

## By George that was a close call!

By Geoff Ware.

It all came down to an unbelievable climax as a huge crowd had assembled around the centre court in the very last encounter of a long days play. George Downing (Bournemouth 1) had to face Dominic Sussex (Okehampton 1) to keep Bournemouth's team hopes alive in the very final match trailing at 4-5. Downing had all the pressure upon his shoulders in a must win situation to force a draw and ultimately the championship would be decided which way the Under 18's Team event would go on a games countback if he could win this last match for the team. Both players fought tooth and nail in a brilliant advertisement for top class table tennis giving their all in a hugely pumped up and tense atmosphere. It was all class and positive play with these two young men opening up at every opportunity to seek a winning chance to gain every single point played. Many absolutely lightening exchanges graced Waterside's playing arena with all the supporters from both camps getting behind their players. It was nail biting stuff for so many who had played their part in a brilliant day. George finally gained a very close result by 3 games to 1 over Dominic. After some deliberation it was announced that the Bournemouth 1 side had secured the title by just a slender two games winning margin. Huge credit to the Okehampton 1 side who were defending the title that they won last year and just gave everything.

Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August will long be remembered as a superb day in the playing calendar of everyone who took part and also to so many coaches on the day that helped to organise the South West Regional Team Championships that were held at the Waterside Club in Totton Southampton for all the right reasons.

Around 50 players had assembled from all parts of the area for this annual team event organised by Paul Whiting the South West's Regional Coach to promote table tennis in the region by providing highly competitive sport. It was a time for everyone to get together, players, coaches and parents to support and encourage each other in a very friendly atmosphere.

Teams from Bournemouth, Okehampton, Filton, Bridgewater, Brixham and Plymouth took part in the Regional squad's under 18's team event plus the Region's Development Under 13's squad team Championships.

The previous Inter-Regional Tournament was held at Filton Academy in Bristol and saw Bournemouth's U18 team lose on countback to Okehampton 1 in the final, so revenge was rewarded for the new players coming through with Hugo Pang, FinnMorgan Bayliss and Jamie Trevillion joining Patrick Hurley and George Downing to form the new team. Bournemouth's U13 team also lost in the final to Okehampton last year.

### U13

With both Jamie and Finn moving up to the U18 team this added pressure on the younger players coming through in the U13's team to fill their shoes....

Zac, Ryan, Matt and Jacob all had been on Summer Training Courses at Grantham, Sweden or at the Alex Perry course in Bournemouth. They all fought hard never gave up and were a credit to Bournemouth.

The second Bournemouth U13 team captained by Ruth Pickering and supported by Artur and Max from Waterside and Michael Maxwell who came on a Summer Camp at Townsend made the long journey from Somerset, and all displayed Great Sportsmanship and fighting qualities.

## U18

### Three teams:

Bournemouth 1 : the strongest team hoping to bring the trophy to Bournemouth after a narrow loss last time. Team one were missing both Michael Robertson and Matt King but introduced Hugo into the frame for the first time with Finn and Jamie, two players exhibiting great commitment to improve.

As before the crucial match was to be the final match v Okehampton 1.

Score of this last match:

Doubles 1 – 1. Hugo and George winning against Dominc and Vicky . Jamie and Patrick narrowly losing to Nathaniel and Kevin.

Patrick then beat Nathaniel and Finn lost to Vicky. 2-2

Hugo lost to Dominic Sussex and George beat Vicky 3-3

Finn Lost to Kevin and Hugo beat Nathaniel 4 -4

Jamie lost to Kevin 3-2. George beat Dominic 3-1.

Bournemouth won on countback of games by +2.

Many thanks to John Fox at Waterside and Paul Whiting the Regional Coach for putting it all together. Everyone was a winner.....there were no losers.

Final Placings;

Regional Squad Team Championships;

Bournemouth 1	9	points	(on countback)
Okehampton 1	9	points	
Okehampton 2	5	points	
Okehampton 3	5	points	
Bournemouth 3	2	points	
Bournemouth 2	0	points	

Development Squad Under 13 Team Championships.

Filton 1	10	points
Plymouth 2	8	points
Bournemouth 1	6	points
Bournemouth 2	4	points
Brixham 1	1	point
Filton 2	1	point