

## **LEICESTERSHIRE TABLE TENNIS** <https://www.topspin-ldttl.co.uk/>

Every year Table Tennis England, our parent body, invites all the clubs in England to nominate various volunteers. Young and the more mature volunteers of the year as well as lifetime achievements and the like. Each year a very small minority of clubs actually do that.

Leicester is no exception, although three clubs nominated members this year which is an increase of two to the usual nominators. Consequently many people who deserve recognition slip through the net. Two who immediately spring to mind are Barry Robinson (Goons) and Regent Sport's Dave Dewsbury.

Another such player is Andy Wright, currently playing for Desford Village in division three who is one of these people who do an awful lot of work for the sport yet fly under the radar so that the majority of league members simply don't know.

Andy made his league debut in the 1978/79 season when he was 15, playing for Braunstone Avenue. His main goal as a player was to eventually move up to division one having won his first trophy by winning division 17 the year after debut.

His first division one experience came in the 2008/09 season after a tough but enjoyable slog of 30 years moving through the divisions, although he did have a few years sabbatical due to family commitments in the middle, coming back into the fold in 2000/01 playing for Leicester Electricity.

Although still playing, his main criteria over the years since coming back has centred on coaching. Never having been coached himself he nevertheless enjoys helping others and has been coaching seriously since 2010.

For example he formed and ran all the inclusive clubs at Holy Apostles church on Fosse Road and Fullhurst Community College. He coaches juniors at George Ward Centre, Barwell, Sport in Desford as well as Fleckney. On top of that he is regularly coaching adults – mainly retired ones – on a one-to-one basis.

But there is more to Andy Wright than playing and coaching. For instance he ran the Phil Reid Memorial Trophy from 2005 to 2017. This is an individual handicap event held during the Christmas break dedicated to the erstwhile head of the County Association.

Not least with the passing of Roger Canton he edited the Leicester League's results website for ten years from 2010 until the TT365 results platform came about. This was a labour of love and necessitated not only keeping all the results up to date as well as the charts, but manually posting result cards from all the divisions.

Andy Wright is a doer who does it all for the benefit of table tennis without ever seeking the recognition he so richly deserves. I certainly believe he deserves a Lifetime Achievement award.

**John Bowness.**