

Liverpool & District Table Tennis League

FRANK MURPHY MEMORIAL CUP

SEMI FINAL RESULTS 2011 / 2012

All matches were played week commencing **5th MARCH 2012** as per the handbook

BATH St. MARINE 5	452	v	415	CADWA 2
BOOTLE YMCA 1	325	v	319	CADWA 4

Match 1

Bath St. Marine 5's Barry Davies (55), Dave Bradley (61) & Colin Mitchell (82) played host to Cadwa 2's George Lennon (7), Paul Clark (7) & John O'Sullivan (73), a 111 points hill to climb for Cadwa.

First game on Dave played George, George setting the pace of the night with two wins, but BSM stating that it wasn't going to be easy, Dave pulling in 20 points, same the next set, Paul wins both, but Colin adds 25, third set Barry turns the tables beating John 42-22, so a third of the match gone and BsM still 92 in front. Next set Colin met George, Colin holding his own in the first game, picking up 11, George must have realised that they had to up their game if they want to win the match, and polished Colin off 21-1. The next two sets were evenly matched and Cadwa couldn't keep up the pressure, John losing 23-42, and Paul only adding 3, 36-33. Two thirds of match now gone and BsM still 78 in front. Last phase, the two 3's on, again evenly matched Colin and John, a win each but Colin coming off best by 4 points, next the two 2's, Dave and Paul, Paul playing like they should have been playing all night, polishing off Dave 42-7, but when the two 1's came to the table, it was all over, BsM were 47 in front, whether the edge was then gone, Barry still pushed George, only going down 32-42. So a good match which ended 452 - 415 to BsM, Cadwa just couldn't put any stamp of authority on it, but very well done to the BsM team, for outplaying their higher opposition.

Match 2

Bootle YMCA 1's Keith Williams (-18), Alan Chase (-3) & Ted Birch 5 played hosts to Cadwa 4's Graeme Black (-9), Mike Power (21) & Jack Highton (88) in what turned out to be another battle to the end.

The match started with BYM needing 116 points to level, with first set on Alan v Graeme, a tough game was on the cards, Alan & Graeme had already met twice this season Graeme winning both; first match in 4, the last in 5, a game with loads of hard hitting from both, to all angles, Graeme getting the better of the exchanges to add 17 points to the total. Ted and Mike next on, with Mike dominating the shots, but Ted getting them back, except when Mike threw in some fantastic back hands and some clever short drop shots with Ted at the back of the court, took some delicate touches with so much back spin from Ted, a game of missed shots from Mike to give Ted the games 21-17 & 21-20. Keith v Jack next, a chance to take a big slice off the score, 21-1 first game, this is what the F.M. Cup is about, no sentiment against those with big handicaps, every point counts, next game Jack through caution to the wind and made everyone smile when he surprised Keith with 2 cracking smashes, but 21-4 it finished, Keith picking up 37 points, so third of the way through Cadwa still in front by 91.

Next on, Ted v Graeme, Graeme soon controlled the game with his long slow top spin returns, then the smash when Ted's return bounced high, winning first 21-4, the next game saw a different Ted, playing a bit closer to the table, getting a bit more chop and push, Graeme not getting the same shots as first game, Ted losing again, but gaining 18 points. Next up Alan v Jack, another demolition, no disrespect to Jack, but he has been cast in the spot of being thrown to the wolves by virtue of the big handicap, but he never gave up, and got some 'go for it' shots in, but Alan had slowed down to take control, and not give unnecessary points away, to add 36 points to BYM's score. Next up Keith v Mike, Mike was having a good night, and took Keith by surprise with a few 'out of the blue' smashes, back hand and forehand, to bring congratulatory smiles from Keith, but inevitably, for all the hard work from Mike, Keith added another 28 points for BYM. Two thirds of match over now, and Cadwa still in front by 47.

Final run in started with Ted v Jack, Ted's changes of push and chop seemed to give him more control of the game, but Jack still throwing in those surprise smashes, Ted's main gainer was his fast services which Jack was unable to control, flying off his bat, Ted added another 25. Alan v Mike next, both hard hitters, Alan having won both league matches this season, but Mike pushed him to 5 the last meeting, so with another evenly matched set, Alan kept up his form to take both games, adding another 16 points. The final set, Keith v Graeme, was fantastic to watch, only 6 points separating the two teams, the form player was going to win the match, and on the night, both players on top form, Keith started by going into an early 4-1 lead with service, but Graeme pulled it back to 5 all, to the surprise of the home supporters, and that set the scene for a fast open game, there didn't seem to be any defending, just attack, from all angles and distance, both players 'turning it on', more like an exhibition than a crunch match, Keith wins 21-19. The last game, Cadwa still 3 points in front, can Graeme keep this up, (I revised the rules on the draw scenario, 15% of the handicaps of the two players taking part in each pair). Game started with Keith going into the lead, Graeme pulls it back, Keith hitting harder and harder, Graeme returning long, doesn't seem to hit them hard, but they all come back, wow, they can't keep this up for ever, then that extra gear of Keith's comes in, both players had a little help from a couple of N & E's, but in the main, great table tennis to watch, Keith takes the game 21-11, and the match to BYM by 6 points, 325 - 319, a great match to watch, and pleased to say "I was there!"

I watched some of the streamed matches from the Nationals at the weekend, not as exciting as this match!!

Roly Wright Cup Secretary 8th March 2012

Follow your team's progress on the League web site: www.ldttl.co.uk