

CADET COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISION 1B, 21 MARCH 2015

ESSEX ARE THE DIVISION 1B CHAMPIONS

The final round of County Cadet Division 1B matches were played at the Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield on Saturday 21 March 2015 with three rounds of matches to be played. After the first round of matches at Cippenham only one point separated the top four teams. No team had won all of its matches so Buckinghamshire 1 and Essex led the Table with 7 points each, Bucks with the better sets difference, **closely followed by Surrey 2 and Norfolk with 6 points.**

In the opening round of matches Bucks 1 and Essex had to play one another and the result of this match would go a long way to determining final table positions. Bucks were without their number one player, Ben Naylor-Smith, and Essex were without Zoe Davies but had number 9 Cadet ranked Tiana Dennison available. Essex raced into a 5-0 lead, all their players winning their opening matches although it took five games for Tiana and Jack Stockdale to do so. Gracie Edwards (35) a good win over Shristi Ghosh (20). Bucks won the next two, Jemma Walker (22) just getting the better of Gracie at 9 in the deciding game and Sam Cartwright (88) defeating Syed Hussain (167) at 8 in their deciding game after Syed had won the fourth game 18-16. Essex won the remaining three matches for an 8-2 win. Two of the bottom three teams met with Kent gaining their first win over Bucks 2 6-3, both teams only having one girl player. Their opening games were shared, both decided late in the fifth game and Kent's Liam Smith also lost his other match in the deciding game. Chamika Weerasinghe (38) easily won his two matches for Kent, Jack Buckley also won two whilst Matthew McNab and Lawrence Penant-Jones accounted for Bucks wins on the table. Norfolk had a 10-0 win over Bedfordshire, only the match between Carrie Last and Rebekah Barry requiring a fourth game. The closest opening match was that between Surrey 2 and Suffolk, **Surrey's girls Federica Tazartes and Medha Verma the deciding factor, both unbeaten. For Suffolk Kian Burgess (55) and Daniel Shelley (83) won both the last two boys matches in their 6-4 defeat. These results promoted Surrey 2 to the runners up position on sets difference over Norfolk.**

For the second round of matches Kent 2 beat Beds 8-1, both teams having only one girl, and all matches won 3-0. It was a similar situation in the Bucks 2 v Essex match (but Essex had two girls) where they strengthened their leading position with a 10-0 win, Joe Walker winning his matches in the fourth game whereas Essex won all the others 3-0. Bucks 1's chances of honours disappeared when they lost 6-4 to Suffolk. They were still in with a chance until they lost the last two boys matches to Kian Burgess and Daniel Shelley, the loss of the two middle matches late in the fifth games, Jemma to Holly McGerty (66) and Sam Cartwright to James Davies-Stokes (220) at 12-10 proving crucial. **The vital match of this round was that between Surrey 2 and Norfolk, the contenders for the runners up position** on the assumption that Essex would beat bottom team Beds in the last round of matches. **Surrey went 3-1 up, their girls each with 3-1 wins in the absence of Mollie Patterson with Norfolk's win coming from the unbeaten Louis Moyes. With Federica and Medha winning their other two matches Surrey were 6-2 up before losing the last two matches. Surrey now only needed a draw from their last match to secure the runners up spot whilst Norfolk needed a good win and a hope that Surrey would lose somewhat heavily.**

In the last round of matches Essex quickly secured the Division title when Gracie beat Rebekah and Sam Hume remained undefeated on the day as Essex went on to win 10-0. Suffolk defeated Bucks 2 9-1, the only match needing a fourth game being that between Hannah Page (Sk) ranked two places above Carys Evans which Carys won for Bucks sole win. In the two matches to determine the runners up position Norfolk turned round a 3-1 deficit to win 6-4, Louis again the only unbeaten boy and Norfolk's Georgina Sunter (133) turning round a 2-0 deficit to beat Lois Perryman (75) to help with the narrow win. **Surrey 2 also gained a narrow 6-4 win over Bucks 1 and the runners up position, the win only coming when Kushal Patel beat Shae Thakker 11-8 in the fifth and Matthew Hazell beat James Perks 11-9 in their fifth game decider. However they knew they were runners up, at least on sets, when Federica defeated Jemma to put the score at 3-2 in Surrey's favour with Norfolk 3-1 down.**

For those playing on both days Louis Moyes (Nk) was the only boy to remain unbeaten with 14 wins out of 14 followed by Sam Hume (E) 11 out of 12 and Kian Burgess (Sk) 11 out of 14. For the girls who played in all seven matches Shristi Ghosh (Bu1) led with 10 wins out of 13 followed by Gracie Edwards (E) 9 out of 11 and **Federica Tazartes (Sy2) 9 out of 13**

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	6	1	9	56	14	13
Surrey 2	7	6	0	1	49	21	12
Norfolk	7	4	2	1	43	27	10
Suffolk	7	4	0	3	46	24	8
Bucks 1	7	3	1	3	45	25	7
Kent 2	7	2	0	5	18	50	4
Bucks 2	7	1	0	6	19	50	2
Beds	7	0	0	7	2	67	0

Arthur C. Clark
Essex Junior Match Secretary and Cadet Division 1B Organiser.