

2006-2007 Genesee Valley Table Tennis Club Newsletter



<http://www.gvttc.com>

Let the competition begin!

Hello fellow GVTTC Members:

Summer is coming to a close - which means it's time to kick into gear for the 2006-2007 table tennis season. As a club, this means a Sept. of open play at no charge for dues paying members. The biggest change this year will be the addition of Wednesday night to the schedule. Demand for league play is up, so leagues are being offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We hope to have 3 tournaments this year as well. Ray Mack has been retained again to give lessons to league members. Saturday open play will continue. In short, the sport of table tennis and the GVTTC are thriving and growing in Rochester.

I'd like to recognize the group that makes it happen and make sure that everyone realizes what it takes to make a club go. We call this group the Executive Council. When jobs need done, the E.C. finds the way.

Executive Council Members:

Mary Beth MacClaren – Tournament Director, Default Secretary, League Organizer, Travel Team Organizer, Banquet Organizer – Thank goodness for Mary Beth

Marty Salata – Treasurer, Table Maintenance and Assembly

Ray Mack – The Coach

Alan Estill – Monday League Director, Money Collector, Coach , Table Maintenance

Jim Barnhart – Tuesday League Director

Sri Ramaswamy – Web Master

Wayne Carney – Vice President, Past Tournament Director, Banquet Organizer

Scott Grodevant – Statistician

Don Young – Former Classic League Director

John Foxtan – President until last year

Walt Soffer- the money collector

Bob Brickell- Equipment supplier – Probably done every possible job over decades

Jeff Koch- Tournament Director
Guy McLean – Former Classic League Director – Active President

New Executive Council appointee:

Horace Byfield – GVTTC welcomes Horace back to town. Horace is a past president of our club. The council will benefit from his participation.

If you look at this list you see some of our best players, but what you should see is a list of people who give back. When tables need assembled or fixed. When paperwork needs done. When stuff needs moved. When bills need paid. When teams need to be organized. When tournaments happen. This is the group that does the work. Every week, all year, they never stop doing and never stop giving. I thank them all. You should too.

Have a great year everyone.

Guy McLean -President – GVTTC

Classic League Newsletter

Greetings to all past, present, and future Classic League members: My name is Jim Barnhart, and I have been granted the honor of directing our prestigious table tennis league. For those of you who don't know of me, I have played fifteen plus seasons in this league, as well as a short stint in the Monday group.

While preserving most of the traditional aspects of our league, I will be implementing a few significant changes that I hope will eliminate or at least reduce much of the most troublesome issues that have faced directors and members in the past. Much input has been taken into consideration, and much thought has been given, in order to create these adjustments. I am confident that with your patience and understanding, we will have a very competitive and successful season. And as we're adjusting to the new ways, always keep in mind that these changes do not have to last beyond this upcoming season. Making the overall Classic League experience the best it can be is my main objective, and an in-depth review will follow the season.

What have been some of the issues that have affected the League in the past? Something that has plagued directors in the past is the creation of good teams. With many players not committing to the season until the eleventh, twelfth, or thirteenth hour at times, creating equal teams has been a nightmare. Just the fact that someone has had to decide, in their opinion, what are equal teams, has been a problem because there is always someone who feels cheated with regard to the strength of their team. Also, with teams being formed, players may not find that they can have camaraderie with certain team members. Another major issue affecting our league has been substitutions. There have been occasional conflicts with the fair eligibility of a sub. For instance, you find a sub that is considered a better player than you, and your opponent's team has an issue. If you don't find a suitable sub, or any sub at all, your team will suffer for it. Also, many people have felt that the average league match could be more competitive than it has been. Although it can be fun to dominate a lesser player, and it can be a learning experience to face a much better player, I think we all agree that it's those matches against our closest rivals that we cherish and live to play.

I believe that the new formats I will be telling you about will eliminate the above-mentioned issues. There will be two formats we will play on alternating Tuesdays. One format will be similar to the one we've been using, with players having the opportunity to compete against most of the other players in the league, 3 different each night, best of 7 games. The other format will have players competing against 3 other players per night who have been playing at the same level, also best of 7 games. This format will allow for more competitive matches, and create several rivalries. Actual "teams" will be eliminated, so all results and considerations will be "individual". The tryouts are scheduled for September 19th, and the League is slated to begin October 3rd. Sign-ups are on the board at the club for both the League and the tryouts. In conclusion, I believe that we will have a new, interesting, and hopefully exciting Classic League.

Welcome, and enjoy!

Jim Barnhart – Classic League Director

Monday Night and Wednesday Night League

IMPORTANT NEWS:

The Executive Committee has decided, because of increased demand from players, we are going to institute a Wednesday night League.

The Monday League and Wednesday Leagues are open to players of all ages and skill levels. These Leagues are ideal for new as well as more experienced players to test and improve their skills against other players. Before and after League play there is practice time available to improve your skills with other players.

During September, there will be free practice time available on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM and on Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The format of both Leagues will be the same as last year, with end of season trophies given out to the first and second place in each skill level and first and second place in team play. Each team will play another team every League night and each player will have three singles matches, best three out of five. Match points will count towards individual rating and team rating.

There are no tryouts for the Monday or Wednesday night Leagues, all players are welcome and encouraged to join one of these fun Leagues and support the GVTTC. Any questions can be directed to Alan Estill at 585 342 5059.

The Monday League will start on Monday, October 16, and there will be a required informational meeting on Monday, October 1, starting promptly at 6:30 PM, to go over expectations and league rules, with practice to follow. Team assignments may or may not be available at this time.

The Wednesday League will start on Wednesday, October 18, with a required informational meeting on Wednesday, October 11, starting promptly at 6:30 PM, to go

over expectations and league rules, with practice to follow. Team assignments may or may not be available at this time.

Last season, the Monday League, had a total of 11 teams, with 44 players, with quite a few players new to the league. I really enjoyed seeing the father-son and mother-son players. This season, between the two nights we expect to have at least 16 teams, with nine on Monday and seven on Wednesday night, with a total of 64 players.

For this season, Mary Beth MacClaren has made many phone calls, and verified that more players than we can accommodate have signed up for, or wanted to play on Monday night. So we have asked for preferences between Monday and Wednesday, and hopefully can accommodate all players on one of these nights. We'd prefer to limit Monday night to nine teams and Wednesday night to seven teams. You should have by this time received an entry form in the mail, and I urge you to get your registration in soon, as it will have to be a first-come first-serve situation. You can, if you're ambitious, play in both Monday and Wednesday Leagues. Remember, until you have paid your dues, you will not be on a team or in the League.

A Message about Our Club Coach

Free Lessons!!!

That should have caught your attention. Actually, the lessons aren't free but are part of your league fees. The club knows how important it is to practice the correct techniques and practice the drills. As such, they are paying Ray Mack to give weekly lessons before the leagues begin. Feel free to take advantage! In order to make sure that everybody gets at least 1 lesson per year, please sign up with a partner (preferable to have similar skill level). Once all league players have received a lesson, we will attempt to go through the league members again for review and to add some other drills and complexity. We do want to help the basic beginners first before we work our way to the "experts".

Also, please know that Ray likes to talk about your games and usually stays around to schmooze. Please approach him to chat! He doesn't bite.....

Ray is a certified USATT Regional Coach (one step below National Coach).

Look for sign up sheets and take advantage. League lessons run from 5:30-6:15.

Private lessons (\$25 per hour individuals) are available during the week, and group lessons (price varies depending on size) will be offered throughout the season, also.

Late Breaking News:

1. During Sept. open play – Ray will be conduct basic drill competency group lessons.

Sept. 11, 13, 18, 20 from 6-7 pm

These are Mondays and Wednesdays and open to all levels of player – but will definitely benefit the player who is beginning to learn the real game.

2. The first tournament date has been set. Mary Beth will conduct a 2- man Team event at the Sports Garden on Nov. 12th.

3. In September, Wednesday nights will be open play- just like Monday and Tuesday.

4. The Challenge Ladder is open for business. It gets reset in this fall. Challenge anyone up to 4 places above you. Fifty cents a challenge is the tariff. Trophies for the top two will awarded at the end of the year banquet

5. Mary Beth is organizing a GVTTC travel team – Sound interesting? Contact her at hen4ry@aol.com.

6. Mary Beth is looking for players interested in becoming certified referees. Depending upon interest, she will organize a class.

Membership Application:

Please look on the GVTTC Website for the final edition of the Membership Application. (<http://gvttc.com>) It will be there soon. There is also a facility for emailing club officers and league directors on the site. Come to the club on open play dates and you'll probably find the directors of the leagues banging balls. They need to know if you want to play.