

Southport Table Tennis Notes

Formby Dream Team!!!

I don't usually mention the first division teams in detail but really feel that Formby TTC 'A' team do deserve a special mention after having a dream start to the season with 57 points from six games. Generally that wouldn't seem such a great feat as we all know that the first division has its two top teams of Formby TTC 'A' and Formby HT 'A' and then the rest of the division is split into two halves with the third place being chased by the four teams...St Teresa's 'A', Argyle 'A', Formby HT 'B' and Formby TTC 'B' and the relegation spot being avoided by the rest. However Formby TTC 'A' team's results to date include wins over all the top teams except for St Teresa's 'A' whom they have yet to play. What is so special about TTC 'A' this year is the depth in the team provided by the signing of two quality new players. Everyone knows the first...Paul Hutchins. He has been coaching at the table tennis centre for several seasons now but this year he has chosen to formalise his relationship with the club and set an example to the youngsters coming through the ranks. The second signing is Stewart Mudie who is proving equally as exciting a player and if the surname sounds familiar...well yes he is the sibling of Andrew who played at the centre a couple of seasons ago but moved away from Merseyside after completing his degree. Stewart is a right handed attacker with good technique who has obviously been coached to a high standard. The rest of the 'A' team squad is Rob Wylie, Cherith Graham, Jamie Hewitt, Dave Evans and Ben Edwards and that's strong support in anyone's books!!

Anyway, why was this weekend so good for Formby TTC 'A'? Well on the Friday it played Formby HT'A' and followed this with a match against Argyle 'A' on the Monday and walked away with 18 points from the two. The Friday match was literally the clash of the Titans with both teams fielding strong sides. Holy Trinity have lost the services of Dave Roberts to injury but replaced him with Tony Kendal and Holy Trinity 'A' also fielded their new signing this year...Steve Green. Not sure if Steve has played in Southport before but he has definitely strengthened the Holy Trinity side. I was really looking forward to this match to see how the different styles would pan out against each other. It did prove to be a class match with a cup final atmosphere. It would have been good match for all the youngsters in the league to have been seen as I am sure that they would have benefited from seeing the top players in action. The match score of 8:2 to Formby TTC'A' was deserved with Paul Hutchins showing his true ability with comfortable wins over Kenny Jackson and Steve Green both three straight. Steve Green took the only singles win for Holy Trinity 'A' with a 3 games to 1 win over Rob Wylie and the other point for the Holy Trinity side was a close 11/9 win in the fifth in the doubles. Formby TTC 'A' then followed this with a 10-nil win on the Monday against Argyle 'A' and this was without Paul Hutchins. Stewart Mudie stepped up to number one and Cherith Graham stepped into the number two spot. Argyle played their best side led by Lancashire veteran Barry Crook. Last season Barry had good results against the top teams and regularly took the scalps of the top players. In this match it just wasn't to be. Stewart Mudie kept his 100% with comfortable wins over Barry Crook and Mathew Hyde and Cherith kept her 100% with a very good win over Barry Crook. After losing the first 11:4 she regained her composure to take the next three games 6, 9, 7. Her match against the wily Mr Jagger was less convincing at 11:7 in the fifth. Dave Evans at number three must be the best number three in the division. Ben Edwards at four had a tremendous match against Angus Taylor which could have gone either way but Ben took the set 11:4 in the fifth. Playing Angus is just so good for your concentration as the ball just keeps coming back and the spins keep changing. Once he makes you doubt your shots then you are always in for problems and he's always in with a chance. Luckily Ben kept his concentration this time though I am sure that Angus will be ready for the re-match. Don't forget that any comments on the match cards would be greatly appreciated especially if there is something that deserves a mention!!

Southport & District League Results

Division 1

Formby HT 'B'	9	Formby TTC 'C'	1
Formby TTC 'A'	8	Formby HT 'A'	2
Formby TTC 'B'	5	Argyle 'A'	5
Argyle 'A'	0	Formby TTC 'A'	10
Formby HT 'D'	4	Formby HT 'C'	6

Division 2

North Meols 'B'	7	Southport 'C'	3
Formby TTC 'D'	6	Southport 'A'	4
St Teresa's 'B'	4	St Teresa's 'D'	6
Southport 'B'	6	St Teresa's 'B'	4
Southport 'C'	3	St Teresa's 'C'	7

Division 3

Southport 'F'	2	North Meols 'D'	8
Argyle 'C'	8	North Meols 'C'	2
North Meols 'D'	3	Argyle 'C'	7
North Meols 'C'	6	Formby TTC 'F'	4

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