

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 Three

Hyde YMCA 'B' 10 v 0 Hollingworth Vets

The relegated Hyde YMCA 'C' overcame a depleted Hollingworth Vets. 10 – 0, with only David Jones winning a game, taking Andrew Bickley to four.

[For Hyde : Martyn Capper, Peter Green, Andrew Bickley. For Hollingworth : Roy Barton, David Jones]

Hyde YMCA 'C' 3 v 7 Hollingworth D Juniors

[John Jepson provided the home side's three points with wins over Ryan Conway, Emil Tangham, and Adam Barton. Emil and Adam both took a game off him, but it was Ryan who pushed him the hardest, losing 7 – 11 in the fifth. Each of the visitors scored their two points by beating Cliff Preston and Bill Finigan. Ryan and Adam teamed up for the doubles and they beat John Jepson, and the home side's fourth player for the night – Harvey Slifkin. It went to four, and the Juniors won 16 – 14 in the final game.

Commercial C 8 v 2 Commercial D

In the first of the Commercial derby matches the 'C' team came out on top. David Clegg won the two points for the 'D' team, beating Fred in 3 and Mark Lavelle in 5 after being 2 – 7 down in the fifth. Stuart Higginbottom won 3 and partnered Fred to take the doubles against Dave and John Halsall.

Hollingworth Veterans 8 v 2 Hollingworth Hopefuls

Vets. Graham Oakley, Alistair Smith and Mike Flynn beat the Hopefuls, Alan and Jenny Smith, and Jim Towell 8 – 2. Graham and new boy Alistair won three each. Graham had a struggle with Alan, narrowly beating him in 5. Jim beat Mike who then went on to win 2 against Alan, and Jenny – who played a much improved game. Alan and Jim won the doubles in 4 against Mike and Alistair. Excellent refreshments and an enjoyable evening.

Hollingworth D Juniors 6 v 4 Friendship Inn

Maria was unlucky to lose all three, but overall the team played well. Adam came in for the doubles and played very well. Every game was tight and, even with the early start, the match finished late.

[For Hollingworth : Emil Tangham 3, Ryan Conway 2, Maria Birnie 0, Adam Barton (doubles only). For Friendship Inn : Eddie Seville 2, Alan Fishwick 1, Norman Wilson 1.]

Commercial D 6 v 4 Hyde YMCA 'C'

A close fought match with John Jepson winning his three singles, each of them going to five. David Clegg and Ken Handley won two each, and Sam Clegg won one. Commercial won the doubles, with David and Ken against Cliff Preston and Harvey Slifkin. Harvey also won a singles, against Sam. An enjoyable evening.

Friendship Inn 6 v 4 Commercial D

A good night of competitive table tennis, the highlight being David Clegg's fifth game 'deuce' win over Alan Fishwick. But the home team gained a narrow 6 – 4 victory.

[For Friendship Inn : Norman Wilson 2, Eddie Seville 2, Alan Fishwick 1. For Commercial : David Clegg 3, Ken Handley 1, Sam Clegg 0.]

Commercial C 10 v 0 Hollingworth Veterans

The 10 – 0 scoreline was rather flattering for Commercial C as Hollingworth made them work a lot harder than the match score suggests. David Jones, Graham Oakley, and newcomer Alistair Smith all pushed Stuart Higginbottom, Mark Bennett and Fred Lilley close in the singles games, and Commercial only took the doubles 11 – 6 in the fifth.

Hyde YMCA 'B' 5 v 5 Commercial C

A very good close match between the two relegated teams from Division 2. A draw was a fair result, with five matches going to five games. Martyn Capper won three for Hyde, and all the Commercial players contributed wins, as well as securing the doubles to obtain a deserved draw.

[For Hyde : Martyn Capper 3, Peter Green 2, Andrew Bickley 0. For Commercial : Mark Bennett 2, Fred Lilley 1, Stuart Higginbottom 1.]

Hollingworth Veterans 9 v 1 Hyde YMCA 'C'

Cliff Preston (who should be an inspiration to us all) played well but just could not manage a win. Harvey Slifkin was YMCA's only winner, beating Vets. new boy Roy Barton in 3. Mike Flynn and John Hallam played well to win each of their three singles. Mike and Roy beat Bill Finigan and Cliff in 3 to win the doubles, and record the Vets. first win of the season.

Commercial D 3 v 7 Hollingworth D Juniors

This is a case of the old 'uns versus the young 'uns. The combined ages of the Commercial D team was 233 years! The young 'uns – Hollingworth D Juniors – played very well, with Emil Tangham winning his three singles, and also the doubles with their fourth player Richard Peters. Ryan Conway won two, with Tom Crowdy (playing his first match for the team) winning one. Ken Handley won two, and Beryl Halsall, one. An enjoyable evening.

Hyde YMCA 'C' 2 v 8 Hyde YMCA 'B'

[John Jepson beat Martyn Capper and Peter Green to score the home side's two points. Those two matches apart, Martyn and Peter, together with Andrew Bickley, went on to win the remaining matches against John, Harvey Slifkin, and Bill Finigan in straight games.

Friendship Inn 8 v 2 Hollingworth Veterans

Great night's entertainment, with Norman and Mike Flynn discussing whether their old folk's home would have a table tennis table. Mike played the shot of the night; David Jones was the first to swear, and won in 5 against Dave Bridge. Bob Johnson did not swear, and looks like the sportsman of the year. Roy will get into the banter, and played some good shots. Oh! yes, we won – who cares.

Commercial C 8 v 2 Hollingworth Hopefuls

Colin Laxton and Jackie Sanderson earned a point each for Hollingworth when they each beat Mike Lavelle. Fred Lilley and Stuart Higginbottom both won three but each of them had close matches with Colin which could have gone either way. Commercial then took the last point with the doubles – Fred and Stuart beating Jim Towell and Colin in straight games.

Hollingworth Hopefuls 10 v 0 Hyde YMCA 'C'

[Harvey Slifkin and Cliff Preston came very close to preventing their team's duck, both of them taking Jim Towell to five games. But in the final game Harvey lost 10 – 12, and Cliff 9 – 11. So, the home side of Colin Laxton, Jackie Sanderson and Jim went undefeated against Cliff, Harvey, and Bill Finigan.]

Hyde YMCA 'B' 8 v 2 Friendship Inn

Norman Wilson and Eddie Seville of the Friendship prevented Hyde from completing a total sweep of wins by both beating Andrew Bickley. The game Norman won over him was a close affair, with one rally lasting in excess of 70 returns! Peter Green and Martyn Capper won three each for Hyde YMCA 'B'

Hollingworth Veterans 5 v 5 Hollingworth D Juniors

A close match. Grandad [Roy Barton] for the Vets. played against son and grandson for the Juniors. Adam, 10, played very well throughout – and showed his granddad no mercy!

[For Hollingworth Veterans : Graham Oakley 2, John Hallam 2, John Hallam 2. For Hollingworth D Juniors : Ryan Conway 3, Adam Barton 1, Jason Barton 0. Ryan and Adam took the doubles against Graham and John, 13 – 11, 10 – 12, 11 – 8, 11 – 9.]

Friendship Inn 7 v 3 Hollingworth Hopefuls

'Star Player' Colin Laxton . Great display of attacking table tennis. He was pushed to five games by Eddie Seville but came through a good winner. Jackie Sanderson was on the wrong side of a five-game match with Bob Johnson whose experience pulled him through. Alan Smith showed plenty of enthusiasm, and improvement was there to be seen.

Hyde YMCA 'C' 1 v 9 Commercial C

[John Jepson beat Mark Bennett 11 – 6 in the fifth for the home side's only point. The rest of the evening's matches went to the visitors in straight games courtesy of Fred Lilley, Stuart Higginbottom, and Mark.]

Hollingworth Hopefuls 4 v 6 Hollingworth D Juniors

There were some close matches that could have gone either way, but the Juniors had the edge in the end. Jackie played well, beating Emil 12 – 10 in the fifth, and coming back from 2 down against Ryan but losing out in the fifth.

For Hollingworth Hopefuls : Jackie Sanderson 2, Colin Laxton 1, Alan Smith 0. For the Juniors : Ryan Conway 3, Emil Tangham 2, Adam Barton 1.]

Commercial D 5 v 5 Hollingworth Veterans

A hard fought match that ended 'even Steven'. Graham Oakley was known as the Comeback Kid. In two of his matches he came back from two nil down to win 3 – 2. David Clegg starred for Commercial D, winning his three singles, and also the doubles with Ken Handley. Alistair Smith won two for Hollingworth, as did Graham Oakley, with David Jones winning one. Ken Handley won one for Commercial. An enjoyable evening.