

The East Anglian Britannia Top 16 Invitation Table Tennis Tournament took place at Britannia Table Tennis Club in Ipswich on Sunday and it proved possibly the most exciting in 21 years of the event and amazingly everybody tasted defeat on the day at some stage including the eventual winner.

On paper recent two time this season super series winner Adam Jepson was a strong favourite, but a handful of other players had a chance and this proved the case,

There were 16 players playing in groups of four on a round robin basis based on seedings and based on performances the two two went into band one with those coming third and fourth into band two, where players played a further three matches.

In group one Adam Jepson had Clacton's James Denyer as the number two player to face and after all the other five matches had been played and gone to seeding in straight sets, their match would decide the group winner and runner up, in a thrilling encounter Denyer really opened up the next stage draw as he came from a set down to deservedly win 3-1 in the battle for third and fourth Wudong Liu overcame Jack Perkins.

In group two sixth seed Andrew Doshier was a tad fortunate to beat both Gavin Price 3-1 and Adam Cuthbert 3-2 as he saved three match points against Cuthbert, Richard Hutchinson the number two seed won all his matches in straight sets, and Price beat Cuthbert 3-0 to take third spot.

In group three 12 year old Ollie Rampton impressed and took the 8th seed Paul Hume to five sets in their match before going down, he beat Adam Wilkin 3-0 to come third, while in the battle for first and second it was number three seed Andrew Warner that overcame Hume 3-1 after dropping the first set

In group four again all first five matches went to seeding 3-0 until youngsters James Davies Stokes and Daniel Shelly played the final group match and Shelly showed better form than of late by pushing the number four seed all the way losing 11-6 in the decider having been 1-0 and 2-1 up, in a seeding upset Colchester Mel Rampton beat Robert Shrimpton 3-0,

in the band one quarter finals firstly James Denyer was too strong for Paul Hume winning 3-0, then James Davies Stokes got the better of his practice partner Andrew Doshier 3-1, but things were much closer in the third quarter final where Dan Shelly continued his good form stunning Andrew Warner to take the first two sets, moving him around and dropping him short, Warner took the initiative in the next two and in the third Shelly was always in contention and saved two match points before Warner won 11-9 in a thriller,

Again the fourth semi final was exciting as Richard Hutchinson made the early running to lead top seed Adam Jepson 2-0 and a surprise seemed on the cards, however Jepson ranked in the top 40 Nationally found his form and with lightning attacks managed to get through the defence of Hutchinson in the end.

In the first semi final Andrew Warner's retraining against the power hitting of Adam Jepson proved entertaining and Warner unfortunately let a big lead slip in the first set, he then took the next set, but was under the cosh in games three and four losing 3-1, perhaps the best

game of the day was the second semi final between James Denyer and James Davies Stokes, out and out attacking play between two powerful attackers who showed class of both wings, Davies Stokes edged the first at duece, then back came Denyer to 1-1, then 2-1 Davies Stokes, and again 2-2 Denyer, in the final set Davies Stokes saved two match points, but Denyer just got over the line 13-11.

This meant the final would be for the third time in top 16 history between players who had played in the group stage earlier in the day.

in game one Adam Jepson led early on and at 10-7 up lost three points on the spin before taking it 12-10, in the second and third ends James Denyer was magnificent countering his opponents attack who at times seemed mesmerised at the shots that passed him, Denyer winning both games 11-5, in game four it was a reversal as Jepson played amazing power shots to easily win 11-5 to take it to a decider, the fifth set was a repeat of the fourth set as Jepson just kept coming and never let up taking it again 11-5 to be a new name on the list of winners, while Denyer can feel proud that he did actual beat the Champion on the day earlier on an and was involved in a thrilling match

Scores from Britannia Table Tennis Club

Band one

Quarter finals

James Denyer beat Paul Hume 7 9 3
James Davies Stokes beat Andrew Doshier 4 -9 4 8
Andrew Warner beat Daniel Shelly -9 -6 4 6 9
Adam Jepson beat Richard Hutchinson -9 -6 7 5 3

Semi finals

James Denyer beat James Davies Stokes -12 8 -6 8 11
Adam Jepson beat Andrew Warner 11 -7 6 7

Final Adam Jepson beat James Denyer 10 -5 -5 5 5
3rd / 4th James Davies Stokes beat Andrew Warner 7 6 5
5th / 6th Richard Hutchinson beat Andrew Doshier 4 7 -8 -7 3
7th / 8th Daniel Shelly beat Paul Hume 7 9 9

Band two

9th / 10th Ollie Rampton beat Mel Rampton 7 6 -7 8 (Final)

11th / 12th Wudong Liu beat Gavin Price 10 11 8

13th / 14th Adam Cuthbert beat Robert Shrimpton -9 10 -9 9 7

15th / 16th Adam Wilkin V Jack Perkins W//O