4 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

YMCA arrive for this match unbeaten, and worried that they may eventually gain promotion to Division 1. Their concerns proved needless as Les Craig produced some outstanding tennis, dropping only one game in a superb treble. None of the YMCA players had any answer to Les's backhand smash which has been enhanced by a new rubber and proved to be lethal! I gave good support to Les by winning two matches but Neil still proves to be a mystery to me. Ian struggled to get going but found his form at the right time as his win against Dave gave us the win. In Ian's game with Vernon, just as Vernon was serving for a game, a ghostly voice could be heard coming from Les's haversack. It was the Man in Black falling into a Burning Ring of Fire. After many apologies, Les retrieved the phone and turned it off! Our No. 4, Bill Foster, played the doubles. He has come up with a novel way of putting the opposition off – he strews coins all over the floor! But it backfired, as it was his partner Les who kept finding them. We then discovered that Bill had a hole in his pocket. Good night's tennis, and good company.

Glossop Conservative Club C 8 v 2 Glossop Conservative Club A

Stuart once again was the star for 'C', winning his three matches. Mark and Fred contributed two each, and also took the doubles from Norman and Eddie. For the 'A' team, Norman beat Mark, and Eddie beat Fred in 5. Alan was the unfortunate 'A' player, not recording a win – but he did take Mark to 4.

Hyde YMCA 'B' 9 v 1 Strines Crusaders

'Dad' Gordon gained the upper hand in his battle with 'son' Andy but, unfortunately, this was the only victory Strines Crusaders managed in a 1 – 9 defeat. The score was unjust to Strines, but they should improve after a year down in the 3rd Division. Harry Garside and Martyn Capper were undefeated in singles, and combined for a win in 4 in the doubles.

Glossop Conservative Club C 7 v 3 Hollingworth C

Stuart continued his excellent start to the season, winning all his three matches. His first match victory over Dave Morris 11 – 5, 11 – 5, 11 – 7, was a deserved win despite Dave's excuses of the orange ball, the slippery floor and that he'd had a hard day at work. Dave did win his next two, delighted at playing with a white ball as the orange one was cracked. Fred won 2 and Mark won 1. The home win of 7 – 3 was played in good spirits – which continued in the bar after the match.

Romiley Cricket Club B 6 v 4 Hyde Cricket Club

Romiley kept up their winning run with a close victory over their cricketer rivals. Les Craig scored the first point for the visitors with an easy win over Tom Fowler, and then a second point with a narrow win over Peter Jepson. He then came up against left-hander Ken Wood and went down in five ends after winning the first two games. Tom Fowler and Peter Jepson had good wins against Lee Brown and Ian Barker. Ian Barker had some consolation by beating Wood and, with Les Craig, winning the doubles over Wood and Fowler.

Glossop Bandits C 8 v 2 Hyde YMCA 'B'

A great night, with lots of 5-game matches. Harry seemed convinced that Barry only beat him due to some lucky nets and edges. Barry thinks it was skill and flare. Statistically, nets and edges will occur if the ball is kept low and to the margins – logical!

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 6 v 4 Stanley Square C

A good, and entertaining, night's T.T. Lilian played well, but without a win. A good win in the doubles for Stanley Square – Ian and Steve played well, and deserved their win.

Glossop Conservative Club A 2 v 8 Strines Dragons

Alan Fishwick won both the matches for the Con. Club, including a five-setter against Pat Downs. Pete Fowler was too good for us. Norman Wilson had a torrid time, being moved round the table with no thought of his age. Dave took Alan Darnell to 5. 2 -8 was a fair reflection on the night.