

WARREN SPRING ANNUAL TOURNAMENT 2023

The club held its annual tournament over the weekend of 4/5 February and despite the withdrawals due mainly to COVID and injuries it proved once again to be a great success.

With no involvement from premier players this year, the division one became the “blue band” event of the tournament.

Division One Event

This event was the most effected by COVID which took out the number three seed Isabelle Lacorte, dad Dante as well as Peter Sliney and Gordon Stanton. Injuries also saw off Holly Clark and Mateusz Browarnik. In spite of this a total of sixteen competed in a well fought out event. Most groups went with seeding, the only exception being group two where George Thorn last year's winner went down unexpectedly to Luton TTC member Ibrahim Hussain the England number 26 at under thirteen level and so consequently left the competition. Advantage was taken by Blayk Marquis also from Luton who cashed in on Isabelle's nonappearance by taking group three. The number one seed Frederic Fourier took out Ibrahim in the quarters whilst Blayk accounted for Adrian Holmes, Richard Foster overcome another LTTC member Stuart Marquis in one of the best contests of the day and Barry Phillips went down to Milton Keynes Jiten Pitamber.

The semis saw wins for Frederic against Blayk and Jiten against Richard with the final going to seeding as our own Frederic defeated Jiten.



Division 1 Winner Warren Spring Frederic Fourier



Division 1 Runner Up Jiten Pitamber (Milton Keynes)

Division Two Event

Number one seed for this event Beau Casey made it through to the quarter finals but not before a severe test from Grange's Ed Ekinam which saw Beau come through in five sets after being 0-2 down. Division three winner Dan Weston finished as runner up. In group two and after a couple of tense moments second seed Lucca Harvey-Manning also progressed along with Gem Gull from London's Crown & Manor club thanks to a great five set win over Royston's Jonathan Burn. In group three, Royston's Alan Chapple playing some of his best table tennis in quite a while took first spot with the 10 year old sensation Violet-Lily Marquis from Luton in second place. Group four was won by Elliott Lugg from Royston with Crown & Manor's Nigel French picking up second place. In the quarters, Beau came through at the expense of Gem in four, Alan defeated Nigel in a tight five setter, Elliott proved to strong for Dan winning in four and Lucca finally beating off the challenge of the youngster Violet-Lily again in four sets. In the semis Beau had to work extremely hard to beat Alan in five close sets whilst Elliott overcame Lucca in an even tighter five set match. In the final, it was Beau's experience that was enough to win him the title of division two champion beating off a very determined Elliott to claim the event.



Division 2 Winner Warren Spring Beau Casey (R), Runner Up Royston's Elliott Lugg (L)

Division Three Event

The first shock in this event came in the very first group with the number one seed Michael Roberts down and out leaving 14 years' old Dan Weston as the group winner. Another surprise in the group saw Stuart Gadsden who had only taken up the sport a few months ago cruise into second spot with Michael third and Zak Burn of Royston in fourth.

The second group was much more straightforward and went to seeding with Cornerstone's Mike Gearing and our own Ronnie Henderson taking the first two spots, leaving Filip Mehedinti and Jake Roberts holding up the group.

The surprise winner of the third group was Marco Lo Biundo whose defeat of the number two seed Mike Reading pushed him down into second spot. Eric Morcombe and Stephanie Grajic could only manage third and fourth place on this occasion.

In group four it came as no surprise when young England star Violet-Lily Marquis took the group without dropping a set seeing off Dave Crowley (Pirton) Jim Keirl and Alec Gadsden in the process.

The quarter finals brought together Dan and Ronnie with Dan going through in four sets, Marco and Dave Crowley with Marco winning comfortably in three, Violet-Lily who finally lost a set to Stuart before going through and Mike Reading who had a marathon five setter before beating Mike Gearing. In the semis Dan (who looked in no mood to lose this competition) easily took out Marco and Mike Reading whose strange style of play finally did for Violet-Lily as he went through in four sets.

So, the final which saw Dan continue on his impervious way to take the Division Three title 3-1 over Mike.



Division 3 Winner Warren Spring Dan Weston; Runner Up Warren's Mike Reading (No photo)

Handicap Event

Although there were several withdrawals from this event, we certainly witnessed some tough matches along the way. At the quarter final stage Frederic Fourier had no difficulty seeing off Lucca Harvey-Manning whilst in an all Luton affair Blayk Marquis went down to Nana Boffah. Dad Stuart then beat the Club's Richard Foster whilst Royston's young Elliott Lugg did himself proud before conceding defeat to Ibrahim Hussain. This set up the semifinal matches where Frederic overcame Ibrahim and Stuart saw off Nana. The final saw more joy for our club as Frederic took on and beat Stuart.



*Handicap Winner Frederic Fourier
(L) Runner Up Luton TTC's Stuart
Marquis (R)*

**All scores from the tournament can be found on the club's website
wstabletennis.org.uk**