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The teams that received a 'bye' were the 1st team in Div 1, the C team in Div 2, and the D team in Div 3. How did the other 4 fare? A brief report on each is opposite. And the truth is, it was 50/50. Two teams were knocked out, both in very close encounters, and two progressed to the 2nd Round, both in fairly straightforward wins!  So the result is we have 5 teams through to the 2nd Round of the respective Divisional Cups, and still a team in the competition of each division. A good start, let's see what the second round brings! | | |  | | --- | | Action from 1st Round Divisional Cup  The B team were in action in the Div 2 Divisional Cup and faced a difficult match against the current top side of the division Harold House. And what a superb match it proved to be. No fewer than 5 of the 8 sets played went to 5 ends and Bath St lost them all! The match started well enough with Bath St taking an early 2:1 lead with only Barry Davis dropping his opening match 11:8 in the 5th. Harold House having pulled back to 2:2 the decisive set was possibly set 5 in which Ricky Brown faced Alec Bryce. Fighting back from 2 going 2 games down Ricky evened the set to take it into a decisive 5th end. And what a dramatic game this proved to be with Ricky just losing out 14:12. Ian McElwee did manage to even things up to 3:3 with his second win of the night, but then Barry lost the next match, giving him the ignominy of losing all 3 of his sets on the night, and all in 5 ends! In an attempt to even things up Bath St called on Ian again for game 8. Against the so far undefeated visiting No.1 Steve Whalley. Steve had already been lucky enough to scrape through his two previous singles in 5 ends, so it was no surprise when this one went to 5 too! And for a third time it was Steve who showed the greater nerve coming through this time 13:11. It was the end of the road for the Bath St team 3:5 to Harold House. But what a great match.  The E Team were in action in the Div 3 Divisional Cup and also faced a difficult opponent, Marconi B who they had already lost too 8:2 in the League in the opening week of the season and who are currently riding high in pole position in division 3. So when the team went 3:0 down after the opening three singles the team thought it was going to be an early bath! But what a fight back followed With Sam Pierce, Graham Turner and Ted Cramsie all taking their next singles and then captain Ted taking the team into a 4:3 lead with a superb win over the visiting Ian Wensley one of the best defensive players in any division. This left Sam facing Frank McCann and Graham the wily Ian Wensley, and any one of these would have been enough to give the team a totally unexpected victory. And both sets were winnable. As it turned out, try as they might neither of the Bath St players could re-produce the form needed to get the team across the line. So in the end it was the Marconi team who triumphed, 5:4. Another superb evening of table tennis.  The F Team were in action in the Div 4 Divisional Cup, and faced Bootle YMCA B at Bootle YM. The F Team are on fire at the present and riding high at the top of division 4. It was therefore perhaps no surprise that the F team strode straight through this match taking the first 5 singles sets and dropping just two games in the process. Two sets for Dave Noden; and one each for Darren Taylor, Josh Taylor and Micky White. Opponents will need to play very well indeed to stop the F team progressing a long way in this tournament this year. A straight 5:0 win for the F Team.  Maybe the heroes of the week were the G Team in action in the Div 5 Divisional Cup and facing Marconi E with whom they had fought out a draw in the opening match of the season. The G team also found themselves without their No.1 Keith Dudley, but the more than capable Albert Parker was able to step in to take his place. Highlight of the night? Undoubtedly the win by Liz Adams over Charles Sweeney whom she had lost to in the earlier league match. With the young Billy Clayton leading the line on the night with two fine wins, the team were on a role making the 5:1 win look fairly straightforward with all members of the team contributing. Captain Des Logan reports that this is the first time the G team have progressed beyond the first round of the competition since he joined the team! So well done the team! | | | | | |  | | | |  |
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