

2011/12 Season Weeks 13 - 16

Match Reports – Division Two

Hyde Cricket Club 8 v 2 Stanley Square C

Have you ever given much thought to the art of scoring? No, I didn't think so. Just think back to when you last played. Isn't it easier when you have somebody who can score competently? I thought I could until I scored the doubles last night. It was like having Laurel and Hardy at one end, and the Krankies at the other. To make matters worse they were constantly falling out with one another as well. Mind you, I sympathise with Ian Dagnall – it can't be easy playing doubles when your partner is a giant! Steve also proved to be a nuisance to both Ian and myself as there was no way we could move him from the end of the table, and he saw us both off. Les, however, was a different proposition with his predominantly top-spin game, and Steve had no answer in the first two games. Les eased off somewhat in the third, and Steve mounted something of a come-back, only to lose it to one of his many double faults. Les disposed of Ian and Lilian to claim another treble. Game of the night was the two Ians, with Barker edging it in the fifth after going 1 – 2 down. Always a good night when we play the Square, with good banter – especially when Lilian said she'd have Barker as her 'toy boy', until she found out he was broke!

Strines Dragons 6 v 4 Hyde YMCA 'B'

Close-fought, with many matches going to five. Andrew Bickley had a bad night for Hyde YMCA. Pete Fowler cruised through as usual.

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 3 v 7 Hollingworth C

A good performance from the 'C' team, especially Dave Morris. Although losing, Kurt played well against Dennis, but he came away with two good wins against Vernon and Dave.

Romiley Cricket Club B 4 v 6 Glossop Bandits C

A close match played in a good spirit, with Bandits overcoming the Cricketers, thanks mainly to their No. 1, Peter Roberts and his golden bat. He won his three matches with ease and, partnering Ben Thancamootoo, took the doubles against Wood and Fowler. Peter Jepson and Ken Wood defeated Ben, and Barry Fordham, whilst the two visitors took matches off Tom Fowler.

Hyde YMCA 'B' 4 v 6 Hyde Cricket Club

Hyde C.C. gained revenge for the early season defeat by Hyde YMCA 'B' – Les Craig making the difference, winning all his three matches. Ian Barker had a good night, beating both Martyn Capper and Pete Green. Harry Garside was the pick for YMCA, winning two of his matches.

[Lee Brown's version] We arrived at YMCA with a slight touch of vertigo due to checking the league table and finding we were fourth ... we've never been this high since we joined the League! As expected, it was close, with never more than a single match between the sides, and only a couple of matches (mine with Harry, and Les's with Pete) that didn't go to more than three games. Les had a cracking match with Martyn whose serving was spot-on all night, as I can testify. Les managed to wear Martyn down with his top spin, but one particular rally – when Les had Martyn pinned in the corner by the door, with Martyn retrieving smash after smash and eventually taking the point – was worth the admission fee alone. Ian's match with Martyn was a curious affair with Martyn cruising the first game only to let Ian back in the game with a mistake-strewn second. Midway through the third we all stopped as a strange rumbling could be heard ... it was Martyn's tummy, and he dashed off to the bog. Re-emerging, somewhat pale of face, he was not the same player, and Ian delivered the coup de grace with aplomb. Ian had also seen off Pete earlier in confident manner after dropping the first game. The scores were now level and I had to face Peter, having played like a plonker against Martyn and Harry – and being deservedly thrashed. Peter stormed the first game but, after looking at the anguished faces of my team mates, I eventually knuckled down and started to play some decent tennis which, allied to some over-confidence on Peter's part, led to me eventually taking the match and earning us at least a draw. It was now set up for Les and Harry and it proved to be the match of the night. Neither gave any quarter, with Harry doing all he could to keep the ball away from Les's vicious forehand top-spin, and for a while his tactics proved correct, but it couldn't last and eventually Les wore him down to take the last game fairly comfortably – giving Les a treble, and the team a rare win at the YMCA. Les and Billy fought hard in the doubles, but lost in the fifth. Superb night's tennis and good banter to boot.

Strines Crusaders 3 v 7 (+1) Glossop Conservative Club C

Having won the previous week, spirits were high in the Strines camp. Alas, we were brought down to earth by a Con. Club side which we thought we could beat. Stuart Higginbottom won his 3 singles, all in three, and was only pushed a little by Gordon – the first game being 12 – 10, and the second 18 – 16. Mark Bennett won 2, and Fred Lilley 1. The home side mustered three points with Gordon beating Mark and Fred, and John beating Fred. The doubles, which was played for double points because the lights went out at Glossop in September (are they back on yet?), was won by the visitors.

Glossop Bandits C 10 v 0 Glossop Conservative Club A

Not a good night for the 'A' team in terms of scoring, but plenty of fun on the night. Some very good spells of play at times, but not enough magic to provide any points.

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 8 v 2 Romiley Cricket Club B

Dennis and Neil recorded three wins each, with Neil stepping in for the injured Dave Winterbottom and playing some good, steady T.T. against all three visitors. Vernon lost to Peter, and the ever-improving Tom, but came back to form with a good win against Ken Wood – who once again failed to score. A good night's table tennis and a very enjoyable evening.

Glossop Conservative Club A 0 v 10 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

It is time to be positive. We are one place above last year. Fishers won two games, and Dave won one. YMCA (Hollingworth) were too good for us but we expect to start getting a few points in the next few weeks.

Strines Crusaders 1 v 9 Hyde Cricket Club

Hyde C. C. won 9 – 1, with Gordon's win over Lee being Strines' only success. The highlight of the evening was Les's supply of league handbooks dating back to 1975/5 in the Manchester League. I realise that most players in our League can go back that far, but it is interesting to see how many big firms had teams compared to today. Also, each team had to produce details of how to get to each venue by bus – a far cry from today. Even in the 74/75 handbook Derek Schofield won the previous season's Vets!

Romiley Cricket Club B 8 v 2 Glossop Conservative Club A

Following two defeats, the Cricketers returned to winning ways with a comfortable victory over their Glossop opponents. Eddie Seville gained success over Ken Wood and Tom Fowler, but Alan Fishwick and Norman Wilson returned home pointless. Peter Jepson won 3, Ken Wood 2, and Tom Fowler 2. Fowler and Wood won the doubles against Seville and Fishwick.

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

A good evening's T.T. Dave Winterbottom played well but failed to get on the score-sheet. Vernon and Stuart had a good match in which Stuart won the first two games, but Vernon came back to win the next three, taking the fifth 11 – 9. He also finished the evening with a good doubles match.

Glossop Bandits C 14 v 6 Glossop Conservative Club A *[played for double points]*

A match that had everything; mickey-taking jokes, intrigue, fear, excitement, and sporting achievement. Bandits are on the brink of promotion – but do they want it? Strines turned up with a strong team – shall we play for double points or not? How on earth do you beat Pete Fowler?

Glossop Conservative Club A 2 v 8 Strines Crusaders

Another tough night for the Con. Club, with Eddie winning their only singles victory against Gordon. John and Adrian both won three – John without dropping a game. Relegation looms.