



Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

CLOSED TOURNAMENT 2012 REPORT

On 19th February, 70 Senior and 20 Junior players made their way to the WISE sports hall in Filton for the Bristol & District TTA Closed tournament.

Although some of our top ranked players were in British League action elsewhere in the country, a number of top Premier league players were in attendance with 3 or 4 having a realistic chance of winning the main event of the day, the Open Singles.

The first Senior final of the day was the Over 55 Singles, with Failand teammates Brian Reeves and Gary Baldwin up against each other. Knowing each others strengths and weaknesses so well, this was always going to be a close match and so it proved. Some of the points were fantastic with Brian going back from the table and defending Gary's controlled attacking game with amazing skill. However, Gary remained patient and eventually came out on top in 4 games 11-9,8-11,12-10,12-10.



This was followed by a number of Junior finals. First up was the U14 Girls final between Cleeve & Claverham's Beth Atkinson and Bridgwater TTC's Chloe Arlow, with Beth winning in 4 games 11-9,11-7,9-11,12-10.





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

Next was the U14 Doubles which was played as a Round Robin between 4 pairs. The eventual winners were Glenn Daly and Alex Selway, with Jack Brent and Alexander Chandler claiming the runners-up spot.



The Junior Girls Singles event was a contest between Somerset No.1 Rebecca Seal and Full Circle's Marya Kadri, with Rebecca winning in 3 games 11-6,12-10,11-4



The U14 Boys Singles final was between Cleve & Claverham's Jack Brent and Filton Academy player Glenn Daly, with Glenn taking his second title of the day winning in 3 games 11-6,11-6,11-7.





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

The Junior Boys Winner was Nailsea's Mike Elliott, who off the back of a 14-12 in the 5th Semi-Final win over Mark Attwood of Thornbury TTC went on to win the final beating Filton's Jack Vaughan in 3 straight games 11-4, 11-5, 11-5.



The easiest final win of the day went to Jack Thorn in the U11 Boys Singles. Just goes to show that you have to 'be in it to win it'! Next year, we must do all we can as an association to encourage more boys and girls in the Junior categories. After all, this is the future of our great sport!



The Junior Doubles Final was a contest between Joe Parker / Rhys Wysocki and Joe Constable / Mark Attwood. The first 2 games were won 12-10 and the third 11-5, meaning that Thornbury's Joe and Mark had won their first Bristol Closed title.





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

Back to the Senior events with the Ladies Singles, which concluded in a win for a familiar face with a new name! Failand's Michele Reeves (nee Cohen) showed that married life and domestic bliss had not blunted the blade as she triumphed over Bridgwater's Rebecca Seal in 3 games 11-9, 11-4, 11-3.



Now for a summary of the Divisional results.....

The Division 6-8 Singles title was won by Bristol Civil Service Club player Dean Barmby, in an end to end 5 game encounter against Roger Walker of Page 11-9, 8-11,11-8, 8-11,11-5.



The Division 6-8 Doubles title was won by Knowle & Brislington teammates Adrian Price and Ralph Mundy, who managed to overcome the Civil Service pair of Robert Dixon and Silfan Rhys-Jones in another 5 game battle 10-12,11-8,11-3, 8-11,11-9





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

The Division 3-5 Singles crown went to Page's Kevin Phillips who saw off Thornbury's Chris Ball in 3 straight games 11-6,11-4,11-3.



And the Doubles title went to the wily old pair of Tony Brown and Bernard Nash who took 5 tight games to despatch Civil Service's Paul Barlow and Terry Toghil 11-13,16-14,11-8, 8-11,11-8!



Finally in the Divisional events, Knowle & Brislington's Barry Fudge took the 1-2 Singles title, winning a mammoth 5 game encounter 15-13 in the 5th against Cleeve & Claverham's Mike Hurley, who had beaten Barry's teammate Jon Thorn to reach the final. This really was an end to end encounter with each player fighting for every point. The final scores were 11-8, 5-11, 9-11, 11-4, 15-13





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

Unfortunately for Barry, he could not make it a Divisional double as he and his partner Jon Thorn were beaten to the 1-2 Doubles title in 4 games by Failand duo Mark Williams and Will Hollingworth 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9. Jon was teased so much by his title winning son Jack that he stormed out of the playing arena without waiting for his medal! (alright, there may be a bit of artistic licence here but if it's good enough for The Sun, it's good enough for me!)



We were now nearing the conclusion to the day and all thoughts were starting to turn to the showpiece finals. Before settling down to the Open and Veterans finals, we were treated to a very competitive Mixed Doubles final. After 5 'nip and tuck' (not talking about Martin Gunn's physique by the way) games Mr & Mrs Reeves, Dave and Michele, beat Martin Gunn and Emma Rose 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 6-11, 11-8.



Now, onto the showpiece Singles and Doubles finals and one thing was for certain. At the end of the day's events we would have a very tired Phil Payne of Cleve & Claverham on our hands, as he would be involved in all four finals!! Perhaps we should offer Phil some help?





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

First up was the Blue Ribbon event, the Open Singles, which would be contested by Phil Payne and Dean Cundy representing Filton Academy. This was a much anticipated battle as Phil's only loss in this year's Premier league season had been to Dean. Who would come out on top this time?

Phil started off in determined fashion, winning the first two games 11-7, 11-8. Dean was struggling to get his game going and mid way through the 3rd game, it looked like the title was destined to go to Phil. However, Dean dug deep and with the backing of his supporters in the watching audience, he took the 3rd and 4th games 11-4, 11-6.

So, to the deciding 5th game and both players were giving all they had. However, the momentum was with Dean and he went on to win the 5th and land the Bristol Open Singles title for the first time with the final match score of 7-11, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-4



Video footage of games 3, 4&5 can be found on YouTube. Just type 'Bristol closed table tennis 2012' into the search bar and you should see the 3 video clips listed.

After a short rest period, Phil returned to the table with partner Mike Crook to play in the final of the Open Doubles against last year's winners Dave Reeves and Paul Hooper. Once again, a final went to 5 hard fought games but at the end of the contest, Dave and Paul came out on top and regained their title 11-9, 11-3, 8-11, 7-11, 11-7





Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

The penultimate final of the day was the Veterans Doubles, where Phil Payne and Mike Crook were up against last year's winners Paul Hooper and Gary Dunning. 4 games were needed to decide this final, with Paul and Gary retaining their title 12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8.



This left us with the last final of the day, the Veterans Singles, contested by Phil Payne and Paul Hooper

Back in charge of his own destiny, Phil started the stronger and cruised to an 11-3 win in the first game. Paul had to come out fighting in the second game and so he did, putting all he had left into some classic attacker against defender rallies. However, the days efforts were starting to take their toll and despite his best efforts, Paul lost the second and third games as Phil claimed the title for the first time (and probably not the last) 11-3, 11-7, 11-8



The organising team would like to thank those people that came along in their own time on the Saturday night to set up the 16 tables plus the associated surrounds etc.

On the day, Duncan, Sven, Aylwyn, John, Dave and Ron were always on hand to take on umpiring duties and special mention to Martin for offering to take on the showpiece Singles Final. Also, thanks to Mike Lewis for setting out the trophies for the various events and last but not least, thanks to fellow Thornbury TTC members Tracy Dibble and Ian Maggs for helping me with the running of the event on the day.

Couldn't have done it without you!

Report by Julian Elsbury

