

Just the five events took place in this years Suffolk County Closed Veteran Table Tennis Championships at The Britannia Table Tennis Club in Ipswich on Sunday, with disapointingly no woman players entering,

The event started off with the men's over 40's singles with four groups of four players with the top two going through to the quarter finals,

In group one top seed Andrew Warner dropped just one leg to inform Martin Tomes coming top, while Tomes beat both Dave Godbold and David Gough to come second, In group two the two seeded group players were in for a shock as a player largely unknown to many players and officals in the county James Skilleter beat both Richard Hutchinson and Andrew Holmes 3-1 to top the group with three wins including victory over Nigel Page, Hutchinson beat Holmes in the battle for second and third.

In group three Andrew Doshier found the going tough coming third behind Sean Gridley and Steve Holland, with Jack Perkins fourth, in the battle for the top two spots Gridley won 3-0 over Holland.

In group four fourth Seed Paul Brxoton topped the group with 3-1 wins over Ian brown and Ken Lewis and a 3-0 win over William Buttigieg, while Brown beat Lewis 3-0 to come second,

The over 60s singles kicked off and in group one top seed Andrew Holmes accounted for both Ken Lewis and Dave Godbold 3-0 with Lewis beating Godbold 3-0. In group two it was a case of each of the three players winning a match each as Ian Brown beat William Buttigieg 3-0, Buttigieg beating David Gough 3-1 and Gough beating Brown 3-2, on counback Brown topped the group with Buttigieg second as the top two in each group went through to the semi finals.

The handicap singles threw up some exciting matches being one game first to 31, some of the highlights were Andy Warner coming back from a huge margin to eventually overcome Ken Lewis, Ian Brown beat James Skileter as Skileter's handicap was ajusted when his playing standard was realised, and Andrew Doshier saved two match points against Martin Tomes to win their match,

In the restricted singles quarter finals, Andrew Holmes beat Steve Holland 3-1, likewise Sean Grdley accounted for Nigel Page, Ian brown was a 3-0 winner over Dave Godbold, as was James Skilleter over Ken Lewis.

In the doubles semi finals, top seeds Andrew Warner and Richard Hutchisnon accounted for Martin Tomes and Sean Gridley 3-0, while number two seeds Paul Broxton and David Gough came unstuck 3-0 to James Skilleter and Ken Lewis.

In the main singles event the over 40's singles because of a number of seeding upsets it meant that in the quarter finals that of the top four seeds one had failed to qualify while the other three were all in the same half, Andrew Warner accounted for Steve Holland 3-0 Then Richard Hutchinson beat Paul Broxton also 3-0 despite a very close first leg, in the second half of the draw Sean Gridley and Martin Tomes played a thriller which went the way of Tomes 3-1 cashing in on a good record against his opponent, in the last quarter final James Skilleter overcame Ian Brown in tough four sets,

The first semi final was possibly the best match of the day between the top two seeds, Andrew Warner and Richard Hutchinson who played out a five set thriller where Hutchinson lead 2-1 and by a small lead in the fourth set from which he appeared to have injured himself going for a shot losing the set and playing catch up in the fifth, but he refused to give up, then both players had match point before Hutchinson just got over the line, the second semi final saw Martin Tomes crushed by James Skilleter 3-0.

In the final Hutchinson got a great start leading 9-4 before losing a string of points against James Skilleter and eventually the first set, the next set just went the way of Hutchinson, before Skilleter gained control in the next two games with his consistent pimped back hand attacks playing his opponent around using occasional drop shots for a famous 3-1 win.

James Skilleter followed this up with a convincing win over Sean Gridley in the final of the restricted singles, Gridley had beaten top seed Andy Holmes in the semi final in another five set thriller coming from behind to win, while Skilleter had come from 0-2 down to beat Ian Brown in their semi final, in the final Gridley couldn't handle his opponents varying spins with his combination bat.

Andy Homes took out the over 60s singles title beating William Bittigeg in his semi final, while Ken Lewis dug deep to come back from the edge of defeat to triumph over Ian Brown 3-2 in their semi final, The final went the way of Holmes just as it had been in their group match,

The handicap semi final saw Andrew Warner triumph over David Godbold who had a 24 point lead while Ian Brown reached the final over Andrew Doshier from a six point start, both players had been heavily involved in matches throughout the day and although Warner did well to get close to his opponent in the final stages Brown pulled away to win

In the doubles final Andrew Warner and Richard Hutchinson were too strong for James Skilleter and Ken Lewis winning 3-0

Scores from Britannia Table Tennis Club

Men's O'40's singles

Quarter Finals:

Andrew Warner beat Steve Holland 6 6 5

Richard Hutchinson beat Paul Broxton 9 6 5

Martin Tomes beat Sean Gridley 8 -6 2 8

James Skilleter beat Ian Brown 9 -9 5 10

Semi finals

Richard Hutchinson beat Andrew Warner -6 9 8 -7 11

James Skilleter beat Martin Tomes 3 4 5

Final

James Skilleter beat Richard Hutchinson 13 -9 8 8

Restricted Singles Final

James Skilleter beat Sean Gridley 5 5 4

Men's Over 60's Singles Final

Andrew Holmes beat Ken Lewis -11 5 4 0

Handicap Singles Final

Ian Brown beat Andrew Warner Score N/V

Men's doubles Final

Andrew Warner /Richard Hutchinson / beat James Skilleter / Ken Lewis 8 8 4

