

With various other events, drawing usual prominent players from the first Britannia Senior Super Series of Table Tennis of the season and others unavailable it was slightly disappointing to see less than a maximum 24 players participating in Sunday's first Table Tennis England ranking event of the season at the Britannia TTC, that said the 16 players that took part participated in one of the most eagerly contested events for some time as it gave others the chance to win a title, the format was four groups of four with the top two players into band one and third and fourth placed players going into band two,

Group 1 started with a seeding upset as Sylvain Floury accounted for Chelmsford's Lee Mchugh in four tight games, top seed Christopher Cockburn was taken to both four sets by both players as he won the group unbeaten, unfortunately Kelly Yuenyngpknan didn't register a win, in group 2 France's Mathieu Jubault carried all before him in straight sets, as Clacton's Gary Cattermole won two games to come second, with Omar Sayed beating David Gough into 3rd spot. In group 3 Andrew Doshier and Alex Attew both beat Dudi Dubiner and Martin Tomes, so the last two group games had much bearing on them, first Dubiner came from 2-1 to win 3-2, then for the battle of top spot, a thrilling match between Doshier and Attew at one time seemed to be one way as Doshier led 1-0 and 5-1 before a revitalised Attew started to find his range and he won the set and the last three legs all went to duece and unfortunately for Attew despite holding several match points it was Doshier that won 17-15. Group four saw all matches won 3-0 except for the match between Antonio Toril and Nigel Page which Page played superbly in to win in a seeding upset 3-1, the top two seeds in the group Mindaugas Sinkus and Helmuth Osbourne, were both unbeaten until their match which saw Osbourne get to duece in the second in going down 3-0.

The top two finishers went through to band one in a quarter final section that saw winners and losers playing each other as players had another three matches to play.

In the first quarter final Christopher Cockburn was taken to duece in the first set by Gary Cattermole before winning the next two sets more comfortably, then Mindaugas Sinkus saw off 13 year old Alex Attew 3-0 the last set being more tight, in the 3rd quarter final Andrew Doshier and Sylvain Floury played a five setter with Doshier making the better start in game 5 to get home, while Mathieu Jubault beat Helmuth Osbourne 3-0 in the 4th quarter final.

In the first semi final Norwich's Cockburn's ability to lob from wayback against the all out attacking Sinkus proved pivotal as he won 8 & 7 in the first two games and in a thrilling last set it was similar but even tighter as Cockburn edged home, the second semi final was very tight with Mathieu Jubault's controlled power attack against the blocking of Andrew Doshier, Jubault's forhand loop and loop drive was very hard to contain as it was continuous but the rallies were very long and entertaining, in the end the Frenchman edged home 3-1

Both top seeds made the final and as players had not played before it was a difficult one to call and in game one it was Cockburn that settled better enjoying a slight lead happy to let his opponent come at him and at 9-7 with serve it was looking good however an error and cheap point saw Jubault level and he nicked the first set, in the second set with his nerves settled the Frenchman was more positive in his attack and won game seven, 0-2 down Cockburn reacted well and stayed in the hunt in game three amid some excellent rallies and as it went to duece Cockburn held game points before having to concede defeat in a match he could easily have taken the distance,

Scores from Britannia TTC

Band 1

Semi finals

Christopher Cockburn beat Mindaugas Sinkus 8 7 10

Mathieu Jubault beat Andrew Doshier -9 8 8 10

Final Mathieu Jubault beat Christopher Cockburn 10 7 14

3rd / 4th Mindaugas Sinkus beat Andrew Doshier 4 5 7

5th / 6th Alex Attew beat Sylvain Flourey 10 8 10

7th / 8th Gary Cattermole beat Helmuth Osbourne 9 9 9

Band 2

9th / 10th Lee Mchugh beat Martin Tomes 5 7 -12 7 (Band 2 final)

11th / 12th Dudi Dubiner beat Omar Seyed

13th / 14th Antonio Toril beat Nigel Page 3 9 9

15th / 16th Kelly Yuenyngngpknan beat David Gough -9 10 3 11