

Players from afar as the Midlands emerged on Ipswich on Sunday to compete in the first Britannia Senior Super Series of table tennis of the new season.

Six groups of four players on a round robin basis would determine the top two performing players into band one and those coming third and fourth into band two with two further stages to reveal players final places.

Three players seeded to make band one who ended up in band two were Paul Martindill from Chingford who lost out to Great Yarmouths Mathew Currant in four sets, Shae Thakker from Cippenham Table Tennis Club who was beaten by Wattons Paul Hopking and Luke Jones who lost a five setter from 2-0 up to Joe Walker.

As the event became more interesting with the higher seeds now facing each other in Band one both the number one and two seeds Lauren and Neil Charles strolled into the final stage with two comfortable group wins, however number three seed Andrew Warner had to come from 0-2 down against the fifth seed Josh Dye in his second group match in stage two to emerge to the semi final, while in group four there was a three way tie with the three group players all winning one game against each other, only a 3-0 victory would put fourth seed Richard Hutchinson through on count back against Stuart Laws which he duly did to book his semi final place, with Gary Young finishing second.

In the semi final's there were no surprises as Norfolk husband and wife duo Neil and Lauren Charles accounted for Suffolk's two highest ranked veterans Richard Hutchinson and Andrew Warner both 3-0

Not for the first time Lauren and Neil faced each other in this event and very much like their recent matches in Ipswich it was Lauren who had the answers to much of her opponents attacking shots and although it finished 3-0 the scores were respectable, but it is Lauren after the first of six events in this series that leads the leader board for the first prize of potentially £450

The next event in the series is on Sunday the 18th of September at Britannia Table Tennis Club

Scores from the dome

Band One

Semi finals

Lauren Charles beat Andrew Warner 6 7 7

Neil Charles beat Richard Hutchinson 9 5 9

Final: Lauren Charles beat Neil Charles 8 7 9

3rd / 4th Andrew Warner beat Richard Hutchinson 3 -9 11 -10 9

5th / 6th Josh Dye beat Gary Young 4 -8 8 6

7th / 8th Peter Hopking beat Joe Walker 10 -7 9 7

9th / 10th Matthew Currant beat Stuart Laws 9 -7 -7 8 6

11th / 12th Andrew Dosher beat Alex Aston -5 7 11 6

Band Two

13th / 14th Paul Martindill beat Shae Thakker -8 -2 9 7 5 (Final)

15th / 16th Luke Jones beat David Ramsey -6 8 8 9

17th / 18th Paul Nicol beat Scott Morgan 3 5 9

19th / 20th Joe Kirkup beat David Gatheral 8 3 8

21st / 22nd Sylvain Flourey beat Kevin Dumble -9 7 11 6

23rd / 24th Helmut Osbourne beat Lee McHugh beat 7 4 -10 8