

++ KENT OPEN NEWS FLASH ++ KENT OPEN NEWS FLASH++

TOP SEED LEE WITHDRAWS BECAUSE OF ILLNESS

January 5th 2019. - **Top seed Charlie Lee was forced to withdraw from the Colin Payne Kent Open at the weekend because of illness.**

Charlie, from Surrey, contacted tournament organisers and the PSA to inform them that he was suffering from post-viral fatigue.

This has caused a reshuffle of the draw, meaning that Portugal's highly talented Rui Soares moves up to the number one seeding slot. To minimize disruption to the draw, he remains in the bottom half.

Belgium No.1 Jan Van Den Herrewegen becomes No.2 seed, with Mexico's Leonel Cardenas at No.3 and England's Stuart Macgregor at four. Stuart plays Kent's wild card Ben Ford, a long-time friend and playing partner of Colin Payne, in the first round on Thursday afternoon.

Charlie was extremely disappointed to pull out and sent the following message to Tunbridge Wells members: "Unfortunately I have had to withdraw from the tournament due to the continuation of post-viral fatigue. It's been troubling me since late October and I was really hoping to be fit for the event but it's just come too soon.

"At this stage I have to be sensible to avoid going back to square one. I've been really improving in the last couple of weeks so barring slips ups I am hoping to be back soon. Best of luck with the event and my sincerest apologies in withdrawing."

BUSY DAY: The tournament begins on Thursday with the first round starting at 1pm, with eight matches on two courts. Between the two sessions we will be inviting our juniors on court for some coaching with a couple of guest professionals.

QUARTER-FINALS: From the Quarter-Finals onwards, all the action takes place on the Picton Court. The Quarter-Finals start at 6pm on Thursday.

SEMI-FINALS AND LIGHTNING ROUND: The two Semi-Finals begin at 7pm on Friday, and will be preceded by the Lightning Round competition. This is a fun shoot-out, with each player needing to win three points to stay on court to take on the next challenger. The last person standing pockets £50, so please get your names down on the board.

FINALS DAY: We will have some Coaching Clinics with some guest professionals on Saturday before the Doubles Competition for the Colin Payne Shield.

The Collins Jewel Women's Challenge begins at 5pm, followed by the Kent Open final at 6pm. This will be followed by the presentation ceremony and the tournament party.