

ANNUAL REPORT: 2018-19

Following the untimely resignation of our General Secretary, the Committee has decided that I should celebrate my 30th year of membership, by compiling this year's Annual Report. Needless to say, the Club has progressed dramatically since 1989, having become the largest and best in this part of the West Midlands.

It is customary to begin the report by thanking the hard working people who devote many hours to ensure that members can enjoy fully our excellent facilities and this year, that duty is given more emphasis by the fact that several have decided that it is now time for them to retire.

Two years ago, **Ian Ferguson** and **Ahmed Reza** kindly undertook the duties of Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively and have performed their duties with enthusiasm and in Ian's case, not a little skill.

For a much longer period, we have been the envy of many local clubs in having a most informative website, ably produced and run by **Mike Evetts**.

Finally the 'Backroom Boys', **John Overton** and **Pete Roddy**, whose devoted teamwork in, on and around our site, and with plenty of help from other members they have managed to recruit, have for many years ensured that our 1960s building has remained intact and our site kept in as reasonable a state as possible.

All have now chosen to retire from committee work and they do so with our sincere thanks and good wishes.

Needless to say, the Club is now hoping that other members, or some parents perhaps, will wish to enjoy the pleasures of voluntary work on the Club's behalf and offer their services. Young members in particular would be welcome, especially any interested in learning DIY skills which will stand them in good stead in adult life. John and Pete have assured me that they will still be around to explain how things are done, so don't let lack of knowledge deter you from offering to have a go. The role of Webmaster has been taken over by **Ben Willson**, who has already created an excellent new website with some unique features.

Another member to leave the Committee during the year is **Edward Lynn**. Ed's enthusiasm for coaching has not only won him several well deserved awards, but it has prompted him to establish and run his own Coaching Centre at Birmingham's Nishkam School. This, in turn, has allowed Birmingham, Solihull & District TTA to share the facilities and create a long awaited central venue for their matches. He leaves his position as Colebridge Coaching Officer and Youth Leader, having created a Club record number of Cadet & Junior League teams, and signed off with the BSDTTA Premier Division Individual title, as well as 'Coach of the Year'. Well done, Ed! If anyone feels that Ed is a 'hard act to follow', don't worry. We have appointed a splendid replacement in **Ian Scott**, who has worked alongside Ed at Colebridge and elsewhere, and knows our young players well.

In the past, at this stage, the author of this report would list items under the General Business heading. I have departed from this, because my gathering of information revealed what appeared to have been one of Colebridge's best ever competitive seasons, with so much team and individual success, as the following will demonstrate.

CLUB TEAMS AND RESULTS

Colebridge now has teams playing in the TTE British Leagues and four different local leagues. Several ended the season as winners or runners up, with multiple individual champions.

Junior British League:

Colebridge A (Boys Division 2) P10 W9 D1 L0 Pts 19 **Position 1st**
Individual results: Marcus Holba 18/20 (1st); Hawley Ellicott 16/20 (3rd); Nathaniel Saunders 9/10; Felix Thomas 8/10.

Colebridge B (Boys Division 4B) P10 W1 D0 L9 Pts 2 **Position 6th**

Senior British League: (National Division C4):

Colebridge: P14 W11 D0 L3 Pts 22 **Position 2nd**
Individual results: Hawley Ellicott 19/24; Svilen Andreev 21/28; Awais Muhammed 19/28. Lee Holtham 11/16; Rod Lewis 8/12.

National Cadet League: Midlands

Colebridge A (Division 2) P6 W6 D0 L0. Pts 45 **Position 1st**
Individual results: Tom Hoskins 24/31; Cyrus Harris 23/31; Alex Setchell 9/18.

Colebridge B (Division 3) P6 W3 D0 L3 Pts. 32 **Position 2nd**
Individual results; Eric Zhao 9/16; Zach Youngs 19/34; William Hopkins 17/31

Colebridge C P6 W0 D0 L6 Pts. 7 **Position 4th**
Individual results: Rahul Chopra 16/27; Reece Oliver 11/23

National Junior League: Midlands

Colebridge A (Division 2) P6 W2 D0 L4 Pts 22 **Position 3rd**
Individual results: Ben Rycroft-Stanley 9/9 (1st); Nathaniel Saunders 8/9 (3rd); Jake Crawshaw 7/9.

Colebridge B (Division 3) P6 W1 D0 L5 Pts 20 **Position 3rd**
Individual results: Cyrus Harris 11/35; Henry Belcher 5/8; Adam Stochlinski 20/35; Thomas Waters 13/28

LOCAL LEAGUE & CUP RESULTS

Birmingham, Solihull and District League:

Winter 2018-19 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Premier	Colebridge Aces	1 st	Edward Lynn: 1 st Hawley Ellicott: 2 nd Ben Willson: 5 th
Division 1	Colebridge Dinosaurs	4 th	Nathaniel Saunders: 1 st
Division 2	Colebridge Giants Colebridge Falcons	1 st 5 th	Gareth Don: 3 rd Riz Akbar: 4 th Omar Zaman: 6 th
Division 3	Colebridge Hawks Colebridge Indians	1 st 1 st	Jan Stochlinski: 1 st (100%) Christian Welsh: 2 nd David Flynn: 5 th

Summer 2018 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Division 1	Colebridge Braves	5 th	Nathaniel Saunders: 1 st
Division 2	Colebridge Chiefs	5 th	

Bromsgrove, Redditch and District League:

Winter 2018-19 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Division 1	Colebridge Tomahawks	3 rd	Awais Muhammed: 1 st
Tomahawks also won the Clement Brothers Cup, defeating Barnt Green Aces 7-2 in the Final.			

Leamington and District League:

Winter 2018-19 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Division 1	Colebridge Aces	1 st	Paul Lenormand & Ben Willson: 1 st Kate Hughes: 5 th
Division 3	Colebridge B	2 nd	Michael Credland: 4 th

Stratford and District League:

Winter 2018 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Division 1	Colebridge Pasties Colebridge Bulldogs	1 st 3 rd	Mahroof Hussain & Michael Credland: 3 rd

Spring 2019 Divisions	TEAM	PLACE	INDIVIDUAL
Division 1	Colebridge Pasties Colebridge Bulldogs	2 nd 4 th	Michael Credland: 3 rd

JUNIOR PERFORMANCES

We are privileged to have so many young people representing our Club, both locally and nationally, but Ed has picked out some who he feels deserve a special mention.

Now past the age of 18, **Lisa Rinnhofer** is no longer a junior, however, she has continued to play whilst studying Physiotherapy during her first year at Liverpool University. Lisa successfully qualified for the TTE PG Mutual Senior National Championships, competing for the first time in both the Women's Singles and Women's Doubles. A very proud moment for us all when she appeared on live TV. Her Colebridge Premier Division campaign was also impressive with wins over Jody Bevington and other more experienced opponents. Lisa representing Burton Uxbridge 3 in Women's British League, achieved a runners-up medal in Division 3; as well as two excellent wins in Division 1, against Irish Ladies.

Hawley Ellicott, in his last year as a junior and having reached No.34 in the National Junior rankings is a regular competitor on the Tournament scene and has won several local, regional and national events. He played a major part in helping the Colebridge Senior British League team secure a runners-up place; and finished second in the BSDTTA Premier Division individual averages. His achievements were acknowledged by BSDTTA with the award of their 'A O Hill' trophy for the season's outstanding achievements.

Sophie Rinnhofer, current England Cadet ranking no.18, is doing her best to emulate her sister and has also won several titles in the last 12 months, including a recent junior title at Nottingham Sycamore. Sophie competed in the Cadet National Championships, where she lost in the last 16 to number 2 seed Anaya Patel. Sophie has assisted one of our Premier Division teams and was not overawed by playing older and more experienced players. Sophie won the Under 16 Warwickshire Schools Championships, and competed in the Individual Finals at Aldersley in April. Ed has forecast a bright future for the girl he calls the 'Colebridge Pocket Rocket'.

Nathaniel Saunders; now nationally ranked no.9 U13 player, continues to produce good results. He has won many local, regional and national titles and is now training hard with the England 9-13 squad. He had a great season in BSDTTA Division 1, winning the individual title. Nathaniel competed in the Under 13 National Championships losing to Oliver Maric-Murray

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(the eventual winner) in the quarter finals. Nathaniel also competed in the Cadet National Championships; as well as in the Under 13 National Individual Schools Finals, where he also reached the quarter finals, losing out to eventual winner Connor Green.

Adam Stochlinski is said by Ed to be Colebridge's most improved young player. He won the Birmingham Schools under 16 title this year, competing in the National Individual Finals in April. As well as being a crucial part of the successful NJL team, Adam has beaten many more experienced players in the Birmingham league.

Henry Belcher's unorthodox style has troubled many of his opponents this year. In addition to helping his team win the Birmingham Division 2 title; he has also won several events at the Lillington Tournaments and is capable of much more.

Alex Setchell, now Worcestershire U11 no.1, won the Worcestershire under 11 schools championships, and went on to represent his County in the National Individual Schools Championships in Wolverhampton in April. He is another young player with much to offer.

Most of our young players are working hard to improve their ranking, two worthy of a special mention according to Ed, being Cyrus Harris and Thomas Waters.

SENIOR PERFORMANCES

With so many teams achieving success last year, it is difficult to choose those worthy of a special mention, especially when so many led their teams to League and Cup success.

Awais Muhammed is an obvious choice having won the Bromsgrove and Redditch Division 1 individual title for the second year running, led his team to victory in the League's Open Cup competition and helped our Senior British League team to the runners-up spot. Awais has also completed the UKCC Level 1 Coaching course during the year and is keen to support Ian Scott in his work with Colebridge's young players. His course was partly financed by a grant from Solihull Active, whose help is gratefully acknowledged.

After playing 100% of matches in the Leamington League, **Ben Willson** and **Paul Lenormand** shared the individual averages title. Paul, representing Colebridge for the second year, successfully won the Warwickshire Men's Singles title, in addition to being a vital part of the County Senior 1st team. Ben, a reliable player throughout the season, contributed to the Birmingham Premier League success; in addition to finishing runner up to Paul in the Warwickshire Men's Singles, and playing County Senior and Veterans for Warwickshire.

Ed Lynn's similar success in securing the BSDTTA Premier Individual title and especially for his winning performance in the last match which secured the title for his team by the smallest of margins.

Jan Stochlinski, achieved an unbeaten run in the Birmingham Division 3 winning the team title, and the individual averages. Jan also represented Colebridge in the Senior British League team, experiencing more table tennis at a National level.

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Kate Hughes has continued to remain in the Top 20 Senior Women rankings and therefore automatically qualified for the TTE PG Mutual National Championships once again. She reached the quarter finals of the Women's doubles losing to eventual champions Tin-Tin Ho and Maria Tsaptsinos. Representing Burton Uxbridge in the Women's British League premier division, Kate, along with her team members finished in runners-up position. At a local level, Kate retained her Warwickshire Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles, where she has now won over 20 titles in the last 9 years. Kate supported Paul and Ben with the successful Leamington Division 1 title; in addition to winning three Leamington Closed titles. In addition to Kate's playing achievements, she has continued to be heavily involved in the support of the English Schools National Team and Individual Finals, and was selected to be the Head of Delegation for the England Team in the Senior School International Championships in Guernsey.

Ian Ferguson, who, despite struggling with injury this season, once again came away from the National Police Championships with a title, his 17th – this time the Veteran Singles. Ian was also awarded the West Midland Police Individual Sports Award, for his contribution and success in Police Sport. Ian has been selected to present British Police in the European Championships in September, and the club wishes Ian the best wish in this International event.

Craig Allen, who shrugs off his disability and continues to feature in English National and International PARA events. Craig has won several medals in International Para events, including a recent bronze medal in the Mexico Open. Craig continues to train with the British Para squads.

LEAGUE AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

With all this talent, it is not surprising that many of our members were chosen to represent their Leagues and Counties and featured prominently in local and regional tournaments.

Veteran Midland League:

Division 1: Ben Willson

Division 4: Mike Credland, Mike Evetts, Dean Hicks, Kesh Parmar and Neil Wheatley

Birmingham & Solihull District TTA Championships

Nathaniel Saunders: cadet singles winner

Hawley Ellicott: junior singles winner. Henry Belcher: runner-up.

Hawley Ellicott & Edward Lynn: men's doubles winners

Leamington & District League Championships

Kate Hughes: Ladies singles winner

Kate Hughes (& Olivia Fletcher): Ladies doubles winners

Ian Ferguson (& Mark Jackson): Men's doubles runner up

Kate Hughes & Ian Ferguson: Mixed doubles winners

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Worcestershire Inter-league Championships:

Bromsgrove & Redditch: Craig Allen, Hawley Ellicott & Awais Muhammed.

Worcestershire County representatives:

Hawley Ellicott

Worcestershire Closed Championships:

Hawley Ellicott: under 21 Singles winner

Warwickshire County representatives:

Kate Hughes, Lisa Rinnhofer, Paul Lenormand & Ben Willson (Senior)
Ben Willson & Mike Brown (Veteran)
Sophie Rinnhofer (Cadet & Junior)
Nathaniel Saunders (Cadet)

Warwickshire Closed Championships: Junior

Nathaniel Saunders: under 13 boys singles winner
Nathaniel Saunders: under 15 boys singles winner
Henry Belcher: under 18 boys singles winner
Henry Belcher: under 18 boys restricted singles winner
Sophie Rinnhofer: under 15 girls singles winner
Sophie Rinnhofer: under 18 girls singles winner

Warwickshire Closed Championships: Senior

Paul Lenormand: men's singles winner
Paul Lenormand & Ben Willson: men's doubles runner up
Kate Hughes: women's singles winner
Kate Hughes (& Olivia Fletcher): women's doubles winners
Kate Hughes & Paul Lenormand: mixed doubles winners

Warwickshire Closed Championships: Veteran

Ben Willson: over 40s men's singles runner up
Ben Willson & Mark Jackson: over 40s men's doubles winners.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Despite the inevitable increase in costs of electricity, insurance and other regular overheads, and the loss of income from our tenant who vacated his part of our site several months ago, our financial position remains strong. The full details will be provided at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers are similar to last year, having a total of 133 members compared to 130 in 2017/18. We believe that we could accommodate 150 members if the need arose, but please be aware the committee are constantly monitoring membership and listening to your views and thoughts on the matter as we are all conscious of concerns that some sessions are overpopulated. Our youngest member is 10, our oldest member is 88 and the average age of a member is 48.

Our current membership is made up of the following:

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	Total
<11	3	0	3
11-20	27	2	29
21-30	6	0	6
31-40	7	1	8
41-50	19	1	20
51-60	13	1	14
61-70	20	4	24
71-80	19	2	21
81-90	8	0	8
Total	122	11	133

SITE & DRIVE

As always, the condition of our site remains a major concern. Our former tenant undertook to keep it in a manageable condition, but rarely honoured the agreement. Consequently it has become clear that top of the list of work for the forthcoming clean-up Day on 20th July will be cutting back the overgrowth and applying weed killer. Fortunately the regular attention to the driveway potholes by Roy Prosser and others has prevented the drive turning into an assault course.

The recent ingress of rainwater into our building also indicates the need to ensure that the gutters are checked and cleaned out. This is a job that needs attention more often than once per year, which emphasises our need for a few more volunteer helpers. It is also clear that we can no longer expect our 50 plus year old corrugated asbestos roof to remain watertight indefinitely without some form of maintenance and, after deciding that the cost of replacing or enclosing it is beyond our means, we are investigating the cost of cleaning and coating.

Another project under investigation is the possibility of building an extension on the site we sub-let previously. That too is complicated by the triangular shape of the site and its proximity to the houses in Colebrook Croft, making gaining planning permission problematical.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As usual, our two regular annual events, the Christmas Social Tournament Party and Hard Bat Competition, took place. Our thanks goes to the members who kindly provided food and raffle prizes for the former and Kate Hughes for her superb organisation of both events once again. The hard bat tournament held on 25th May with 20 players participating, created a £52 profit for the club.

The winner was Lee Holtham, who defeated Ben Willson in the final. Consolation winner was Mike Rinnhofer, with Jake Crawshaw the runner-up. The single point competition was won by Awais Muhammed who defeated Nicky Rinnhofer in the final.

DEVELOPMENT

Last year's report contained a brief reference to our establishment of a satellite club at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. I am pleased to report that, what started as a weekly 'Bat & Chat' session in the main Sports Hall, aimed principally at older players, has expanded, not only by the addition of a second session weekly session, making them the best attended sports sessions at the Centre, but by adding practice facilities for the more advanced players in a separate and well equipped room, which is available on most days of the week. With Rod Lewis putting in both effort and finance to achieve his ambition of having his own Club, and keen to run a Tudor Grange team in the BSDTTA Premier Division, perhaps some friendly rivalry will soon take place. However, it does help to take the pressure off Colebridge by providing opportunity for serious practice to Colebridge members at times when ideal facilities are unavailable at our Club.

I must thank Inky Moss and Alan Buttle who have supported Rod and myself with their regular attendance at the B & C sessions, but most plaudits must go to Rod whose investment seems to be paying dividends. Alan Buttle has successfully passed his Level 1 Umpire Qualification and continues to umpire, along with Inky Moss at multiple events around the country.

Kate Hughes, is continuing to maintain standards at Colebridge, preparing for the reapplication for the Sport England Club Mark accreditation, which is due to take place over the next few months.

So another successful year comes to an end. Where will we be next year? In a better position still, I hope, but to achieve that, we need members to think hard about what is needed to keep everything ticking over. As one who has been enjoying voluntary table tennis work for over 50 years, I can assure you that there is as much pleasure to be gained from teamwork off the table, as well as on it.

Neil Wheatley. June 2019.