

Max and Ted's Excellent Adventure

The New Milton Table Tennis Club's annual tournaments came to a close with the two Junior Events, ie the Under 40s (Handicap) and the Scratch Junior Singles. These could not be held on last week's "Finals Night" because of the unavailability of some of the youngsters.

Before the finals however, there was the small matter of two semi-finals to be got out of the way. First up was the Under 40s Handicap semi between 15-year-old Max Doohan with a 21 start against 19 year old Tom Daish on +19. Tom attacked powerfully but couldn't break Max down and Max took the match in two straight ends at 31-27 each.

Max then went straight on to play Tom's 14 year old brother Simon in the Scratch Junior Singles semi. Simon attacked well, but Max once again proved too steady and won out in two straight ends by 11-6, 11-5.

The stage was then set for the two finals which saw Max face his Div 5 team mate Ted Linsley in both events. The Under 40s (Handicap) proved to be a humdinger with Max (+21) having to give a three-point start to Ted who played off +24. Ted drew first blood by 31-29 but Max levelled in the second at 31-28 to set up a marvellous finale which didn't disappoint. Max caught up at 29-all and looked to have the initiative, but Ted attacked more assuredly to take it by 31-29 to win the match.

The spotlight was on the two youngsters again as they squared up for the Scratch Junior final. It was nip and tuck in the first end but Max shaded it at deuce by 13-11. Ted resumed the offensive in the second end, but Max was determined not to miss out for a second time and won 11-8 to take the match to make it honours-even.

The youngsters then joined the other finalists to receive their trophies from Club Chairman Bob Fagan at the Club's AGM/Presentation Ceremony which took place on the same night.