

Mark and Matt- "The dynamic duo"

Mark Butler and Matt Ware brushed aside all before them in winning the Cippenham (Slough) 2 star Open Team Championships on Sunday 9th October, and in great style, too!

Playing under the team name of "Ware's the Butler" Bournemouth Premier division players, Mark Butler (Merton) and Matt Ware (Bournemouth Sports) were both in tremendous form throughout the long day's play, to come through both unbeaten. This event is unique in the ETTA playing calendar in that there are 24 teams of two players playing a progressive placings tournament. Teams were assembled from most areas of South England with three teams competing from Wales.

The format is that player A plays the opposing player A followed by player B playing against the opposing player B, and if the score is level at 1-1, a deciding singles match is played.

Right from the 9am start the Bournemouth boys were in great form coming through winning all their matches 2-0, to the last staged match and final at 6.30pm.

In the final, Mark and Matt had to play the tough pairing of Abdul Wuraola (ranked at number 1 in veteran men and at 36 in senior men) with his partner, Ashley Stokes (ranked at 47 in senior men), so this would be an exciting encounter.

Matt went on first against Abdul Wuraola and after a titanic battle going the full distance Matt came through 11-9 in the fifth end to take "Ware's the Butler" team into a 1-0 lead.

The second match between Mark and Ashley Stokes on paper would favour Ashley, as he is ranked 50 places higher than Mark in the ETTA senior men's rankings.

Nonetheless, Mark put that to the back of his mind and got off to a great start, with his difficult to read serves and lightning backhand attacking shots. Mark took the first set, and continued in that rich vein of form to win the next two sets, and record a famous victory, not only for himself but gave the "Team" the trophies and title.

Very well done- Mark and Matt, a great team performance on the day.