

Despite a couple of last minute cancellations of two players the 14 entrants that took part in Sunday's event in Ipswich served up some of the most memorable and exciting table tennis in the event's history as there were numerous seeding upsets with many of the middle to higher order seeding matches going the distance to delight the spectators.

There were two groups with all players playing each other within that group, with the top two going through to the semi finals, and players finishing from third to seventh down the order playing the player finishing were they came in the other group in a final play off match.

In group one Charles Fulcher making a rare appearance in this event started out with a hard fought five set win over Hullbridges Glen Johnson, while Andrew Warner beat the same play 3-1. Fulcher then continued his good form with a fluctuating 3-2 win over Gary Young, Warner also beat young 3-0. Top seed Ugur Salik beat Johnson in another five setter from 2-1 down.

Then came a real seeding shock as Charles Fulcher turned back the years in yet another five setter to take out Salik and there was real concern Salik may not make the semi final with more tough matches to come, and this was proved as in his match with Young, Salik was pushed all the way just winning 11-7 in game five.

Warner then showed some of his best form to disrail Fulcher 3-0 which meant if Warner could beat Salik in both players last match Salik would go out, in the first two sets of their game though it was all Salik as he put his earlier form to bed with two easy games, however Warner rallied at the end of game three to nick it then won game four more comfortably, which set up a grand stand last set, Salik eventually came through to win the final set 11-8.

Salik, Warner and Fulcher had all won five out of six matches which meant the combined sets of matches between those players was taken into consideration, this meant Warner topped the group, Salik came second and sadly for Fulcher he just missed out coming third, Young was fourth with Brice Ah-Yionne causing another seeding upset beating Johnson 3-2 to come fifth, with Johnson himself coming sixth having beaten Jack Perkins.

In group two the players occupying group seeding positions two to four all played out absorbing five set encounters against each other as Daniel Young edged past both Andrew Doshier and Richard Hutchinson 11-9 in the decider, Hutchinson then beat Doshier duece in the fifth meaning Doshier came fourth in the group, Andrew Holmes enjoyed wins over David Gough and Kelly Yeungyongpknan to come fifth as Gough just edged out Yeungyongpknan 12-10 in the decider to come sixth.

In his final match Hutchinson had to win against the number two seed Eren Gozcu to stand a chance of qualifying for the semi finals who up until then had dropped just one set to Holmes, it was also Gozcu's last group match, Hutchinson showed gritty determination and the skill set he has acquired over the years with a truly amazing performance to take set one in convincing style, then come from behind in set's two and three for a 3-0 win that meant on countback he topped the group, with Gozcu second and sadly Young third who at one stage looked odd's on to get through,

Both top seeds had come second in their group on count back and in reality things were that close that it could have been a number of different combinations with the top two qualifying places, however it was the top four seeds that qualified in the end.

In the first semi final Eren Gozcu was quick out of the blocks against Andrew Warner winning 11-4, Warner replied to take game two but in games three and four Gozcu did just enough to win 3-1, the second semi final saw Ugur Salik up against Richard Hutchinson and a very close first set went the way of Salik 15-13, however in games two and three Salik was in his element winning comfortably.

The final pitched seeds one and two against each other and the first two sets were shared as players went for broke playing power drives of both wings with subtle serves to try and get in and attack as early as possible, game three saw Gozcu pull away at the end of it to win and in the fourth set despite a come back at the end from Salik it was Gozcu who showed a little more consistency in the end to take his first Britannia East Anglia Top 16 title and the prize of £100,

In the end the Turkish duo as seeded claimed the final positions but there were some great efforts from three Suffolk players as multiple Suffolk champion Richard Hutchinson beat eventual winner Eren Gozcu 3-0, and a special mention to Charles Fulcher who beat three higher ranked players including the top seed Ugur Salik, while Andrew Warner as ever put in a consistent showing

Scores from Britannia Table Tennis Club

Semi finals

Ugur Salik beat Richard Hutchinson 13 6 6

Eren Gozcu beat Andrew Warner 4 -8 8 9

Final Eren Gozcu beat Ugur Salik 9 -11 6 9

3rd / 4th Andrew Warner beat Richard Hutchinson -8 -8 6 9 9

5th / 6th Charles Fulcher beat Daniel Young 6 8 9

7th / 8th Gary Young beat Andrew Doshier -8 4 7 6

9th / 10th Andrew Holmes beat Bryce AH Yionne 5 -5 8 9

11th / 12th Glen Johnson beat David Gough 6 3 -8 10

13th / 14th Kelly Yeungyonpknan beat Jack Perkins 4 5 6



Winner Eren Gozcu