

Viva Vibert!

New Milton Table Tennis Club have been holding the Finals of their Annual Tournament over the past fortnight. Held over two Mondays, the first week saw the semi-finals as well as the final of the Handicap Singles event.

In the first of the semis, Les Smith playing off +21 took on Terry Jenvey with a handicap of +12. Jenvey took the first end 31-27 but Smith played brilliantly to take the second 31-29 to set up a thrilling finale. Smith played confidently throughout and just nicked it with a vicious "edge" on 30-29 to win it 31-29.

Malcolm Floyd took on Div 1 teammate Shaun Newcomb in the second semi. They were both on the same handicap (+13), so the game was played off scratch up to 21 instead of the usual 31-up. They know each other's game inside out so it was nip and tuck all the way through the first end which Newcomb just shaded at deuce at 23-21. Newcomb dominated much of the second end however and beat Floyd by the more convincing 21-16 to go through to meet Les Smith in the final.

The Final saw Smith (+21) put up a terrific battle against Newcomb (+13) in the first end and only just lost it at 29-31. Smith appeared to run out of a bit of steam in the second which Newcomb won more emphatically at 31-24 to claim the title. Well done to Newcomb, but Veteran Smith, who captains the F team in Div 4 also deserves a lot of credit for making it all the way through to the finals.

The second Monday saw the finals of the Over 40s (Handicap), Handicap Doubles and the Scratch Singles.

First up was the Over 40s Handicap where Malcolm Floyd was out for revenge over Div 1 teammate Shaun Newcomb, having lost out in the Handicap Singles the previous week. Sadly for Floyd, it was the mixture as before as he went down in two straight ends 19-21, 15-21, leaving Newcomb to look forward to picking up two trophies next week.

Next up was the Handicap Doubles featuring Malcolm Floyd & Bob Fagan v Matthew Daish & Ian Linney. Floyd and Fagan playing off a joint handicap of +14 knew that they'd have their work cut out against Daish & Linney playing off +21, but the two F's won the first end comfortably at 31-25. They were 30-28 up in the second with two championship points, but let it slip from their grasp as Linney got a killer net cord on 33-32 to win it 34-32. In the third and final end nine year old Daish attacked much more consistently and they deservedly won it 31-27.

And so it was on to the Main Event, the final of the Scratch Singles which was a repeat of last year's final between Premier teammates Brian Vibert and Steve Hemmings. Hemmings was out for revenge after narrowly losing out over five ends last year, but Vibert did it in three straight this year 11-8, 11-9, 11-9. Table tennis proved to be the outright winner, however, as there were some remarkable exchanges, worthy of an exhibition bout.

There are still the Under 40s (Handicap) semis and final as well as the Juniors final to go and these are scheduled for Monday 12th July before the Club's AGM/Presentation Evening. The semis will see Andrew Daish (+24) face Max Doohan (+20) and Simon Daish (+22) take on James Lewis (+15). In the Junior (Scratch) event, last year's winner Max Doohan will be defending his title against Simon Daish.