

There may have been less numbers than anticipated at the new induction of a National ranking veteran table tennis series in the Ipswich Britannia Tri Veteran Table Tennis competition on Sunday at Britannia TTC but a couple of new faces certainly made an impression and made it a hugely entertaining for spectators.

Three groups of players battled for places in band one and two in the later stages and in group one five players battled it out for the two places in band one. Top seed Andrew Warner won all his games 3-0 but was taken close by both Andrew Doshier and Gavin Price in a couple of sets, these two players would fight for the right to join him having won their other games and Doshier was taken extremely close in their encounter trailing 1-2 in games before getting through, Dave Fiddeman would also take Doshier the distance as he finished fourth with Jack Perkins fifth.

In group two Richard Hutchinson was untroubled winning his matches 3-0 and he was joined by Helmuth Osborne in second spot who had wins over Nigel Page and David Gough, as Page defeated Gough 3-1 to decide third and fourth.

In group three Gary Cattermole was involved in two five setters, first he was beaten in the only group seeding upset as Manchester's Tim Vaughan won in an entertaining fluctuating game, then he overcame Ipswich's Rob Wood six in the decider, Wood would also take a leg off Vaughan in their encounter, while group top seed Gary Young won all his games 3-0.

Band one saw two groups of three players compete with winners, runners up and third playing the corresponding player in the other group in their final match and it was similar in band two.

In band one group one, Helmuth Osborne and Tim Vaughan played a highly entertaining five setter that again went one way and the other as Osborne used his combination bat to good effect but after trailing 2-1 it was Vaughan that took the match, Andrew Warner easily accounted for Osborne 3-0 which set up a thrilling encounter with Vaughan to get through to the final, possibly the best game of the day saw Warner win the first to six then come back from a large margin to win to be followed by two games of utter drama as Vaughan's forhand hit and drop shots made Warner work hard with his own back hand kill in classic rallies as in the final set at duece it was match point and game point between the players before a relieved Warner got home, in group two Gary Young and Richard Hutchinson both beat Andrew Doshier 3-1 so the match between them decided who would face Warner, and with the first two games shared it was Hutchinson that had the answers in the next two sets to win 3-1.

The final was somewhat disappointing for a spectator as Warner was never seriously threatened winning 3-0 always coming up with the right shots when he needed them against Hutchinson who it has to be said has played better, but Warner is having a superb season so far and this win follows his Senior win here a few weeks ago, showing him to be the player to beat in Suffolk terms.

In band two after winning their groups two players from Essex took their place in the final, Gary Cattermole took on Gavin Price and after taking the first two sets Price was pegged back as Cattermole responded but in a very close fourth set it was Price who emerged as the winner.

The next event in their series is on December the 3rd

Scores from Britannia TTC

Band one

Final Andrew Warner beat Richard Hutchinson 7 8 9

3rd / 4th Gary Young beat Tim Vaughan -7 9 15 9

5th / 6th Andrew Doshier beat Helmuth Osborne 8 9 8

Band two

Final Gavin Price beat Gary Cattermole 7 4 -9 10

9th / 10th Dave Fiddeman beat Rob Wood 9 -8 7 2

11th / 12th Nigel Page beat David Gough 7 -6 6 -7 5

13th Jack Perkins